



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 27, 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: Max Lambert, Police Officer
Paul Ewers, City Attorney
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director (telephonic)
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director (telephonic)
Tod Chambers, Acting Fire Chief
Nancy Reeder, Police 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 announced that Police Officer Max Lambert will soon be retiring. Mayor Matherly spoke of Ofc. Lambert's accomplishments throughout his career and wished him well in retirement.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

David van den Berg, 332 Slater Drive – Mr. van den Berg stated he is in attendance on behalf of the Downtown Association and thanked Mr. Cleworth for the correction he requested to some

Council meeting minutes. Mr. van den Berg stated there are inconsistencies between the Fairbanks General Code and the City's agreement with the Parking Authority. He asked who the City's representative is for the Parking Authority and stated it needs to be clearer.

Ms. Rogers shared her concern with the differing opinions of the Council member and the citizen and asked that the Council not rush on anything.

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

Mayor Matherly reported that Police Officer Max Lambert has joined the meeting, and he asked Police Chief Reeder if she had anything to say. Chief Reeder stated she has not worked with Ofc. Lambert for long but that leaving the job after 20+ years with his health is something to be proud of. She thanked Ofc. Lambert for his service to the community. Ofc. Lambert stated he has learned a lot while working at the City of Fairbanks, and he is excited for the next chapter of his life.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Cleworth pulled Resolution No. 4910 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 February 10, 2020 – Corrected

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2020, as Corrected.

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

b) Regular Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2020.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

c) Regular Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2020.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

d) Special Meeting Minutes of March 19, 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
4530	The Event Center & Lounge	Beverage Dispensary	Pacific Rim Associates I, Inc.	1288 Sadler Way
4941	Seoul Gate Restaurant	Restaurant/ Eating Place	Seoul Gate, Inc.	958 Cowles Street

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

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

Ms. Therrien stated it was nice to see how few police callouts were reported for the two locations.

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.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- a) Special Reports

Explore Fairbanks – Deb Hickok thanked the City Council for their partnership with Explore Fairbanks and shared her concerns about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel industry. She stated she has had to lay off five staff members because of the dramatic cuts to sales and marketing activities. She asked the City to keep Explore Fairbanks in mind when stimulus money comes to the City.

Ms. Rogers thanked Ms. Hickok for speaking to the Council and for her service to Fairbanks.

Ms. Therrien asked Ms. Hickok if she was able to apply for payroll assistance. Ms. Hickok reported that Explore Fairbanks is a type of non-profit prohibited from applying for those funds.

Mayor Matherly thanked the Council for accommodating changes to the meetings; he stated he has not yet set a date for reopening to the public. He reported he has asked the Clerk to cancel board and commission meetings through May. He shared that he read that the Borough is trying to hire code enforcement officers to work at Borough transfer sites, and the officers would enforce rules that prohibit City residents from using the sites. **Mayor Matherly** stated City residents are required to pay for garbage service, but they should not be punished for taking their trash to the dump. He stated he is leading by example and wearing a mask.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Matherly requested to put off Council Members' Comments till later in the meeting; no member objected.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) 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 Members Therrien and Rogers. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Gibson**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6129.

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

Mr. Cleworth stated that the cost of training has been reported differently since the bonus program began. He reported on what other communities are doing in regard to bonus programs for police recruitment. He stated the bonus is higher in Fairbanks than anywhere else and shared he does not think the length of employment commitment is long enough.

Mayor Matherly asked HR Director Angela Foster-Snow for a staff report. Ms. Foster-Snow clarified training costs. She stated the bonus is large because of the extreme need for police officers.

Mr. Pruhs spoke in favor of the program and stated he does not think the length of commitment needs to be changed.

Ms. Therrien stated she supports the program. She stated that when it is time, she may offer an amendment to the ordinance.

Ms. Rogers stated there is a need for the bonus, and she would support the ordinance.

Ms. Kun stated she would like to have clarified the length of service required for the bonus.

Mr. Gibson asked if lateral hire officers spend less time in field training. Chief Reeder stated a lateral hire takes two to three months to train, and it can take up to a year to fully train a new officer. **Mr. Gibson** stated that when the time comes, he would like to propose an amendment.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND the Sign-on Bonus Agreement attached to Ordinance No. 6129 by lengthening the commitment of service from three years to four years (changes to items 4 and 5).

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE SIGN-ON BONUS AGREEMENT ATTACHED TO ORDINANCE NO. 6129 BY LENGTHENING THE COMMITMENT OF SERVICE FROM THREE YEARS TO FOUR YEARS (CHANGES TO ITEMS 4 AND 5) AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Gibson, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth, Kun
NAYS: None
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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

Ms. Therrien stated she would like the sunset date to be December 31, 2021.

Mr. Cleworth stated visiting it at the end of each fiscal year is more consistent.

Chief of Staff Mike Meeks explained why the bonus program is so important, and he spoke to the reasoning behind the mid-year sunset date.

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

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6129, as Amended, by changing the sunset date from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2021.

Mr. Pruhs spoke to the importance of the bonus program and to his reasons for pushing the sunset date to the end of the following year.

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

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

Mr. Cleworth spoke of the wage comparisons between other police agencies that have been presented in the past. He stated that the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) may not offer as high a wage as the Alaska State Troopers (AST), but FPD officers are able to stay and work within their own community. **Mr. Cleworth** stated Anchorage Police Department (APD) has the highest paid officers in the state, but Fairbanks is an attractive place to work.

Mr. Gibson expressed agreement with Mr. Cleworth. He stated that regardless whether the sunset date is at the end of this year or next, he is glad it will be reviewed during budget season.

Ms. Rogers thanked everyone for their input on the ordinance.

Ms. Therrien stated she wholly supports the ordinance sunseting at the end of 2021.

Mr. Pruhs stated he is happy the bonus is a tool that Chief Reeder can use.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6129, as Amended, ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4909 – A Resolution Extending for a Second Time 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) Resolution No. 4910 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to HC Contractors, Inc. for the D Street Extension Improvement Project ITB 19-16 in the Amount of \$285,705. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4910.

Mr. Cleworth commended the Engineering Department and Public Works for working out the alignment of D Street.

Mr. Gibson stated he is happy for all the residents in that neighborhood to get rid of the dirt road.

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4910 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4910 APPROVED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6130 – An Ordinance Amending FGC Sec. 2-201 Regarding the Fairbanks Parking Authority. Introduced by Council Member Cleworth.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Committee Reports

Legislative Information Committee – **Ms. Therrien** reported she had met with Yuri Morgan to discuss coronavirus federal funding to State and local governments.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Kun gave a land acknowledgement and encouraged everyone to reach out for help if they need it. She asked everyone to mask up when they go out in public.

Ms. Rogers thanked everyone for the opportunity to work on City business even from a distance. She stated she was pleased to see how quickly everyone sprang into action in response to the pandemic. She shared that she is a healthy person, so she was shocked to have been as sick as she was with the virus. She shared that she would like to see more people wearing masks. **Ms. Rogers** reported that she and her husband closed their business because of their concern with the virus, and she encouraged everyone to do all they can to make Fairbanks safe.

Ms. Therrien spoke to the importance of self-isolating and wearing a mask in public. She thanked Ofc. Lambert for his years of service to the City of Fairbanks. She asked that the ordinance relating to the Parking Authority be put back on the next Finance Committee agenda.

Mr. Gibson asked where the City is in regard to the nuisance property ordinance. Mr. Meeks stated the ordinance is still in drafting status. **Mr. Gibson** stated he took a look at the property a citizen sent an email to the Council to complain about, and the subject property was a mess. **Mr. Gibson** thanked Ofc. Lambert for his years of service and stated he is glad to hear that he will remain in Fairbanks during retirement. **Mr. Gibson** thanked everyone for their efforts to mask up.

Mr. Cleworth thanked Ofc. Lambert for his years of service and wished him well in the future. He stated he did not understand how the Borough could write citations to City residents for using Borough refuse sites because he does not know how they will determine where someone lives. He thanked City Clerk Snider for her research on bonus programs for other police agencies throughout the state. **Mr. Cleworth** stated it was always the intent of the City to make the Parking Authority an independent entity. He stated he would like to see a financial report from City staff relating to COVID-19 federal funding.

Mr. Meeks stated he spoke with City Lobbyist Yuri Morgan, and he was told Alaska is in a holding pattern in regard to the federal funding. He explained that the federal government stipulated that the funds be given to municipalities with a population greater than 500,000, and there are no municipalities that large in the State of Alaska. He stated Governor Dunleavy is working on the issue.

Mr. Cleworth stated that some other states will have the same issue. Mr. Meeks stated he would reach out to the federal representatives to help get the ball rolling for the City.


Mr. Pruhs stated he had no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANIËLLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB