



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 25, 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  
Valerie Therrien, Seat C (remotely)  
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  
Rochelle Rodak, Deputy City Clerk  
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff  
Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)  
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director (remotely)  
Robert Pristash, City Engineer  
Ron Dupee, Police Chief  
Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief  
Tod Chambers, Fire Chief  
Bill Rogers, Engineer Assistant II  
Clem Clooten, Building Official (remotely)

Deputy City Clerk Rochelle Rodak read the Mission Statement of the City of Fairbanks.

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by Deputy Clerk Rodak.

### **FLAG SALUTATION**

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

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Kasey Gillam, 101 Dunkel Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Gillam, the Assistant Director of Communications for Explore Fairbanks, shared results from a recent advertising campaign funded by a COVID Safe Travel Promotion Grant through the State of Alaska. She stated that the three main points of the program were to promote Fairbanks and Alaska, encourage Alaskans to get out,

and to promote awareness of vaccine availability. She went on to state that the organization had produced and promoted three videos across multiple media, which resulted in over 15.5 million impressions, 9 million video views, and 15 percent of the visits to the Explore Fairbanks website.

**Mr. Clark** asked Ms. Gillam if she could provide the number of engagements resulting from the ad campaign. Ms. Gillam stated that she did not have that information on hand, but she would get those numbers for Mr. Clark.

Zachary Rittel, 4461 Chena Hot Springs Road, Fairbanks – Mr. Rittel shared that he has worked for the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) for 9 years and is currently serving in the Captain position. He thanked the Council for taking on the important task of employee retention by passing the family leave policy and considering the Employee Capital Incentive Program (ECIP).

**Mr. Clark** asked Mr. Rittel who provided the exit interviews for employees who leave the FFD. Mr. Rittel stated that exit interviews are done by the City Human Resources (HR) department.

Nick Clark, PO Box 80151, Fairbanks – Mr. Clark thanked the Council for passing the family and funeral leave policy and for their efforts to retain valuable employees. He thanked Ms. Kun for her service and for the perspective she has brought to the City Council.

**Mr. Clark** asked Mr. N. Clark to address the email communication he had provided to the Council, asked whether he was aware of any other cities that offered similar benefits, and asked what he considered to be the next step forward. Mr. N. Clark stated that had not researched other cities in regard to their family and funeral leave policies; he stated that some items need to be addressed are not necessarily City-level policies, such as the State’s retirement plan. **Mr. Clark** asked Mr. N. Clark if he could see a point where the FFD employees would be happy with their employment. Mr. N. Clark confirmed that he believes there is a place where both sides could be satisfied. He stated they have been making efforts to address the needs of the department as well.

Tony Shumate, PO Box 70123, Fairbanks – Mr. Shumate shared his happiness at being back at City Hall and recognized Ms. Kun for her service on the Council. He passed along his congratulations to Mr. Cleworth and Ms. Rogers for their elections. He shared that he was representing the Greater Fairbanks NAACP Unit #1001 and their desire to rename Twenty-Third Avenue to a combined name of Martin Luther King Avenue/Twenty-Third Avenue. He clarified that they were in the very preliminary stages and that the area around Twenty-Third Avenue is one of the most progressive and diverse communities in Fairbanks. Mr. Shumate stated that by renaming Twenty-Third Avenue, community leaders would send a message of appreciation for the inclusive and diverse community that resides in that area.

**Ms. Rogers** asked Mr. Shumate what first steps/needs he anticipates with the process. Mr. Shumate stated that the first step is gaining support from the City Council before going before the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and Planning Commission. **Ms. Rogers** asked if there had been community meetings regarding the name change. Mr. Shumate reiterated that they are in the very early stages of the project, but he anticipated many meetings of that nature in the future. **Ms. Rogers** asked that Mr. Shumate continue to update the Council as things progress.

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

Lake Williams, Fairbanks – Mr. Williams thanked Mayor Matherly and the Council for passing Ordinance No. 6181. He stated that members of the IUOE Local 302 have struggled to pay their bills when forced to take leave without pay (LWOP) to cover maternity, parental, and funeral leave. He stated that by passing Ordinance No. 6181, City employees no longer have to choose family over work, making the City a better place to work by increasing employee morale and retention. He concluded by thanking the Council for their time and service.

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

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

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

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

Deputy Clerk Rodak read the Consent Agenda into the record.

### **SPECIAL ORDERS**

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
13479	North Star Fire	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	North Star Fire, LLC	3780 Leasure Street
15800	Baked Alaska, LLC	Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility	Baked Alaska, LLC	3745 Hanson Road, Unit B

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

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

Deputy Clerk Rodak provided an update on the violation noted by the State of Alaska in regard to the North Star Fire renewal application. She stated that the Alaska Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) could not confirm whether the tax payment had been received at the time the memo was written to the Council.

**Mayor Matherly** asked for advice from the City Attorney.

City Attorney Ewers stated that the City can approve the license, and if the State determines the applicant is ineligible for renewal, they can take action.

**Mr. Gibson** asked for clarification regarding the address listed for Baked Alaska, noting that the public safety report listed a different address. Deputy Clerk Rodak confirmed that there was a clerical error on the agenda only and that the public safety report was correct.

**Ms. Rogers** asked what process the Council could use to review issues such as unpaid sales taxes.

Deputy Clerk Rodak confirmed that the outstanding taxes were due to the State and that the City Finance Department would have had the opportunity to protest had retail sales taxes been in arrears.

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

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

**Mayor Matherly** stated that one of the greatest challenges is to participate in local government. He went on to state that some individuals work hard to learn the issues, raise support, and run for local office. He expressed his appreciation for the efforts Ms. Kun has put forth in her term as a Council Member and her desire to continue serving. **Mayor Matherly** shared that Halloween is approaching and added that the FPD would be distributing glow sticks while encouraging everyone to remain safe. He went on to share that University Avenue opened on Sunday, and he attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony. He shared some of his family's connection to the new and old structures. He added that Wendell Street Bridge would be open soon and thanked the public for their patience. **Mayor Matherly** added some perspective to the reason why Mr. Shumate has recommended a combined name for Twenty-Third Avenue. He noted that Mr. Cleworth would be rejoining the Council later in the meeting and thanked those who attended the last couple meetings to show their support for the family and funeral leave and ECIP ordinances.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Ms. Kun** thanked everyone who provided testimony, adding her thanks to Mr. N. Clark and the Mayor for their kind words. She expressed her excitement regarding the proposed renaming of Twenty-Third Avenue, thanking Mr. Shumate for spearheading the effort; she added that it would be a long overdue change.

**Ms. Rogers** stated that it was wonderful to hear everyone give testimony and to feel the sense of comradery through the comments. She added her support for the renaming of Twenty-Third Avenue, stating that it has been a discussion topic for a long time. She went on to share that Alena Naiden, a young Russian woman and former employee of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, had agreed to remain on the Sister City Committee even after moving to Anchorage. **Ms. Rogers** added that Zoom has increased the participation between communities and has an added value to the committees she serves on.

**Ms. Therrien** shared her appreciation of Ms. Kun, adding that she would miss her on the Council.

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

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

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Ordinance No. 6178, as Amended – An Ordinance to Amend FGC Chapter 78, Article XXII Motor Vehicle Impoundment and Forfeiture, to Amend the Impoundment Period for Driving While License Suspended and No Insurance Convictions. Introduced by Council Member Gibson. PUBLIC HEARING HELD.

*The motion to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6178, as Amended, was made by Mr. Gibson and seconded by Mr. Clark at the August 9, 2021, Regular Meeting and remained on the floor.*

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

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

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6178, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6183 – An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Sec. 2-181 Advertising Vacancies on City Boards and Commissions. Introduced by Council Member Rogers. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6183.

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

**Ms. Rogers** explained the origin of the ordinance, adding that it would save the City at least \$5,000 per year in advertising costs.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6183 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6183 ADOPTED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6184 – An Ordinance Creating an Employee Capital Incentive Program (ECIP) at the City of Fairbanks. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Ms. Kun**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6184.

**Mayor Matherly** called for Public Testimony.

Andrew Wixon, FPD – Mr. Wixon thanked the Council for their approval of Ordinance No. 6181 and shared his support of Ordinance No. 6184 as the Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) Union President. He stated that the ordinance is a good step in showing that FPD and Dispatch employees are valued, and it is a way to create an incentive for new recruits. He added that the current level of required overtime is leading to employee burnout. He concluded by thanking the Mayor and the Council for their consideration of the ECIP.

**Mr. Clark** stated that the Council was aware of the staffing issues at FPD and asked why the union had not previously requested an incentive bonus or something similar from salary savings.

Mr. Wixon stated they felt the timing had not been right until now, given that negotiations would be starting soon.

Jerry Cleworth, Fairbanks – Mr. Cleworth stated that he had wished to speak about Ordinance No. 6184 at the previous Finance Committee meeting but had been denied the opportunity to do so. He added that this was not a traditional employee incentive plan but more closely resembled a bonus program. He stated that in conversations with employees it seemed unfair that the majority of the money would be distributed only to departments which had excess funds available at the end of year, adding that many employees will not be incentivized by this program at all. Mr. Cleworth added that within City Hall, all departments under the IBEW contract could potentially benefit from one department's understaffing. He added that the idea is fine, but the technicalities need to be worked out. He pointed out the issues that the program could create for the Council in making those determinations in the future as well as the problems it could create for the Capital Fund.

Zachary Rittel – Mr. Rittel shared his support of Ordinance No. 6184, adding that while it may not necessarily affect his department, the FFD, it would have a positive effect on the understaffed departments with overworked employees like the FPD and the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC). He went on to state that the lack of retention leads to a lack of experienced and qualified employees. He stated that Capital Funds are less useful if the City does not have employees to fill positions.

**Mr. Clark** stated that there are retention issues across the country in both the public and private sectors, adding that Council recently provided a bonus of \$5,000 to the FECC; he stated their employees are still expressing unhappiness. Mr. Rittel clarified that he would prefer to see the positions filled rather than a salary savings bonus.

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

Lake Williams – Mr. Williams shared his support of Ordinance No. 6184 as a union representative for the City Public Works employees. He described employee retention issues within Public Works, adding that constantly training new employees results in a cost to the City as well as lower production of services to the community. He added that the ordinance does not permanently fix retention issues, but it provides existing employees with an added incentive and the knowledge that the Council and Administration cares about them and the hard work they do.

Mark LaFon, Fairbanks – Mr. LaFon shared that he has been a long-time resident of the City of Fairbanks, as well as a union representative for Public Works employees; he stated his support for Ordinance No. 6184. He went on to state that the hard-working employees at Public Works are struggling under historically high inflation and that without an incentive it will be hard to retain even the most loyal of them. He urged the Council to pass Ordinance No. 6184, adding that the employees and their families and the citizens who depend on their services will be very grateful.

Crystal Tidwell, Fairbanks – Ms. Tidwell expressed her support of Ordinance No. 6184, adding her belief that it will help the ongoing retention problems the City has been dealing with. She asked that the Mayor and Council reward the dedicated workers and provide an incentive for new hires by passing the ordinance.

Brent Nichols, Fairbanks – Mr. Nichols stated that Alaskans are living in a period of hyperinflation where more than 30% of the money in circulation has been printed within the last two years. He added that the purchasing power of the American dollar is slowly diminishing. He went on to state that if the City did not adjust employees' wages to accommodate the price changes to commodities, they would soon find themselves with employees working longer hours only to make less money. He recognized that Ordinance No. 6184 did not increase employees' wages, but instead offered a financial incentive that may help keep employees from looking for work elsewhere. He stated that the City already has more vacancies than it can truly afford. Mr. Nichols stated that by passing the ordinance, the City would be showing its employees that they are cared for and valued.

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

Mr. Meeks provided a staff report regarding the issues of retention. He stated that the City has already implemented programs to help retain employees, such as allowing some staff to work from home and by passing the family and funeral leave ordinance. He went on to state that while forced overtime is becoming a bigger issue at the City, today's workforce is much less interested in working overtime; he stated that, instead, they value a family and work balance. Mr. Meeks went on to explain the annual process of the ECIP and the Council's role. He also addressed the Capital Fund, which he stated has been growing at the careful and strategic direction of the Council.

**Mayor Matherly** added that HR Director Angela Foster-Snow has put a lot of work into the ordinance and has spent a great deal of time educating herself on the current issues around employee retention. He went on to state that the ordinance puts the control squarely in the hands of the Council, adding that some years there may not be any funds set aside for this program.

**Ms. Kun** asked to be added as a sponsor of Ordinance No. 6183.

**Ms. Rogers** requested to be excused from voting on the ordinance due to a conflict of interest.

**Mr. Gibson** spoke in favor of the intent of the ordinance but stated he felt that it could use more work. He asked that the Council consider taking more time to work on the ordinance to ensure an equal and fair process.

**Mr. Marney**, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6184 by adding a period after the word “annually” in the first bullet point under Attachment A and by striking, “but will start with a 30% allocation for 2021.”

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6184 BY ADDING A PERIOD AFTER THE WORD “ANNUALLY” IN THE FIRST BULLET POINT UNDER ATTACHMENT A AND BY STRIKING, “BUT WILL START WITH A 30% ALLOCATION FOR 2021.” AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Kun, Marney, Clark, Therrien

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Rogers

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Ms. Therrien** stated that the ordinance provided the Council a great opportunity to think outside the box, adding that it would be nice to have it in writing for consideration in future years.

**Mr. Clark** stated that departments who are having issues with retention should be dealt with on an individual basis and shared his fear that the ordinance may discourage employees when the percentage of salary savings allocated is less than 30%. He agreed with Mr. Gibson that the ordinance is a good idea, but it needs more work.

**Mayor Matherly** stated that the ordinance is a positive incentive and that employees have spoken in favor of it. He added that union contracts fall outside of the ordinance, and the ordinance allows the Council to have a say in each year’s incentive. He shared that he could see little good in continuing the conversation to another meeting, adding that the act of kicking it down the road has as much of an effect on morale as the actual incentive.

**Mr. Clark**, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6184, as Amended, by adding a bullet point to Attachment A that states, “The ECIP will not be implemented if the unassigned General Fund balance is less than \$10 MM on December 31.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6184, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING A BULLET POINT TO ATTACHMENT A THAT STATES, “THE ECIP WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED IF THE UNASSIGNED GENERAL FUND BALANCE IS LESS THAN \$10 MM ON DECEMBER 31 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Clark, Gibson

NAYS: Kun, Therrien

ABSTAIN: Rogers

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.



**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6184, as Amended, until the first meeting in December to allow for a Work Session.

**Ms. Therrien** spoke against postponement. **Ms. Kun** expressed that postponement would be a slap in the face to the employees, just like all of the other issues that have been kicked down the road multiple times. She added that the employees have taken a lot of time to provide their support and testimony, stating that they deserve to have a vote on the matter.

**Mr. Gibson** compared the situation to that of Ordinance No. 6178, which was postponed multiple times to address multiple issues. He stated that postponement resulted in a very good finished document. He added that he felt it would be a disservice to the employees and the public to not ensure that this ordinance is the best it could be.

**Mayor Matherly** disagreed with Mr. Gibson, stating that there is a major difference between discussing an employee incentive program and discussing towing issues.

**Mr. Clark** stated that there were obvious issues within departments that need to be addressed and that he did not feel employees would be discouraged by postponement of the ordinance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6184, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Clark, Gibson  
NAYS: Therrien, Marney, Kun  
ABSTAIN: Rogers  
**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION FAILED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6184, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Clark, Kun, Marney, Gibson  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: Rogers  
**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6184, as Amended, ADOPTED.

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to RECONSIDER the Motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 6184, as Amended.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6184, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Clark, Gibson  
NAYS: Therrien, Kun, Marney  
ABSTAIN: Rogers  
**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION FAILED.

**Mayor Matherly** called for a brief recess. The meeting reconvened following the brief recess.

- d) Ordinance No. 6185 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Firefighters Union, IAFF Local 1324. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Ms. Kun**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6185.

**Mayor Matherly** called for Public Testimony.

Tod Chambers, City Fire Chief – Chief Chambers spoke in favor of the ordinance based on his observance of the negotiations and added that both sides worked hard to compromise and come to a solution.

Jerry Cleworth – Mr. Cleworth stated that this was another issue he had wanted to discuss further at the last Finance Committee meeting but was unable to. He stated he felt that taxpayer dollars should not be used to pay for union leave; he spoke about a missed opportunity by not enlisting volunteers at the FFD. He went on to state that the first year of the fiscal note is reasonable, but the subsequent years present potential financial issues for the City.

Zachary Rittel – Mr. Rittel expressed his appreciation for the work that had gone into bringing this contract forward, adding that parts of the fiscal note are highly exaggerated to account for worst case scenarios. He noted that the Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) contract has been unfunded twice, and employees have not been given any additional bonuses outside of the contract. He stated that the contract will contribute to mending the relationship between the department and the administration, also leading to better retention and recruitment.

**Mr. Clark** asked for clarification on the experience level of the three battalion chiefs. Mr. Rittel stated that only one of them has three or more years' experience.

Nick Clark – Mr. Clark thanked everyone involved in the negotiations and noted the high level of cooperation and respect that had been present throughout the process.

**Mr. Clark** asked for clarification about the additional overtime for the battalion chiefs who are allowed to start their shifts early. Mr. N. Clark stated that it is necessary for positions to start earlier than their crew because of the scheduling they must perform to cover the shift. He added that the provision in the new contract is half the cost of that in the previous contract.

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

Chief of Staff Mike Meeks provided a staff report. He stated that the contract had been negotiated for 8 months with 10 Executive Sessions of the Council. He expressed his support for the ordinance, stating that it is in direct accordance with the Council's guidance. He went on to highlight some portions of the contract.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Margarita Bell noted that the fiscal note was based on current staffing levels and did not add the four employees who are currently paid by grant funds.

**Mr. Clark** asked about the longevity of the grant and how much funding it provided. Ms. Bell stated that it would expire on February 22, 2022, adding that it paid for 35 percent of four positions.

**Ms. Kun** stated that the negotiating team, Council, and Administration had worked very hard on the project and added that she felt everything had been done to support the Council's wishes. She shared her hope for mutual support of the ordinance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6185 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Rogers, Therrien, Matherly

NAYS: Marney, Clark, Gibson

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6185 ADOPTED.

### **2021 REGULAR ELECTION**

a) Certification of the 2021 Regular Election Results

Deputy Clerk Rochelle Rodak read the following 2021 Regular Election results into the record:

**JERRY CLEWORTH**, having received a majority of the votes cast for CITY COUNCIL SEAT A, for a three-year term ending October 2024, is hereby declared elected as a Member of the Fairbanks City Council.

**JUNE ROGERS**, having received a majority of the votes cast for CITY COUNCIL SEAT B, for a three-year term ending October 2024, is hereby declared reelected as a Member of the Fairbanks City Council.

*A motion to CERTIFY the Election results was made after Council Members' Comments (item b).*

b) Council Members' Comments

**Ms. Therrien** shared that she would miss working with Ms. Kun and would miss the perspective she has brought to the Council. She recognized the care Ms. Kun had shown by consistently providing suicide prevention information and land acknowledgments, adding her best wishes for Ms. Kun's future. She went on to pass along her congratulations to Mr. Cleworth, adding that she looked forward to working with him.

**Mr. Gibson** congratulated Ms. Rogers on her reelection and shared that it had been a pleasure working with Ms. Kun. He expressed his belief that she would remain involved with the City, and he looked forward to seeing her around.

**Mr. Marney** echoed Mr. Gibson's sentiments and added his respect for Ms. Kun and the work she has done. He offered his congratulations to Ms. Rogers and Mr. Cleworth.

**Mr. Clark** thanked Ms. Kun for her contributions to the Council and congratulated Ms. Rogers and Mr. Cleworth. He shared his appreciation for anyone who serves as an elected official.

**Ms. Rogers** shared her belief that Ms. Kun will continue to have a bright influence within the City; she added her appreciation for Ms. Kun's polite and respectful personality.

**Mayor Matherly** welcomed Ms. Rogers again to the Council. He added his appreciation of Mr. Cleworth and the influence he has had on his own political career. He turned the floor over to Ms. Kun for her final comments.

**Ms. Kun** shared her experience on the ride-along she had with Officer Gladowski and encouraged the other Council members to go on a ride-along; she stated that she learned a great deal about the way FPD performs daily. She thanked the Council for supporting the staff and added her hopes that they will continue to do so. She stated that it had been an honor to serve the City of Fairbanks and to be an advocate for City employees. **Ms. Kun** thanked the Council for allowing her to provide a land acknowledgement at meetings and expressed hope that the resolution incorporating a land acknowledgement into every meeting would pass soon. She provided a land acknowledgement and gave the suicide prevention Careline phone number. **Ms. Kun** concluded by congratulating Ms. Rogers and Mr. Cleworth.

**Mr. Clark**, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to CERTIFY the results of the 2021 Regular Election.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CERTIFY THE RESULTS OF THE 2021 REGULAR ELECTION AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and the 2021 Regular Election Results CERTIFIED.

**Mayor Matherly** called for a brief transition recess. The meeting reconvened following the brief recess.

c) Oaths of Office and Seating of Elected Council Members

Deputy Clerk Rodak administered the Oaths of Office elected Council Members Jerry Cleworth and June Rogers. The members assumed their respective seats.

**Mayor Matherly** distributed to the Council his 2022 proposed budget.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 4989 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the Alaska Highway Safety Office for the FFY22 DUI Traffic Enforcement Unit. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4990 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Braun Northwest, Inc. to Provide an Ambulance in the Amount of \$280,000. Introduced by Mayor Matherly

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 4991 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to NC Machinery to Provide Snow Blowers in the Amount of \$525,994. Introduced by Mayor Matherly

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Resolution No. 4992 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to NC Machinery to Provide an Excavator in the Amount of \$338,973. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Resolution No. 4993 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Yukon Equipment, Inc. to Provide a Jet Truck in the Amount of \$453,536. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- a) Committee Reports

**Mr. Cleworth** thanked everyone for their kind words and Ms. Kun for the good work she did while serving on the Council. He noted that the bottom line of the newly proposed budget was likely going to be an issue and went on to share his frustration with the Finance Committee, namely the inability to address items more than one time and asked for clarification on that policy.

City Attorney Ewers stated that it was improper for the Finance Committee to discuss items that had already been presented for first reading to the City Council, explaining that after the first reading the item belonged to the City Council to vote for or against; he stated that any discussion should be held during the second reading and public hearing. He noted that it would be especially inappropriate to discuss items that had already had a first reading, such as Collective Bargaining Agreements, as those items cannot be amended. Mr. Ewers went on to state that the Code regarding the Finance Committee does not provide for Committee procedures regarding the addition of items to the agenda. He stated that, generally, agenda items are added by the CFO and should only include those that have a fiscal component.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that the current practice does not allow the Finance Committee enough time to provide good input on ordinances; he disagreed with the City Attorney. He suggested that an ordinance be introduced to amend the Code regarding the Finance Committee to make it more feasible for members to perform their due diligence and provide input. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he preferred the previous, informal Finance Committee meetings which was conducive to candid discussion and suggested that perhaps the Council could look at a new vision and purpose for the

Finance Committee. He concluded by stating that only recently has he felt that members of the Finance Committee had been left out of the loop, and it seemed intentional.

**Ms. Therrien** shared that she had attended the Permanent Fund Review Board meeting, and the minutes have been circulated to the Council. She spoke to Mr. Cleworth's comments and compared the Finance Committee to the FNSB's Committee of the Whole, adding that she has often contemplated why items other than those concerning finances are ever discussed at the City's Finance Committee meeting.

**Mr. Gibson** gave an update on the FAST Planning Policy Committee, specifically regarding the street painting grant that had recently been awarded. He went on to speak about the Finance Committee, adding his support for the more informal, back table discussion that used to happen instead of the more formal practices that are happening now.

**Mr. Marney** shared that the Discretionary Fund Committee would be meeting on November 9, 2021. He acknowledged the tough discussions that had been made at the meeting. He thanked Deputy Clerk Rodak for her work.

**Mr. Clark** spoke to the nationwide retention issues, recognizing that it is the City employees that make the City great and keep it working. He went on to address issues that come up during negotiations based on union involvement, adding that it trains employees to be dissatisfied. He encouraged employees to consider the benefits that unions provide and whether those benefits outweigh the negatives. He asked employees to look into their options as members of the union or employees of the City.

**Ms. Rogers** shared her excitement that the Fairbanks Diversity Council finally reached a quorum at its last meeting. She went on to welcome Mr. Cleworth and share her appreciation for being able to know and work with so many great people over the years. **Ms. Rogers** stated that she disagreed with moving the Finance Committee back to the more informal ways, stating that she felt it pushed the public outside of the discussion. She asked Mr. Cleworth to clarify what he meant by loose and informal conversations. **Mr. Cleworth** explained that he missed the way the conversation used to flow more easily when people were around a table rather than in the formal Council setting. **Ms. Rogers** added that the attitude of the participants helps to determine how formal or informal the meetings function.

#### **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL**

- a) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2021

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2021

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2021

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Fairbanks Diversity Council Work Session Minutes of May 11, 2021

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Permanent Fund Review Board Special Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2021

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ENTER Executive Session to discuss the PSEA Labor Negotiation Strategy.

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

**Ms. Therrien** excused herself from the Executive Session. **Mayor Matherly** called for a brief recess. The Council reconvened in Executive Session following the brief recess.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a) Public Safety Employees Association Labor Negotiation Strategy

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

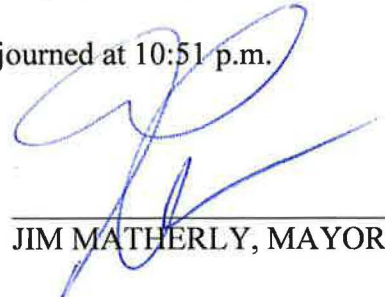
**ADJOURNMENT**

*Mayor Matherly excused himself from the meeting during the Executive Session.*

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

**Mayor pro tem Cleworth** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Mayor pro tem Cleworth** declared the meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m.



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JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR