



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 11, 2021
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:45 p.m. Work Session on the 5th Avenue Construction Project, 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
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: Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
Paul Ewers, City Attorney
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Rochelle Rodak, Deputy City Clerk
Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director (remotely)
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
Richard Sweet, Acting Police Chief
Bob Pristash, City Engineer
Tod Chambers, Fire Chief (remotely)
Geoff Coon, Assistant Fire Chief (remotely)
Ron Dupee, Acting Deputy Police 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 led the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Matherly introduced the newest member of the City Clerk's Office, Rochelle Rodak, Deputy City Clerk.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Brian Beal, 1737 University Avenue, #G-43, Fairbanks – Mr. Beal thanked the Mayor for the help provided by the City through the CARES Act when he was in need and for the wonderful staff he encountered in the process. He encouraged the City to consider providing more funding as it becomes available and to bear in mind all people and places these funds could be allocated to better serve the community. Mr. Beal mentioned that the flags were being flown at half-staff in light of the situation that had occurred at the Nation's capital the previous week. He was discouraged that more entities were not following the same protocol. Mr. Beal announced his intent to apply for the Chief of Police position. He ended by stating that Fairbanks is a neat and dynamic community and repeated his request that the City keep in mind all factions and opportunities to help everyone with the next round of Federal funding.

Mayor Matherly called for additional in-person public comment and, hearing none, declared in-person Citizens' Comments closed. Citizens comments over Zoom were heard next.

Kim Lee, Fairbanks – Ms. Lee thanked the Council for allowing her to speak. She expressed her concern regarding how the COVID-19 situation has been handled. She stated that as a mother of small children, she has been frustrated that all normal indoor activities for children have been closed and unavailable. She continued by stating that the children are suffering due to the lack of socialization. Ms. Lee requested that any future guidelines or mandates be more specific and related to personal accountability. She gave examples of how she has avoided people in at-risk groups and how the safety needs of her family are vastly different than those of the at-risk population. Ms. Lee went on to say that the blanket statement has not been very effectual and expressed her frustration with the library being closed during the entire pandemic. She acknowledged that the library operations were not part of the City Council's umbrella of responsibility but asked that they use their voice to affect change and provide suggestions to the Borough Mayor and the Governor on how to move forward with specific, nuanced guidance in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Lee gave examples of her family in Japan and the response that Japan has taken towards the pandemic such as a 95% mask wearing rate with less widespread infection of COVID-19. She stated that the current blanket statement is based on individualist ideas and should have a more societal focus. Ms. Lee stated that it has been a year of mandates and closures, and people are tired of being told they cannot go places or do things, especially when the situation does not necessarily apply to them.

Mayor Matherly asked Ms. Lee if she had spoken with the Borough and clarified that there are currently no mandates of any kind within the Borough or the City of Fairbanks. He went on to state that individual business may have their own rules, and neither he nor the Borough Mayor are comfortable telling business owners how to operate. **Mayor Matherly** stated that he does encourage social distancing and mask wearing but that is the extent of his guidance. He went on to state he would call Ms. Lee the next day to hopefully provide more information. Ms. Lee stated that she has spoken to Assembly members and Legislative members at the State and Federal level but has received very little cooperation. She stated she was aware of the lack of mandates in place, but again expressed her concern that places of public assembly are closed. She addressed the specific problems these closures create with people like her who have small children. Ms. Lee stated that she asked the library director about the plan moving forward but has received no real answer.

Mr. Clark thanked Ms. Lee for calling and acknowledged her representation of many families in Fairbanks. He asked if she had been following the Children’s Museum updates and their reopening. Ms. Lee stated that she does not follow social media, but she has called the museum in the past.

There being no more public comment, **Mayor Matherly** declared Citizens’ Comments closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

City Clerk Danyielle Snider read the Consent Agenda into the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2020

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

SPECIAL ORDERS

a) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Applications for Renewal:

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
4076	Brown Jug – Fairbanks	Package Store	Liquor Stores USA North, Inc.	559 Harold Bentley Avenue
5736	SOBA, LLC	Restaurant/ Eating Place	SOBA, LLC	535 2nd Avenue, Suite 106

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Applications for Renewal.

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

Mayor Matherly called on Acting Police Chief Rick Sweet to speak on both applications for renewal. AC Sweet stated that most calls received for the Brown Jug were burglary alarm calls; however, most of them were not burglaries in progress. He continued by stating that the owners had not provided a person of contact, as required, to eliminate the need for an officer to respond.

He added that since that time, an updated list has been provided by the management. AC Sweet clarified that, aside from the burglary calls, there had been three thefts from the store. He stated that the store compliance with checking identification is very strict, and when individuals had provided identification that stated they were unable to purchase alcohol, the business has been very quick to report it. AC Sweet said that the Brown Jug was likely the most compliant with the reporting process and that he had no issues with the approval of their renewal.

AC Sweet went on to discuss the application for renewal provided by SOBA, LLC. He stated that most of the calls are trespass/unwanted calls as well as one theft. He clarified that this is for the entire co-op area, and there were only two calls made directly from SOBA. AC Sweet went on to say that these were calls made on behalf of individuals in the co-op that needed assistance and that he did not have any concerns regarding their application.

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

YEAS: Marney, Clark, Rogers, Kun, Gibson, Therrien
NAYS: None
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly wished everyone a Happy New Year. He spoke to Ms. Lee's comments and added that he believes many people are feeling her frustration. He stated that he takes her situation very seriously. **Mayor Matherly** indicated that he will be calling her the next day and stated that he has spent a great deal of time talking to the public and other elected officials. He pointed out that the City has no jurisdiction over the Borough or the State, although he has expressed his opinion to the Governor on multiple occasions. He added that he has been in communication with the Governor's office as it pertains to reopening plans and rolling out of the vaccine. He went on to thank Fire Chief Tod Chambers for staying on top of the vaccine situation and keeping everyone updated. **Mayor Matherly** shared that he had a great meeting with the former director of the Rescue Mission, Rodney Gaskins, who brought forth some ideas for diversity and inclusion training opportunities for the City. He indicated that this training will be made available to City employees and Council members. **Mayor Matherly** shared that the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) meeting would be held the following evening and that Mr. Gaskins may be present, as well as City Attorney Paul Ewers to talk about the Open Meetings Act (OMA). He added that the Police Chief hiring process will also be an item of discussion and reminded the Council that the position is currently open to external candidates. **Mayor Matherly** thanked the Council for their hard work and ability to work cooperatively as a body and with the public. He added that the time spent responding to the many calls, complaints, or comments from the citizens is consuming, but very needed work. He went on to recognize Ms. Kun's efforts to remember those who may be suffering from depression or have thoughts of suicide. He encouraged everyone to watch out for warning signs and added that the seclusion caused by COVID has taken its toll on a lot of people. He encouraged everyone to reach out to their friends and loved ones. **Mayor Matherly** asked that everyone continue to wear masks and practice social distancing when they are out and about and expressed his gratitude for all the masks he has seen in use. He ended by welcoming Rochelle Rodak as the newest member of the Clerk's Office.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Rogers thanked the Mayor for his response to Ms. Lee and his promise to call her the next day. She seconded Mayor Matherly on his belief that it is important for everyone to work together, not only the City staff and Council members, but also with those who bring their thoughts and ideas to the City. **Ms. Rogers** thanked the Mayor for his mask reminder and the importance of mentioning the positivity around working together to protect each other. She recognized Mr. Marney and his newly acquired position as Chair of the Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee and thanked the Council for their support of the Committee. She stated that the fund has been helping organizations in Fairbanks for many years now. **Ms. Rogers** recognized Mr. Gaskins for his years of hard work and dependability.

Ms. Kun thanked Mr. Beal and Ms. Lee for their comments and insight into the CARES Act funding and for sharing about their personal hardships during this pandemic.

Ms. Therrien stated that she will mention Ms. Lee's concerns to the Borough and ask for comment when she meets with the Assembly on Thursday.

Mr. Clark thanked Ms. Therrien for her offer and seconded Ms. Kun's comments.

Mr. Marney thanked Ms. Rogers for her vote of confidence and stated that he has big shoes to fill following her leadership with the Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee. He also extended his welcome to Ms. Rodak. **Mr. Marney** went on to suggest that Ms. Lee look into local churches for possible alternative activities for her children.

Mr. Gibson stated that he has twin four-year old children and could appreciate the situation that Ms. Lee and her family are in. He continued by saying that the Children's Museum did open on January 5th by appointment only. He shared that the museum had added some really great exhibits and encouraged Ms. Lee to look into it for her children.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) 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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6146.

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

Mayor Matherly stated that the process for negotiations for the IBEW contract opened in February of 2020. He proceeded to go through the step-by-step process for all labor negotiations as outlined in the City Code. He stated that there had been thirteen formal negotiation meetings, as well as six Executive Sessions with the Council. He stated that the Executive Sessions served as an opportunity for the Council to be updated on negotiations and to give direction on how the

negotiating team should proceed. **Mayor Matherly** shared his pride in the Executive Session presentations, mentioning the PowerPoint presentations that had been prepared for the Council to keep them up to date on the negotiation progress. He quoted FGC Sec. 42-2(b)(5) which states, "The mayor may not offer or tentatively agree to any economic proposal that substantially deviates from the monetary limits provided by the council without seeking further guidance from the council." He went on to state that the contract did not substantially deviate from the guidance provided by the Council. **Mayor Matherly** stated that per code requirements, Council members were also provided with a PowerPoint and a hardcopy version of all proposed changes along with a fiscal note prepared by the City Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He continued by saying that all Code requirements had been met, and the contents of the proposed contract met the intent of the Council as well as the fiscal requirements given by the Council. He added that time had been provided to the Council to ask questions and that he had encouraged the Council to do so. **Mayor Matherly** pointed out that, aside from Executive Sessions and public meetings, the negotiating team had not received any outside questions or feedback from the Council. He added that it was important to note that non-voting members of the Finance Committee may not have been given all of the details of the negotiations, nor would it have been appropriate for them to have access to the Executive Session content. He went on to say that two of the non-voting members have provided comment that the fiscal note provided by the CFO was inaccurate. **Mayor Matherly** made it clear that he would defend the integrity of his staff and that he had full confidence in the fiscal note created and provided by the City's CFO. He made clear his disappointment in comments made without full knowledge of the process and how those comments could damage the credibility of the CFO and the City. He added that a more appropriate response to concerns about the fiscal note would be to inquire as to the process of how the fiscal note was prepared. **Mayor Matherly** stated that the three priorities of negotiations were taxpayer money, the strategic goals of the City, and the wellbeing and retention of employees. He went on to state that the responsibility of the negotiating team was to present the tentatively agreed contract lest they be viewed in bad faith, resulting in mediation or litigation. He reminded the Council of a time several years ago when the contract was being negotiated and the Council Chambers was full of employees and their family members wanting to speak to the Council. **Mayor Matherly** stated his concern that after a year of negotiations, the Council may not back up the tentatively agreed contract that had been based on regular direction by the Council every step of the way. He expressed his fear that negative action by the Council would damage the credibility of the negotiating team severely enough that he would have no choice but to appoint a new one. **Mayor Matherly** stated that the tentatively agreed upon contracts were originally given to the Council on December 14, 2020 so that the Council would have a full four weeks to review, approximately twice the amount of time that normally occurs in the same process. He clarified that these negotiations have been lengthy and was saddened by the newspaper article that insinuated it had been a rushed process. He asked for Chief of Staff Mike Meeks to provide his staff report.

Mr. Meeks shared his pleasure at coming to a tentative agreement with both labor contracts by the end of the year, as was the goal of the Council. He shared the fiscal highlights of the three-year IBEW contract: a 1.5% increase (CPI) over three years with a portion directed towards healthcare; modified per diem rates to apply to all travel; added a leave cap; and added a one-time bonus not to exceed \$1,500.00 funded by salary savings. Mr. Meeks addressed the specific concerns raised at the last Finance Committee meeting relating to the bonus. He reminded the Council that it was with its direction during Executive Session that this item was added to the contract and that the letter from the two Finance Committee Members stating that it would be

difficult to determine the bonuses is not true. He stated that he and the negotiating team had met with the CFO and the Union to make sure the intent and process were clear and would not cause problems and confusion in the future. He added that there are two vacant positions currently within the IBEW. He said that the letter also addressed the exempt staff, stating their salaries typically mirror that of the bargained employees. Mr. Meeks clarified that this negotiation process was very careful in making sure the exempt staff did not get included in the rank and file of the IBEW employees. Mr. Meeks reminded the Council of their independent decision for exempt staff based on information provided by the CFO, of which Mr. Meeks and other exempt staff were not privy to the conversation. He made it clear that the language within the tentatively agreed contract did not include exempt staff.

Mr. Gibson stated that he had some concerns about part of the contract, particularly with the bonuses. He stated his issue was not around the methodology of the bonus but in the way it could be manipulated by future administrations. He added that he has heard comments from citizens stating that the private industry does not hand out bonuses of this type and asking why the government should. He ended by saying that he believed this to be a bigger issue going forward.

Mr. Marney expressed his support of the contract aside from the bonuses. He shared that he had been volunteering weekly to hand out food boxes across the street. He added that Fairbanks is hurting and people are living in cars and maxing out credit cards to buy groceries. He shared that one citizen told him that his truck had been impounded, and in order to afford the impound fees, he could not afford to buy food for the week. He ended by expressing his support for the raise but said he would not be in support of the bonuses.

Mayor Matherly shared his frustration that the concerns mentioned had not been provided to the negotiating team prior to this meeting. He added that at this point the contract will be voted on in its entirety, and he encouraged the Council to reach out with their concerns prior to voting in the future. **Mayor Matherly** reminded the Council that the bonuses are in the contract because the IBEW is behind the other unions, and the bonuses were a more cost-effective way to catch them up.

Mr. Clark recognized the Mayor's frustrations but asked that the new members be given some leeway to see things in hindsight. He indicated that some of the items are not exactly what they believed them to be in initial discussions. He ended by saying that he has concerns.

Ms. Therrien stated that the Council has spent a lot of time on the contract, and while the new Council members had not been present for all of the Executive Sessions, the Council did give direction to the administration and the negotiating team. She stated that in the past there have been a lot of problems with union contracts; however, the only issue at hand with the current contract is with the bonuses, which are completely dependent on money being leftover at the end of the year. She stated that was added at the direction of the Council. She ended by stating that it was important for the employees to feel supported by the Council and that she would be supporting this contract.

Ms. Kun stated that the bonus is clearly laid out in Section E stating it is only good for the current three-year contract and is not intended to become a past practice for future contracts. She added that the contract is very clear and transparent in regard to when the bonus will be issued and how it will be funded. She emphasized that the bonuses can only be issued based on salary

savings from IBEW vacant positions. **Ms. Kun** shared her experience when she first joined the Council, when they were in the middle of terrible negotiations with the IBEW. She encouraged the new Council members to trust their fellow members as she did when she started and to ask a lot of questions of the CFO and Chief of Staff. She went on to say that there has been ample time for Council members to have these conversations, and it would be unfair to the employees to continue to drag the negotiations out. **Ms. Kun** stated that she would be supporting the contract. While acknowledging the other members' concerns, she asked them to have faith in what has been written into the contract.

Mr. Meeks reminded the Council of where the idea of bonuses came from. He stated the original presentation included a spreadsheet that showed the IBEW behind the curve of the other unions over a 10-year time period. He added that even with the 1.5% increase the IBEW would still be significantly behind the other contracts. He stated that the Council discussed giving a higher percentage increase, but it was determined that a bonus was more cost-effective, and it would only occur if there were salary savings available to do so. He stated that savings, including salary savings, are typically reserved to put towards Capital, and the Mayor views employees as Capital.

Mr. Clark recognized the process in which the bonus discussion started but felt that the COVID-19 pandemic changed the situation. He stated that given the circumstances of the year it does not make sense.

Ms. Therrien stated that when she joined the City Council, she did not understand why bonuses would be issued in lieu of a salary increase; however, she soon understood that salary increases compound over the years while a bonus does not. She added that the Council has given bonuses to various bargaining units in the past with the intent to encourage people to stay with the City.

Mr. Meeks shared the various groups that had received bonuses in the past. He added that bonuses tend to treat everyone equally more than a percentage raise based on existing salary.

Mr. Gibson asked about the protocol for moving funds from salaries to training.

Ms. Bell explained that if the funds were being moved within the same department, it would only require the Mayor's approval. She stated that if funds were being moved from a department account into salaries, it would need Council approval.

Mr. Gibson pointed out that when one department has a vacancy, their salary savings would be divided up among all IBEW employees per the bonus, even if some of those employees did not experience the extra work associated with being short-staffed.

Mr. Meeks stated that past practice has shown cooperation between departments in helping those who may be short-staffed or experiencing an extra heavy workload.

Mr. Marney made clear that he supports the City staff and the IBEW; however, given the current financial climate, he did not feel it would be appropriate to issue bonuses while the taxpayers and small businesses were suffering.

Mayor Matherly stated that he understood Mr. Marney's perspective; however, the contract that was negotiated included the Council's guidance throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the bonus was intended to save the City money over the long run.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to SUBSTITUTE the attachment to Ordinance No. 6146 with the cleaned-up version of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO 6146 AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION FAILED.

- b) 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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Rogers, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6147.

Mayor Matherly stated that the contract before the Council began its negotiations on January 7, 2020 with the decision to split the PSEA contract into two contracts. He added that the PSEA negotiations included six formal meetings, multiple informal meetings, and six Executive Sessions where the Council had been updated and provided direction on how the negotiating team should proceed. **Mayor Matherly** asked the Council to postpone the contract indefinitely so that the newly discovered issues could be rectified. He stated that if the Council postponed, the contract would be brought back to the Council in February. He asked Mr. Meeks to provide a report.

Mr. Meeks reiterated that the contract was completely new and that the items within were a new concept for the City, particularly how the command structure would be treated under an exempt status. He stated, however, that the wording in the contract was not made as clear as it should be, leaving room for interpretation as non-exempt positions. Mr. Meeks stated that he has been working with HR to ensure that the job descriptions are clear in the intent of the exempt status. He reminded the Council that the 105% leave cash out had been removed, but it had only been removed in one portion of the contract and remained in another section. He added that it was the police officers on the team that located the mistake and brought it to his attention. Mr. Meeks stated that their good faith actions goes to show the strong relationship the administration has with the bargaining units. He added that there were more mistakes being found, and it would be best to regroup and work out the language.

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

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to POSTPONE INDEFINITELY Ordinance No. 6147.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY ORDINANCE NO 6147 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4947 – A Resolution Allocating Discretionary Funds from Hotel/Motel Tax in the Amount of Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$270,000). Introduced by Council Member Rogers.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Resolution No. 4948 – A Resolution to Amend the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services by Adding a Charge for a Cooling Water Discharge Permit Fee and Clarifying the Annual Maintenance Fee. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Committee Reports

Ms. Kun did not have anything to report.

Ms. Therrien shared that the Legislative Committee had rescheduled their meeting to ensure all could attend, and the new time was set for January 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. She added that she had been appointed to the Legislative Committee for the Alaska Municipal League (AML) as well. **Ms. Therrien** mentioned the pre-filed legislation that had been sent out by the City Clerk and noted that out of the 100 bills filed, 38 were important to the AML, including one related to public safety and police reform education and revenue measures. She added that the other bills were related to local control issues or proposed additional costs to municipalities. She stated that the AML Legislative Committee would be meeting the next day and again on Thursday at 1:00 pm on fiscal property. She stated they will also meet on Friday at 1:00 pm to determine calls for action and legislative priorities. **Ms. Therrien** encouraged the Council, particularly the new members, to listen in if they were able. She added that the Council would be having a Work Session with the Permanent Fund Review Board before the next regular Council meeting and invited Council members to join the board meeting that afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Mr. Clark did not have anything to report but expressed interest in attending the Permanent Fund meeting.

Mr. Marney shared that he would be attending his first Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee meeting as Chair. He added that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of the grant application process and what the future might bring.

Mr. Gibson stated that he did not have any committee reports but asked if the Permanent Fund Meeting was a public meeting and if all Council members could attend. City Clerk Snider affirmed that it was a public meeting.

Ms. Rogers stated that there would be a Fairbanks Diversity Council meeting the next day.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Memorandum Regarding Date of Hearing, Abatement at 33 Timberland Drive

City Clerk Snider stated that the Abatement Code requires that the City Clerk present to the Council the charges for the abatement for the purpose of setting a hearing date. She recommended that the Council set the hearing for February to give ample time for notice to the owner, who does not live in the United States.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to hold the abatement hearing during the Regular City Council Meeting on February 22, 2021.

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

- b) Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- f) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- g) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

h) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

i) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2020

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

j) Appointment to the Building Code and Landscape Review and Appeals Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

k) Reappointment to the Building Code and Landscape Review and Appeals Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Rogers stated that the meeting's discussion had been very lengthy and interesting and that it may be necessary to have more elaboration on some topics so that there is a better understanding among the Council. She stated that she was unsure on the best way to communicate in order for the entire Council to feel comfortable with the process, and she mentioned that doing homework on discussion items is a very important part of the process. She shared that she had observed City staff supporting each other as Mr. Meeks had mentioned, such as donating leave time so that employees who face illness did not have the stress of a missed paycheck. She added that this act is something she had not noticed in any other organization and that it bears recognition.

Mr. Gibson stated that his decision to not support the IBEW contract was not the same as not supporting the employees. He stated he believed his concerns were legitimate and that he looked forward to working with the negotiating team to come up with something better for the employees.

Mr. Marney shared Mr. Gibson's thoughts and hoped that the City would be able to find a better way to make everyone happy.

Mr. Clark did not have any comments.

Ms. Therrien shared her disappointment with the failure of the IBEW Collective Bargaining Agreement. She stated that the staff had presented all the information during Executive Sessions and the negotiating team followed the instruction of the Council, and still the Council did not approve the ordinance. She reiterated her disappointment and expressed hope that moving forward, Council members would mention their concerns during the Executive Sessions and give clear direction to the administration. She stated she felt that the concerns regarding the bonuses should have been discussed during the Executive Sessions, and she expected that IBEW employees would be very disappointed that the contract had not passed.

Ms. Kun gave a land acknowledgement. She spoke about Brian Sicknick, a New Jersey National Guardsman who died performing law enforcement duties at the Capitol, along with Howard

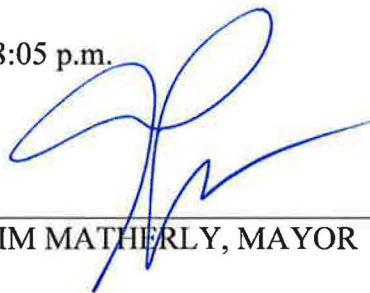
Liebengood, another Capitol police officer who was killed during the incident. She stated that she believed the community of Fairbanks to not be so divided and that those types of acts would not happen in the Fairbanks community; however, after witnessing the events of last Tuesday the wool had been pulled from her eyes. She requested that everyone try to get along a little better so that those types of things do not happen locally. **Ms. Kun** mentioned Mr. Gaskins and the NCBI training that the Mayor had mentioned earlier. She stated that she had participated in the training before, and she respected the approach of getting to know one another and realizing that underneath it all, everyone is very similar. She added that breaking down communication barriers that make people different is what is needed to help everyone get along more amicably. She reminded the Council that using kind words, being inclusive, and treating everyone equally is important. **Ms. Kun** expressed her thanks to the Dispatchers for all they do. She stated that the first responders deserve accolades for all the difficulties they face and the important role they play in the community. She concluded by providing the text and toll-free number for those who are suffering with thoughts of suicide: 741-741 and (800) 273-8255.

ADJOURNMENT

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


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

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR