



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 28, 2022
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 City of Fairbanks Downtown Priorities, 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: June Rogers, Seat B
 Valerie Therrien, Seat C
 Aaron Gibson, Seat D
 Lonny Marney, Seat E
 Jim Clark, Seat F

Absent: Jerry Cleworth, Seat A (excused)

Also Present: Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer (remotely)
 D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Paul Ewers, City Attorney
 Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
 Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)
 Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief
 Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
 Scott Raygor, Interim Fire Chief
 Clem Clooten, Building Official (remotely)

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of **Mayor Matherly**, Ms. Therrien lead the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Matherly acknowledged the passing of U.S. Congressman Don Young, noting that flags were currently at half-staff and would remain so until memorial services could be held.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Wade Kalloch, Fairbanks – W. Kalloch expressed his frustration at receiving multiple “parking over 24 hours” parking tickets while his vehicle was parked on the 300 block of Third Avenue. He stated that there was no signage indicating that he should not park there. He noted that there had

been a motorhome parked on Second Avenue all winter as well as other trailers parked on Fourth Avenue, requiring snow plows to work around them. He questioned why those vehicles had not been ticketed or towed.

Mayor Matherly asked W. Kalloch to provide his contact information to the Chief of Staff so that he could discuss the issue further with him.

Ms. Rogers asked W. Kalloch if he had contacted the Parking Authority. W. Kalloch replied that he had; he stated that one employee was unsure what to do and another made no effort to listen to or help him.

Jomo Stewart, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) – J. Stewart shared that his organization had been working to keep people informed on important issues in the community, including elections. He went on to share information regarding upcoming changes to the voting process with the state, adding that it would be important to educate citizens on the new Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) system that would be effective in the 2022 State election. He noted that there had been presentations done by Alaskans for Better Elections and other groups to help educate voters on the new voting method. He shared that the FEDC would be at the Midnight Sun Festival with more information.

Ms. Therrien noted that she was a member of the League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley (LWVTV) and that they had also been providing education about RCV.

Mr. Clark asked why RCV training was necessary. J. Stewart stated that it would be a new and completely different process, adding that the more comfortable people were with it, the more successful it would be. He went on to describe the mock voting exercise he had participated in.

Victor Buberger, Fairbanks – V. Buberger spoke to the lack of public restrooms in the downtown area. He stated that the bus station was requiring Alaska Natives to produce two types of identification to use their restrooms, while not requiring others to do the same. He went on to note that local businesses refuse to allow use of their restrooms for fear that drunk and homeless people will abuse them. V. Buberger stated that the City needed to catch up with the times and provide public restrooms like Anchorage has done. He recommended using the “golden heart” theme and establish golden toilets, or in the very least provide pee buckets. He added that he has urinated in every parking lot in the City because of the lack of public restrooms.

Corinne Howell, Fairbanks – C. Howell spoke to the current inaccessibility to all bus stops, adding that none of them had been cleared of snow and ice. She noted that snow is a guaranteed occurrence in the area, and the City, Borough, and State should be prepared, no matter how much each year brings. C. Howell went on to share that the City of Juneau, through federal and state grant funding, had been able to purchase equipment specifically for clearing bus stops. She added that she had spoken to the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) as well, noting that this has been an issue since at least 2013. She added that she has a family member who has had to deal with the problem every year. C. Howell recommended that the City, DOT, and FNSB either modify their current job descriptions to include bus stop clearing or hire a position specifically for that task. She also recommended research into a grant to supply the equipment and possible funding for the position.

Mayor Matherly indicated that he had done some research on the topic and would contact C. Bowell soon.

Ms. Rogers asked C. Bowell if she had spoken to other entities besides the City of Juneau and the FNSB. C. Bowell stated that she had spoken to the FNSB and the DOT and that both had responded to the best of their ability; she stated, however, she felt that the issue was a result of a lack of equipment and appropriate job descriptions.

Brian Beal, Fairbanks – B. Beal thanked the Mayor and Council for bringing Fairbanks through the pandemic. He spoke in memory of former Chief of Staff Mike Meeks and read a summary of his obituary. He stated that we are only as good as the people we surround ourselves with and asked the Council to sign a card for Mr. Meeks' wife. He thanked the Mayor and the Council for all their efforts.

Randy Bowell, Fairbanks – R. Bowell shared that he is a mechanical engineer and has been an advocate with Access Alaska for the past twenty years fighting to improve accessibility in transportation. He shared some of the accomplishments of his group, Wallbusters, in creating more accessible facilities around the Fairbanks area. He went on to speak to the issues around accessibility to bus stops in the wintertime, adding that if you are in a wheelchair and do not have access to Van Tran, you may not have any public transportation options. He stated that since the pandemic, front entry to buses has been prohibited. R. Bowell noted that not having adequate wheelchair accessibility to public bus shelters and bus stops is against federal regulations.

Ms. Therrien asked R. Bowell if he had brought his concerns to the attention of the FNSB. R. Bowell indicated that he has spoken to them but has not made any official complaints.

Mr. Gibson asked to the length of time busses have had restricted access due to COVID-19 protocols; R. Bowell indicated that it had started in March of 2021.

Mr. Marney asked R. Bowell if he had met him at the FNSB assembly meeting. R. Bowell said he and his mother had spoken there about the same issues.

Ms. Rogers asked R. Bowell if his father was Richard Bowell. R. Bowell confirmed that he was and spoke to his family's history in the Fairbanks area.

Mayor Matherly asked R. Bowell to give his contact information to Chief of Staff Sanders.

Tim Staton, Fairbanks – T. Staton shared that he owned a jewelry store downtown and spoke to the problems with current setup of vendor booths during the Midnight Sun Festival. He noted that the same concerns had been brought to the Council the prior year where it had been indicated that the issues could be addressed during the permitting process. He stated that businesses are not well patronized during the events and that revenue has dropped significantly since the vendor booths had been moved to the sidewalks instead of in the center of the street.

Ms. Therrien asked T. Staton if he had spoken to David van den Berg with the Downtown Association (DTA). T. Staton stated that he had not spoken with him yet this year but has every previous year. He added that the DTA does not meet or communicate with downtown businesses.

Hearing no more requests for comment, **Mayor Matherly** declared Citizens' Comments closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, 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 Snider read the Consent Agenda into the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2022

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
5266	Fushimi	Restaurant/Eating Place	Fushimi, LLC	607 Old Steese Highway, Suite 105
1475	Pizza Hut of Fairbanks	Restaurant/Eating Place	MP2 Alaska, LLC	89 College Road
4395	The Banks Alehouse	Beverage Dispensary	Goethe, LLC	1243 Old Steese Highway
5353	Fairbanks Distilling Company	Distillery	Patrick W Levy	410 Cushman Street

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

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 LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Gibson, Marney, Clark

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Cleworth

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

c) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Application for Transfer of Ownership and Restaurant Designation Permit:

Type/License: Restaurant/Eating Place, License #3050

DBA: All Star

Applicant: All Star, LLC
Location: 1448 S. Cushman Street, Fairbanks
From Owner: Three Star, LLC
From DBA: Kanpai
From Location: 1448 S. Cushman Street, Fairbanks

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Application for Transfer of Ownership and Restaurant Designation Permit.

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 LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP AND RESTAURANT DESIGNATION PERMIT AS FOLLOWS:

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly shared Public Works' new night snow removal schedule, acknowledging that it would not be convenient for everyone. He stated that the work is necessary with the extreme amount of ice and snow in order to prevent flooding. He went on to speak about the passing of U.S. Congressman Don Young and expressed his condolences. **Mayor Matherly** congratulated all the Interior high school basketball teams that competed in the recent State tournament, adding that his son played for Hutchinson High School and he enjoyed watching the game virtually as he celebrated the birth of his first grandchild. He went on to address downtown parking issues, noting that not everyone will always receive a ticket but that he would investigate the three tickets received by W. Kalloch and the alleged lack of signage. He spoke to the accessibility issue with bus stops, noting the unprecedented amount of snow; he admitted that he had not heard much about that issue before, nor had he given it much thought. He added that there are some stops in the City, and he recently began discussing the issue with FNSB Mayor Ward to see what could be done.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Gibson stated that he would investigate the COVID-19 protocols that are limiting access to busses, noting that they are failing the people who need the access most.

Mr. Marney stated he had no comments.

Mr. Clark noted that there were large amounts of standing water on the roadways and asked drivers to please be courteous and not splash pedestrians when driving by them.

Ms. Therrien applauded the LWVTV in their efforts to educate voters on RVC and clarified that it would only be used for the State general election.

Ms. Rogers shared her appreciation for Chief of Staff Sanders and spoke to some of the comments made during the Work Session. She stated that the discussions were both in-depth and refreshing, adding that issues of concern and consequence to people in the community should not be rushed.

Mayor Matherly provided a follow-up regarding the 24-hour parking violations discussed earlier. He stated that “parking over 24-hours” is a City-wide enforcement that may not be specifically posted on each street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6197 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Sections 2-422 and 2-430, Chena Riverfront Commission, by Reducing the Number of Members and Quorum Requirements. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2022; a public hearing was held at that time.

The motion to APPROVE Ordinance No. 6197 was made by Mr. Gibson and seconded by Ms. Therrien at the February 14, 2022 Regular Meeting and remained on the floor.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6197 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Therrien, Clark, Marney, Gibson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Cleworth

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6197 ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6201 – An Ordinance to Amend FGC Sec. 2-86 Setting Council Member Compensation. Introduced by Council Member Therrien. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Clark, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6201.

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

Ms. Therrien explained that the ordinance simply codified what has been approved by budget ordinances since 2007, noting that it would not create an actual increase.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6201 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Marney, Clark, Therrien, Rogers

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Cleworth

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6201 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6202 – An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the United States Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Appointment of Fire Chief

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to APPROVE the Appointment of the Fire Chief.

Ms. Therrien spoke in favor of the appointment, adding that Mr. Scott Raygor's application and 27 years' experience at the City indicated that he was well-qualified for the position.

Mr. Marney thanked Mr. Raygor for his willingness to serve.

Ms. Rogers noted Mr. Raygor's 27 years of service and his willingness to serve as Fire Chief.

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

YEAS: Marney, Clark, Therrien, Rogers, Gibson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Cleworth

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

With no objection from the Council, Members' Comments and Committee Reports were combined.

Mr. Clark stated that he had missed the Legislative Committee meeting and that he did not have any further comments.

Mr. Marney shared that he had attended a presentation by Safe Alaskan Highways which spoke against the transportation of ore on the Richardson Highway. He added that the DOT would also

be providing a presentation and that the gold mine, Kinross, had already given a presentation. He indicated that Explore Fairbanks, the facilitators of the conversation, would likely present a statement after all the presentations had been completed.

Mr. Gibson stated he had no comments.

Ms. Rogers shared that she had attended meetings for the Housing & Homeless Coalition, the Opioid Taskforce, and the Polaris Work Group. She thanked COS Sanders for recommending her to serve on the State organizational board for Housing and Homeless and asked that he share some of the information presented at the legislative meeting as she did not have her notes.

COS Sanders shared that he did not have his notes with him either but briefly summarized some of the topics discussed, noting that most would not impact Fairbanks directly. He added that there would be a presentation on the State budget at the next Finance Committee meeting by City Lobbyist Yuri Morgan.

Ms. Therrien provided a land acknowledgment and shared that she had not attended any committee meetings since the last Regular City Council meeting.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Snider clarified that the elections methods for the City and FNSB had not changed and that the local governments would not be using the RCV system. She added that the City election would take place on October 4, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR