



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 14, 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 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
June Rogers, Seat B (remotely)
Valerie Therrien, Seat C
Aaron Gibson, Seat D
Lonny Marney, Seat E
Jim Clark, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Clem Clooten, Building Official (remotely)
Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
Paul Ewers, City Attorney
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director (remotely)
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
Richard Sweet, Acting Police Chief
Bob Pristash, City Engineer (remotely)
Tod Chambers, Fire Chief
Geoff Coon, Assistant Fire Chief (remotely)
Mike Sanders, Housing & Homeless Coordinator (remotely)
Ron Dupee, Acting Deputy Police Chief (remotely)

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 led the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Matherly asked the Council members to take turns reading the Bill of Rights into the record.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mayor Matherly called for public comment and, hearing none, declared Citizens' Comments closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Therrien pulled Resolution No. 4946 from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Marney pulled Resolution No. 4945 from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Matherly called for objection to the APPROVAL of the Agenda, as Amended and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

City Clerk Danyielle Snider read the Consent Agenda, as Amended, into the record.

SPECIAL ORDERS

- a) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Application for Transfer of Ownership and Controlling Interest;

Type/License: Beverage Dispensary, License #556
DBA: International Hotel & Bar
Applicant: Hard Work, LLC
122 N. Turner Street, Fairbanks
From: Dakota Ventures, Inc./International Hotel & Bar
122 N. Turner Street, Fairbanks

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Application for Transfer of Ownership and Controlling Interest.

Mayor Matherly called for public comment.

John Jackovich, Fairbanks – Mr. Jackovich thanked the City Council for the ability to attend meetings online and welcomed the new Council members. He stated that he was selling the Big I after nearly 15 years of ownership but that he will remain in the community. He gave his thanks to the fair and just service he had received from the Council, FPD, and FFD. Mr. Jackovich concluded by wishing everyone good health and happy holidays and invited them to ask questions regarding the transfer.

Mayor Matherly thanked Mr. Jackovich for his service to the community. He stated that there were no departmental objections to this transfer.

Ms. Rogers asked Mr. Jackovich if he would be retaining any of the ownership shares. Mr. Jackovich indicated that the breakdown of shares listed pertained only to the new LLC, and that he would not be retaining any ownership. **Ms. Rogers** thanked him for his cooperation over the years.

Ms. Kun thanked Mr. Jackovich for his 15 years of great service to the community and stated that he had been an asset and would be missed.

Ms. Therrien asked for clarification on the shares listed, as they only added up to 70%. City Clerk Danyielle Snider drew attention to the fine print listed above the shareholder allocation, which stated that only primary shareholders that own 10% or more are listed. Mr. Jackovich stated that the fine print is documentation that came directly from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

Mayor Matherly recognized the difficulties of owning a bar downtown and thanked Mr. Jackovich for his respectful and polite demeanor when working with the City, especially the FPD over the past 15 years. He ended by wishing Mr. Jackovich a very Merry Christmas.

Mr. Jackovich thanked the City again for their help in creating a great working relationship.

Mayor Matherly asked for additional 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 OWNERSHIP AND CONTROLLING INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Gibson, Therrien, Clark, Marney, Rogers

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly thanked the City Council for an excellent year. He stated that he looked back on the past year with a thankful but anxious heart. **Mayor Matherly** touched on the issues that had been caused by COVID-19 and recognized the hard work done by all City offices to create a safe and clean place to work, including implementing more work-from-home opportunities when needed. He continued by stating how pleased he was with the way the CARES Act funding was handled and the Council's support during the process. **Mayor Matherly** mentioned that while the COVID-19 vaccine will be coming out, everyone will still need to do their part by wearing masks and social distancing. He stated that Acting Police Chief Sweet, Acting Deputy Police Chief Dupee and Fire Chief Chambers were on top of the vaccine rollout situation. **Mayor Matherly** mentioned the loss of Mr. Terrence Cole, a Fairbanks historian, and passed his thoughts and prayers along to his family. **Mayor Matherly** went on to give his personal thanks to everyone for all the hard work done this Christmas season and shared his excitement that a fresh new year would be coming very soon. He expressed his hope that one year from now

everyone will be together again, in person. **Mayor Matherly** stated how proud he was to lead the City. **Mayor Matherly** ended by asking Chief of Staff Mike Meeks to give an update.

Mr. Meeks reported that there are two labor contracts on the agenda. He stated that over the years, there has been a lot of cutting and pasting, and the unions have agreed to allow the next month to be used to clean up the contracts by fixing grammar and punctuation. Mr. Meeks wanted the Council to be aware that when they receive the second reading there will be minor changes but none that will have a financial or substantial impact. He continued by indicating that the changes can be highlighted if the Council wishes.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Rogers mentioned that she had received copious amounts of information from a gentleman who was not present. She stated that he had a lot of experience with the items they had been discussing lately. **Ms. Rogers** expressed her thanks to the person for taking their time in providing that information and shared her intent to read it.

Ms. Kun stated that she had no comments.

Ms. Therrien clarified that the reason she had asked about the percentage of ownership in the International Hotel and Bar transfer of ownership was because there may be times when a conflict of interest may arise. She asked if all shareholders could be listed in the future, and City Clerk Snider affirmed the request.

Mr. Clark stated that he had no comments.

Mr. Marney stated that he had no comments.

Mr. Gibson stated that he had no comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6145, as Amended – An Ordinance Adopting the 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Rogers, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6145, as Amended.

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

Mayor Matherly called on Mr. Meeks and Ms. Foster-Snow for a staff report prior to Council discussion. Mr. Meeks stated that the budget item with the most conversation was in regard to the “significant personnel changes in the police department.” He continued by requesting that the Council use this opportunity to gain clarification from himself and the HR Department if there were any questions regarding the changes. Mr. Meeks asked Ms. Foster-Snow how many vacancies the FPD currently had. Ms. Foster-Snow stated that there were 11 patrol vacancies and

two non-sworn vacancies. Mr. Meeks asked Ms. Foster-Snow if these types of vacancies are normal for the FPD. Ms. Foster-Snow stated that in her five years of experience there had typically been between 8-11 vacancies in the FPD. Mr. Meeks asked if it was predicted that all 13 vacancies would be filled. Ms. Foster-Snow stated that the biggest hinderance is that the FPD is only capable of training 9 new patrol officers in a calendar year. Mr. Meeks asked for clarification that two vacancies would remain unfilled at the end of year. Ms. Foster-Snow confirmed.

Mr. Meeks moved on to ask Ms. Foster-Snow about the Desk Corporal position. Ms. Foster-Snow indicated that someone has been filling that role outside of the title for about six years and that the original position has evolved to become a very important part of the FPD. She stated that this person has strong relationships with the District Attorney's office, City administration, community businesses, and the citizens of Fairbanks with whom they interact daily. Ms. Foster-Snow continued to clarify that this position would not be able to be filled with light duty personnel due to its duties and responsibilities and the need for consistency.

Mr. Meeks asked for explanation on the new position of Crime Scene Investigator (CSI). Ms. Foster-Snow stated that while the position is new, the employee is not. She stated that this particular employee has furthered their education and experience to gain the qualifications to fill this role, and FPD has not employed a CSI position in the past. She explained that the employee qualified for the new role is one of the two Evidence Technicians currently employed. She stated that FPD has eliminated an administrative position to make room for the CSI position resulting in an increase of only \$22,000.

Mr. Meeks asked Ms. Foster-Snow to confirm that the new Police Captain position would be a significant change and would cost the City approximately \$100,000. Ms. Foster-Snow clarified that the Captain position would be in lieu of two non-funded police officer positions and would save the City about \$70,000. She stated that the position would be filled with the department's longest tenured lieutenant. She stated that FPD is a very young department, and the desire is that the Captain position would retain an experienced employee in order to provide institutional knowledge and training. Additionally, this position would lessen the workload on the sergeants by 30% by helping with the increased records requests, use of force reviews, and citizen complaints. She stated that, ultimately, this position would help keep more sergeants on the streets supporting and training new officers.

Mr. Meeks clarified that this temporary position could be changed with the hiring of the new Police Chief; however, if it is denied at this time FPD would lose the ability to retain the experienced employee and likely create another vacancy. Ms. Foster-Snow stated that a temporary position can be modified with the 2022 budget, but the duties of this position need to be addressed regardless. She indicated that the Captain position would be the best way to do so.

Mayor Matherly thanked Mr. Meeks and Ms. Foster-Snow for their staff report. He stated that he had spoken with Acting Chief Sweet and Acting Deputy Chief Dupee who were in support the requested changes and that he felt it was important for the Council to provide them with the help needed.

Ms. Therrien stated she was satisfied with the budget, as amended, including the Captain position.

Ms. Kun stated she had no further amendments and was satisfied with the budget as-is.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Meeks and Ms. Foster-Snow for their thorough explanation of the many things that had been questioned throughout the process. She stated that she had good confidence with the direction being taken with this budget, supported the requests of the FPD, and was very satisfied with the explanations.

Mr. Gibson stated that he had previously shared his reservations regarding the Captain position and continued to believe the decision should wait until a new Police Chief is hired. He stated that his concern was that the position is stated as a 1-year, temporary position and was based on the argument that it would only be possible to fill 9 of the 11 police officer vacancies, leaving two open positions which would provide salary savings to fund the temporary Captain position. He asked AC Sweet if lateral hires could mean more officers trained in a year. AC Sweet replied that lateral hires would still require field training and, depending on their experience, a shorter time is not guaranteed. **Mr. Gibson** then addressed the FPCU CBA that is being advanced to the next meeting and its relationship to the Captain position. He asked for clarification on the budgeted salary in question and how that would change when the new CBA was ratified. Ms. Bell stated that it would change because the budget is based on the current CBA; however, it would be an exempt position with no allotted overtime. **Mr. Gibson** asked if the total salary would increase and how it would affect the estimated savings. Ms. Bell stated that, due to the lack of overtime pay, it is likely that the savings will exceed the projected \$70,000. **Mr. Gibson** asked Ms. Bell if account 7501 in the IT department had been increased. Ms. Bell said that it had not increased because the department head had indicated that \$70,000 was sufficient for this year; she indicated that it may need to be increased with future budgets. Ms. Bell continued by clarifying that the budgeted amount in question was not for expenditures this year but will be moved to the Capital Fund.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6145, as Amended. by increasing the Mayor's salary by 1.5% to take effect in the 2022 budget.

Mr. Gibson stated that the Council has approved pay raises at 1.5% for all the staff except the Mayor, and every year there is an increased cost in healthcare.

Ms. Therrien stated that it is a fair increase, even if there is a year delay.

Mr. Clark asked Mr. Gibson for input behind his motion.

Mr. Gibson stated the other non-bargaining staff, receive increases, but the Mayor does not, even though the position requires buy-in to the IBEW health insurance. Ms. Bell confirmed that a 1.5% increase was given to non-bargaining and IBEW employees.

Mayor Matherly asked for clarification on the number of non-bargaining employees. Ms. Bell stated that there are only 8 non-bargaining employees plus the Mayor who is in a different category.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6145, AS AMENDED, BY INCREASING THE MAYOR'S SALARY BY 1.5% TO TAKE EFFECT IN THE 2022 BUDGET AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Clark, Therrien, Marney, Gibson, Rogers

NAYS: Kun

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6145, as Amended, by amending Department 15, account number 7201, Contributions to Other Agencies by reducing the Explore Fairbanks allocation by \$75,000 and the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation allocation by \$25,000 and by increasing the FPD training budget by \$100,000.

Mr. Gibson stated that the amendment is intended to help get the requested FPD training budget closer to the \$300,000 the department had asked for, given the amount of vacancies and necessary training needed.

Mr. Clark stated that he believed it was a good way to take care of the necessities.

Ms. Therrien stated that she was not in favor of reducing the funds allocated to Explore Fairbanks and the FEDC; however, she would be in favor of increasing the police training budget with a separate motion. She continued by stating that Explore Fairbanks was already losing funds due to the reduction in bed tax revenue.

Ms. Rogers affirmed Ms. Therrien's statements and added that she supports the idea of two separate motions to address these changes. She continued to state that it is important for the City to support Explore Fairbanks and the FEDC based on the well-documented successes they have helped achieve within the City. **Ms. Rogers** stated that taking funds from these organizations, especially in this particular climate, was something she would never support.

Mr. Marney asked Mr. Gibson to restate his amendment, and **Mr. Gibson** did so.

Mayor Matherly stated that he is often torn on items like this. He stated that the FPD has been under a microscope this past year, and the City is fortunate to have good relationships between the citizens and the FPD, which had been very proactive throughout the year. He continued by stating the importance the public has placed on training within the FPD. **Mayor Matherly** explained that if organizations like Explore Fairbanks and the FEDC are bringing tourists, families, and businesses to town it is the City's duty to provide a clean and safe place to visit. He indicated that this is not an easy decision because both elements are important to the success of the City.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to divide the question by considering the budget reductions and the budget increase separately.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO DIVIDE THE QUESTION BY CONSIDERING THE BUDGET REDUCTIONS AND THE BUDGET INCREASE SEPARATELY AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Therrien, Rogers
NAYS: Gibson, Clark, Marney, Matherly
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION FAILED.

Mr. Clark stated that it has been an interesting year, and he believes this is the right thing to do to take care of the FPD.

Ms. Kun stated that her concern is for Explore Fairbanks and the FEDC based on the funds they usually receive. She stated that it is the work of Explore Fairbanks that generates revenues through bed tax that provide the City more money to put towards infrastructure like the police department, and she would not be supporting this amendment.

Ms. Rogers agreed that it had been a difficult year and recognized the needs within the FPD; however, she stated that taking funds from Explore Fairbanks and the FEDC was neither a positive nor productive way of meeting those needs.

Mr. Gibson stated that the surplus, which would be used to increase the training if the funds are not moved from somewhere else, is already slim. He asked Ms. Bell for the surplus amount. Ms. Bell stated that the surplus was \$250,312. **Mr. Gibson** stated that this is a reasonable action to take to ensure that the FPD receives the training that they need to maintain a safe City.

Mr. Marney clarified that the reduction would be a 5% reduction for Explore Fairbanks and a 25% reduction for the FEDC.

Mayor Matherly stated that he was very torn on this amendment. He stated that he would be focused on policing in the coming year, providing safety for the citizens and the police force. He asked Mr. Meeks if there were any additional salary savings that could be used to increase the training budget. Mr. Meeks explained that the two new positions were being funded by the projected savings and that any additional salary savings are typically reserved by the Council until the end of the year to go into the Capital Fund. **Mayor Matherly** asked Ms. Bell for the current budgeted amount for the FPD training fund. Ms. Bell stated that there was \$150,000 budgeted from the department request of \$300,000. She clarified that Mr. Gibson's amendment would bring the budgeted amount to \$250,000. **Mayor Matherly** asked AC Sweet for his thoughts on the lower \$150,000 budget. AC Sweet stated that it takes approximately \$20,000 per applicant to get through the academy and associated training and, while lateral transfers do not have to go to the academy, they are given the \$20,000 as a lateral bonus. He went on to state that if five officers go to the academy in February, that will leave only \$50,000 for training the remainder of the year, leaving the department very tight on training funds. **Mayor Matherly** clarified the options to the Council, either decrease the surplus, which is already very slim, or move the funds from another department.

Ms. Therrien stated that there was an agreement made with the bed tax money that indicated the percentage that was to be allocated to the FEDC and Explore Fairbanks. She stated that to make

this reduction would be against the long-standing agreement between the City and the community in regard to how the bed tax money would be spent and divided. She suggested that there may be options to perform interdepartmental transfers in the future to take care of extra training costs and asked the Council to consider the long-standing agreement with the bed tax community when casting their vote.

Mayor Matherly recalled a previous attempt to cut the funds to Explore Fairbanks and the FEDC and the blow back he had received.

Ms. Rogers thanked Ms. Therrien for speaking to the bed tax agreement and stated her discomfort with this item being brought up with so little discussion in previous meetings. She continued to state that it is discouraging for the City to consider backing out of long-standing agreements for the sake of convenience. **Ms. Rogers** expressed the desire that before any change in agreement would be considered, that conversations be had with the affected organizations who will suffer large financial cuts to their budgets.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6145, AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING DEPARTMENT 15, ACCOUNT NUMBER 7201, CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER AGENCIES BY REDUCING THE EXPLORE FAIRBANKS ALLOCATION BY \$75,000 AND THE FAIRBANKS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ALLOCATOIN BY \$25,000 AND BY INCREASING THE FPD TRAINING BUDGET BY \$100,000 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Clark, Gibson, Marney
NAYS: Therrien, Rogers, Kun, Matherly
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION FAILED.

Mr. Marney asked for clarification about the Desk Corporal position and whether it would be both day and night shift. AC Sweet indicated that it would be a day shift only position based on the need of the department. **Mr. Marney** asked for the salary amount for the Police Chief. Ms. Bell stated that the Chief position, including benefits, was amounts to \$180,324. **Mr. Marney** asked if this amount would conflict with the proposed increase to the Deputy Police Chief and what that total was. Ms. Bell indicated she would need to pull that information as it is associated with the other CBA. **Mr. Marney** clarified his question by asking if the new agreement would lead to the Deputy Police Chief earning more than the Police Chief. Ms. Bell stated that the Deputy Police Chief, with benefits, would cost \$185,379. Mr. Meeks stated that the two positions are managed by separate unions. He stated the Chief position is under the IBEW, which has a scale where pay is based on experience, and the amount budgeted is based on the base wage offered. **Mr. Marney** asked for clarification on compensatory time and the reasoning behind it. Mr. Meeks stated that employees are capped at 240 hours, and they typically work many more hours than they are able to bank; additionally, he stated that there is no money associated with it. **Mr. Marney** stated that comp time and overtime appear to be the same, and he understood that the purpose of these positions was to eliminate overtime cost. Mr. Meeks explained that there is no monetary association with comp time, thus reducing the overtime cost.

Mayor Matherly indicated that the conversation was moving towards a contract negotiation point of view and may not be appropriate for the Council to discuss at that time.

Mr. Marney thanked Mr. Meeks and Ms. Bell for answering his questions and apologized for steering the conversation in that direction.

Mr. Clark asked for clarification on the CSI position and whether the existing position would be unfunded or removed completely. Ms. Bell indicated that an administrative position would be removed from the budget completely. **Mr. Clark** stated that he was cautious with the new contracts and the raises that would be associated with that. He continued to state that he believes FPD training to be an issue but that unless there were funds within the FPD budget it was likely that there would not be additional funds to make up the training budget deficit. **Mr. Clark** ended by reminding the Council of the financial burden placed on the private sector during this time and that it would be irresponsible for the City to continue spending money when so many are hurting right now.

Mr. Marney asked Ms. Foster-Snow where the City advertises for open positions. Ms. Foster-Snow explained that by contract all positions are first advertised internally and then various other mediums depending on the desired reach: local, state, or national.

Mayor Matherly stated that he was confident that training money could be found elsewhere and would bring that to the Council when it was needed. He continued by thanking the Council and staff for their hard work around this budget and shared his optimism for the coming year and the City's financial state, even with a low surplus.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6145, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Clark, Rogers, Kun, Gibson, Therrien

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6145, as Amended, ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4945 – A Resolution to Extend the Sunset Date for the Incentive Bonus Program with the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center for Recruitment and Hiring. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Ms. Rogers, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4945.

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

Mr. Marney asked about the success of the program and its utilization. Ms. Foster-Snow affirmed that they have utilized the program to great success, including the referral process. **Mr. Marney** asked if the employee that recently left the City for another organization received a signing bonus. Ms. Foster-Snow referred the question to Ms. Merideth who stated that the employee left in favor of better working hours, not for monetary incentive. **Mr. Marney** asked

Ms. Merideth if she valued the Incentive Bonus program. Ms. Merideth replied affirmatively. She explained that all Dispatch training was done inhouse and takes 4-6 weeks. She continued by stating that she was currently providing the training in eight-hour Zoom meetings to avoid placing the burden on Dispatchers. **Mr. Marney** suggested the production of a commercial to promote the Dispatch positions. Ms. Merideth stated that the producers who have previously been interested in filming ride-a-longs with officers and State Troopers have contacted her to feature the Dispatch/FECC as well.

Mr. Gibson asked Ms. Bell for affirmation that the bonus funds would come from salary savings and for clarification on the ending date being December 31, 2022. Ms. Bell confirmed both statements.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 4945 by changing the sunset date to December 31, 2021.

Mr. Gibson stated that the reason for the amendment is due to the funding from annual salary savings; he stated he felt it would be important to discuss the matter each year.

Ms. Therrien asked City Attorney Ewers to address the legality of having a sunset date in the year 2022, as it would bind the Council over one year. Mr. Ewers indicated that the funds are provided by salary savings, not budget allocation. He stated that the incentive bonus can be amended or canceled by another resolution, which takes care of the year-to-year budget concerns and would not run afoul of the City Charter. **Ms. Therrien** stated that she was concerned about the two-year deadline and agreed with Mr. Gibson that it should be changed.

Ms. Rogers appreciated Mr. Ewers' comments and felt that they were sufficient. She continued by stating that requests and communications with the FECC have been reasonable and necessary. **Ms. Rogers** expressed her confidence in the personnel within the FECC and that she trusts their decisions regarding their needs.

Mayor Matherly agreed with Ms. Rogers and stated that there is typically enough salary savings on a yearly basis that he did not feel this two-year sunset date was a concern. He continued by stating that he did not see an issue with it being extended on a yearly basis either.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4945 BY CHANGING THE SUNSET DATE TO DECEMBER 31, 2021 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Clark, Therrien, Kun, Marney, Gibson, Rogers

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Gibson thanked the Council for their support on the amendment and expressed his appreciation of the program and his belief the Council will continue this program in the future.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4945, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Clark, Rogers, Kun, Gibson, Therrien

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution, as Amended, APPROVED.

- b) Resolution No. 4946 – A Resolution Extending the Mayor's Declaration of a Disaster Emergency, Extending the Temporary Provisions of Ordinance No. 6126 Regarding Telephonic Participation of Council Members and Conduct of Council Meetings, and Extending the Mayor's Authority Regarding the Use of City Equipment and Personnel Outside City Limits. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Mr. Clark, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4946.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 4946 to add, “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council require the Mayor to issue a mask mandate through June 30, 2021.”

Ms. Therrien stated that she believed it was important for the community to hear support from the Council about a mask mandate. She continued by stating her belief that it was within the Mayor’s powers to do so, and while the Mayor has expressed that he did not feel it was necessary, the rising numbers and potential for more cases around the holidays, along with the hospital’s request for a mask mandate, made it an important issue for the Council to discuss.

Mayor Matherly stated that he did not want to mandate citizens to wear masks in or outside of their homes. He continued by reminding the Council of the vaccines coming out and his continued encouragement of wearing masks; he added that a large number of community members are wearing masks voluntarily. **Mayor Matherly** stated that a mask mandate would be done more as a symbol, being completely unenforceable. He continued by stating his belief that a mandate would simply cause more division among citizens who want the mandate enforced and those who do not.

Mr. Gibson asked Ms. Therrien to repeat her motion and for clarification on whether the motion would request or require the Mayor to issue the mandate.

Ms. Therrien clarified that the Council would be requiring the Mayor to issue a mask mandate.

Mr. Marney asked how the mandate would be policed.

Mayor Matherly stated that it would not be able to be enforced, and there would be people telling on each other, inundating the City with calls. He went on to explain that he understood the concerns expressed by Ms. Therrien; however, he had not been able to find evidence of successful mask mandates due to the immeasurable and unenforceable qualities.

Mr. Ewers interjected to explain the legality of the motion. He continued to state that encouraging a mask mandate would be an appropriate amendment; however, the Council cannot require the Mayor to exercise his emergency authority, as that power rests with the Mayor and the Mayor alone. He stated that if the Council would like to impose a mask mandate it would be

done by ordinance which would also address the matters of fines, enforcement, and warnings. As such, the Council cannot force the Mayor to issue a mask mandate, but they could suggest that he do so.

Ms. Therrien, with the concurrence of **Ms. Kun**, amended the motion by changing “require” to “request.”

Mr. Clark reminded the Council that the citizens of Fairbanks are free and able to make decisions for themselves. He continued by adding that those who wish to be responsible have been, and those that do not, do not have to. **Mr. Clark** added that the Mayor has been pro-mask from the beginning and that he stands behinds the Mayor’s reluctance to force the citizens of Fairbanks to do anything.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to AMEND the motion to amend by changing the language from “...requests the Mayor to issue a mask mandate through June 30, 2021” to, “...encourages the citizens of Fairbanks to social distance and use masks to protect themselves and others from the coronavirus.”

Mr. Marney stated that this amendment was basically backing up the Mayor’s message.

Mayor Matherly clarified that it was not just his message and that he appreciates Ms. Therrien’s statement that the Council has not discussed the item or taken a public stance on the topic.

Ms. Rogers pointed out that the Mayor had enacted mandates for visitors and staff within City Hall. She stated that she was not clear on why the standard has been different for the City Council. She stated that since the Mayor requested that Council Members, participate by Zoom, she has been doing so. **Ms. Rogers** expressed her support for the Mayor’s masking efforts and thanked Ms. Therrien for bringing the topic to the table.

Mayor Matherly thanked Ms. Rogers and other Council members for using Zoom for meetings. He clarified that the reason there was a mandate within City Hall was because it is owned by the City and it is enforceable within the walls of City Hall.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO 4946 BY CHANGING THE LANGUAGE FROM “...REQUESTS THE MAYOR TO ISSUE A MASK MANDATE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021,” TO “...ENCOURAGES THE CITIZENS OF FAIRBANKS TO SOCIAL DISTANCE AND USE MASKS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS FROM THE CORONAVIRUS” AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Gibson, Therrien, Clark, Marney, Rogers

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4946 BY ADDING, “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ENCOURAGES THE CITIZENS OF FAIRBANKS TO SOCIAL DISTANCE AND USE

MASKS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS FROM THE CORONAVIRUS.” AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Gibson, Therrien, Clark, Marney, Rogers

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4946, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Clark, Gibson, Kun, Marney

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6146– An Ordinance Ratifying a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Ordinance No. 6147 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Public Safety Employees Association, Fairbanks Police Command Unit (FPCU). Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Rogers shared that bed tax presentations would be happening the next evening at 5:30 p.m. through Zoom and in person at City Hall.

Ms. Kun did not have any committee reports. She gave a land acknowledgement and wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy New Year. **Ms. Kun** reminded the Council that these are not always happy times for everyone and encouraged anyone that might be hurting to text 741-741 or call (800) 273-8255 for help.

Ms. Therrien shared that she was able to attend a portion of the Alaska Municipal League (AML) presentation of the Governor's budget. She added that the AML had stated that the Governor was very vague on the bond proposal, and they were fearful of the impact on municipalities. She went on to acknowledge the gift received from Foundation Health Partners (FHP) and thanked them. **Ms. Therrien** wished everyone a happy holiday and offered best wishes for all of the Council members.

Mr. Clark did not have any committee reports. He stated that if AML is concerned about the Governor's budget, then the City Council should also be concerned and do all that can be done to remain fiscally prudent. **Mr. Clark** wished everyone a Merry Christmas and echoed Ms. Kun's concerns for those who may be hurting; he asked her to repeat the numbers for help. He

encouraged everyone to say hi to each other and reach out to others. Ms. Kun repeated the helpline number, 1-800-273-TALK.

Mr. Marney stated that he would be attending his first bed tax meeting the next evening and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He continued by sharing his admiration for the City staff and the hard work they put forth.

Mr. Gibson thanked FHP for the mug and expressed his appreciation for the hard work they do. He expressed his discouragement at some of the earlier comments that questioned other Council members' honor and integrity. **Mr. Gibson** stated that these types of comments are not productive. He restated his concern over the lack of training funds available to the FPD and the meager surplus funds. He continued by stating that these were very real concerns and should be considered seriously in the future.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Reappointments to the Building Code & Landscape Review & Appeals Commission

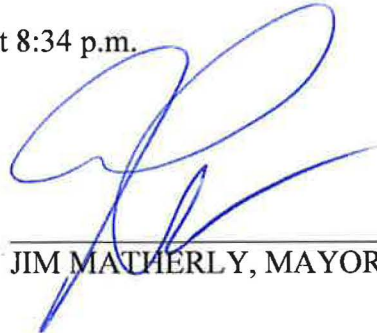
APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

ADJOURNMENT

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

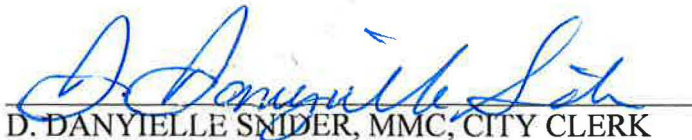
Mayor Matherly called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR