



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 9, 2020
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 for a Nuisance Property Discussion, 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
 David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Clem Clooten, Building Official
 Margarita Bell, 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
 Bob Pristash, City Engineer
 Jim Styers, Fire Chief

City Clerk 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 join him in the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Matherly reported on the coronavirus and shared information he has been provided by other entities throughout the state. He reminded everyone about the importance of washing hands and sanitizing areas.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Marna Sanford, 455 McKinley View Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Sanford stated her husband's vehicle was recently towed from a private parking lot; she clarified that he neglected to read the parking signs and was rightfully towed. She explained that when they called about the towing fees and to find out when they could collect their vehicle, they were not given answers by the towing company. She indicated that the experience was unsatisfactory, and she told the gentleman at the towing company that she would change the law. Ms. Sanford stated that the Borough does not have the power to change towing laws, but the City does. She referenced Anchorage's consumer bill of rights in regard to towing which she distributed to Council Members. She stated that, fortunately, she and her husband were able to pay the cash-only payment to get their vehicle, but there are many people in the community who would not be able to afford such a cash payment. She asked the Council to introduce an ordinance.

Mr. Cleworth asked what time of day Ms. Sanford contacted the towing company. Ms. Sanford stated it was in the evening, and she spoke with a person in Anchorage.

Ms. Therrien asked which towing company it was; Ms. Sanford stated it is located on Peger Road.

Mr. Gibson asked whether a City ordinance would apply to any towing companies located outside the City. City Attorney Ewers stated it would not.

Mr. Pruhs asked Ms. Sanford if she would be interested in meeting with him and the City Attorney to begin drafting an ordinance. Ms. Sanford replied affirmatively.

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger stated he thinks of Donna Gilbert often and her references to the "good ole' boys club". He stated people should be allowed to know what is really going on with the Polaris Building downtown.

Paloma O'Riley, 1666 Market Street, Fairbanks – Ms. O'Riley stated that the coronavirus and a decline in oil prices are threatening our continued viability as a community. She spoke about the economic impacts of falling oil prices and the supply chain impacts that would result from China shutting down its factories. She stated the effects of the coronavirus are far-reaching, and it is not a matter of "if" but "when". She asked many questions about how an average citizen would be affected by the shutdown of schools, businesses, and other community organizations. She questioned whether there would be breaks given to citizens who may struggle financially during the crisis; she spoke about potential problems with health care. She provided some ideas for disaster mitigation and help to citizens.

Ms. Therrien asked Ms. O'Riley if she sent a letter to the State Legislature. Ms. O'Riley stated she had been in contact with some legislators but had not sent a letter.

Randy Griffin, P.O. Box 73653, Fairbanks – Mr. Griffin commented on a constitutional amendment that was proposed in the legislature the prior year regarding long-term sustainability of the State's Permanent Fund. He stated the amendment would place a "super lock" on the 5% annual draw. He stated he is concerned about legislators who are tempted to draw more than the statutory limit. He referenced a handout he provided to the Council regarding the amendment.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, 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 December 9, 2019.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Premises Address
542	Geraldo's Restaurant	Beverage Dispensary	Garlic Lovers, LLC	701 College Road
1475	Pizza Hut of Fairbanks	Restaurant/ Eating Place	MP2 Alaska, LLC	89 College Road
2424	Sophie Station Hotel	Beverage Dispensary - Tourism	Fountainhead Development, Inc.	1717 University Avenue
3074	Wedgewood Resort	Beverage Dispensary - Tourism	Fountainhead Development, Inc.	212 Wedgewood Drive
3616	Wedgewood Resort – Bear Lodge	Beverage Dispensary - Tourism	Fountainhead Development, Inc.	212 Wedgewood Drive
4344	Bahn Thai Restaurant	Restaurant/ Eating Place	Somnuk, LLC	541 Third Avenue

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

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

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Application for a New Liquor License:

Type/License: General – Wholesale/License #5887
DBA: K&L Distributors Alaska
Applicant: White Mountain Beverage Company, LLC
Location: 945 Elizabeth Street, Fairbanks, AK

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Application for the New Liquor License.

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

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

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

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- c) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Application for Transfer of Ownership:

Type/License: Beverage Dispensary/License #4170
DBA: The Library
Applicant: Redbox, LLC
603 Lacey Street, Fairbanks
From: The Library/Tapas, LLC
603 Lacey Street, Fairbanks

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Application for Transfer of Ownership.

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

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

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

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly offered condolences to the Gavora family for the recent loss of Rudy Gavora.

- a) Special Reports

Mayor Matherly asked Colonel Ben Bishop from Eielson Airforce Base (EAFB) to come forward to provide a report to the Council on things happening at EAFB. Col. Bishop provided a “State of the Wing” update to the Council, including information about the upcoming arrival of the F-35s. He spoke briefly about the history of EAFB.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Bishop for attending and providing a report to the Council.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Pruhs shared that many considerations and ideas are being discussed for the Polaris Building property. He stated that discussions are still preliminary, and no funds have been allocated for anything specific at this time.

Mr. Cleworth spoke to the history of the towing industry in the City of Fairbanks. He thanked Mr. Griffin for attending and for providing reports to the Council.

Mr. Gibson stated he had no comments.

Ms. Kun thanked Ms. O’Riley for attending and for speaking to the Council.

Ms. Rogers thanked everyone for coming and sharing their voice.

Ms. Therrien stated she would like the Council to address Ms. Sanford’s concerns about towing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6124 – An Ordinance Amending the 2020 Operating and Capital Budgets for the First Time. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6124.

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

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to SUBSTITUTE Ordinance No. 6124, as Amended, for Ordinance No. 6124.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6124, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6124, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6125 – An Ordinance to Place Before City Voters Ratification of a Pass-through Loan from the Alaska Clean Water Fund to Golden Heart Utilities for Up to \$1.5 Million for Main Extension and Water Piping Improvements at the City-owned Wastewater Treatment Facility. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6125.

Steve Offenborn, Representative of Golden Heart Utilities (GHU) – Mr. Offenborn offered to answer any questions from the Council regarding the project or grant.

Ms. Therrien asked about the project number missing from the loan reimbursement agreement. Mr. Offenborn stated he believes that number is assigned after they apply for the loan.

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

Mr. Cleworth thanked the City Attorney for preparing the ordinance and stated that the most important part is the ballot question. He commented that the City has received \$8.7 million for the utility that it still owns.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6125 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6125 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4905 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security for the FFY2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4906 – A Resolution Supporting SB 179, an Act Including Provisions Relating to a Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact. Introduced by Mayor Matherly and All City Council Members.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Committee Reports

Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors – **Ms. Kun** reported that the Board met recently, and there were some concerns about how the coronavirus may affect tourism.

Legislative Priorities Committee – **Ms. Therrien** reported that the Council would be meeting with legislators the following morning. She shared that she and Ms. Rogers would be travelling to Juneau later in the week to meet with legislators.

Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) – **Ms. Rogers** shared that the FDC would meet the following evening at 5:30 p.m. **Mayor Matherly** stated the meeting would be an informal work session.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2019
ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.
- b) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2019
ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.
- c) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2019
ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.
- d) Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2020
ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.
- e) Appointment to the Building Code & Landscape Review & Appeals Commission
APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Kun gave a land acknowledgement and provided the suicide hotline for anyone who may need it.

Ms. Rogers thanked the Mayor for inviting Col. Bishop to the meeting. She asked everyone to use caution on the roads.

Ms. Therrien shared her desire to continue working on goal setting.

Mr. Gibson stated he had no comments.

Mr. Cleworth spoke to the FDC and about the creation of the Diversity Action Plan (DAP). He also discussed the history of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and to the costly mistakes that had been made with PERS over the years.

Mr. Pruhs offered his condolences to the Gavora family. He shared that services would be held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the Monroe Chapel. He commended CFO Margarita Bell for bringing the Council through the first budget amendment of the year.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider reminded Council members that annual Financial Disclosure statements are due March 15.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ENTER Executive Session for the purpose of discussing AFL-CIO 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) IBEW Labor Negotiation Strategy

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO 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 8:58 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB