



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 26, 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 5:15 p.m. Work Session for a Polaris Building Working Group Update, 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  
   Kathryn Ottersten, Seat D  
   David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent:                                    Valerie Therrien, Seat C (excused)  
   Jerry Cleworth, Seat E

Also Present:                            Paul Ewers, City Attorney  
   D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
   Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager  
   Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
   Nancy Reeder, Police Chief

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**

Penny Parker, 852 Crossman Road, Fairbanks – Ms. Parker spoke to the lack of traffic patrol in the City of Fairbanks. She stated that with the police departments all being understaffed, they cannot stop repeat offenders. She stated she is the most defensive, stealthy driver in the borough and that nobody better get behind her and tailgate when she is driving. She stated drivers race to red lights, then sit there on their cell phones even after the light turns green. She stated that she honks her horn warning the drivers to get going. Ms. Parker spoke to the history of prostitutes and drug dealers taking over Fairbanks back in the pipeline days while the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) did nothing. She stated today's lack of traffic control is like the crime spree during the pipeline days. She stated she was issued a \$128 ticket for parking in a handicapped parking spot. She explained that while she was driving around looking for a place to park so she

could talk to the Parking Authority, she became embarrassed to live in Fairbanks because of the difficulty in finding a parking space.

**Mayor Matherly** invited Ms. Parker to come to his office to further discuss the parking issue.

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger stated he hears how the City is broke all the time – even after receiving marijuana tax revenues. He stated he has been here since 1975, and the Council has always said that the City has no money. He stated there are places in town where people gamble and women in tutus serve cocktails, snacks, and cigarettes. He asked who was getting the kickbacks from those establishments. Mr. Buberger suggested the Council get together with the Native corporations and the Borough and open up a gambling riverboat. He stated that would make the town rich; he stated that, instead, they just continue to hit property taxpayers and the people who live here. He stated the Mayor knows well the cost of gasoline after getting hit with the personal vehicle issue. He stated he bought a vehicle at the last impound auction and asked for a free fill up when he picked up the vehicle, but they would not give him free gas. He indicated that a gambling riverboat would be a jackpot for the City.

Frank Turney, 1434 Lacey Street, B, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated the use of non-lethal weapons is one of the most important issues right now, and he heard there is supposed to be a work session on the topic. He stated he would like the work session to be held in Council Chambers, not at FPD. He stated he encouraged Mr. Buberger to ask for free gas when he picked up his vehicle from the impound lot. Mr. Turney spoke in favor of having a gambling riverboat because it would bring in a lot of revenue to the City of Fairbanks. He stated he would like Ms. Kun to share the video he sent her about less-lethal weapons with all the other Council members.

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mx. Ottersten**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

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

City Clerk Snider read the Consent Agenda into the record.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2019.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### **SPECIAL ORDERS**

- a) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Marijuana License Applications for Renewal:

| Lic. # | DBA                           | License Type                            | Licensee                      | Phone        | Address                   |
|--------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 10230  | Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc. | Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility | Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc. | 907-479-9000 | 1851 Fox Avenue           |
| 10589  | Nature's Releaf, LLC          | Retail Marijuana Store                  | Nature's Releaf, LLC          | 907-460-2128 | 503 7th Avenue            |
| 10869  | Grass Station 49              | Retail Marijuana Store                  | The Grass Station, LLC        | 907-460-0398 | 1326 Cushman Street       |
| 13949  | Grass Station 49              | Retail Marijuana Store                  | The Grass Station, LLC        | 907-460-0398 | 3505 Airport Way, Suite A |

**Mx. Ottersten**, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Marijuana License Applications for Renewal.

City Clerk Danyielle Snider reported that Gary Evans, owner of Grass Station 49, was on the phone if the Council had any questions regarding his applications for renewal.

**Ms. Rogers** asked Mr. Evans to speak to the Notice of Violation included in the agenda packet.

Gary Evans, 1326 Cushman Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Evans stated the violation was a clerical error that was quickly corrected.

**Ms. Rogers** asked about the alarms reported at the Airport Way location. Mr. Evans stated the doors froze, and sensors had to be replaced.

**Ms. Kun** thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked marijuana businesses for their contributions to the City budget.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Pruhs, Rogers, Kun, Ottersten

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Cleworth, Therrien

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports

Amy Geiger, Explore Fairbanks – Ms. Geiger spoke to tourism in the City of Fairbanks. She stated the new Winter Guide has many features that advertise winter activities Fairbanks. She pointed out the Instagram grid on the back cover of the guide. She stated Explore Fairbanks is lucky to have business partners like the Westmark Hotel because they always help accommodate media staff when they travel to town.

John Sherzer, Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks – Mr. Sherzer stated the Westmark does well in the summer, and winter tourism is starting to grow because of the destination marketing done by Explore Fairbanks. He stated that bed tax numbers over the past few years are up, and he attributed the increase to the work of Explore Fairbanks.

**Mayor Matherly** stated the weather is starting to get colder, and he heard frost is coming soon. He thanked the Polaris Working Group for the earlier update to the Council. He stated that since June, the new Police Chief has hired six new police officers, and it will help with community policing efforts. He spoke of a new senior housing facility that they will begin construction on the following summer near the Armory. He gave well wishes to Mr. Cleworth, Mr. Meeks, and Ms. Therrien in their travels.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Mx. Ottersten** stated they spoke with Chief Jewkes about traffic issues in Fairbanks, and he stated traffic patrol is not an income priority for the City. **Mx. Ottersten** stated they agree with Ms. Parker that traffic patrol is a public safety issue. **Mx. Ottersten** stated they hope that traffic patrol becomes more of a priority with Chief Reeder because there is going to be a terrible accident with the way people drive. **Mx. Ottersten** thanked Ms. Parker for coming to the meeting and for highlighting something that is a very important issue.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated he had no comments.

**Ms. Rogers** reminded people to drive safely in parking lots because there are often young children running about that could get hit.

**Ms. Kun** asked Mr. Turney to email the video clip he is speaking of directly to the Council.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6111 – An Ordinance to Enter into a Contract with the Fairbanks North Star Borough for Fire Service for the Borough's Land Fill. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6111 until the next Regular Council Meeting.

The Clerk clarified that first a motion to adopt is in order. **Mr. Pruhs**, with the concurrence of the second, WITHDREW the motion to POSTPONE.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6111.

Victor Buberger – Mr. Buberger stated the Borough has volunteer firefighters, and the City should use volunteers also. He stated that the City does not use volunteers because the unions will not

allow it. He asked whether the City would use volunteer firefighters to serve the landfill if the contract is approved.

Frank Turney – Mr. Turney recalled that in the 1990's the City had volunteer firefighters who would receive credit through the University. He stated it would save the City a lot of money, but the union is getting in the way.

Penny Parker – Ms. Parker began speaking about her issue with parking. **Mayor Matherly** stated it is time to speak only to Ordinance No. 6111.

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

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6111 to the next Regular Council Meeting.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6111 TO THE NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

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

### NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4890 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the FFY2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Ordinance No. 6112 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Sec. 2-487, Composition of the Clay Street Cemetery Commission, to Remove the City Clerk as Administrative Support. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Mx. Ottersten** stated it is their understanding that the reason that the City Fire Department is dispatched to the landfill is because of the station's proximity to the landfill; they stated that the types of fires that burn at the landfill may require specialized training.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated he had no comments.

**Ms. Rogers** stated she had no comments.

**Ms. Kun** gave a land acknowledgement and encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming election. She reminded everyone that there is a suicide hotline to call if they need someone to talk to.

### CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Snider reported on the deadlines for registering to vote and shared information about early voting.

### CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Ewers reported that he was recently approached by the Fairbanks Wellness Court, and he read their mission statement. He stated he has been asked to work with the program for people who get felony DUIs. He spoke to potential changes that could be made to the City's forfeiture program to work with the Wellness Court program.

**Ms. Rogers** stated she would support the City taking part in the Wellness Court program.

**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 7:21 p.m.



---

JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



---

D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB