



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 14, 2020  
 FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
 800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 5:15 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Special Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Jim Matherly presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present:        Shoshana Kun, Seat A (arrived at 5:27 p.m.)  
    June Rogers, Seat B  
    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  
    Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director  
    Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff  
    Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager  
    Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
    Jim Styers, Fire Chief

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

- a) Request for Reconsideration by Council Member Gibson of the Motion to Waive Protest on the Renewal of the Thrifty Liquors Liquor License from the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2020. The written request to reconsider was filed on February 11, 2020.

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Premises Address
1134	Thrifty Liquors	Package Store	Market Basket, Inc.	1410 Cushman Street

She explained the procedure for reconsideration and what would occur if a motion to reconsider either passed or failed.

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to RECONSIDER the motion to waive protest of the Thrifty Liquors liquor license from the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2020.

**Mr. Gibson** explained that he filed the request to reconsider because he felt that the Council limited the owner’s testimony, and he felt that the Council did not provide a clear reason for protesting the renewal of the license.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER THRIFTY LIQUOR APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL AS FOLLOWS:

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

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mayor Matherly** stated that the motion to waive protest has returned to the floor.

*The motion to waive protest on the Liquor License Application for Renewal was made by Mr. Pruhs, seconded by Ms. Rogers, at the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2020.*

**Mr. Pruhs** mentioned the communication the Council received from Mr. Gavora's attorney, Mike Kramer. He stated the Council should allow Mr. Gavora to speak.

**Mayor Matherly** asked the Council whether any member objected to allowing the owner of Thrifty Liquors to speak. No members objected.

Mr. Gavora requested that the Thrifty Liquors store manager be allowed to speak. **Mayor Matherly** asked the Council whether any member objected to allowing the store manager of Thrifty Liquors to speak. No members objected

Susan Hamner, 1640 Willow Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Hamner stated she works at the store Monday through Friday, and she feels that the store has run better since she began managing it over a year ago. She stated that employees go above and beyond what is required by law, and they do 100% ID check on customers.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated the information the Council received shows that, over the last 30 days, the highest liquor sales at the location between the hours of 8 and 9 a.m. was \$43. He asked whether there are people waiting outside the store at 8 a.m. to purchase liquor. Ms. Hamner stated that she does not believe that to be the case. She stated there are grocery and cigarette sales in the morning, and sometimes night workers getting off work come in the morning to purchase liquor. **Mr. Pruhs** stated he visited the store earlier that morning, and he noted that about 45% of the floor space was dedicated to non-alcoholic items. He asked whether most morning sales were for liquor products. Ms. Hamner stated that most morning sales are for grocery items. **Mr. Pruhs** stated that Thrifty Liquors is in a dangerous neighborhood; Ms. Hamner disagreed. She stated that there are a lot of mentally challenged people in the area, and when employees see someone passed out on the street, they call the authorities.

**Ms. Therrien** asked who does security checks in and around the building. Ms. Hamner stated she and her employees check around the building to make sure no one is loitering and to make sure none of their customers feel threatened or bothered. **Ms. Therrien** asked Ms. Hamner whether she considers the congregating of four or five people in the parking loitering. Ms. Hamner stated that sometimes it is loitering, but sometimes it is a meeting spot. **Ms. Therrien** asked Ms. Hamner whether she ever witnesses people drinking in the parking lot. Ms. Hamner stated she sees that occasionally, but when that happens, they are told to leave the property. **Ms. Therrien** how often that occurs; Ms. Hamner stated it does not happen often and that she has only had to call the police twice within the past 30 days.

**Mayor Matherly** asked Ms. Hamner how long she has worked at Thrifty Liquors. Ms. Hamner stated she has worked for the Gavoras for six years and at Thrifty Liquors for over a year.

**Ms. Therrien** asked Ms. Hamner how often employees have to turn away intoxicated people from the store. Ms. Hamner stated that occurs about every other day, and it is often the same individuals.

**Mr. Gibson** asked whether Thrifty Liquors has ever been cited by the State; Ms. Hamner replied that to her knowledge it has not. **Mr. Gibson** asked Ms. Hamner whether she has ever been cited for selling to someone who is legally not allowed to purchase alcohol. Ms. Hamner replied that she has not.

**Mr. Pruhs** asked Ms. Hamner about her history in working for the Gavoras. Ms. Hamner stated she began working in 2014 at Gavoras on Third Street. She stated she was moved to Gavora's Liquor and Fine Wine at the Shopper's Forum, then she was promoted to manager. She stated that shortly before that store closed, she was asked to manage Thrifty Liquors.

**Mayor Matherly** asked how long Thrifty Liquors had been on located at the corner of Airport Way. Mr. Gavora stated it opened around 1984 for the Gavoras, but it has probably been there since the early 1970s.

**Ms. Rogers** thanked Thrifty Liquors representatives for coming and for giving an overview. She stated it is a community issue, and there is a community responsibility to uplift businesses that are trying to work under difficult circumstances. She stated she will support the license renewal.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that in the Findings of Fact, there is no mention that there were no members of the public who testified against the Thrifty Liquors license. He stated the Council protested a liquor license one time when there was a shooting at the Greyhound Lounge.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE THRIFTY LIQUORS LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Pruhs, Gibson, Rogers, Matherly

NAYS: Therrien, Kun, Cleworth

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

b) [If required] Review and Approval of Findings (reason for protest)

Clerk Snider stated that Item (b) would not be addressed because the motion to waive protest passed.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ENTER Executive Session for the purpose of discussing AFL-CIO, FFU, and IBEW Labor Negotiations Strategies.

**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) AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy
- b) FFU Labor Negotiation Strategy
- c) IBEW Labor Negotiation Strategy

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO, FFU, and IBEW Labor Negotiations Strategies. Direction was given to the negotiating teams, and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Pruhs**, 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 6:54 p.m.



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JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB