



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 30, 2020
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date 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 (telephonically) and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Shoshana Kun, Seat A (telephonic)
 Valerie Therrien, Seat C (telephonic)
 Aaron Gibson, Seat D (telephonic)
 Jerry Cleworth, Seat E
 David Pruhs, Seat F (telephonic)

Absent: June Rogers, Seat B

Also Present: Paul Ewers, City Attorney
 D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff

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 Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

NOTE: Due to concerns over the COVID-19 emergency, some special procedures have been implemented for City Council Meetings. Mayor Matherly and Council Members may participate in meetings telephonically. Citizens may have written comments read into the record if submitted to the City Clerk in advance; the three-minute time limit applies to written testimony. To ensure compliance with Mandate 9 by Governor Dunleavy, the seating in Council Chambers has been arranged to accomplish social distancing. No more than 10 individuals are allowed in the Chambers at the same time. Citizens arriving after the maximum number has been reached will be directed to wait in another area until it is their turn to speak. Those who are asked to wait in another area will be able to listen to the Council Meeting in progress and are asked to practice social distancing.

Mayor Matherly called for public comment and, hearing none, 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 January 13, 2020.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2020

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	Address
435	Garden Island Party Store	Package Store	Market Basket, Inc.	246 Illinois Street
5504	Mayan Palace	Beverage Dispensary – Duplicate	Taco Azteca, Inc.	3403 Airport Way
3118	V.F.W. Post 3629	Club	V.F.W. Post 3629	324 2nd St.
1475	Pizza Hut of Fairbanks	Restaurant/Eating Place	MP2 Alaska, LLC	89 College Rd.
2565	El Dorado Bar & Grill	Beverage Dispensary	Eldorado Bar & Grill, Inc.	530 Third Ave.
3997	BPO Elks Lodge #1551	Club	Fairbanks Lodge #1551 of the BPO of Elks	1003 Pioneer Rd.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by Mr. Gibson, 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: Kun, Gibson, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Rogers

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly reported on the danger of the Coronavirus and asked for everyone to thank healthcare workers for the job they are doing. He thanked everyone for their service and shared that Fairbanks has support from Senators and Congressmen. He asked Chief of Staff Mike Meeks to provide the Council with a report.

Mr. Meeks stated the City is still providing services and is working with the healthcare community to maintain clear messaging. He stated City Hall has limited access and spoke to the changes within the building. He stated the Fire Training Center is available to five City employees for remote work, and a courier service has been implemented to help with the daily operations of City staff working remotely. He reported that City staff has been using "Zoom" to conduct meetings, and it has been successful.

Mayor Matherly shared that the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital has been holding a daily press conference that he attends. He stated that FMH employees are wearing masks all the time. He stated the hospital is in the process of securing the use of the Carlson Center, and he stated he would provide more information at a later time.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Kun asked whether the City garbage service would continue to operate as usual. **Mayor Matherly** reported that garbage service is currently operating as usual.

Ms. Therrien expressed concern for homeless individuals who may need to take a shower and use restroom facilities. She stated she understands that the JP Jones Community Center may open up to help the homeless. **Mayor Matherly** reported that they would open on Wednesday, April 1 during the day. He stated that the shelter has also been available to those in need.

Mr. Gibson stated he had no comments.

Mr. Cleworth stated he had no comments.

Mr. Pruhs stated he had no comments.

Mr. Meeks stated that Public Works has separated garbage service staff to help prevent the spread of sickness. He stated that there is now only one worker per packer truck with a City vehicle following behind. He stated that he would have Housing and Homeless Coordinator Mike Sanders start including the Council in regular updates.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4907 – A Resolution Extending the Mayor's Declaration of a Disaster Emergency within the City of Fairbanks for the COVID-19 Pandemic and Requesting State and Federal Assistance. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Ordinance No. 6127 – An Ordinance Authorizing Conveyance of a Temporary Construction Easement on City-Owned Parcel TCE-11 as Requested by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities for the Wendell Avenue Bridge Project. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Ordinance No 6128 – An Emergency Ordinance Temporarily Allowing the Mayor to Authorize the Use of City Equipment and Personnel Outside the City Limits to Help Ensure the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Community During the Public Health Emergency. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD IF THE ORDINANCE REACHES THE FLOOR.

NOTE: Per Fairbanks Charter Sec. 3.6. – Ordinances: Exception to Procedures, an ordinance may be introduced, amended, and adopted at one Council meeting upon finding that an emergency exists. The nature of the emergency must be stated in a motion to suspend the rules, and in order to proceed to address the emergency ordinance, the motion to suspend the rules must be adopted by a unanimous, affirmative vote of all councilmembers in attendance. A subsequent motion to adopt the emergency ordinance must pass by four affirmative votes.

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to SUSPEND THE NORMAL RULES to allow introduction and adoption of Ordinance No. 6128 at this Regular Meeting, based on the emergency created by the COVID-19 virus and based on the need to adopt emergency measures to ensure that community resources are brought to bear in this emergency as quickly as possible.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE NORMAL RULES AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Kun, Gibson, Therrien

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Rogers

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6128.

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

Ms. Therrien asked what resources the City would be providing to the Borough. Mr. Meeks stated that no resources have been requested yet, but the ordinance would allow the City to act quickly if the need arises. He stated that if resources are used outside the City's jurisdiction, it would be reported to the City Council.

Mr. Cleworth asked whether Public Works may provide resources outside the City limits under existing City Code. City Attorney Ewers stated that according to Fairbanks General Code (FGC) 2-656, Council approval is required for use of City resources outside the City limits. Mr. Ewers stated that “resources” may include staff and equipment on an emergency basis.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6128 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Cleworth, Kun, Therrien, Pruhs

NONE: None

ABSENT: Rogers

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Committee Reports

Polaris Building Working Group – **Mr. Pruhs** stated there is a meeting scheduled for April 30 for members of the group to present to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) about the Polaris Building project.

Legislative Information Group – **Ms. Therrien** reported that she and Ms. Rogers recently travelled to Juneau on behalf of the City. She stated she would prepare a written report for the Council soon.

Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors – **Ms. Kun** stated that at the recent virtual meeting members discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on the visitor industry.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

a) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2019

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2019

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Gibson stated he had no comments.

Mr. Cleworth stated Public Works has done a good job with snow removal. He stated that the last snowfall was very wet, so a lot of the roads became bumpy and rutted due to the hardpack. He asked whether Public Works could run a blade over the hardpack one more time to prevent it turning to slush. He expressed concern over the 2020 budget with anticipated hits to bed tax and alcohol tax revenue. He stated that the cap within the tax cap prohibits the City from making up

the difference. He suggested moving forward with the gasoline tax ordinance, and he asked for a projection of losses. He stated the Council should be prepared for the budget shortfalls. He thanked City staff for all their forward planning and for putting together a successful telephonic meeting.

Mayor Matherly thanked Chief Financial Officer Bell for looking into financial impacts to the City and federal assistance.

Mr. Pruhs stated he had no comments.

Ms. Therrien reported she saw a news report indicating that the City would receive funding to offset its losses in bed tax revenue. She thanked City staff for all their work in regard to the pandemic.

Ms. Kun gave a land acknowledgement. She thanked City staff and stated that Fairbanks is living up to its "Golden Heart" motto. She stated that during this time of social isolation, it is important to take inventory of one's mental health. She offered the careline for anyone who may need help.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB