



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 12, 2020  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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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

Absent:                                None

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

City Clerk Danyielle Snider read the Mission Statement of the City of Fairbanks.

**FLAG SALUTATION**

**Mayor Matherly** asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**Mayor Matherly** called for in-person comment and, hearing none, declared in-person Citizens' Comments closed.

City Clerk Danyielle Snider read the following written comments into record:

Alyssa Quintyne, Fairbanks – Ms. Quintyne wished everyone a happy Indigenous Peoples Day, and she spoke in support of the implicit bias training for City employees. She stated that

accountability, education, and inclusion are key to addressing the issues of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism. She stated that in the midst of the pandemic and racial justice uprisings, it is apparent that Fairbanks suffers from the same oppression and discrimination as other places in the nation. She stated that minorities and other marginalized communities have come to the City Council about issues of workplace discrimination, violence, and barriers to essential access perpetuated by government employees and first responders. Ms. Quintyne commented that nothing has been done to address the issue, and peoples' stories have been belittled and dismissed. She stated that in March, the community called for the City Council to implement mandatory diversity and inclusion training, decolonization training, and mental health and substance abuse training (to include implicit bias training) for all City employees. She shared that she is elated to see the first step. Ms. Quintyne stated that implicit bias training is a commitment to understanding and addressing the discrimination that impacts everyone, and it is a first step in addressing the root cause of the issues. She acknowledged that it is no government official or first responder's intention to cause harm, but it is imperative for those in positions of power to recognize and address lateral violence, microaggressions, and discrimination in ways that do not burden those impacted by it. Ms. Quintyne stated that training like the implicit bias training is an excellent first step in understanding the brevity of the issues and how to go about identifying solutions that will build a better City.

Arleigh Hitchcock, Fairbanks – Mx. Hitchcock spoke in support of the implicit bias training for City employees. They stated that the trainer, Mr. Hood, understands the complexities of implicit bias having worked as an FBI agent for 25 years and having been an adjunct professor of leadership and ethics for the FBI Academy at the University of Virginia. They stated that Mr. Hood designed courses on implicit bias and specialized in the psychology of leadership and the effects of implicit bias. Mx. Hitchcock stated the City of Fairbanks should be honored to have the opportunity to learn from an expert in their field and added that the whole community would benefit from the City's participation in the course.

Maria Berger, Fairbanks – Ms. Berger commended the City for offering the implicit bias training to employees. She stated that the opportunity to identify, examine, and understand implicit biases has potential to increase productivity and effectiveness in the workplace and enhance City Employees' ability to serve local citizens. She stated that because implicit bias is unconscious and is part of human nature, every person is subject the implicit biases of others. She indicated that such trainings benefit everyone both individually and collectively without diminishing anyone. She thanked the Council for their time and service to the community.

Savannah Fletcher, Fairbanks – Ms. Fletcher stated that she works in downtown Fairbanks at Alaska Legal Services Corporation. She thanked the City for participating in implicit bias training. She stated that as a lawyer who represents tribes and Alaska Natives, she knows that implicit bias enters into many of the services they provide to community members. She stated it will take time to truly live up to our country's standard of justice for all.

There being no more written comments to be read into the record, **Mayor Matherly** declared Citizens' Comments closed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

a) The Fairbanks City Council held a public hearing for the following Marijuana License Applications for Renewal:

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
10869	Grass Station 49	Retail Marijuana Store	The Grass Station, LLC	1326 Cushman Street
13949	Grass Station 49	Retail Marijuana Store	The Grass Station, LLC	3505 Airport Way, Suite A
18187	The Fairbanks Cut, LLC	Retail Marijuana Store	The Fairbanks Cut, LLC	188 Bentley Trust Road, Suite A
10278	GoodSinse, LLC	Retail Marijuana Store	GoodSinse, LLC	2604 Davis Road
10279	GoodSinse, LLC	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	GoodSinse, LLC	2604 Davis Road

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by Mr. Cleworth, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Marijuana License Applications for Renewal.

Mr. Cleworth reminded the Clerk to read the approved Consent Agenda items into the record.

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 MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

City Clerk Snider read the Consent Agenda into the record.

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

Mayor Matherly stated that internal budget meetings are complete, and the 2021 City Budget has been drafted and will be distributed to the Council soon. He thanked all the City staff for their work in budget preparation. He thanked the City Clerk’s Office for their work in the recent election, and he announced that the final ballot count would take place the following afternoon. He thanked Public Works for their help in setting up the absentee voting trailer, and he commended all those who ran for office. He encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming

November election. **Mayor Matherly** stated that COVID-19 cases have continued to increase, but the hospitalization rate is low. He commented that he will continue to beat the drum on masking and social distancing. He stated that Dr. Zink reported that there are clinical trials for a COVID-19 vaccination being conducted, and he expressed hope that there would be a vaccination approved soon. **Mayor Matherly** stated he also spoke with General Andrysiak and General Krumm, the leadership of military forces in the state, and they are giving thought to prohibiting travel off-base due to the virus; he stated it would be a readiness precaution. **Mayor Matherly** shared that they will convert the trailer that was used for absentee voting into a COVID testing site. He stated that the trailer will be parked at Public Works where they will offer free, drive-up testing; he shared that the goal is to open by October 19. He explained that testing at Carlson Center is being shut down due to the cold weather. He stated the Council can be proud that the City is stepping up to help with the testing. **Mayor Matherly** stated that much training has been discussed in 2020, and Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) recently did some implicit bias training and verbal judo training. He stated that Bret Hood is in town and will be facilitating training for all City employees throughout the week. He stated that Mr. Hood will be visiting the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) meeting the following evening, and he turned the floor over to Mr. Hood.

a) Special Reports

Bret Hood, Implicit Bias Training Instructor – Mr. Hood thanked everyone for having him and for the opportunity to address the Council. He stated that implicit bias can be dangerous because it happens outside of one's consciousness. He stated that research shows that 95% of the decision a person makes each day are made by the automatic part of the brain. He provided some examples, and he stated that implicit biases are based on stereotypes and previous experiences. Mr. Hood explained that the class gets people involved in exercises to exhibit some of the biases they are unaware of, and conversations start. He stated they then look at where those biases may come from, how they are formed, and how they show up in decision-making and behaviors. He stated he takes attendees through real cases and situations where people have allowed their biases to get in the way, and they discuss how biases cause a person to put false labels on people and different ways to mitigate how biases affect decision-making.

**Mayor Matherly** stated that both in-person and virtual classes are being offered to get as many employees as possible to participate in the training.

**Ms. Rogers** asked whether there would be an opportunity for Council Members to participate in the training. Clerk Snider stated that she would make sure to get the information out to the Council.

**Ms. Therrien** asked Mr. Hood whether his course addresses implicit racism. Mr. Hood stated that people often assume implicit bias is associated with racism, but that is not always the case. He stated that racism is a component of implicit bias. He provided some examples of implicit bias as it relates to racism but stated that the class covers all types of implicit biases and how people project their own stereotypes onto others. **Ms. Therrien** asked how long the class is. Mr. Hood stated it is 7 – 8 hours long.

**Mayor Matherly** thanked Mr. Hood for attending and speaking to the Council. He stated that the local Mayors put out a joint Proclamation in recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Ms. Rogers** echoed Mayor Matherly's comments on masking. She expressed disappointment in the small voter turnout, and she stated people need to continue to talk about it and accept the responsibility of being a voting community. She stated that everyone needs to do their part to increase voter turnout.

**Ms. Kun** stated she is glad Mr. Hood is here. She expressed appreciation for the written comments that were submitted in support of the implicit bias training.

**Ms. Therrien** stated that she is interested in attending the training and commented that it is disappointing that the Council had not been notified about the training yet. She stated that she would try to attend. She suggested that the newly elected Council Members be invited to attend also.

**Mr. Pruhs** commended the Clerk's Office for its work in operating the absentee voting station during the pandemic and thanked other departments for chipping in to help.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated he had no comments.

**Mr. Gibson** stated he had no comments.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6141– An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Chapter 14, Article X. Towing Vehicles. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6141.

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

**Mr. Cleworth** thanked the City Attorney's Office for all the work done on the ordinance. He stated that when the original towing ordinance was adopted, the fees were in the Code. He stated that he noticed the fees have been removed and placed into a fee schedule, and he asked how the new fee amounts were derived. He took note that the fees have increased.

Deputy City Attorney Gonzales stated that she spoke with operators on the tow rotation list, and each of them commented about the low fees authorized by the ordinance. She stated they indicated that current fees are not commensurate with the industry. She explained that the goal was to bring the fees more in line with what towing companies are currently charging. She stated that for the most part, the fees are an average of what local company rates are. **Mr. Cleworth** asked Ms. Gonzales how many companies she communicated with. Ms. Gonzales

replied that she spoke with representatives from each of the four companies on the City's tow rotation list, and she drafted the fee schedule after her conversations with them. She stated she has not heard from the companies since that time. **Mr. Cleworth** stated it was difficult to set the original fees, but it sounds as though everyone is on board. He stated it seems like a severe hike in some of the fees, but he understands that things change and costs increase.

**Mr. Therrien** asked whether there was any discussion about the hours in which a person may access a vehicle that was towed. Ms. Gonzales stated that was not a concern with the towing companies, with one exception. She stated that the City's towing contractor, Interior Towing, believes that all vehicles should be secured in an enclosed space; she stated they wanted to ensure that all companies were doing that. **Ms. Therrien** stated that the towing complaints she has heard have been in regard to vehicle access. She stated she hopes that people will have access to their vehicles and that access hours will be posted by tow companies.

**Mr. Gibson** pointed out that hours are addressed in the ordinance under Sec. 14-435 and Sec. 14-438. **Mr. Cleworth** stated the ordinance addresses contacting a company afterhours, but it does not address the posting of access hours.

**Mr. Gibson** stated he is happy to see that the fine amount for cleanup was increased. He asked about the history behind the surcharge for extreme weather. Ms. Gonzales stated there was a roundtable discussion on the ordinance including representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Clerk's Office, FECC, FPD, Engineering, and Public Works. She stated the group discussed the reluctance of towing companies to respond to calls when the weather is extremely cold. She stated the surcharge is being carried forward from the old ordinance, and it is an incentive for tow companies to respond to calls when it is cold. She stated that tow companies may need extra time to respond during severe weather conditions.

**Ms. Rogers** commented that it sounds as though every company on the tow rotation list was contacted, and she believes the City is on a good course with the ordinance.

**Ms. Kun** thanked Ms. Gonzales for all her hard work.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6141 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6141 ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6142 – An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Chapter 14, Article V. Alcoholic Beverages to Remove Fees for Inspections. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6142.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6142 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6142 ADOPTED.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 4937 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Participate in the FFY2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4938 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a FY2021 Brownfields Multipurpose Grant. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 4939 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2020 State Homeland Security Program. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Resolution No. 4940 – A Resolution to Accept Funds from the Alaska Highway Safety Office for FFY2021 DUI Traffic Enforcement Grant. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Mayor Matherly** requested that the Council provide committee reports and comments together.

**Ms. Rogers** stated that she attended the Polaris Work Group meeting earlier in the day. She stated that City Environmental Manager Andrew Ackerman and City Grants Administrator Carrie Peterson provided reports, and the group will meet again in a month. She stated that the FDC will meet the following evening.

**Ms. Kun** stated that she was unable to attend the last Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors meeting, but there is another meeting coming up in a week or so. She gave a land acknowledgement.

**Ms. Therrien** stated she is happy the City got the grant for DUI traffic enforcement; she stated one would not believe how many people run red lights. She congratulated everyone in regard to Indigenous Peoples Day and thanked all those who came out to vote. She congratulated the victors in the election.

**Mr. Pruhs** thanked Ms. Rogers for attending the Polaris Work Group meeting and for providing a report. He stated that he was unable to attend.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated he had no comments.

**Mr. Gibson** thanked everyone who voted in the local election. He stated he is happy to see the DUI enforcement grant, and he acknowledged the issues Fairbanks has in that regard.

**Ms. Rogers** thanked Mr. Pruhs for all his work with the Polaris Work Group. She stated they would not be where they are at without all his work and attention. She thanked him also for his most recent comments indicating that he will stay actively involved with the group after his term on the Council ends.

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

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

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

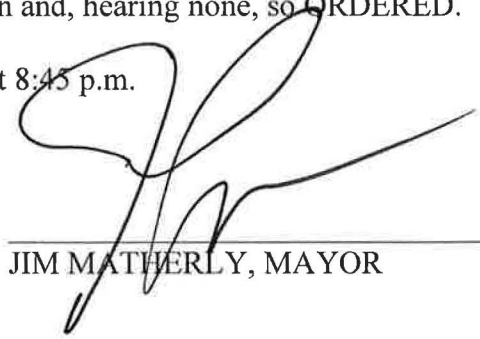


**ADJOURNMENT**

**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 8:45 p.m.



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JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS