



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 10, 2019
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:45 p.m. Work Session for a 2018 City Audit Presentation, to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Jim Matherly presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Shoshana Kun, Seat A
 June Rogers, Seat B
 Valerie Therrien, Seat C
 Kathryn Ottersten, Seat D
 Jerry Cleworth, Seat E
 David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Margarita Bell, Controller
 Paul Ewers, City Attorney
 D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director
 Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
 Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
 Nancy Reeder, Police Chief
 Jim Styers, Fire Chief
 Sean Rice, Labor Foreman
 Kristi Merideth, FECC Director

City Clerk Danyielle Snider read the Mission Statement of the City of Fairbanks.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Matherly asked everyone to join him in the Flag Salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Angel Stickman, 1729 University Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Stickman stated police need better training to deal with those in crisis and with those experiencing mental illness. She stated that most individuals killed by police are Alaska Natives. She shared that her brother-in-law was recently shot 13 times by police, then was dragged on the cement while taking his last breaths. She stated that Native Americans and Alaska Natives are killed by law enforcement at a much higher rate than any other racial or ethnic group. She added that many go unreported by media. Ms. Stickman stated it does not make sense to her why the Alaska State Troopers (AST) who do

the shooting are the same ones who investigate the incident afterwards. She stated that shootings by police and AST are not justifiable, and justice system discrimination stems from structural inequality. She stated law enforcement does not make her feel safe, and she fears for the safety of her Alaska Native son. She stated that she will soon have a bachelor's degree in social work.

Ms. Therrien asked Ms. Stickman for the name of her brother-in-law; Ms. Stickman replied that his name was Kevin McEnulty.

Lisa McEnulty, 1721 University Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. McEnulty stated that she is a University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) student and a substance abuse counselor. She stated her husband died on March 31 on Geist Road after AST shot at him 13 times at close range; she stated that she watched a recording of the shooting. She stated that her husband had a gun to his head, and she questioned why law enforcement would shoot a person contemplating suicide. Ms. McEnulty spoke to how the Alaska Native community is suffering and to the need for mandatory mental health training for police and troopers. She stated that inequality, racism, and discrimination still exist in the justice system.

Darlene Herbert, 906 Woodlawn Road, Fairbanks – Ms. Herbert stated she is glad the young ladies spoke about the issue with law enforcement. She commented that Alaska Natives are profiled as being dangerous, and she spoke to the need for law enforcement training. She stated she heard that they shot the last individual so many times that he bled through his coffin, and she questioned why there was no autopsy performed. She expressed fear for her African-American/Alaska Native grandson. Ms. Herbert stated that if the problem is not fixed, one of the Council members' children may die. She spoke against racial profiling, and she stated that many Alaska Natives are afraid of the police. She stated that police are killing young men who provide for their families.

Victor Buberger, PO Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger thanked those who gave previous testimony and stated the Council should heed their words. He spoke to the need for a public restroom in the City of Fairbanks, and he stated he has been urging the Council on the issue for 15 years. He indicated that the only reason the City does not have a public restroom is because of drunk Natives. He spoke against the increased taxation of the tourism industry and suggested implementing a real estate sales tax. He urged the Council to explain to the public why the City does not provide public restrooms.

Mr. Ottersten asked Mr. Buberger if he would rather see a real estate tax than an increase in other targeted taxes. Mr. Buberger explained his idea for a different type of tax and questioned why the tourist industry is being targeted.

Floyd Terry, PO Box 73514, Fairbanks – Mr. Terry referenced a News Miner article from May 21, 2019 speaking about patience on the roadways. He stated that at that time, there was a motorcycle accident near the News Miner. He stated that he witnessed medics loading someone into an ambulance and drive away without emergency lights. He stated that he would like to know what happened in the incident as he did not see a report on the incident in the News Miner.

Ms. Kun reported that the motorcyclist and driver are in recovery.

Frank Turney, 1434 Lacey Street, #B, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney referenced some Council meeting minutes from 2016 where there was discussion about the use of less lethal weapons by Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). He displayed for the Council a poster of a non-lethal weapon. He stated that the minutes from that 2016 meeting state that “He [Mr. Turney] spoke in favor of the police using non-lethal ballistics rather than lethal weapons.” Mr. Turney clarified that the minutes should have stated that non-lethal weapons should be used as an option or an alternative to lethal weapons. He referenced a later discussion during the same meeting between Mr. Cleworth and former Deputy Chief Johnson where Mr. Cleworth requested that DC Johnson do some research on non-lethal weapons and report back to the Council. He questioned whether DC Johnson ever reported back to the Council. Mr. Turney stated he believes it is time to do more research on non-lethal weapons. He stated he does not believe the police should stop using lethal weapons but should use alternatives when lives could be saved. He spoke to the police targeting Natives and the mentally ill. He stated that the video footage of the shooting of Cody Eyre was edited, and he criticized the police for shooting the young man 40 times. He questioned whether AST and City police had non-lethal weapons with them at the incident.

David van den Berg, 332 Slater Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. van den Berg stated he is the Executive Director of the Fairbanks Downtown Association. He thanked the City Council for its recent approval of a foot patrol ambassador for the downtown area, and he thanked the City for working on maintenance guidelines for maintenance of the downtown area. He stated that the grounds of the downtown core may benefit from one more sweeping of the gutters. In reference to previously-approved Resolution No. 4879, Mr. van den Berg spoke to the possibility of 5th Avenue becoming a two-way street.

Hearing no more requests for comment, **Mayor Matherly** declared Citizens’ Comments closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

Mr. Cleworth pulled Resolution No. 4882, Ordinance No. 6108, and the Memo Regarding the Public Works Road Striping Project from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Matherly called for objection to the APPROVAL of the Agenda, as Amended, and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

City Clerk Snider read the Consent Agenda, as Amended, into the record.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2018.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports

Charity Gadapee, Explore Fairbanks, 101 Dunkel Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Gadapee stated she is the Director of Visitors Services and Partnership Development. She provided an update on the annual Awards Banquet in May and listed all those who received various awards. She spoke also about the “Be a Visitor in Your Own Town” event that occurred in May and stated there were 81 participants in the free event. She stated the Walk for Charity also took place in May, and there were 448 participants; she shared that the event raised \$13,440 for 57 local non-profits.

Mayor Matherly welcomed new Chief of Police Nancy Reeder and stated that it was her first day at the City. He applauded Environmental Manager Andrew Ackerman for organizing the annual stream clean-up day in the City. He stated that 2,000 pounds of trash was removed from waterways. **Mayor Matherly** shared that United Airlines is offering three routes to and from Fairbanks during the summer months. He acknowledged the Fairbanks Emergency Communication Center (FECC) for the work they do in serving a large geographic area with dispatch services. He stated that FECC currently has only 9 fully-trained staff, and each dispatcher must work 20 hours of overtime per week. He spoke to the stress of that job and commended dispatchers for their hard work and dedication.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Pruhs stated he had no comments.

Ms. Therrien asked the Mayor and Chief of Staff to schedule a Work Session with the Chief of Police to discuss FPD training and use of non-lethal weapons. She acknowledged prejudices against Alaska Natives and African-American people.

Ms. Rogers agreed that there should be a Work Session on the issue. She thanked the two young women for sharing their testimony with the Council. She stated it is a tragic situation that is not new to Fairbanks, and there have been racial difficulties for many years.

Ms. Kun thanked the young women for coming forward and wished them healing.

Mx. Ottersten thanked Ms. Therrien for requesting the Work Session, and she stated that she would share some of her own research on the use of less- and non-lethal weapons at that time.

Mr. Cleworth stated there was a presentation on non-lethal weapons some years ago, but technology changes. He stated he looks forward to that Work Session. He echoed Mr. van den Berg’s request for another gutter sweep in the downtown area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6084 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 74, Article IV Hotel/Motel Tax to Increase the Tax Rate and the City’s Percentage. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2018.

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6084.

Greg Allison, 356 Old Steese Highway, Fairbanks – Mr. Allison expressed appreciation to the Council for all they do for the community. He spoke against Ordinance No. 6084 and against a targeted tax for the visitor industry. He stated that every cent at Explore Fairbanks is maximized to bringing visitors to the region. He spoke to building relationships with various international markets when he worked at Explore Fairbanks and to the benefits that offers to the community. Mr. Allison stated he is seeing 20 or 30 outside visitors per day patronize his marijuana retail store. He wondered whether a portion of the marijuana sales tax could be dedicated for general services instead of raising the hotel/motel tax.

Darlene Herbert – Ms. Herbert spoke against increasing the hotel/motel tax rate and stated that she does not believe tourists have very much money. As an alternative, she suggested City budget cuts.

Victor Buberger – Mr. Buberger suggested taxing local businesses and possibly lowering the hotel/motel tax.

Javier Villasenor-Gaona, Milepost 56.5 Chena Hot Springs Road, Fairbanks – Mr. Villasenor-Gaona stated that he is the Marketing Director for Chena Hot Springs Resort. He stated that although it is not within the City, the resort would be affected by an increase to the City's hotel/motel tax. He asked how the increased tax would benefit Chena Hot Springs Resort.

Peter Stern, 1608 Carr Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Stern spoke in favor of Ordinance No. 6084. He stated that cuts to the City budget have made it difficult for Public Works to provide services to the residents of the City.

Marisa Sharrah, Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce (GFCC) – Ms. Sharrah stated that she is the President and CFO of the GFCC, and the organization is opposed to any industry-specific tax that would fund general government services. She stated the GFCC may support industry-targeted tax increases when the industry supports the tax for a defined reason. She spoke to the history of the purpose of the hotel/motel tax, and she reported that tourism has steadily increased in Fairbanks since 2014. She spoke to the booming tourist industry in Fairbanks and to how tourism positively contributes to the local economy. Ms. Sharrah stated that making a short-sighted decision to increase the bed tax could lead to future decline in the visitor industry. She stated that visitors have choices when they plan a trip, and Fairbanks competes in a global market. She spoke against Ordinance No. 6084 on behalf of the GFCC.

Ms. Therrien asked Ms. Sharrah if she would be in favor of a sales tax. Ms. Sharrah stated the GFCC does not currently support new taxes.

Frank Turney – Mr. Turney stated he is opposed to Ordinance No. 6084. He criticized the City for not providing public restrooms in the downtown area. He suggested that the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) consider consolidation.

Ashley Bradish, Explore Fairbanks – Ms. Bradish stated she is the Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors chair-elect and the Director of Marketing at the Riverboat Discovery and Gold Dredge 8. She spoke against Ordinance No. 6084. She spoke to how many individuals the business employs and the growth it has experienced over the 70 years. She stated the ordinance would hinder the opportunity for additional growth of the Riverboat Discovery, Gold Dredge 8 and

other businesses affected by the tourist industry. Ms. Bradish stated that tourism is a bright spot in the Fairbanks economy, and it is a resource that must be valued.

Kathy Hedges, PO Box 80684, Fairbanks – Ms. Hedges stated she is currently the chair of the Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors, the President of the Alaska Travel Industry Association Fairbanks Chapter, a 30-year employee of the visitor industry, and a lifelong Alaskan. She urged the Council to vote no on Ordinance No. 6084. She stated the bottom line is whether the Council believes in industry-targeted taxes. She asked all those wearing red in the audience to stand in support of the visitors industry. She expressed appreciation to the Council for the work they do.

Lloyd Huskey, 551 Harold Bentley Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Huskey stated he is the General Manager of the Candlewood Suites in Fairbanks, and he is also speaking on behalf of the owner of the Hampton Inn. He spoke in opposition to a targeted tax but stated it may be more amiable if the increase would go toward a convention center or Explore Fairbanks. He stated that Anchorage increased their tax rate to 12%, but those funds went toward a convention center. He stated that an increase will affect the desirability of Fairbanks as a destination.

Mr. Pruhs asked Mr. Huskey if he believes that an increase to the hotel/motel tax would discourage hotel expansion. Mr. Huskey stated he cannot really answer that question, but the issue would enter the equation.

Brett Carlson, 710 24th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Carlson stated he is a lifelong resident of Fairbanks and has spent most of his adult life working for the Northern Alaska Tour Company. He stated he could not be more opposed to Ordinance No. 6084 and referred to it as poor public policy. He stated the bed tax was implemented as an economic development tool, and Mayors and Councils have lost sight of that. He spoke to the history of the reinvestment of the tax, and he stated the travel industry delivers a great return on the dollars. Mr. Carlson referred to the proposed increase as public policy bullying, and he stated there is no other local industry that contributes more to the downtown economy than the visitors industry. He commented that cities which are great places to visit are great places to live.

Ms. Kun asked Mr. Carlson if he has pondered what other revenues the City could consider. Mr. Carlson stated it is obvious that general government services should come from a broad-based tax, and he does not believe one segment of the community should be targeted.

Leonard Tilton, 2263 Bridgewater Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. Tilton stated he is not against the visitor industry. He stated the voyager tax on cruise ship passengers was raised from \$34.50 to \$46.00 per person in 2010. He spoke to the number of new hotels that have opened in Fairbanks since that time and stated that the visitor industry has done a fantastic job. He stated the residents of the City pay their fair share, and the visitor industry has made tourism a year-round deal. He stated an increase in hotel/motel tax will not discourage people from visiting Fairbanks.

Andy Anger, 1075 Red Ridge Road, Fairbanks – Mr. Anger stated he is a past chair of the Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors. He stated that Economics 101 teaches that increasing the cost of something decreases demand. He reported that when the head tax was increased for the cruise ship industry, there was a significant drop in the industry. He spoke in opposition to increasing the bed tax without something to offset that increase, and he talked about how

competitive the tourism industry is. He urged the Council not to create new barriers for the visitor industry.

Eleanor Wirts, 5157 Chena Hot Springs Road, Fairbanks – Ms. Wirts stated she owns a dog sled tour company and a bed and breakfast called Just Short of Magic. She spoke to fully-independent travelers who make up much of her customer base. She provided an example of a local business she no longer patronizes due to regular price increases, and she spoke against an increase to the bed tax.

Hearing no more requests for comment, **Mayor Matherly** declared Public Testimony closed.

Ms. Therrien stated the City needs a new revenue source, and she understands Mr. Cleworth may propose an amendment to the tax cap. She stated the Council has not received much information about the idea of an increase that would be offset by a convention center. She stated that the City of Fairbanks must do something.

Mayor Matherly turned the floor over to Chief of Staff Mike Meeks. Mr. Meeks referenced the handout to the Council and explained what each of the six tabs represent.

Ms. Rogers stated that it is poor process to receive information so close to the vote on the issue. She stated the information is not helpful to her now as she has not had time to analyze it.

Mr. Pruhs stated that the Council had considered the ordinance in 2018 but postponed it so they could focus on the budget. He stated the Mayor proposed a 2019 budget with only a \$100 reserve; he stated the Council worked on the budget and was able to increase that reserve to \$623,000. He stated the Council is very conscious of the City's costs and indicated that the City is in a stable financial position. He stated that increasing the hotel/motel tax at this time would be a mistake, but it may be something to look at in the future.

Mr. Cleworth thanked everyone who attended the meeting. He stated sales taxes are like weeds – they like to grow. He stated that sales taxes are a detriment to businesses, and competition has become more ferocious with internet sales. He stated he does not intend to vote in support of Ordinance No. 6084, and the same hotel/motel tax formula has worked for 16 years. He read the original purpose of the hotel/motel tax as stated in the implementing ordinance from 1979: for the funding of tourist and entertainment facilities for the general public and to promote the tourist industry and the economic development of the City of Fairbanks. He stated that there were no ratios or formulas mentioned in the ordinance, and the only organization mentioned by name was the Chamber of Commerce. **Mr. Cleworth** read from the City Attorney's summary on the history of the bed tax, "The code provision addressing the purpose and limitation of the hotel/motel tax has been amended many times since the tax was first enacted in 1979. The purpose of the tax was never exclusively for promotion of tourism. The bottom line is the City Council determines the purpose and proper allocation of hotel/motel tax revenue." **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the hotel/motel tax formula has worked well since 2003. He stated the cap within the tax cap is a problem the City has been dealing with for several years, and it takes a vote of the people to amend it. He stated that many people are worried about the economy, and the Council will likely have fewer and fewer opportunities to increase revenue. He stated he does not believe the hotel/motel tax should be increased beyond 8%.

Mx. Ottersten agreed with Ms. Rogers' statements as to process. They stated that they would like to see work sessions to discuss an amendment to the tax cap, and the City should stop leaving money on the table. They stated they would not vote in favor of Ordinance No. 6084.

Ms. Kun thanked everyone who spoke to the ordinance, and she thanked the Mayor for giving the Council the opportunity to consider it. She stated she feels there are other outlets to look at, and she encouraged continued, positive collaboration between the City and the tourism industry. She stated there are things in the ordinance she supports but indicated she will not vote to pass it.

Mayor Matherly stated the reason for introducing the ordinance was to explore avenues for City revenue. He commented that the industry is opposed to increasing the tax for general services but will support an increase to build a convention center. He stated problems with public safety, snow removal, and infrastructure will hurt tourism. He spoke to other efforts to increase City revenue such as the ballot question proposed to voters a couple years ago to increase property taxes, and he talked about the decline in revenue sharing from the State of Alaska. **Mayor Matherly** stated it is important for the City to maintain a healthy Capital Fund. He stated the City is required to keep a minimum, unassigned General Fund balance of 20% of budgeted expenditures. He spoke about the difficulty in hiring and maintaining full staffing at City departments, specifically at Public Works, Dispatch, and FPD. He stated there are only two options: to cut more from the budget or to increase revenue. He stated that the City has already made many cuts, and he would like the Council to talk about ideas for increasing revenue.

Ms. Rogers stated that local government consolidation is another long-term solution to consider.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6084 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: None
NAYS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Rogers, Kun, Ottersten, Therrien
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION FAILED.

Mayor Matherly called for a five-minute recess, and no members objected. The meeting reconvened following the brief recess.

b) Ordinance No. 6104 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Labor Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547, and Amending the 2019 City Operating Budget. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. ADVANCED from the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2019.

Mx. Ottersten, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6104.

Mayor Matherly called for comment and, hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

Ms. Rogers declared a conflict of interest and stated she will abstain from the vote.

Mr. Cleworth stated he is pleased with the contract, and he believes it is fair.

Mr. Pruhs commended both parties for getting the contract negotiated quickly and fairly.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6104 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ottersten, Cleworth, Kun, Therrien, Pruhs
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Rogers
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6104 ADOPTED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6105 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Labor Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Firefighters Union, IAFF Local 1324, and Amending the 2019 City Operating Budget. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. ADVANCED from the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2019.

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6105.

Mayor Matherly called for comment and, hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

Chief of Staff Mike Meeks referenced tab 7 of the handout to Council, and he provided a history of recent labor negotiations with the Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU). He stated there was a mistake made with the numbers during the process, and it is up to the Council to determine whether the tentatively-agreed cost of the contract is substantially different than what the Council provided guidance for.

Mr. Cleworth stated he has a problem with the contract and that the FFU is out of sync with other bargaining units at the City. He spoke against fixing mistakes by throwing money at them.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6105 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Ottersten, Therrien, Kun
NAYS: Pruhs, Cleworth
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6105 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4882 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Provide a Retention Bonus to Public Works Employees. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4882.

Mr. Cleworth stated he has never been a big fan of employee bonuses. He stated he has received two phone calls from City employees outside of Public Works who were not happy about the resolution. He stated he is not opposed to looking at medical cost increases for employees, and he specifically referenced the increase to the Operators Union medical plan. He stated there are many crafts that work under the AFL-CIO, and he believes rules should be

applied to the bonus. He spoke against the resolution, stating it is an across-the-board approach versus a more focused approach to solve a problem. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke against spending the City's surplus instead of reserving the funds for snow removal and Capital funding. He stated he would not be opposed to looking at a more targeted resolution.

Ms. Rogers expressed agreement with Mr. Cleworth's comments. She stated she would not support the resolution.

Ms. Therrien pointed out that there is a contingency in the resolution stipulating that an employee must remain employed by the City through the end of 2019 to receive the bonus.

Mr. Pruhs stated there is no easy fix for the problem at Public Works. He stated the Council can try to help with the problem by approving the resolution, and he indicated that the Council does not have a choice. He spoke to the cost of turnover versus the cost of investing in employees.

Ms. Kun stated she feels the Council set a precedent in giving bonuses, most recently with the bonus for Dispatch employees. She stated she views the resolution as a long-term investment, and she supports it.

Mr. Cleworth stated the City used to do salary surveys but has gotten away from it because of the difficulty in getting information from the private sector. He questioned what a mechanic's wage is in the private sector and whether the City's mechanic's wage is even the problem. He again spoke against an across-the-board approach to solving the problem at Public Works. He spoke to the inequity created when bonuses are given only to certain City employees.

Mayor Matherly spoke to the seriousness of the staffing issue at Public Works.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4882 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Pruhs, Therrien, Kun, Ottersten

NAYS: Cleworth, Rogers

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4882 APPROVED.

- b) Resolution No. 4883 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to NC Machinery to Provide Snow Blowers in the Amount of \$499,568. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 4884 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to NC Machinery to Provide a Loader in the Amount of \$324,249. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Resolution No. 4885 – A Resolution Fixing the Rate of Tax Levy for Municipal Purposes for the 2019 Real Property Tax of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Resolution No. 4886 – A Resolution Designating Check Signing Authority for Banking and Investment Accounts of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- f) Ordinance No. 6108 – An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Section 2-473, Composition of the Public Safety Commission. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Mx. Ottersten, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6108.

Mr. Cleworth stated the Public Safety Commission (PSC) was created roughly 16 years ago by a Mayor who was having disagreement with the Police Chief. He stated former Police Chief Zager was in favor of eliminating the PSC. He explained that one of the purposes of the PSC was to hear public complaints, and he does not even know whether people use the Commission for that purpose. He stated the PSC purpose was amended a few years ago to be project-driven. He questioned whether it is time to sunset the PSC, and he asked the Council to consider it.

Ms. Kun stated there may not be awareness of the PSC in the community. She stated that revisiting the purpose of the Commission may be a better approach than eliminating it. She supported the idea of adding a Public Works representative to the PSC. She stated the Commission is active, and she would like to see it revitalized.

Mr. Cleworth stated there are only two duties and powers of the PSC: 1) to research issues delegated by the City Council, and 2) to hear and analyze public comments and complaints. He stated he has seen committees steer toward political issues instead of fulfilling their purpose, and he believes the PSC is not fulfilling the purpose it was created for.

Ms. Rogers stated that according to Ms. Kun, the PSC is meeting regularly. She stated that just because the PSC is not meeting its original purpose does not necessarily mean it should be eliminated. She suggested looking at its purpose and possibly amend it to be more in line with what the PSC is currently doing.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6108 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Pruhs, Ottersten, Kun, Cleworth

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Committee Reports

Legislative Committee – **Ms. Therrien** stated she, Ms. Rogers, and Mr. Pruhs recently met with City lobbyist, Yuri Morgan. She reported that the State House has not passed the State budget, and the conflicts seem to pertain to the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. She stated the group will meet Wednesday, June 12 at 9 a.m. with folks from Fairbanks Natural Gas (FNG) to discuss natural gas expansion. She stated Mr. Morgan does not believe there will be much of an impact to the City of Fairbanks if the State budget does not pass. She stated that the Committee will continue to meet weekly until the legislative session ends.

Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) – **Ms. Rogers** shared that the next FDC meeting will be the following evening at 5:30 p.m.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

a) Appointment to the Public Safety Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Memo Regarding Public Works Road Striping Project

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to ACCEPT the Memo Regarding the Public Works Road Striping Project.

Mr. Cleworth read the third paragraph of the memorandum stating that it is understood that the funds would be reimbursed to the Public Works budget through the next budget amendment. He stated that by accepting the memo, the Council would be promising to increase the Public Works budget by \$58,529.

Ms. Rogers recalled the discussions held at Finance Committee meetings on the issue.

Attorney Ewers stated that, legally, the Council cannot guarantee funds by way of the memo. Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson stated that his department had originally requested \$150,000 for street striping in the budget request; he stated the amount was reduced to \$103,000 by the Council. He stated that the bids were returned and exceeded the budgeted line item. He stated funding will need to be a budget amendment to cover the difference, and he is not able to absorb the amount in the Public Works operational budget. Chief of Staff Mike Meeks stated that if they hold the project until a budget amendment is approved, it will be too late in the season.

Ms. Rogers requested clarification on the legality of the issue. Attorney Ewers stated that the Council may not vote to commit to a future budget amendment or agree to take a certain action on an ordinance in the future without going through the proper process for an ordinance. He stated the Council may accept the memo with the understanding that it does not object to the transfer, but there is no guarantee that the funds will be re-appropriated.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to AMEND the Memo Regarding the Public Works Road Striping Project by ending paragraph #3 after the words “operational budget” and striking the remainder of the sentence.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MEMO REGARDING THE PUBLIC WORKS ROAD STRIPING PROJECT BY ENDING PARAGRAPH #3 AFTER THE WORDS “OPERATIONAL BUDGET” AND STRIKING THE REMAINDER OF THE SENTENCE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Rogers, Ottersten, Therrien

NAYS: Kun

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MEMO REGARDING THE PUBLIC WORKS ROAD STRIPING PROJECT, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ottersten, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth, Rogers

NAYS: Kun

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

City Engineer Bob Pristash asked whether he had the authority to award the contract. The Council replied affirmatively. Mr. Jacobson stated he is uncomfortable with one department spending another department’s budget. **Ms. Kun** stated she did not vote in favor of the motion for that reason.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Mx. Ottersten stated they had no comments.

Mr. Cleworth referenced page 23 of the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2018, and he read an amendment passed unanimously by the Council stating that “...the administration will identify the largest users of the ESP and send them a courtesy letter along with their call volume showing use of ESP services and respectfully request assistance with the program.” **Mr. Cleworth** asked what approach the administration has taken on that Council action.

Mayor Cleworth asked Chief of Staff Mike Meeks to respond to Mr. Cleworth’s question. Mr. Meeks stated that locations such as Fred Meyer have a lot of calls for service, and the administration does not want to punish those locations for the calls for service tied to their location. He stated that it did not seem like a good approach, and the only way to determine which businesses should receive a letter is to choose those with the highest call volume. **Mr. Cleworth** asked whether any solicitation would be sent from the City. Mr. Meeks stated that the Downtown Association solicits, but he will look into it to see if the City plans to solicit. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he does not view the solicitation as punitive, and the businesses are beneficiaries of a service.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the Council lowered the City mill rate by 1.108 mills earlier in the meeting; he stated he hopes the media will report that.

Mr. Pruhs spoke about the idea of the City funding boiler change-outs when natural gas comes online. He talked about his recent meeting with various City staff, two fellow Council members, and staff from Fairbanks Natural Gas to begin exploring the idea. He spoke to how past Councils have had the same budget conversations as the current Council and stated that future Councils will have those discussions also.

Ms. Therrien stated she hopes Mr. Cleworth can get a tax cap ordinance on the next agenda. **Mr. Cleworth** requested that the issue be placed on the next Finance Committee agenda. **Ms. Therrien** indicated that she would like to cosponsor the ordinance and asked the Clerk about the Council's deadline to adopt an ordinance that would place a question on the ballot for the regular election. Clerk Snider replied that the deadline for Council adoption would be the second regular Council meeting in July.

Ms. Therrien pointed out that Resolution No. 4885, which lowered the City's mill rate, passed on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Rogers thanked the Council and those attending for all the comments given at the meeting. She stated it serves the Council well to remember that its best consensus is when everyone brings good and informative discussion to the table from varying perspectives.

Ms. Kun gave an Indigenous peoples' land acknowledgement. She stated she is grateful to be involved with the suicide awareness project in Fairbanks, and she provided the phone number to call to reach out for help. She spoke to the ongoing healthcare challenge facing the City and stated that healthcare companies are taking advantage of people. She spoke to the amount of rubbish removed from local rivers and waterways and to sustainability in Fairbanks.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

Mayor Matherly called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS