



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 10, 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 via Zoom webinar and at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Jim Matherly presiding (remotely) and with the following Council Members in attendance:

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
 Paul Ewers, City Attorney
 D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
 Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)
 Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director (remotely)
 Nancy Reeder, Police Chief (remotely)
 Tod Chambers, 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.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

a) Oath of Office – Fire Chief

City Clerk Danyielle Snider administered the Oath of Office for Fire Chief Tod Chambers, and Chief Chambers' wife was welcomed forward for a photograph.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Deb Hickok, CEO of Explore Fairbanks, 101 Dunkel Street – Ms. Hickok requested CARES Act funding from the City of Fairbanks directly to Explore Fairbanks. She stated this is the third

request from Explore Fairbanks to the City. She stated that it seemed most Council Members at the last Finance Committee meeting were in favor of a resolution to allocate funds directly to Explore Fairbanks. She stated Explore Fairbanks was awarded CARES funding of over \$60,000 from the City during Phase I, but the funding was limited as reimbursements for items such as rent and utilities. She stated that CARES Act Relief Funds can be used for remarketing costs, and she read aloud from the FAQ section of the federal guidelines. She stated that Explore Fairbanks has launched a COVID marketing plan to help alleviate the economic havoc the pandemic has had on the tourism industry. She stated the plan is an educational campaign to 1) inform the public on how to travel responsibly, 2) inform travelers about steps local businesses have taken to address safety, 3) provide access to state mandates for travelers, and 4) invite travelers to the community. She stated that under the broader parameters of the CARES Act grant, Explore Fairbanks could submit eligible expenses of up to \$860,000 through the end of the year.

Ms. Kun asked Ms. Hickok to email the information to the Council; Ms. Hickok agreed to do so.

Randy Griffin, P.O. Box 73653, Fairbanks – Mr. Griffin thanked the City Administration for not putting mandates in place. He spoke of the Kriner’s Diner in Anchorage that finally had to shut down due to the fines they received from the Municipality of Anchorage. Mr. Griffin suggested that some political leaders may be acting with the motivation of getting President Trump out of office. He stated he would like to see schools open soon, and he commented that communities must have courage and move forward with the economy.

Clerk Snider read aloud an email sent in by Nick Clark with the Fairbanks Firefighter Union.

Nick Clark, 406 Iver Lane, Fairbanks – Mr. Clark encouraged the Council to pass Ordinance No. 6137 as originally introduced. He stated that any amendment restricting hiring and funds should not be passed. He commented that it is no secret that the SAFER grant is a point of contention with certain Council Members, and it appears that an amendment may try to hamstring a future Council from accepting federal funds to staff public safety departments.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Rogers pulled Resolution No. 4930 from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Matherly called for objection 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 July 13, 2020.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports

There were no special reports given.

b) Update from Police Chief Reeder

Chief Reeder shared that all but two Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) staff attended the verbal judo training recently. She reported on current staffing levels and shared that FPD is working with a different vendor that will save the City about 50% on ballistic vests. Chief Reeder stated that the department will soon be conducting promotional boards for vacant sergeant positions. She stated she received nine applications for the open admin position, and she has made a selection. She expressed hope that the person could begin soon as there is a two-day social media training for law enforcement at the end of the month.

Ms. Kun asked Chief Reeder for more information about the training; Chief Reeder replied that verbal judo teaches verbal de-escalation techniques to keep everyone involved in an incident safe.

Ms. Therrien asked whether the officer who was injured at the academy is covered under workers' comp. Chief Reeder replied that the officer's injury is covered under workers' comp.

Mr. Cleworth asked how many recruits are at the academy; Chief Reeder stated there is one recruit currently left at the academy. She stated there are several officers in background and testing, and they will go to the academy either in December or February.

c) Memo to Council Re: 11-Year History of City Revenues, Expenditures, and Full-Time Employees

Mayor Matherly stated that challenges with the upcoming budget have been on his mind. He gave the floor to Chief of Staff Mike Meeks. Mr. Meeks referenced the PowerPoint slides attached to the memo that was distributed to the Council. He stated the charts should seem familiar as they have been used in past presentations but were recently updated with information from 2019. He went over each slide and provided a brief explanation; the charts included information on expenditures, revenues, and full-time equivalent staffing levels.

Mayor Matherly shared that his grandmother recently passed away and shared that they had a small ceremony at Saint Mathews Church. He spoke about his grandmother's life and stated that she lived to be over 101 years old. He stated she was a wonderful influence in his life, and he thanked all those who have reached out to him. **Mayor Matherly** stated that the Alaska Municipal League (AML) Summer Legislative Conference began earlier in the day, and he had the opportunity to speak to attendees about how the City has handled CARES Act funding; he stated he bragged about how well CFO Bell has overseen the process. **Mayor Matherly** stated that one of the toughest jobs during the pandemic is that of the school superintendent and the school board, and he noted that school would begin soon. He thanked the Council for being gracious about holding online meetings, and he encouraged everyone to wear masks. He stated he has been visiting local businesses to promote mask-wearing, and he is calling the campaign, "Mask Up with Matherly."

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Kun stated she had no comments.

Mr. Pruhs stated he had no comments.

Mr. Cleworth stated he is concerned with the information presented in the slides. In reference to the third slide, he stated that it does not capture budgeted employees; rather, it shows the actual number of employees at the end of the year. He stated that in 2010, the City had 193.21 budgeted employees, of which grants funded 16.73. He stated that 6 employees were eliminated later when the City outsourced the IT Department. He explained that in 2020, the City has 194 budgeted positions, and when you remove the 13 grant-funded positions, that leaves 181 employees. He stated that full-time staff has grown by about 6% since 2010. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the slides can be misleading without any footnotes.

Mr. Gibson asked Mr. Meeks how long it took to compile the information in the slides. Mr. Meeks stated that it took about 10 minutes since the information was already compiled for a previous strategic planning session, and he had to add only the year 2019.

Ms. Therrien commended Chief Reeder for finding a less expensive vendor for ballistic vests.

Ms. Rogers echoed Ms. Therrien's comment, and she thanked the Mayor for the work he is doing in trying to promote mask-wearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6133, as Amended – An Ordinance Amending FGC Chapter 46, Article IV, by Enacting Division 6 Fees for Excessive Police Responses. Introduced by Council Members Gibson, Therrien, and Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6133, as Amended.

Clerk Snider read aloud an email sent in by Julia Stewart.

Julia Stewart, Corner 101 Apartments, Fairbanks – Ms. Stewart expressed concern from the perspective of owners of residential rental property. She stated the ordinance would present severe financial hardship since owners have little legal authority over tenants. She stated that landlords have no right to discourage a tenant from contacting law enforcement, nor should they. She stated that her tenants are required to go through a complete application process, but once a rental agreement is signed, options to manage those tenants are extremely limited. Ms. Stewart stated that recent eviction moratoriums have been a challenge for landlords as well. She criticized making property owners, rather than tenants, responsible for any activity resulting in calls to law enforcement. Finally, she expressed concern with the definition of “excessive police response” as it appears to provide limits based on total calls per commercial property rather than per rental unit. She asked the Council to consider the long-term, unintended consequences of the ordinance.

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

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6133, as Amended, by adding to Section 46-231(b) the language, “The tenant of a unit located on any property within the city is responsible for excessive police responses to that unit and is liable for the penalties imposed by this division.”

Mr. Cleworth asked Mr. Gibson whether he intends to amend Sec. 46-232 also. **Mr. Gibson** replied affirmatively.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6133, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING TO SECTION 46-231(b) THE LANGUAGE, “THE TENANT OF A UNIT LOCATED ON ANY PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCESSIVE POLICE RESPONSES TO THAT UNIT AND IS LIABLE FOR THE PENALTIES IMPOSED BY THIS DIVISION.” AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Rogers, Gibson, Therrien

NAYS: Kun

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6133, as Amended, by striking the language in Section 46-232(c) and replacing with the language, “If a property has more than one owner, all owners of the property shall be jointly liable for any fee imposed under this section. If a unit has more than one tenant, all tenants of the unit shall be jointly liable for any fee imposed under this section.”

Mr. Pruhs stated he would like to change the word “tenant” to “lessee.” He stated that a tenant would include those under the age of 18, so it would make sense to change it to “lessee” as the lessee is responsible for the unit.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to AMEND the motion to amend by changing the word “tenant” to “lessee.”

Mayor Matherly asked Mr. Pruhs for clarification. **Mr. Pruhs** stated that lessees are the responsible parties, not their children or people who are not on the lease. **Mayor Matherly** questioned whether the change would need to be addressed throughout the entire ordinance or only that section. **Mr. Gibson** stated the purpose of the change would be to clarify that the lessee would be responsible only for the unit they are renting, and the owner would be responsible for all units.

Mayor Matherly asked the Clerk for guidance on procedure. Clerk Snider stated that an amendment to an amendment is allowed, but the term “tenant” can be changed to “lessee” in the primary amendment if no Council Members object to the change.

Mayor Matherly called for objection on the motion to AMEND the amendment by changing the word “tenant” to “lessee.”

Ms. Therrien objected; she stated that the term “tenant” is throughout the entire ordinance, so there should be a separate motion to make the change throughout.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6133, AS AMENDED, BY REPLACING THE TERM “TENANT” WITH “LESSEE” THROUGHOUT THE ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6133, as Amended, by adding the language “Lessee shall include a month-to-month tenant.” to the definitions section.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6133, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING THE LANGUAGE “LESSEE SHALL INCLUDE A MONTH-TO-MONTH TENANT.” TO THE DEFINITIONS SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6133, as Amended, by adding a new item (8) to Sec. 46-230 to read, “A call referred to the Emergency Service Patrol.”

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6133, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING A NEW ITEM (8) TO SEC. 46-230 TO READ, “A CALL REFERRED TO THE EMERGENCY SERVICE PATROL.” AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth asked whether the term “owner” should be changed to “owners” in Sec. 46-232(a) and whether that subsection is redundant with subsection (c). Attorney Ewers advised that “owner” does not need to be pluralized. He stated that subsection (c) clarifies that if there is more than one owner, all owners are liable.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6133, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth, Rogers

NAYS: Kun

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6133, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6137 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 74, Taxation, by Adding a New Article VII, Gasoline Excise Tax. Introduced by Council Members Therrien, Kun, and Rogers. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of July 27, 2020. Public Hearing was held at that time.

A motion to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6137, made by Mr. Cleworth and seconded by Ms. Rogers, was on the floor from the Regular Meeting of July 27, 2020.

Mayor Matherly stated he has some notes regarding the ordinance, and he would like to discuss the charts Mr. Meeks presented earlier to the Council. He stated that he understands that there are going to be budget challenges, and he is taking it seriously. He stated he has met with CFO Bell, and she has warned that 2021 is going to be a tough year. **Mayor Matherly** stated the charts show that there are fewer people on the City's payroll now. He shared that he values the employees of the City, and they deserved to be taken care of. He stated that over the years he has shared data regarding the increase to emergency service calls and regarding increasing demands with snow removal. **Mayor Matherly** stated he has spoken with Chief Chambers, and that if the SAFER grant was awarded today, he would not be able to support it; he added, however, that that is not currently the case. He stated the gas tax is important because it will help fill the gap within the tax cap, and it may help property owners. **Mayor Matherly** stated the gas tax should not be tied to the SAFER grant and doing so would tie the hands of future Councils. He stated the issues should be dealt with separately, and he supports the gas tax in its original form.

Mr. Cleworth stated the chart that Mr. Meeks provided is not an accurate representation of City budgeted workers. He stated that if the information is going to go out to the public, it should be accurate. He stated that budgeted positions are not properly represented in the data as the overall number of positions has increased. **Mr. Cleworth** asked CFO Bell to come forward. He stated that the City is operating in the red by over \$300,000; Ms. Bell confirmed. He asked Ms. Bell to confirm whether she believes there would be anything left in the annual budget at the end of the year to transfer to the Capital Fund. Ms. Bell confirmed that she does not believe there would be any funds left to transfer.

Mr. Cleworth stated that if the gas tax passes, there will be nearly \$1.2 million in new revenue in 2021, including the supplemental EMT funds. He shared, however, that almost all that new revenue will be spent on commitments the Council has already made, and there will not be enough funds to go towards labor contracts. He stated that the SAFER grant does not save the City money, and the Council should let the existing SAFER grant expire before considering another. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that when people criticize his proposed amendment to the ordinance by saying it would tie the hands of the Council, he finds it ironic because SAFER grants ultimately tie the hands of the Council. He stated that he originally supported and helped draft the gas tax ordinance, but he has trouble selling new taxes to the public when he does not believe the Council has done all they can to curtail expenses at the City. He read aloud the amendment he would like to see approved for the ordinance. He stated SAFER grants are discriminatory against every City department except for the Fire Department, because the grants eliminate that department from consideration if cuts must be made. **Mr. Cleworth** asked Ms. Bell whether she would support such an amendment. Ms. Bell stated that she would support not adding additional positions at the City in 2021; she stated she would prefer to maintain current staffing levels until the City determines the impacts of the pandemic.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6137 by adding a new Section 2 to read, "The City's 2021 budget will not add any personnel above 2020 budgeted positions. Personnel-related grants will only be accepted if used to reduce the cost of existing personnel. Project funded positions in Engineering and temporary hires in Public Works are exempt from this policy." and by changing the existing Section 2 to Section 3.

Ms. Rogers agreed with the Mayor that employees are a capital asset; however, she acknowledged Mr. Cleworth's concerns. She stated she sees the Council as split on the issue.

Ms. Therrien stated she cannot support the amendment.

Mr. Cleworth stated his concern is in protecting the City's current employees. He stated that the SAFER grant would not allow a reduction in staff at the Fire Department, even if the City's situation became dire.

Mayor Matherly stated he does not want to see the SAFER grant tied to the gasoline tax. He stated that he and Ms. Bell have had some serious talks, and he understands the financial situation.

Mr. Gibson expressed concern about the amendment tying the hands of a future Council or Mayor.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6137 BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 2 TO READ, "THE CITY'S 2021 BUDGET WILL NOT ADD ANY PERSONNEL ABOVE 2020 BUDGETED POSITIONS. PERSONNEL-RELATED GRANTS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IF USED TO REDUCE THE COST OF EXISTING PERSONNEL. PROJECT FUNDED POSITIONS IN ENGINEERING AND TEMPORARY HIRES IN PUBLIC WORKS ARE EXEMPT FROM THIS POLICY." AND BY CHANGING THE EXISTING SECTION 2 TO SECTION 3 AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6137 to the next Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Gibson stated he would like to have time for the Council to fully understand all the information that has been presented.

Mayor Matherly stated he would like the Council to vote on the ordinance at the current meeting.

Mr. Pruhs stated that he intends to vote against the ordinance whether it is postponed or not.

Ms. Therrien stated the Council needs to move forward and vote because distributors will need time to get set up, and the City needs the revenue.

Ms. Rogers echoed Ms. Therrien's thoughts.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6137 AS FOLLOWS:

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

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6137 by rewording the latter portion of Sec. 74-303.4(b) to read, "...unless authorized by a distributor or unless the person receiving such information is permitted to view such returns under the terms of this article."

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6137 BY REWORDING THE LATTER PORTION OF SEC. 74-303.4(b) TO READ, "...UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY A DISTRIBUTOR OR UNLESS THE PERSON RECEIVING SUCH INFORMATION IS PERMITTED TO VIEW SUCH RETURNS UNDER THE TERMS OF THIS ARTICLE." AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6137, as Amended, by changing the effective date to October 1, 2020.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Cleworth for all the work he put into the ordinance. She noted he is no longer listed as a sponsor of the ordinance, and she invited him to reconsider.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6137, AS AMENDED, BY CHANGING THE EFFECTIVE DATE TO OCTOBER 1, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Pruhs stated that when talking about the budget and tying the hands of future Councils, the amount of money that was just spent on the AFL-CIO, FFU, and the IBEW contracts cannot be ignored. He stated the Council gave an unprecedented amount in employee increases between April and August of 2020. **Mr. Pruhs** stated he is a budget person, and with the first round of SAFER grants, he identified a funding source. He stated there will be no Capital funds at the end of 2020 and eventually the City may have to cut staff to make the budget work. He stated he hopes he is wrong, but he fears that this time will be looked back on as hand-tying the Council.

Mayor Matherly asked everyone for his trust. He stated he has worked with Ms. Bell, and he believes there are some things that can be done to lessen the blow to the City. He asked the Council to have faith in the Administration because positivity should not be underestimated. He stated he understands that Mr. Pruhs is a "cash flow guy," but he is a "people guy" and an emotional guy who puts a lot of stock into people. He stated he depends on Ms. Bell and Mr. Meeks for City Code and budget issues, and he is a people person.

Mr. Pruhs stated that he understands that the Mayor is a people person, but he hopes it does not come down to the Mayor having to lose people due to budget issues.

Mayor Matherly stated there are several positions that are vacant, so reducing staff is an option since he would not have to cut existing employees. He stated that the Administration eliminated many phone lines at the City to save funds, and no stone is left unturned when trying to cut costs.

Ms. Kun thanked Mr. Cleworth for getting the ball rolling with the ordinance and stated that it has been an educational experience. She stated the Council has been working on it for many months, and it is a sound document. She stated Ms. Bell is well-versed in City Code, and the Mayor has a good financial head on his shoulders. She stated she would vote to support the ordinance. She stated that the City needs revenue now.

Ms. Therrien stated she is proud of the ordinance, and it should be looked at as a revenue measure that is not tied to the SAFER grant. She stated that the ordinance will generate revenue from non-residents who come into the City and use City services. She thanked the Council, particularly Mr. Cleworth, for the work done on the ordinance.

Ms. Rogers stated she has a full and thorough understanding of the ordinance, and the coming years will be difficult. She stated she has faith that the Council will find a way to meet the future needs of the City.

Mr. Gibson stated the gas tax may help lower property taxes for property owners. He stated that while he will be voting in favor of the ordinance, he pointed out that renters and delivery drivers may be more adversely affected by the gas tax.

Mr. Cleworth thanked everyone for their support. He stated he has always believed the City should not take more than it needs and that is why he has always been opposed to a broad-based tax. He mentioned the various fee-related ordinances he has written over the years to help support the City. He stated it is imperative to show City residents that the City has been fiscally prudent with their tax dollars. He expressed difficulty with having given five and eight percent increases to employees in a time when people are struggling. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he was hoping for a compromise from the Council to help combat the hit to the budget, but that did not happen. He stated the Council should always have a revenue source identified before spending money. He stated the gas tax will pass, and it will be the last easy tax increase. He stated that over the years the Council has learned they do not have to keep a balanced budget, the Mayor must only propose one. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he hopes Ms. Bell will put her foot down regarding cash flow and deficit spending.

Mayor Matherly thanked the Council for their thoughts during the meeting. He assured everyone that the Administration is taking budget issues very seriously.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6137, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Kun, Gibson, Therrien

NAYS: Cleworth, Pruhs

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6137 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4929 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for FFY2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4930 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Distribute CARES Act Funds for Phase II. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Ms. Rogers, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4930.

Ms. Rogers stated she pulled the resolution because she had thought, based on the Council's last discussion at the Finance Committee Meeting, that Mr. Pruhs, Ms. Therrien, and Ms. Kun were in favor of a resolution to accommodate a request by Explore Fairbanks for direct funding from the CARES Act funds.

Mayor Matherly stated there is a committee that makes recommendations on the process for distributing the CARES Act funds, and the group decided that everyone would apply the same way for phase 2. He stated that if the Council wishes to craft a cutaway, they are at liberty to do so. He spoke to maintaining equal treatment to all applicants.

Ms. Rogers asked whether the other Council Members she mentioned had anything to add.

Mr. Pruhs asked Ms. Bell for a report on the funds. Ms. Bell stated there is \$2.4 million left for businesses, \$3.2 million left for medical, and the individual grants have been exhausted. **Mr. Pruhs** stated he would like to see more money going to businesses rather than medical.

Ms. Bell reported that the committee felt like the medical community was most impacted by the pandemic, so that is why they allocated more funds to the medical side. **Mr. Pruhs** stated businesses need help; he added that many have shut down, and many will not reopen.

Ms. Rogers stated she is still confused because it was her understanding that Ms. Therrien asked for a resolution to accommodate Explore Fairbanks' request. She asked whether the resolution should be postponed while they work on clarification.

Ms. Therrien stated she thought there was supposed to be a resolution allocating money directly to Explore Fairbanks.

Mayor Matherly stated the Council can direct the committee to change the direction for phase 2.

Mr. Gibson stated it was his understanding at that Finance Committee meeting that the funds needed to be used by the end of the calendar year. He stated Ms. Hickok explained it differently, so he believes it was an issue of not having an answer to that question.

Mayor Matherly stated he did recall that, and he asked Ms. Bell for a staff report. Ms. Bell stated she was directed to look into whether the funds had to be used in 2020; she stated she understood

that the issue would then go before the committee for recommendation. Ms. Bell stated she contacted the Mat-Su CFO who confirmed that their grant funds expire on December 31 also, and the committee agreed to stay that course. She stated Explore Fairbanks can apply in the same manner as everyone else during phase 2.

Mayor Matherly stated a resolution would need to be written in order to allocate funds directly to Explore Fairbanks; Ms. Bell confirmed the Mayor's statement. Ms. Bell stated her department could work with the Council and Explore Fairbanks to draft another resolution.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 4930 by reducing the allocation to medical facilities to \$7,750,000 and by increasing the allocation to businesses to \$6,250,000 in the fifth whereas and in Section 1.

Ms. Therrien asked if there was a limit on the amount of funds that could be awarded. Ms. Bell reported that they would not place a limit on awarded amounts in phase 2.

Mr. Meeks reminded the Council that the businesses that have already come forward submitted all the receipts they had for eligible expenses, and inventory is no longer being reimbursed because people are no longer shut down. He stated that the City cannot simply hand money out to someone because they want it, and documentation is required.

Mr. Gibson asked how much money the Borough has distributed in the community with their joint CARES Act funds with North Pole. Mr. Meeks reported that the Borough has not yet launched its program, so no funds have been distributed.

Mayor Matherly recognized Ms. Bell and the Finance Department for doing such a fine job with the CARES Act funding in the fastest, most financially safe way possible. He stated she knows the laws and follows the federal regulations. He stated the President suggested that an extension of unemployment benefits could come out of CARES funds, so he is pleased that the City was able to get those funds into the community quickly.

Mr. Cleworth asked how much has gone to individuals. Ms. Bell reported that \$823,656 has gone to individual applicants. She reported that LOVE, Inc. said that all the funds allocated for individuals will be exhausted with the next 30 applications. **Mr. Cleworth** questioned why the Council would not choose to split funds evenly between medical and businesses.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4930 BY REDUCING THE ALLOCATION TO MEDICAL FACILITIES TO \$7,750,000 AND BY INCREASING THE ALLOCATION TO BUSINESSES TO \$6,250,000 IN THE FIFTH WHEREAS AND IN SECTION 1 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Pruhs, Kun

NAYS: Gibson, Cleworth

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4930, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4930, as Amended, APPROVED.

- c) Resolution No. 4931 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply and Accept Funds from Rasmuson Foundation for a Municipal Arts & Culture Matching Grant. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the Consent Agenda.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2019

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Commission on Historic Preservation Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Appointments to the Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS & COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Kun gave a land acknowledgement and congratulated Tod Chambers on his promotion to Fire Chief.

Mr. Pruhs stated the Polaris Group met and is looking into grant funding that would allow for the building to be abated. He shared that there will be a “thank you to law enforcement” event at Gene’s Chrysler from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday.

Mr. Cleworth thanked the Council members for all the work they did on the nuisance property ordinance and shared his hopes that it puts some teeth into dealing with problem properties.

Ms. Therrien stated she had no comments.

Ms. Rogers shared how grateful she is for the respectful conversation that was held throughout the meeting. She shared how proud she is to be part of such a respectful team and thanked the Council Members for their hard work.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Ewers stated that one part of the nuisance property issue has been completed, but there will be more work coming to address illegal activity, abatement, solid waste and other nuisance-related issues.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ENTER Executive Session for the purpose of discussing PSEA Fairbanks Police Command Unit (FPCU) Labor Negotiation Strategy and Frances Pfleegor v. City of Fairbanks – Settlement Negotiations.

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) PSEA Fairbanks Police Command Unit (FPCU) Labor Negotiation Strategy
- b) Frances Pfleegor v. City of Fairbanks – Settlement Negotiations

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss PSEA Fairbanks Police Command Unit (FPCU) Labor Negotiation Strategy and Frances Pfleegor v. City of Fairbanks Settlement Negotiations. Direction was given to the negotiating team and to legal counsel, and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 10:33 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB