



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 8, 2021  
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 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 (remotely)  
   Paul Ewers, City Attorney  
   D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
   Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff  
   Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager  
   Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
   Tod Chambers, Fire Chief  
   Ron Dupee, Acting Police Chief  
   Richard Sweet, Acting Deputy Police Chief  
   Scott Adams, FPD  
   Shasta Pomeroy, FPD

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

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

**FLAG SALUTATION**

**Mayor Matherly** asked Ms. Kun to lead the Flag Salutation.

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

**Mayor Matherly** recognized Shasta Pomeroy for her promotion from Evidence Technician to Crime Scene Investigator (CSI); he stated that it is the first time there has been a CSI position at the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). Acting Chief Dupee provided experience, education, and background information on CSI Pomeroy, adding that she had been serving with the FPD since 2016. Acting Deputy Chief Sweet pinned CSI Pomeroy's badge on her.

**Mayor Matherly** recognized Scott Adams for his promotion from Lieutenant to Captain. AC Dupee expressed his excitement for the new position and what it means to the department; he went on to outline Cpt. Adams' professional experience and education. He noted that Cpt. Adams has served for 24 years with the FPD and listed his areas of service. He emphasized the importance that Cpt. Adams has placed on his family and spoke to Cpt. Adams' appreciation of his wife's support. ADC Sweet and Ms. Adams pinned the Captain pins on Cpt. Adams.

**Mayor Matherly** recognized Doug Welborn for his promotion to Corporal. AC Dupee shared about the duties that Cpl. Welborn has been performing and how he will be better able to serve the FPD in his new position. He went on to share that Cpl. Welborn and his wife have resided in the Fairbanks area since the mid-1990s and have five children. AC Dupee provided insight into Cpl. Welborn's experience and education, stating that he had been serving the FPD in multiple capacities since 2003. ADC Sweet and Ms. Welborn pinned the Corporal pins on Cpl. Welborn.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Jeff Hurben, Fairbanks – Mr. Hurben stated that he has been a resident and business owner in Fairbanks since 1987, and that he had been asked by Mayor Matherly to serve on the hiring committee for the Police Chief. He went on to share that the panel had interviewed 10 applicants over two days and had advanced five candidates to the public forum. Mr. Hurben shared that the hiring committee had been comprised of a very diverse group of people who worked very hard to be thorough during the interviews, the review of the written essays, and the review of the answers given during the public forum. He added that it was a nearly unanimous decision to recommend the final two candidates, the then-Acting Chief Rick Sweet and the then-Acting Deputy Chief Ron Dupee. Mr. Hurben stated that he felt he could have a truly unbiased opinion as he did not know any of the candidates personally. He added that anyone who has spent as much time in the department and has such an outstanding reputation within the community as AC Dupee is a good representative for a Police Chief. He stated that the community needs someone who knows not only what is going on in the FPD but in the community as well. Mr. Hurben noted that the last couple of Police Chiefs hired had been from outside the Fairbanks community, and it had not turned out very well. He concluded by giving his 100% support of Mayor Matherly's decision to appoint AC Dupee to Police Chief.

City Clerk Danyielle Snider stated that there were no more comments to be heard in person or over Zoom and proceeded to read the following written comment into record:

Steve Dutra, North Pole Police Department – Chief Dutra stated that he had listened to the previous City Council meeting and wanted to add his thoughts regarding the appointment of AC Dupee to the position of Police Chief. He added that he had worked with AC Dupee for over 20 years and had been his TAC officer at the academy in the early 2000s. Chief Dutra went on to state that AC Dupee's dedication and commitment to the citizens of Fairbanks is undisputed, listing the experience AC Dupee had within the FPD and his educational achievements. He clarified that passion, hard work, vision, and teamwork makes a good Police Chief – not degrees. He stated that AC Dupee possesses all those traits as well as a strong belief in the people who work with him. Chief Dutra went on to state that the process being torn apart has been far from subjective, adding that to most it has appeared as diverse, inclusive, and thorough as anyone could want. He spoke to the good reputations of the two subject matter experts and added that the Council should be thankful they were able to provide the insight used to help the City make the

right decision. He concluded by encouraging the Council to support the Mayor's appointment of AC Dupee to Police Chief for the City of Fairbanks.

Hearing no more requests for public comment, **Mayor Matherly** declared Public Testimony closed.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**Mr. Gibson** pulled Ordinance No. 6149 from the Consent Agenda.

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

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

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2021.

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
4465	Roundup Steak House	Beverage Dispensary	The Last Roundup, LLC	2701 S. Cushman Street
145	Boatel Bar	Beverage Dispensary	ABIE Neubauer, Inc.	3368 Riverside Drive

**Ms. Kun**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Applications for Renewal.

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

AC Dupee stated that, based on the call records, he had no concerns about renewing the licenses.

**Ms. Rogers** stated that she had no comments regarding the renewals but thanked the FPD for taking time to provide input.

**Ms. Kun** asked for more information regarding the "shots fired" call at the Boatel Bar. AC Dupee stated that there had been an altercation between two individuals on the back deck of the bar, then the two individuals left the bar. He stated that a few moments later shots were fired;

however, no one witnessed the person firing the weapon or where the shots came from. He added that no one had been hurt, and the patrons of the bar seemed confused as to why FPD responded.

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

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Marijuana License Application for Transfer of Ownership:

Type/License: Retail Marijuana Store/License #17250

DBA: Pipe and Leaf: Premium Alaskan Cannabis

Applicant: Pipe and Leaf, LLC

3546 Airport Way, Fairbanks

From Owner: Haley Essig

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Marijuana License Application for Transfer of Ownership.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

- a) Special Reports

Charity Gadapee, Director of Visitor Services at Explore Fairbanks – Ms. Gadapee stated that the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center (MTCVC) closed on March 22, 2020 due to the pandemic, and staff telecommuted until May 4, 2020. She added that the MTCVC reopened to the public on June 15, 2020 with shortened hours after receiving and following guidelines to do so safely. She shared that Explore Fairbanks also maintained a presence at the visitor's kiosk at Pioneer Park with shortened hours. She stated the MTCVC will be open 7 days per week starting in May of 2021. She added that nearly 36,000 visitors came through the MTCVC in 2020, which was down drastically from the previous year where they welcomed 163,000 visitors. She stated that currently the MTCVC is seeing about 1,500 visitors per month, with Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays being the busiest. Ms. Gadapee went on to share information on the newly developed Fort Wainwright Newcomers City Tour, a project shared by Explore Fairbanks, the Greater

Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Wainwright. She added that the tours happen on Fridays, and since July they have welcomed 690 soldiers through the program. She stated that in November the supporting organizations were presented with appreciation certificates for helping improve the lives of the transferring soldiers and their families. She concluded by thanking the Council for reinvesting in destination marketing.

**Mayor Matherly** thanked Ms. Kun and Ms. Therrien for sponsoring Resolution No. 4959 to recognize International Women's Day. He added that the City website currently features women who work at the City, including five from the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) and four at FPD. He went on to add that there are many positions historically filled by men that are now held by women, and he shared that women who work in traditionally male roles will be highlighted the following evening at the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) meeting. **Mayor Matherly** thanked all the women who work for the City and recognized the women on the City Council as well. He spoke to the COVID-19 situation, thanking citizens and business owners for wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. He added that the current nationwide vaccination rate is at 9%, but it is still important to follow distancing guidelines and wear masks in public. He encouraged everyone to sign up for vaccinations when they can. **Mayor Matherly** thanked everyone for their efforts in making the best of things during the pandemic and for working together to keep everyone safe. He thanked the Council and the City staff for working to make sure the public is informed and able to participate. He shared that he had been asked to participate in the St. Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser with Mayor Ward, and they will shave their heads to support the fight against childhood cancer. **Mayor Matherly** concluded by reminding the Council of the communication sent to them regarding the appointment of Ron Dupee to Police Chief; he expressed hope that the Council would vote to confirm the appointment.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Ms. Rogers** recognized the FPD staff that had been honored earlier in the evening. She added that she has been filling in at the MTCVC for the Mayor when he is unable to attend the Newcomer's Tour and stated that it has been a wonderful program to welcome military families.

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

**Mr. Marney** shared his pleasure in having locals born and raised in the community serving the City.

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

**Ms. Therrien** passed her congratulations on to the promoted officers; she stated she enjoyed seeing the families and their joy in participating and that it is an important part of the meetings.

**Ms. Kun** stated she had no comments.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) The Fairbanks City Council considered following application for a New Marijuana Retail Store License. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2021; a public hearing was held at that time.

Type: Marijuana Retail Store, #26251  
DBA: GoodSinse, LLC  
Applicant: GoodSinse, LLC  
Address: 29 College Road, Suite 8C, Fairbanks, Alaska

City Clerk Snider provided an update to the Council, stating that the last time the item was before the Council the Borough zoning permit was pending. She stated that the permit had since been approved and was provided with the agenda packet.

**Ms. Kun**, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Application for a New Marijuana Retail Store License.

**Ms. Rogers** mentioned the potential issue with the signature on the application not matching the applicant; she stated one says Dan and the other Danielle. The City Attorney was asked to opine on the matter.

Dan Peters, Fairbanks – Mr. Peters stated that they are excited to open the new store, and they hope it is as successful as the first one. He added that he would investigate the paperwork issue raised by Ms. Rogers as he was not aware that there were any inaccuracies.

City Attorney Paul Ewers stated that the application in question is an Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) form and, being that AMCO has approved the application, that issue would not fall under the City's responsibility.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE APPLICATION FOR A NEW MARIJUANA RETAIL STORE LICENSE AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

b) Appointment of Chief of Police – POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2021.

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to CONFIRM the appointment of Police Chief.

**Mr. Marney** stated he had reviewed AC Dupee's packet multiple times that day. He added that he believed AC Dupee to be a good candidate and that he appears to fit in well with his staff. He expressed his belief that AC Dupee will be a great Police Chief.

**Mr. Clark** stated that he believes AC Dupee to be an outstanding person, and he has heard a lot of great things about him through mutual friends. He added that he regrets voting in favor of postponement of the appointment at the last meeting. He stated that his hesitation had been based on the negotiations with the FPD and the idea that the vacant positions would not be able to be filled, giving room to pay for the Corporal and Captain positions from salary savings. He asked AC Dupee if he was aware that the Council was told that those officer positions would not be filled. AC Dupee stated that he does not believe it is possible to fill all the vacancies within the

department in the current year as there is always turnover within the department. **Mr. Clark** asked AC Dupee to explain his perspective in working for the City versus working for the FPD. AC Dupee stated that working with the Union is taking care of the employees just as working as Chief of Police is taking care of the employees and that it is just a different perspective. He added that when he had served as the Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) President his role was to look out for the best interests of the officers and union members by representing them in negotiations. He stated that his role as Chief of Police would be on the other side of the table, but he is prepared to fight just as hard for the City as he did as a union president.

**Ms. Kun** stated that through a Google search she found that AC Dupee had been involved in two incidents of use of deadly force – one in 2017 and another in 2019. She asked AC Dupee how he will handle the use of deadly force and eliminate it from the FPD. AC Dupee stated that in both of those incidents it was not his desire to use deadly force; he stated that he thinks about those people and those actions daily, and it is something he will have to deal with for the rest of his life. He stated that total elimination of deadly force is not likely, but it can be mitigated by increased training and officer support.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the purchasing power of the FPD, given inflation, is essentially the same as it was 20 years ago. He asked AC Dupee if he realistically thought the City could afford the new Corporal and Captain positions while being fully staffed. AC Dupee stated that he served as the PSEA President for 8 years and negotiated several contracts during that time. He indicated that he is very aware of the City's financial position. He added that plans to work within the budget to keep the added positions through some restructuring, but he wants to make sure that things work out the way they should before bringing that forward in a more permanent capacity.

**Ms. Therrien** asked AC Dupee if there was a reason he did not finish his degree. AC Dupee shared that he had started working on his degree in 2016, the same year that Sgt. Allen Brandt had been killed. He explained that he had been promoted shortly after that incident and worked over 600 hours of overtime that year. He stated that he had to decide between continuing his education and spending time with his family, and, given the long hours he was working, he chose to spend what little free time he had with his family. **Ms. Therrien** asked AC Dupee how he planned to fill the positions that have been vacant for the past 5-10 years. AC Dupee stated that the current plan is working well, recruitment is top-notch, and FPD is streamlining its hiring process. He added that the department is looking at outsourcing background investigations to free up the detectives' time so they can better serve the City. He stated that the biggest obstacle is the ability to train new officers, and currently the City is limited to field training about four at a time. **Ms. Therrien** asked if AC Dupee had any comments in regard to the sensing session report. AC Dupee stated that since the sensing session, the department came up with a plan and has been working through it. He added that currently they have addressed nearly all of the issues that were brought to light from the session.

**Ms. Rogers** stated that throughout this very controversial process AC Dupee has held himself in very good stature. She expressed appreciation for his willingness to be available to speak to issues as they arose and his eagerness to do the best job he can. She concluded by thanking him for the way he has conducted himself; she stated has brought her a lot of hope and expectations.

**Mr. Clark** stated the Council recognizes that training is an issue for the FPD and asked if AC Dupee planned to use salary savings for at least part of that cost. AC Dupee stated that he did.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE CHIEF AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 4957 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept the FFY2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4958 – A Resolution Adopting the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as the Official Mitigation Plan of the City of Fairbanks, Pending FEMA Approval. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 4959 – A Resolution Recognizing International Women’s Day. Introduced by Council Members Kun and Therrien.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Ordinance No. 6149 – An Ordinance Amending the 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets for the First Time. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

**Ms. Rogers**, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6149.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that he had spoken to Chief of Staff Mike Meeks regarding the Capital Fund expenditure of \$1,100,000 for the police station second floor balcony enclosure. He stated he understood that the intent after discussion at the Finance Committee was to fund the project in phases, the first phase being \$250,000.

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6149 by reducing the Capital Fund expenditure for the police station remodel from \$1,100,000 to \$250,000.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6149 BY REDUCING THE CAPITAL FUND EXPENDITURE FOR THE POLICE STATION REMODEL FROM \$1,100,000 TO \$250,000 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.



A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6149, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Ms. Rogers** stated that the legislative committee has had several meetings with City Lobbyist Yuri Morgan and that there are several more scheduled. She shared that she had been attending the reentry meetings which have been very successful with lots of involvement. She added that the Polaris Work Group meeting had been cancelled and would not be rescheduled until April. She mentioned that Sean Rice had invited the Council to attend the Midnight Sun Intertribal Powwow meeting the previous weekend. She reminded everyone of the FDC meeting to be held the following evening and thanked Ms. Therrien and Ms. Kun for remembering International Women's Day and for putting forth a resolution; she stated it is an important statement to make.

**Ms. Kun** shared that she had met with the Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors where they discussed what was coming ahead, that the projection for the summer was looking positive, and that they were hopeful to see an increase in hotel/motel revenue. She thanked the City Clerk for the work her office does and thanked Dispatch for keeping the City in contact. She gave a land acknowledgment and shared the HELP line for those who may be feeling blue or who need someone to talk to: 800-273-8255.

**Ms. Therrien** shared the worry expressed at the latest Alaska Municipal League (AML) Legislative meeting she attended, adding that there was concern about the lack of state revenues and the possibility of a sales tax that may hurt some communities. She stated there had been a presentation of the Eight Stars of Gold (the eight priorities the AML would like the legislature to focus on) including revenues, a spending cap, and PFD issues. She stated that the confirmation of the Chief of Police has not been without controversy, and she believes there is some healing needed within the community. She expressed hope that Chief Dupee would work to reach out to the community and mend some of those wounds.

**Mr. Gibson** stated he did not have any committee reports; however, he shared the good news that the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) had decided to rescind their revocation of the City's permit which would have made things difficult for the Chena Riverwalk project. He thanked Mr. Meeks for his work with the ARRC, and he asked if Ms. Therrien could send the Stars of Gold presentation to the Clerk for distribution to the Council.

**Mr. Marney** asked the City Clerk to forward the FDC Zoom meeting information to the Council. He thanked the Council for coming together on the Police Chief affirmation vote, noting that it was not necessarily an easy decision. He stated it is a good step in moving forward.

**Mr. Clark** stated that the legislative committee met with Yuri Morgan, and the State Legislature has finally organized although it is uncertain how things will turn out. He added that Mr. Morgan has been a very valuable asset in arranging meetings with representatives locally since there is not an opportunity to meet them in Juneau. He congratulated Chief Dupee and stated that there is

a lot of work ahead of him. He added his hope that Chief Dupee hears the Council's concerns and creates a good environment at FPD.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL**

\*a) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2021

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

\*b) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2021

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to ENTER Executive Session to discuss Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) 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) Fairbanks Firefighter Union Labor Negotiation Strategy

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss FFU Labor Negotiation Strategy. Direction was given to the negotiating team, and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Marney**, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

**Mayor Matherly** declared the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

  
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JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR