



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 13, 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)
June Rogers, Seat B (telephonic)
Valerie Therrien, Seat C (telephonic)
Aaron Gibson, Seat D (telephonic)
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E
David Pruhs, Seat F (telephonic)

Absent: None

Also Present: Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer (telephonic)
Paul Ewers, City Attorney
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
Nancy Reeder, Police Chief (telephonic)
Tod Chambers, Interim Fire Chief (telephonic)

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.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Matherly thanked Fire Chief Jim Styers for his service to the City of Fairbanks and spoke to his accomplishments during his career. **Mayor Matherly** reported that the Department will be in good hands with Assistant Chief Tod Chambers and asked if Chief Styers had anything to add. Chief Styers thanked the City and the City Council for its support over the years and for allowing him to serve. He stated that Mr. Chambers will do a great job.

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 comment and, hearing none, declared Citizens' Comments closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Gibson pulled Ordinance No. 6129 from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Cleworth pulled the Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2020 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 February 10, 2020

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2020.

Mr. Cleworth asked City Clerk Snider to review the testimony of Ms. Babcock on page seven of the minutes to see if she actually stated that the Mecca Bar gives money to the Downtown Association.

Clerk Snider asked Council Members if there was any objection to her reviewing the minutes and bringing them back to the next Council Meeting for approval. No members objected.

b) Special Meeting Minutes of February 14, 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
4816	Mayan Palace	Beverage Dispensary	Taco Azteca, Inc.	3401 Airport Way
3151	Fred Meyer 485	Package Store	Fred Meyer Stores, Inc.	3755 Airport Way
1059	Raven Landing Center	Beverage Dispensary	Retirement Community of Fairbanks	949 McGown Street
54	American Legion Post 11	Club	The American Legion, Dorman H Baker Post #11	129 1st Avenue
5436	Hoarfrost Distilling	Distillery	Hoarfrost Distilling, LLC	3501 Lathrop St, Unit F
3170	The Odom Corporation	Wholesale – General	The Odom Corporation	3401 Peger Rd, Bay 1
4831	Irashai Japanese Restaurant	Restaurant/ Eating Place	2GIRO, Inc.	419 Merhar Avenue, Suite B
4156	Holiday #622	Package Store	Holiday Alaska, LLC	2300 S. Cushman St
1639	Alaska Salmon Bake	Restaurant/Eating Place – Seasonal	Malemute, Inc.	2300 Airport Way
4720	Gallantino’s Italian Restaurant	Beverage Dispensary	Gallantino’s, Inc.	1446 S. Cushman Street
4174	Big Daddy’s Bar-B-Q & Banquet Hall	Beverage Dispensary	RTG, LLC	107 Wickersham Street
5500	K & L Distributors Alaska	Wholesale – Malt Beverage & Wine	White Mountain Beverage, LLC	945 Elizabeth Street

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, 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 Liquor License Application for Transfer of Controlling Interest:

Type/License: Beverage Dispensary/License #145
 DBA: Boatel Bar
 Applicant: Abie Neubauer, Inc.
 3368 Riverside Drive, Fairbanks
 From: Boatel Bar/Abie Neubauer, Inc.
 3368 Riverside Drive, Fairbanks

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

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 CONTROLLING INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- c) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following application for a New Marijuana Retail Store License:

Type: Marijuana Retail Store, #22809

DBA: Airport Way Best Bud

Applicant: Airport Way Trade Center, LLC

Address: 3598 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the New Marijuana Retail Store License.

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

Ms. Therrien declared a conflict of interest as the location owner is her client. She requested to abstain from voting on the item.

Mayor Matherly called for objection to Ms. Therrien's request to abstain; no members objected.

Richard Barnes, Fairbanks – Mr. Barnes thanked the Council for their time, explained where the store is located, and asked if there were any questions. He spoke of the number of people he employs. He stated he has been approved through the Marijuana Control Board (MCB), and the Building Official has done a final inspection at the location. He stated that the Fire Department has also given approval. He stated he has lived in the Fairbanks community since 1988.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Barnes for the attention he has given to security at the location.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE NEW MARIJUANA RETAIL STORE LICENSE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Pruhs, Gibson, Kun, Cleworth

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Therrien

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- d) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following application for a New Marijuana Retail Store License:

Type: Marijuana Retail Store, #20827
DBA: Good Titrations
Applicant: FSE, Inc.
Address: 506 Merhar Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska

Ms. Rogers, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to PROTEST the New Marijuana Retail Store License until a Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

Shaun Tacke, Fairbanks – Mr. Tacke stated he has proposed a plan change to the licensed premises that would decrease customer access to the full retail section of the business during the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated the plan change has been approved through the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO). He stated he is seeking expedited inspections from the City and a partial Certificate of Occupancy for the smaller area while work continues on the rest of the building.

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

Ms. Therrien stated she would support a motion to approve the smaller retail area.

Mayor Matherly asked the Clerk whether there should be another motion or an amendment to the main motion. Clerk Snider stated she recommends that the Council move forward with the main motion to protest until a Certificate of Occupancy is issued. She stated she would lift the City's protest only after approval by the Building and Fire Departments and only for the areas of the premises that they specify.

Mr. Cleworth stated he sees no problem keeping things the way they are and having the departments issue a Certificate of Occupancy following a physical inspection.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Tacke for his concern for public safety.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO PROTEST THE NEW MARIJUANA RETAIL STORE LICENSE UNTIL A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IS ISSUED AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- e) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following application for a New Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility License:

Type: Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility, #20829
DBA: Good Titrations
Applicant: FSE, Inc.
Address: 506 Merhar Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to PROTEST the New Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility License until a Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

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

Sean Tacke – Mr. Tacke stated he is available if Council Members have any questions.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO PROTEST THE NEW STANDARD MARIJUANA CULTIVATION FACILITY LICENSE UNTIL A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IS ISSUED AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

f) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following application for a New Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility License:

Type: Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility, #20832

DBA: Good Titrations

Applicant: FSE, Inc.

Address: 506 Merhar Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to PROTEST the New Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility License until a Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

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

Mr. Cleworth asked Mr. Tacke whether Brandon Emmett has a manufacturing facility license for a different company. Mr. Tacke stated he does have another business and is part owner of Good Titrations also.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO PROTEST THE NEW MARIJUANA PRODUCT MANUFACTURING FACILITY LICENSE UNTIL A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IS ISSUED AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly stated that he is very proud of City staff for how they are handling the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked the Council for being willing to attend meetings telephonically. He reported that City Hall would remain closed through April and thanked the community for being flexible with the changes in operating at the City.

a) Special Reports

Chief Financial Officer Bell spoke to the impacts of COVID-19 on the City's budget. She stated information is constantly changing and may change significantly before the next Finance Committee Meeting. She stated she would not advise amending the budget until there is more concrete information about the COVID-19 impacts. Ms. Bell stated she anticipates a decrease in bed tax revenue, but the City is prepared to withstand the crisis. She shared that staff is making every effort to continue to provide all City services to residents. She reported on some of the programs the City is applying to because of the coronavirus. She thanked the Council for giving her the opportunity to provide a report on the City's finances.

Chief of Staff Meeks mentioned the letter to Governor Dunleavy prepared by the Administration which requests emergency aid. He stated a draft was sent to the Council, and he asked for input.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Matherly asked the Council whether there was an objection to skipping the first round of comments. No members objected.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) 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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6127.

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

Mr. Meeks stated the ordinance would approve a temporary easement for a small construction project. He stated he would try to answer any questions the Council may have.

Ms. Kun asked if there would be a public restroom at the location. Mr. Meeks stated it is only a temporary easement, and there would not be a public restroom at the location.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6127 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6127 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4908 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the FFY2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Ordinance No. 6129 – An Ordinance Re-establishing an Incentive Bonus Program within the Fairbanks Police Department for Recruitment and Hiring. Introduced by Mayor Matherly and Council Member Therrien.

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6129.

Mr. Meeks stated the ordinance would continue the bonus program at FPD. He stated staff did not realize the program had expired on December 31, 2019, and there are four applicants who would be eligible to receive the bonus. He stated the fiscal note is \$0 as the bonus cost is offset by a reduction in training cost, and the program is a great hiring tool.

Mr. Gibson stated he is concerned with the timeline for the payback provision in the bonus agreement. He stated he would like to change it from a three-year to a five-year commitment. Mr. Meeks stated the City has lost new recruits after spending nearly \$30,000 on their initial training; he stated lateral hires are less likely to leave. He expressed concern that lengthening the commitment timeline may be less of an incentive for lateral police officers to come to the City.

Mayor Matherly stated he would like to see the commitment timeline stay at three years.

Ms. Rogers stated she has heard only good things from staff about the program. She requested to be added as a co-sponsor of the ordinance.

Mr. Gibson stated he would like to see the sunset date changed to December 31, 2020.

Mr. Cleworth asked Police Chief Reeder whether other agencies throughout the state have similar programs. Chief Reeder stated she does not know whether other agencies are offering recruitment bonuses, although larger agencies are offering higher wages than the City. She stated she has spoken with Chiefs from regions in southern Alaska who have expressed interest in a bonus program since it has been so successful for the City. **Mr. Cleworth** asked whether lateral hire applicants choose Fairbanks mainly because of the recruitment bonus. Chief Reeder stated two lateral officers have been hired with the bonus since she became Chief, and both of them were highly interested because of the bonus. She stated that the four current applicants have all mentioned the bonus during the hiring process. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he has always supported the bonus program, but he is not interested in using the bonus to take employees from other departments. He asked whether the City of North Pole has a bonus. Chief Reeder stated she is not aware that North Pole is offering a recruitment bonus. She stated she believes the bonus is a good recruitment tool and is a great incentive for current FPD officers to help recruit. **Mr. Cleworth** stated the ordinance is retroactive back to January 1, and he asked whether applicants were hired

thinking that the program was still in effect. Chief Reeder stated the bonus information was still on the City website, so there are applicants who understood that they would receive the bonus.

Mr. Pruhs spoke in favor of the ordinance and stated he does not want to change the bonus with applicants in the queue who already have an understanding of the terms of the bonus.

Ms. Kun stated she would like to see the commitment timeline changed to five years in the future but not at this time. She stated she would like the sunset date to be at the end of the year.

Ms. Rogers stated she is currently satisfied with the three-year commitment timeline and with the existing sunset date.

Ms. Therrien stated it is not a good idea to change the commitment timeline to five years because it may cause discord between new lateral hires and those who have already been hired. She stated she may be in favor of extending the sunset date through December 31, 2021. She asked Chief Reeder to report on the number of officers the department will lose within the next three months. Chief Reeder stated she is losing one officer in two days, two more in May due to retirement, one to another agency within 30 days, and two more officers are projected to leave before the end of the year. **Ms. Therrien** stated she would like the ordinance to be advanced.

Mayor Matherly spoke in favor of the bonus program, and he encouraged the Council to advance the ordinance as-is.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6129 by changing the sunset date from June 30, 2021 to December 31, 2020.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6129 BY CHANGING THE SUNSET DATE FROM JUNE 30, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Gibson, Cleworth
NAYS: Therrien, Pruhs, Rogers, Matherly
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION FAILED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6129 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Pruhs, Gibson, Kun
NAYS: Cleworth
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Information and Reports)

a) Committee Reports

Mayor Matherly asked Council Members to include Committee Reports in their Council Member Comments.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Pruhs stated the Polaris Work Group met the prior week, and they will put on a presentation to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at the end of the month. He stated the group is brainstorming ways to knock down the Polaris Building and rebuild on the site to allow for senior housing and retail and office space.

Ms. Kun stated she would be meeting with Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors in two days, and the focus has been on lost revenues. She thanked Chief Styers for his service to the City. She provided hotline information for parents who may be struggling during the COVID-19 crisis and offered the Careline for those who may be struggling with isolation. She provided a land acknowledgement. She thanked all those who have been wearing masks in the community and thanked those who continue to perform essential services. She thanked people for staying home during this time to help keep others safe.

Ms. Rogers stated she values the opportunity to be a part of the City Council. She thanked Chief Styers for his service and stated he is a wonderful person and professional. She stated she is confident Asst. Chief Chambers would carry on with the department seamlessly. She thanked Ms. Kun for her comments regarding wearing masks. She stated she was a victim of the coronavirus and was hospitalized. She stated masks are an easy option with great impact. **Ms. Rogers** thanked City staff – particularly in regard to Ms. Bell's financial report – for helping keep the Council informed on where the City is during the crisis.

Mayor Matherly stated it is good to have Ms. Rogers back, and he is grateful she is on the mend.

Ms. Therrien stated the Legislative Information Group met on April 8, and Yuri informed the group about the Governor's vetoes and his plans to use CARES Act funding to take care of the vetoed items. She stated the group asked Mr. Meeks to prepare a letter to the Governor expressing the City's concerns with the loss to community assistance. **Ms. Therrien** stated Chief Styers has done a wonderful job, and he will be missed. She asked what is happening in regard to snow removal in neighborhoods that have not had the hardpack removed.

Mr. Meeks stated it has been a pretty quick melt, and Public Works is working as quickly as possible. He stated there are four boiler trucks out, and the department is 100% operational.

Ms. Therrien expressed hope that community members will continue to wear masks in public and stay home to help protect lives.

Mr. Gibson congratulated Chief Styers and thanked him for his service to the City and stated that he will be missed. He stated he looks forward to working with Asst. Chief Chambers. He thanked everyone in the community who has been sewing masks, and he spoke to how the community has come together.

Mr. Cleworth wished Bill and June Rogers the best in fully recovering from the virus. He stated it has been a joy to work with Chief Styers and wished him the best in retirement. He spoke of the passing of former Deputy City Attorney and great musician, Jim Mullen. **Mr. Cleworth** stated

that a former City Council member also recently passed away. He stated that Council member was first elected to the Council in 1967, and in those years Council members were given an automatic seat on the Borough Assembly. He stated that Council member served as the Borough Assembly Presiding Officer and was his father, Brian Cleworth.

Mayor Matherly spoke to the importance of wearing masks and stated he will continue to encourage people to wear them.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

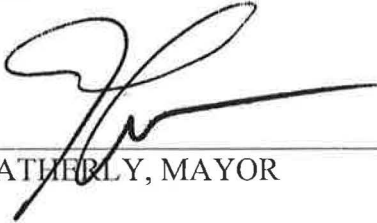
Clerk Snider stated she sent her quarterly report to the City Council via email earlier in the evening.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB