



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 13, 2020  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a Work Session on the D Street Extension Improvement Project, 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  
Aaron Gibson, Seat D  
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E

Absent: David Pruhs, Seat F

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  
Bob Pristash, City Engineer  
Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager  
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
Tod Chambers, Deputy Fire 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 Pledge of Allegiance.

### CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger stated he heard Explore Fairbanks wants to build a convention center where the Polaris Building currently sits. He stated he knows the Mayor and Council has to know something about it and asked how much it would cost. He spoke of a 260-page document that discusses the plans for a convention center.

Brii Whitney, 1000 9th Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Whitney stated she came to testify about the Public Safety Commission (PSC). She stated she began using public transit a few years ago, and bus drivers do not even get bathroom breaks. She stated the PSC should look out for drivers as well as pedestrians, and creative solutions need to be found. She stated that everyone's safety is

important. She stated people freeze to death in open sight because the City is not providing essential services to Fairbanks residents.

**Mayor Matherly** advised Ms. Whitney that the appropriate body to speak to about the transit system is the Borough Assembly. Ms. Whitney stated the Transit Center is downtown, and it is the Council's responsibility to keep people safe by way of the PSC.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked what Ms. Whitney about her statement that indicated that the City Council was at odds with the PSC. Ms. Whitney stated she was speaking about the Public Safety Employees Union and Ordinance No. 5953; she stated there is need for collaboration.

**Mr. Gibson** asked Ms. Whitney when she last attended a PSC meeting. Ms. Whitney stated she is not sure. **Mr. Gibson** asked Ms. Whitney to speak about some of her ideas for the PSC. Ms. Whitney stated she would like to know the economic impacts of a more efficient public transportation system.

Brenna Carlson, 1235 3rd Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Carlson stated she is concerned with the Council abolishing the PSC. She stated some Council members do not think the PSC is necessary, which is a copout. She stated it would be nice if Fairbanks did not need a PSC, but it is a very needed entity. She read the Fairbanks General Code (FGC) relating to the PSC and stated that its role is to research and advise the Council on issues. She stated it should not be abolished. She stated the PSC membership should be representative of marginalized members of society. She gave some ideas on to how to address issues that are causing the Council to consider abolishing the PSC.

**Ms. Kun** asked Ms. Carlson if she would be willing to serve on the PSC if it continued. Ms. Carlson stated she would.

**Mayor Matherly** asked Ms. Carlson to send her information to his office.

Alex Thornton, 1528 South Cushman, Fairbanks – Mr. Thornton stated he moved into the City limits so he could be more involved in the things that affect the City. He stated he is working to purchase a commercial property in downtown Fairbanks, but currently he runs a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the people of the community, spreading joy and social justice through community service acts. He stated he is a disaster responder, having responded to some of the county's worst disasters, a former emergency medical technician (EMT), and the chair of a Borough Commission. He stated the Council needs to allow the PSC to continue. Mr. Thornton stated every City Council meeting he has attended has discussed public safety, and he spoke to how he is a marginalized person living in a City that vetoed an equal rights ordinance. He stated he now carries a weapon because he is harassed and has no other protection. He stated it seems as though the Council is trying to get rid of all oversight on public safety.

Julie Smyth, 717 9th Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Smyth asked for help. She stated she has had two incidents involving security guards that work for the Borough. She stated the first incident occurred at the bus station where a guard would not let someone on the bus, alleging that they were drunk. She stated the second incident happened on the street where a Borough security guard yelled and berated an Indigenous woman who was drunk. Ms. Smyth stated she has filed complaints about it at the Borough. She stated the police were called, and they did nothing.

**Mayor Matherly** asked Ms. Smyth to send evidence of the event to the Chief of Staff so they can investigate.

**Ms. Therrien** asked Ms. Smyth if she has gone to the Borough Assembly about the incidents. Ms. Smyth stated she attended a meeting and told the Assembly about it.

**Ms. Rogers** asked where on the street the incident occurred. Ms. Smyth stated it was outside the State building. She stated she has a picture of the incident.

**Mayor Matherly** asked Ms. Smyth to send the information to him, and he would investigate.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**Mr. Cleworth** pulled Resolution No. 4899 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 October 14, 2019.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Regular Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2019.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

c) Regular Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2019.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Premises Address
3381	Bei Jing Hot Pot Asian Cuisine	Restaurant/ Eating Place	CJ Hot Pot & Asian Cuisine, Inc.	1694 Airport Way
4395	The Banks Alehouse	Beverage Dispensary	Goethe, LLC	1243 Old Steese Hwy

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Applications for Renewal.

**Mayor Matherly** called for comment and, hearing none, declared the public hearing closed.

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

YEAS: Rogers, Gibson, Therrien, Cleworth, Kun  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Pruhs

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

b) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Marijuana Onsite Consumption Endorsement Application:

Type: Marijuana Onsite Consumption Endorsement  
DBA: GoodSinse, LLC  
Applicant: GoodSinse, LLC  
Location: 2604 Davis Road, Fairbanks

**Ms. Kun**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to PROTEST the Marijuana Onsite Consumption Endorsement Application until work is completed and approved and pending application and plans for change of occupancy/use.

Daniel Peters, 2604 Davis Road, Fairbanks – Mr. Peters stated he is working on all of the licensing and requirements; he stated he hopes to have it all wrapped up by the end of April. He stated he is working on building a 700-square-foot consumption room.

**Ms. Kun** asked if the neighboring training center has any issues. Mr. Peters stated they do not.

**Ms. Rogers** thanked Mr. Peters for such a thorough application.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked Mr. Peters what kind of insurance he would need in order to operate an onsite consumption room. Mr. Peters stated he is not sure because he would be the first in the nation to be licensed for onsite consumption. He stated he is excited to make such a historic achievement, and he will pay whatever the price to make it happen. **Mr. Cleworth** asked Mr. Peters if he has had issues with his air filtration system. Mr. Peters stated he did receive a notification from the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO), but he is addressing the issue with them at their next board meeting.

**Ms. Therrien** asked Mr. Peters when he thinks he will have everything completed. Mr. Peters stated he hopes to be open by April.

Victor Buberger – Mr. Buberger spoke in support of GoodSinse in memory of Frank Turney.

Alex Thornton – Mr. Thornton spoke in support of the onsite consumption endorsement, stating that people need a place to legally consume.

Julie Smyth – Ms. Smyth spoke in support of the endorsement. She explained why it would be a good thing for her and other people she knows.

Hearing no more requests for comment, **Mayor Matherly** declared the public hearing closed.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that as a business owner, he would not operate a business without insurance. He stated that onsite consumption increases risk.

**Ms. Kun** stated it is not required that a bar carry insurance, but it is a good business practice.

**Mayor Matherly** stated he worked for years in banking and insurance, and he cautioned Mr. Peters of the risks in being a pioneer.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO PROTEST THE MARIJUANA ONSITE CONSUMPTION ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION UNTIL WORK IS COMPLETED AND APPROVED AND PENDING APPLICATION AND PLANS FOR CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY/USE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Gibson, Therrien, Cleworth, Rogers

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Pruhs

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

**Mayor Matherly**, in response to Mr. Buberger's earlier comments, stated that the City is not Explore Fairbanks, and the City is not building a convention center. He stated it costs nothing for the City to own the building, and there are no plans for development of the property. He asked Mr. Buberger to come and speak with him about these kinds of things so that misinformation does not spread. **Mayor Matherly** stated the City is not in the market for a convention center, and that it is not a City project.

#### a) Special Reports

Jerry Evans, Explore Fairbanks – Mr. Evans provided a 2019 update. He spoke of all of the writers and photographers who came to the Interior to write stories for their magazines and blogs. He reported that the February edition of Alaska Airlines' magazine will have a story about the number of Thai restaurants in Fairbanks.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Ms. Kun** thanked everyone for coming to testify about the PSC; she assured everyone that she heard them.

**Ms. Rogers** thanked everyone for coming and sharing their concern about the PSC. She expressed concern about the report of security guards being aggressive with people and stated that is unacceptable on any level.

**Ms. Therrien** stated she would like assurance that the Mayor will look into Ms. Smyth's allegations.

**Mr. Cleworth** echoed the Mayor's comments on the Polaris Building; he stated he would not support it being a cost of City taxpayers. He stated everyone that testified about the PSC has left, and he would like to address their concerns. He stated four department heads are required to be at PSC meetings, and it takes away from keeping the City safe. He and listed several local programs that were not in place when the PSC was originally created. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the history of how the PSC came to be and explained why it is now obsolete. He explained that complaints are handled internally, which is another reason the PSC is not needed.

**Mr. Gibson** thanked everyone for coming to testify. He shared that the Council does care about public safety, and he spoke to funding the Emergency Service Patrol (ESP) in the 2020 budget.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4898 – A Resolution Allocating Discretionary Funds from Hotel/Motel Tax in the Amount of Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$270,000). Introduced by Council Member Rogers.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4899 – A Resolution to Apply for Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2020 State Homeland Security Program. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

**Ms. Kun**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4899.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC) Director Kristi Merideth for a staff report. He asked if the \$300,000 price of the mobile unit is the total cost. Ms. Merideth stated the one that was being discussed is not the unit they are requesting. She stated they would rather have a mobile van that would be ready for staff to plug in and go.

**Ms. Rogers** asked if it is like a mobile work bench. Ms. Merideth explained how the unit would work during a large-scale emergency.

**Mr. Gibson** asked how the mobile unit solves the problem. Ms. Merideth stated that staff would be able to take their laptops and the network with them.

**Ms. Kun** asked how frequently the FECC has had to lean on a mobile unit. Ms. Merideth stated they have tried testing, but nothing has worked so far.

**Mr. Rogers** asked if she knows how well the Anchorage mobile unit works. Ms. Merideth stated Chief Reeder spoke well of it.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4899 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Rogers, Kun, Gibson, Therrien

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Pruhs

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4899 APPROVED.

- c) Resolution No. 4900 – A Resolution Supporting the Updated Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center Sustainable Business Plan. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Ordinance No. 6122 – An Ordinance to Repeal Fairbanks General Code Sections 2-471 through 2-474, Public Safety Commission. Introduced by Mayor Matherly and Council Member Cleworth.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a) Committee Reports

Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee – **Ms. Rogers** reported the Commission met and took care of some of the loose ends that needed addressing. She stated that, as Committee Chair, it has been a joy working with Margarita Bell.

Nuisance Property Committee – Mr. Meeks stated the Mayor has formed a Committee, and it has met once. He shared that there is one public member on the Committee.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated there is a fine line to walk when it comes to problem properties because you cannot step on people's freedoms. He thanked Mr. Meeks for the work he has done.

- b) City Council Member Committee Assignments

**Mayor Matherly** stated he would like to postpone the Committee Assignments to the next Regular Council meeting so that all Council members could be present. No members objected.

### **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL**

- a) Confirmation of Appointment of the City Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

**Mayor Matherly** stated Ms. Bell is well-respected by everyone in the community, and he is happy to share that she has accepted the position. He stated there is no better person to fill the Chief Financial Officer position than Ms. Margarita Bell.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to CONFIRM the Appointment of City Chief Financial Officer.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated the City is blessed to have Ms. Bell take the CFO position and that all of her experience will be good for the City.

**Mr. Rogers** stated she has worked with Ms. Bell for many years, and she has always been professional and a pleasure to work with. She commended Ms. Bell for her communication skills.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF CITY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Kun, Cleworth, Gibson, Rogers

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Pruhs

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Mr. Gibson** thanked Ms. Rogers for her work on the Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee. He asked the Mayor to look into other options for emergency planning and preparedness.

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

**Ms. Therrien** congratulated Ms. Bell and spoke highly of her.

**Ms. Rogers** reminded drivers to turn on their headlights. She stated the new word to use is “crashes” – not accidents – and people should be more cautious.

**Ms. Kun** gave a land acknowledgement, welcomed everyone to 2020, and shared her excitement for Ms. Bell accepting the CFO position. She reminded everyone of the carelines they can call if they need to talk to someone. She reported she did a ride-along with the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD), and she now better understands the workflow for police officers.

**Ms. Rogers** requested to be excused from the next Regular Council meeting of January 27, 2020.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection to Ms. Rogers request for an excused absence, and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to ENTER into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing AFL-CIO, FFU, and IBEW Labor Negotiation strategies.

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

**Mayor Matherly** called for a brief recess. The Council reconvened in Executive Session following the brief recess.



**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a) AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy
- b) FFU Labor Negotiations Strategy
- c) IBEW Labor Negotiations Strategy

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO, FFU, and IBEW Labor Negotiation strategies. Direction was given to the negotiating teams, and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**Mayor Matherly** declared the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.



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JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB