



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 23, 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 5:30 p.m. Work Session on the Minnie Street Corridor Study, 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/Acting Chief Financial Officer
 Paul Ewers, City Attorney
 D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director
 Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
 Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager
 Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
 Nancy Reeder, Police Chief
 Tod Chambers, Assistant Fire Chief
 Teal Soden, Communications Director
 Bob Pristash, City Engineer
 Peyton Merideth, FPD Lieutenant
 Jim Styers, Fire Chief

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Donna Gardino, P.O. Box 85056, Fairbanks – Ms. Gardino stated she is a board member of the Downtown Association (DTA) and spoke to the different types of roads and traffic patterns in the downtown area. She spoke to the importance of good City streets and street maintenance.

She stated that Public Works needs to be funded to keep the downtown streets, paths, gutters, and parks clean. She spoke to certain areas that could use funding for abatement projects.

Mr. Pruhs and **Ms. Rogers** asked Ms. Gardino to email the information; Ms. Gardino stated she would email the City Clerk the information and request that it be passed on to the City Council.

Chris Miller, 413 Cowles Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Miller stated he agrees with the DTA’s winter strategy and stated that the City needs to figure out how to do more with less. He stated the State Department of Transportation (DOT) is doing a good job at doing more with less.

Mr. Cleworth asked Mr. Miller how many employees the DTA staffs; Mr. Miller stated they staff 0.7 employees.

Ms. Therrien asked Mr. Miller to be more specific with the requests to the City. Mr. Miller stated winter road maintenance needs to be deliberate.

Ms. Kun thanked Mr. Miller for coming to the meeting and asked for an update on donations. Mr. Miller stated there are a few donors each year, but it is never enough sustainable funding. **Ms. Kun** asked if there were any new fundraisers coming up; Mr. Miller stated there is only the idea about collaboration with the Mayor’s office for snow removal.

Ms. Rogers stated the DTA and the City have worked in collaboration on many projects over the years. Mr. Miller and Ms. Rogers spoke to the different challenges involved with snow removal in the downtown core area.

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger stated he has hopes that City snow removal will be swift. He stated unions should not be able to dictate that the City cannot use volunteer firefighters.

Frank Turney, 1434 Lacey Street, #B, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney spoke to the importance of police using less-lethal weapons and asked why nobody is doing anything about racism in the jury pool. Mr. Turney stated that if a radio station is going to give Mayor Matherly and Kathryn Dodge airtime, they should give equal time to Lakesha Jordan and himself as mayoral candidates. He encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming election and spoke to historically low voter turnout. He stated he does not hate the LGBTQ community, but he supports religious freedom.

Randy Griffin, P.O. Box 73653, Fairbanks – Mr. Griffin stated Fairbanks is in danger of losing freedom depending on how citizens vote in the upcoming election. He stated that if a certain individual is elected as Mayor, Ordinance No. 6093 would become law without a vote of the citizens. He spoke in strong support of allowing the citizens to vote on the issue and pointed out that Anchorage citizens were allowed to vote on a similar issue. He stated a change to the City Seal would be in order if the freedom-robbing ordinance passes, and he displayed a sample of what the City Seal might look like if that happened. The proposed Seal contained a broken heart and read, “Subjugated on December 9, 2019.”

Julie Smyth, 717 9th Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Smyth stated she is Inupiaq, and it is something people discriminate against her for. She stated she is also bisexual and, when people find out,

they also may discriminate against her for that. She stated it is not okay for religious people to discriminate based on her being Inupiaq, but for some reason it is okay for them to discriminate against her for being bisexual. She stated it is not something that should go on the ballot. She encouraged voting in the upcoming election and reminded everyone about early voting.

Ms. Kun stated she would like to say happy Bisexuality Day; Ms. Smyth thanked Ms. Kun.

Lakesha Jordan, 505 Stewart, Fairbanks – Ms. Jordan stated that businesses on the outskirts of the downtown area are not as visible during events happening downtown. She suggested that event locations be rotated so that everyone can share in access to those events.

Ms. Rogers asked Ms. Jordan if she had taken her idea to the DTA. Ms. Jordan stated she had not had time to take her idea to the DTA yet.

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. Pruhs pulled the Recommendation for Appointment to the FNSB Planning Commission from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Cleworth pulled Ordinance No. 6113 from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Matherly called for objection to APPROVING 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 July 8, 2019

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 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 | Address |
|--------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 17250 | Pipe and Leaf | Retail Marijuana Store | Haley Essig | 3546 Airport Way |
| 11927 | Green Life Supply, LLC | Retail Marijuana Store | Green Life Supply, LLC | 511 30th Avenue |
| 10958 | Green Life Supply, LLC | Standard Marijuana Cultivation | Green Life Supply, LLC | 511 30th Avenue |
| 11051 | Northlink, LLC | Standard Marijuana Cultivation | Northlink, LLC | 1550 Cushman Street, Suite B |
| 11053 | True Dank | Retail Marijuana Store | True Dank, LLC | 1550 Cushman Street, Suite A |
| 12964 | Fairdanks Cannabis | Retail Marijuana Store | West Front Andrew, LLC | 29 College Road, Suite 8C |

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

Frank Turney – Mr. Turney offered his support for all the license renewals.

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

Mayor Matherly asked Clerk Snider to speak to the violations included in the packet in regard to Green Life Supply, LLC. Ms. Snider stated that the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) has two reported violations, and she pointed out that the owner, Nathan Davis, is present if the Council would like to speak with him.

Nathan Davis, 511 30th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Davis stated one of the violations was a late tax payment, and he did not realize it would result in a violation. He explained that when he was notified, he contacted the State of Alaska and took care of it, but he ran behind the following month. He stated he understood there was a 5% penalty, which he paid. Mr. Davis stated the other violation was in regard to smell; he stated he has purchased a new filtration system, and the problem has been corrected.

Ms. Therrien asked how much the new filtration system cost; Mr. Davis replied that it was more than \$30,000. He stated he has worked as hard as possible to contain the smell.

Ms. Kun asked Mr. Davis when he would be opening an onsite consumption space; Mr. Davis stated he had no intention of doing so.

Mayor Matherly commended Mr. Davis for the investment he made in adding the new filtration system and for caring about the neighbors and neighborhood.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Davis for attending to personally address the concerns raised.

Ms. Therrien shared her concern for the amount of police activity at Northlink and True Dank and asked what the issues were. **Mayor Matherly** stated Police Chief Reeder and Deputy Chief Welborn were not present but that he had spoken with them. He stated the issues were not of concern with the license itself.

Ms. Kun stated the facility is in an area that already had issues, and the license is not the cause.

Mx. Ottersten pointed out that the Northlink callout list is duplicated for True Dank, and there are only 13 total calls.

Mr. Pruhs stated the calls have nothing to do with the license. He stated that the place next door is not the very best housing unit, so calls occurring in the area cannot be helped by the licensee. He spoke about the community service provided by such establishments.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

b) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Marijuana License Application for Transfer of Controlling Interest:

Type: Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility, License #16006

DBA: Arctic Bakery, LLC

Applicant: Arctic Bakery, LLC
1409 Well Street, Fairbanks

From: Arctic Bakery, LLC
1409 Well Street, Fairbanks

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Marijuana License Application for Transfer of Controlling Interest.

Mr. Pruhs stated he finds it reprehensible that the City Council weighs in on this type of transfer and that he does not believe it is the Council's duty to judge the licensee.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF CONTROLLING INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly stated he has many things to report to the Council. He asked his Executive Assistant, Teal Soden, and Helen Renfrew from Explore Fairbanks to come forward.

Ms. Soden spoke to the upcoming Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) events and to the different entities helping promote the event and gain community involvement. She spoke to

community outreach and promotion of AFN and to the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Police Department's (FPD) involvement in the convention.

Helen Renfrew, Explore Fairbanks – Ms. Renfrew spoke to the upcoming events of the AFN convention and thanked the City of Fairbanks for allowing its staff to participate in various planning roles. She spoke to the various AFN subcommittees and stated they are still recruiting volunteers. She encouraged everyone to sign up and get involved.

Brittany Smart, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Smart stated it has been a year since she attended a City Council meeting, and she welcomed new Council members. She spoke to upcoming events the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) would be involved with. She encouraged everyone to attend Alaska Defense Forum events and encouraged pre-registration.

Mayor Matherly asked Chief of Staff Mike Meeks to speak to the Interior Gas Utility (IGU). Mr. Meeks reported he met with the IGU, and they are installing a few service lines to homes this year and plan for more next year. He reported the City is trying to help by creating permit fee waivers for natural gas hookups.

Mr. Cleworth asked why the IGU has not been providing quarterly updates to the Council; Mr. Meeks stated he would look into the issue.

Mayor Matherly commented on the recent passing of Howard Luke, a respected Native Elder. He stated his painting resides in the hallway at City Hall. **Mayor Matherly** reported there will soon be a non-lethal weapons work session with the City Council and that Police Chief Reeder is working on the presentation. He shared the importance of voting and encouraged everyone to get out and vote early or on election day. He shared that the City has regular meetings with the DTA to discuss snow removal in the City.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Kun stated she had no comments.

Ms. Rogers spoke to the importance of delegates of the Native community coming to Fairbanks for the AFN convention. She stated it is important that the event is well-received so that it can be held in Fairbanks again in future years.

Ms. Therrien stated she is sad to hear that Golden Heart Plaza is not being well-maintained. She stated she would support making sure the downtown area stays clean in the next budget.

Mx. Ottersten stated they share a concern with Golden Heart Plaza. **Mx. Ottersten** shared that Ms. Kun has gone out with her own trash bags and picked up trash in the park.

Mr. Cleworth spoke about the perfect storm that occurred last year with snow removal and stated that equipment failure compounded the issue. He stated that the City is going back to the old way of doing things, and getting behind in the downtown core area never goes well. He stated the downtown area got spoiled when they had the "Clean Team" that took care of graffiti

and other issues. He stated that Festival Fairbanks maintains Golden Heart Plaza, but everyone is likely facing tight budgets.

Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson stated there is a unique problem in the Golden Heart Plaza that is not based upon neglect on anyone's part. He explained that you can clean the plaza one day and come back the next to trash and other unsightly things. He stated it takes a great deal of time and resources to constantly clean up. He stated there was an unusually high amount of graffiti incidents over the summer season, and it takes a lot to stay on top of it every day.

Mr. Cleworth expressed appreciation that every Mayoral candidate is in attendance.

Mayor Matherly stated he met with Julie Jones from Festival Fairbanks, and they are installing security cameras at the Plaza to help to combat some of the issues that have occurred.

Mr. Pruhs suggested that Festival Fairbanks and the DTA combine and seek funding to clean up the downtown area. He commended those who try to keep downtown clean. He commended all the candidates running for office and stated he has not hosted any candidates on his radio show this year. He stated, however, that anyone can call in to his show. He stated he does not like that the City Council discusses stock-only and controlling interest-only license transfers, and he asked the Clerk and Attorney if those types of items could go on the consent agenda.

Ms. Rogers stated it is important to note that the issues in downtown Fairbanks are a symptom of a much larger problem, and there needs to be a greater understanding of the issue. She stated it is not just about trash, but it is about rolling up one's sleeves and working hard on the issues.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4891 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4892 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the Alaska Highway Safety Office for FFY2020 DUI Traffic Enforcement Unit. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Ordinance No. 6113 – An Ordinance Amending the 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Fourth Time. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6113.

Mr. Cleworth asked for a staff report from Dispatch Manager Kristi Merideth. Ms. Merideth explained that Westnet is the fire alerting system that helps dispatch fire departments to fires. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he understood it was an old system that had been paid for. Ms. Merideth

stated they did not charge yearly maintenance fees in the past, but this year fees have to be paid in order to continue using the software. She explained why the funds are needed and stated that funding will be included in the proposed 2020 budget.

Ms. Therrien asked how many vacancies there are in the Dispatch Department. Ms. Merideth stated the department is two-and-a-half positions short currently.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6113 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Committee Reports

Senior Needs Committee – **Ms. Therrien** stated the committee met and discussed the needs of senior citizens in the community; she stated there is a lot of work to be done. She stated she would get information to the Clerk to distribute.

Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) – **Ms. Rogers** stated a quorum has been difficult to establish due to vacancies and asked the Mayor to make some appointments. **Mayor Matherly** stated he is waiting for the Council to decide what to do with the FDC makeup before appointing members, because he does not want to appoint someone only to have to let them go if the FDC shrinks.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

a) Recommendation for Appointment to FNSB Planning Commission

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to CONCUR with the Appointment to the FNSB Planning Commission.

Mr. Pruhs stated he pulled the item because he believes he has a conflict of interest. He stated that Jason McComas-Roe is a licensee with Pruhs Real Estate Group, so he would abstain from voting on the appointment.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CONCUR WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE FNSB PLANNING COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Kun, Cleworth, Ottersten, Rogers

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Pruhs

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Reappointment to the Clay Street Cemetery Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Board of Plumber Examiner Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2019

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2019

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Kun thanked Ms. Renfrew and Ms. Soden for all the work they have done in preparing for the AFN Convention. She gave a land acknowledgement and spoke to the loss of Howard Luke. **Ms. Kun** stated she has lost five people to suicide in the past two weeks and encouraged anyone who needs help to text 74141 or call 800-273-TALK. She reminded everyone that early voting is open and encouraged everyone to vote.

Ms. Rogers stated she had no comments.

Ms. Therrien offered sympathies to the family of Howard Luke. She thanked her opponent for being a gentleman during the campaign and asked anyone who sees her out holding a sign to wave.

Mx. Ottersten jokingly stated that apathy is the way to go when it comes to voting.

Mr. Cleworth stated he had no comments.

Mr. Pruhs thanked City Engineer Bob Pristash for the Minnie Street Work Session and commended Margarita Bell for a job well done in acting as the Interim Chief Financial Officer.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT


City Clerk Snider reported that early voting is available at City Hall until 5:00 p.m., September 31. She announced that polls will open at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2019.

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 8:02 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB