

**RESOLUTION NO. 4944, AS AMENDED**

**A RESOLUTION STATING THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS  
LEGISLATIVE AND CAPITAL PRIORITIES FOR 2021**

**WHEREAS**, the City is grateful for the funding provided by the State of Alaska which has added significantly to the City's ability to provide essential services; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the services the City provides are centered on protecting the lives and property of Fairbanks citizens; preparedness and infrastructure are key in that endeavor; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fairbanks has identified the following legislative and capital priorities, and the public had the opportunity to speak to this Resolution at the November 23, 2020 City Council meeting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Fairbanks City Council that the 2021 legislative and capital priorities of the City of Fairbanks are stated in the attached list. In summary, the projects are ranked as follows:

2021 Legislative Priorities

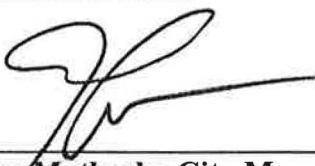
1. Maintain PERS contribution rates
2. Maintain a baseline of \$60 million annually in Community Assistance Program funding
3. Examine methodology for distribution of any new CARES Act funding
4. That the legislature use a balanced approach in addressing the deficit and continuing fiscal challenges by implementing new funding sources and cost-saving measures for State expenditures
5. Maintain SART Funding

2021 Capital Priorities

1. Provide funding for construction of a Law Enforcement Firing Range and Training Facility
2. Provide funding for the replacement of the City Hall heating system

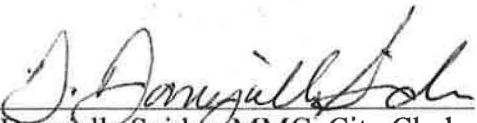
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Office of the Governor and the Interior Alaska Legislative Delegation.

**PASSED and APPROVED this 7th day of December 2020.**

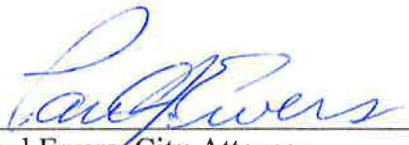
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Matherly, City Mayor

AYES: Marney, Clark, Rogers, Kun, Gibson, Therrien  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
APPROVED: December 7, 2020

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
D. Danyelle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Ewers, City Attorney



## CITY OF FAIRBANKS

Jim Matherly, Mayor  
800 CUSHMAN STREET  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4615  
OFFICE: 907-459-6793  
FAX: 907-459-6787  
[jmatherly@fairbanks.us](mailto:jmatherly@fairbanks.us)

### City of Fairbanks 2021 Legislative & Capital Priorities As Amended

**Overview:** Unlike the State of Alaska, the City of Fairbanks is on a fiscal calendar year. When the State of Alaska decides to reduce expenses by cost-shifting to the municipalities, the City is half-way through its budget year. We have few tools available to adjust our budget to meet the State's cost-shifting moves. Understanding and consideration of this fact is important to the City of Fairbanks.

1. **PERS Contribution Rate:** The City of Fairbanks supports maintaining the 22% PERS contribution rate as was agreed to by PERS employers and the State in allocating the unfunded liability.
2. **Community Assistance Program:** The City of Fairbanks is concerned with the yearly reductions in the community assistance program. The City requests that the State fund a baseline floor of \$60 million annually to the program.
3. **CARES Act Funding:** We are thankful for the CARES Act funding that we have received, and the City's intent was to ensure as much of the funding was directed to individuals, businesses, non-profits, and medical facilities directly impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. We feel we have set a standard of excellence in comparison to programs around the State of Alaska. As this virus drags on through the winter, it is our hope that more CARES Act funding will become available to communities such as ours. If additional CARES Act funding is forthcoming, we request the following:
  - a. Award the money to municipalities without any additional State restrictions.
  - b. Change the State of Alaska CARES distribution model that was used for the first CARES distribution to a model that rewards municipalities that delivered funding quickly and effectively to its citizens.

4. **New State Funding Sources and Cost-Saving Measures:** The City of Fairbanks supports a balanced approach to addressing the State of Alaska's deficit and continuing fiscal challenges. With declining oil revenues, it is important to continue to examine other revenue generating methodologies while maintaining downward pressure on cost growth. The City of Fairbanks encourages the State Legislators to develop solutions on both sides of the budget equation, revenues and expenditures.
5. **Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Funding:** Continued State funding is important to maintain medical and social responses to sexual assault.
6. **Construction of a Law Enforcement Firing Range and Training Facility:** The City of Fairbanks has joined a collaborative regional effort to obtain property and construct a law enforcement firing range and training facility. The law enforcement range that was located on the Fairbanks International Airport property has closed. Having a shooting range/training facility on airport property has been historically problematic. The current rules surrounding the range make basic training topics and drills difficult and sometimes outright prohibited. Current rules also prohibit law enforcement from bringing citizen groups (such as citizen police academies) to the range during these public training programs. During 2018, areawide law enforcement agencies were notified the firearms training range would be shut down within the next year. There is currently no other firearms training facility within interior Alaska that is capable of functioning as a training range.

A new range facility would be open to and serve every local, state, and federal law enforcement agency within interior Alaska. It would also serve as the primary training site for our interior Alaska police academy. At a time when law enforcement is under constant scrutiny and expected to perform at the highest level of professionalism, a high level of training and a professional training environment is essential.

7. **Replacement of the City Hall Heating System:** The current heating system for City Hall is the original steam heating system. This system is well beyond its life cycle and needs replacing. The magnitude of this effort, which will need to be completed within a few short summer months, is projected to cost \$5M because of the asbestos and lead based paint that most certainly will be encountered. The City requests \$4M from the Capital program to replace the heating system, the City will fund the additional \$1M.