



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JULY 26, 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 5:30 p.m. Work Session to discuss the Evolving Workforce, 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
Valerie Therrien, Seat C
Aaron Gibson, Seat D (remotely)
Lonny Marney, Seat E
Jim Clark, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
Paul Ewers, City Attorney (remotely)
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
Ron Dupee, Police Chief
Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
Tod Chambers, Fire Chief
Tish Gonzales, Deputy City Attorney
Kim Duquette, HR Administrative Assistant
Dave Naber, FFD
Tony Naber, FFD
Nick Clark, FFD

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 asked **Ms. Rogers** to lead the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Matherly introduced Benno Cleveland who presented a statue to the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) as a symbol of appreciation for their service. In addition, he gave Chief

Dupee ten prayer coins depicting St. Michael to be awarded to officers who perform above the call of duty. Chief Dupee responded by presenting four coins to Mr. Cleveland and his family.

Mayor Matherly asked Fire Chief Chambers to come forward to recognize Captain Dave Naber's retirement from the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD). He gave a brief history of Captain Naber's service to the City, starting in 1996. Chief Chambers shared kind words about Captain Naber as Tony Naber, Captain Naber's son and FFD fellow firefighter, stood with him. Chief Chambers presented Captain Naber with a City gold pan.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Victor Buberger, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger spoke about the bridges currently under construction within the City, questioning why the process is taking so much longer to complete in Fairbanks compared to Indonesia. He went on to share his appreciation for the current Police Chief and questioned the litigation costs associated with the current pending lawsuits. He ended by asking the Council to keep the public apprised of the situation.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Kun pulled Ordinance Nos. 6176, 6177, and 6178 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 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2021

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Regular Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2021

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

c) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2021

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

d) Special Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2021

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports

Charity Gadapee, Explore Fairbanks Director of Visitor Services – Ms. Gadapee gave an update on events that had been held over the summer, including an awards ceremony recognizing local citizens and businesses. She went on to share that the annual Walk for Charity was a socially distanced success with 131 participants and raised over \$5,000 to help support local non-profit organizations. She concluded by thanking the Council for their support of tourism through the reinvestment of Hotel/Motel tax revenue.

Mayor Matherly shared that he would be attending a Police memorial service at the North Pole Memorial Park at 10:00 a.m. the following morning. He went on to mention the success of the Golden Days Festival and the many organizations that participated. **Mayor Matherly** shared that there were many more events to come, including an air show at Eielson Air Force Base and the Tanana Valley State Fair. He encouraged citizens to wear masks when gathering in large groups, noting the new COVID-19 virus variant. He stated that he does not plan to put mandates in place but would be keeping a close eye on the situation. He emphasized that vaccines are readily available for those who want them and that he would be receiving an update from the State on the COVID situation the following day. **Mayor Matherly** noted that the AML Summer Meeting and the Alaska Defense Forum would take place the following week. He recognized Human Resources Director Angela Foster-Snow for her work and for her presentation during the work session. **Mayor Matherly** expressed concern for the community of Two Rivers, where an arsonist is still at large and mentioned the reward for information regarding the culprit(s).

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Gibson stated he had no comments.

Mr. Marney stated he had no comments.

Mr. Clark stated he had no comments.

Ms. Kun congratulated Captain Naber on his retirement and thanked Mr. Cleveland for his considerate gift to the FPD.

Ms. Rogers thanked everyone for their participation in the work session and ceremonial matters.

Ms. Therrien congratulated Captain Naber and offered him her best wishes. She responded to Mr. Buberger's question regarding litigation costs and asked that an Executive Session be held to discuss pending lawsuits and potential cost to the City.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6174 – An Ordinance Amending the 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Third Time. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Ordinance No. 6175 – An Ordinance Authorizing Conveyance of a Temporary Easement to the State of Alaska for the Fairbanks Cushman Street Bridge Project. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Ordinance No. 6176 – An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Sec. 2-233(a) to Allow the Mayor to Designate an Alternate Chairperson of the Fairbanks Diversity Council. Introduced by Council Member Therrien.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6176.

Ms. Kun asked for a summary of the intent of and the need for the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Matherly noted the recent difficulties in holding FDC meetings due to lack of members and mentioned that he intends to appoint Mr. Andrew Aquino as a chairperson.

Ms. Therrien clarified that the intent of the ordinance is to provide more flexibility to the Mayor, who currently serves as chairperson. She explained that the change would allow a voting member to act in that capacity.

City Attorney Ewers added that the ordinance would bring the FDC in alignment with the other City boards and commissions, stating that the FDC is currently the only committee that specifically directs the Mayor to serve as the chairperson.

Ms. Rogers offered her assistance in contacting and recruiting individuals to serve on the Committee.

Ms. Kun and **Ms. Rogers** requested to co-sponsor the ordinance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6176 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- d) Ordinance No. 6177 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Sec. 14-178(a)(11) Regarding Council Review of License Issuance, Renewal, or Transfer. Introduced by Council Member Gibson.

Mr. Clark, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6177.

Ms. Kun asked for clarification on the purpose of the ordinance; she also asked about the definition of a “boutique” hotel. **Mr. Gibson** stated that the current ordinance does not allow for smaller hotels, with less than 30 rooms, to obtain a liquor license.

Mayor Matherly asked if the term “boutique hotel” applied only to those with 30 rooms or less. **Mr. Gibson** stated that the term does not necessarily mean small hotel, but he would welcome a change of language to “30 rooms or less” in its place.

Ms. Kun asked if this was currently a problem. **Mr. Gibson** stated that it was a measure intended to prevent issues in the future and to not hinder tourism growth.

Ms. Rogers shared support to change the language to “30 rooms or less” rather than “boutique.”

City Clerk Snider offered a point of clarification by stating that, in the portion of the ordinance that would be codified, the term “boutique” is not present.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6177 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- e) Ordinance No. 6178 – An Ordinance to Amend FGC Chapter 78, Article XXII Motor Vehicle Impoundment and Forfeiture, to Remove Driving While License Suspended and No Insurance Convictions. Introduced by Council Member Gibson.

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6178.

Mayor Matherly asked Chief of Staff Mike Meeks for a staff report.

Mr. Meeks stated that all involved departments had met to discuss the ordinance and had intended to present information to the Council at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

Ms. Kun asked that there be consideration to decrease the mandatory number of impoundment days under Sec. 78-963(b).

Ms. Therrien asked that the City Attorney go through each of the changes in the ordinance when it is brought before the Finance Committee.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6178 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

b) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2021

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

c) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2021

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Clark stated he had no comments.

Ms. Kun gave a land acknowledgment and encouraged those who want to wear a mask to do so. She gave the CARE line for those who may need it, asking citizens to check on their neighbors and friends. She concluded by stating that living in such a great community is fortunate.

Ms. Rogers shared that she attended the change of command at Fort Wainwright, adding that the largest percentage of local community growth is attributed to retired military families. She noted that the Polaris Work Group would be meeting the following day, as well as the Suicide Prevention and Opioid working groups. She stated she was pleased to see the support for the reverse Golden Days Parade, adding that the parade is an important part of Fairbanks tradition.

Ms. Therrien gave an update on the Permanent Fund Review Board, stating that the Fund balance was over \$157MM as of June 30, 2021; she stated the group had a lot of discussion on diversifying investments. She added that the Board would be meeting again on August 18, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. She went on to share about her attendance at the change of command at Fort Wainwright. **Ms. Therrien** added that it was also nice to attend an outdoor concert put on by the Fairbanks Community Band, where her daughter plays the saxophone; she noted the beautiful flowers and the cleanliness of the downtown park.

Mr. Clark thanked Ms. Therrien for her report on the Permanent Fund.

Mr. Marney shared that had been the City representative at the past three Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Assembly meetings. He expressed appreciation for how the City had chosen to spend the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds by distributing a large portion back into the community. He added that the FNSB had elected to retain most of its funds, and he felt the City was doing well by its citizens to not follow suit.

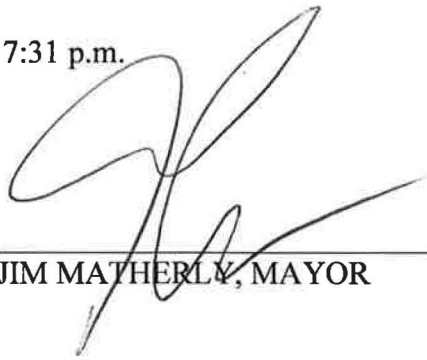
Ms. Rogers asked when the Permanent Fund Review Board would next present to the City Council. **Ms. Therrien** replied that it would likely be in October.

ADJOURNMENT

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

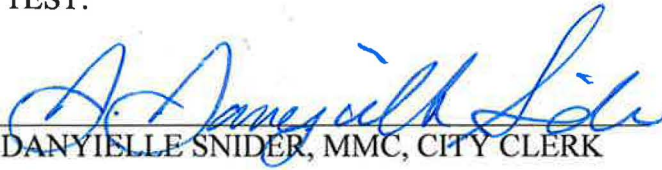
Mayor Matherly called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR