



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 25, 2022  
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, following a 5:00 p.m. Work Session for discussion regarding the Fairbanks Fire Department, 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:        Jerry Cleworth, Seat A  
   June Rogers, Seat B  
   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)  
   D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
   Paul Ewers, City Attorney  
   Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff  
   Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)  
   Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
   Teal Soden, Communications Director  
   Ron Dupee, Police Chief  
   Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief  
   Scott Raygor, Fire Chief  
   Clem Clooten, Building Official (remotely)  
   Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director  
   Robert Pristash, City Engineer  
   Scott Adams, FPD Captain  
   Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

**FLAG SALUTATION**

**Mayor Matherly** led the Flag Salutation.

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

**Mayor Matherly** welcomed new Officer Mayra Reyes to the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) and gave a summary of her history and experience. Deputy Chief Rick Sweet thanked Ofc. Reyes for her willingness to serve with the FPD and administered her oath of office.



**Mayor Matherly** welcomed new Officer Benjamin Vandenberg and spoke about his experience. DC Sweet spoke to the recruitment process and administered Ofc. Vandenberg's oath of office.

Police Chief Ron Dupee asked Captain Scott Adams and his wife Nicky to come forward. Chief Dupee recognized Capt. Adams for his service to the FPD over the past 25 years. DC Sweet spoke to Capt. Adams' experience, adding that he had provided a great deal of stability to the department and that he would be greatly missed. DC Sweet presented Capt. Adams with a Distinguished Service Award and explained its meaning while Chief Dupee pinned the award.

**Mayor Matherly** thanked Capt. Adams for his service. He asked the City Council to extend Citizens' Comments by 15 minutes in consideration of the time taken for Ceremonial Matters; there was no objection from the Council to extending the time allowed for Citizens' Comments.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

David Personius, 2 Street Gallery Owner – D. Personius shared his appreciation for the need of parking enforcement in the downtown area but stated that he felt Parking Authority agents were overstepping their intended purpose by actively looking for expired registrations. He spoke to the section of the City Code that delegated enforcement to the Parking Authority in 2010, adding that it could be removed by the City Council. D. Personius asked if the intent of the Parking Authority was to enforce illegal parking or to drive up revenue. He also spoke to a potential conflict of interest by having City Council members serve on the Parking Authority Board.

Michelle Ethun, Downtown Business Owner – M. Ethun spoke to her previous inquiries regarding the Fairbanks Parking Authority, adding that in 2003 the City had determined that the Parking Authority should be a non-profit, independent, delegated enforcement agency for non-moving violations. She argued that the City is not absolved of the parking issues solely based on its delegation of enforcement and asked that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be issued for contracted services rather than exclusively giving the authority to the Parking Authority.

Chris Miller, Fairbanks – C. Miller spoke to housing incentives that would encourage economic activity in the downtown area. He spoke to the importance of maintaining the downtown Fairbanks character, and stated that restricting incentives to single-family units would help preserve that character. He suggested that City departments could offer incentives to encourage development.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked Mr. Miller for clarification on the suggested geographic area for incentivization and what types of incentives he was suggesting. C. Miller indicated it could be an area from the Chena River to Airport Way and the Steese Highway to Cowles Street, adding that the City could offer similar tax exemptions as those of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), or possibly a reduction of building permit fees.

**Mr. Gibson** stated that the FNSB tax exemption was specific to multi-family homes and asked C. Miller if he was in favor of that. C. Miller stated that he was in support of single-family as well as multi-family exemptions, adding that there is opportunity for both types of structures to be added to the downtown area. **Mr. Gibson** asked about the abandoned and unused structures in the area; C. Miller stated that those types of lots can be complicated based on the amount of government intervention needed for abatement and reconstruction.

Charity Gadapee, Explore Fairbanks – C. Gadapee shared that she was the Director of Visitor Services and Partnership Development with Explore Fairbanks. She went on to speak about the annual banquet that had been held the previous week and the awards that had been presented. She gave a brief update on the available services at the Visitors Center, adding that the hours would be extended starting on Memorial Day.

Joan Johnson, Fairbanks – J. Johnson shared that she has been in the Fairbanks area for 37 years and is currently employed with Span Alaska. She explained the areas the company covers and the products and services they provide. She added that the company decided to invest in Fairbanks by building a 4500 sq. ft. office space on 12 acres of land within the City's limits. J. Johnson asked for consideration of a tax abatement for the first five years, or some other kind of incentive to help Span Alaska grow and invest in the community.

**Mr. Gibson** noted that the roadway near the proposed area can be very rough and asked if that had been considered. J. Johnson stated that she had not noticed any issues with the road in that area.

**Mr. Clark** asked about the current facility Span Alaska occupies. J. Johnson shared that the current location is leased by Span Alaska and was built in 2001.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked J. Johnson if she had anything to add, and J. Johnson asked that the City consider taxing the new property at the undeveloped land rate for the first five years.

**Ms. Rogers** asked what other locations were in consideration. J. Johnson clarified that Span Alaska had previously considered other locations, but the purchase of the new property had closed on February 28, 2022.

**Mr. Gibson** asked if Span Alaska predicts an increase in jobs. J. Johnson stated that more jobs would be added, a potential increase of 10-15 drivers.

David Hayden, Fairbanks – D. Hayden thanked the City for its snow plowing efforts, noting that while there had been some extreme weather events, the City had done a good job of keeping streets cleared. He asked that the City consider a storm water system in his neighborhood, adding that the annual flooding of the roads causes unnecessary erosion and expense. He also spoke in favor a tax exemption for multi-family housing units in the downtown area. D. Hayden also asked that the Council investigate the nuisance property located at 152 Third Avenue, noting the multiple police call outs, break-ins and safety issues to other neighbors. He shared that the owner is aware of the issues but does not work towards solutions.

Sue Sprinkle, Fairbanks – S. Sprinkle shared an experience she had with the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) regarding an elderly neighbor that she cares for who lives alone and suffers from dementia. She explained that the neighbor recently required paramedic help, and she commended FFD staff on their compassion and professionalism. She commented that quality service of that nature enhances her great pride in living in such a great and caring community.

Angel Stickman, Cultural Diversity and Integration, LLC – A. Stickman spoke to the email her company had sent to the Council regarding a free diversity training event happening on Friday, April 29, 2022. She gave a brief history of her background and education. She spoke to the many

events that have happened across the nation and the world, including those involving police brutality and the abuse and deaths of many Native children in Canada. She added that it is important that all leaders in the community receive diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked for an alternative option to the time provided, as he would be unavailable. A. Stickman stated she could send Mr. Cleworth the recorded webinar.

Lisa McEnulty, Cultural Diversity and Integration, LLC – L. McEnulty spoke about her husband’s death three years prior, adding that he had been shot 13 times by the Alaska State Troopers. She went on to give statistics regarding police shootings involving minorities as well as other evidence of discrimination. She spoke to the importance of training and education for leaders and asked that the Council consider attending their free training event.

**Ms. Rogers** asked L. McEnulty if she was aware of the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC). L. McEnulty stated that she was aware of the meeting times and would be attending a meeting soon.

**Mr. Clark** asked about the curriculum for the training course. L. McEnulty stated that they had developed their curriculum and tailored it based on those who will receive the training; she added that their research is strengthened by their interdisciplinary approach.

David van den Berg, Fairbanks Downtown Association (DTA) – D. van den Berg spoke to the Parking Authority issues noted by those who testified earlier; he stated that he had suggested they attend a City Council meeting and applauded them for doing so. He reported that the DTA had met with many of the downtown business owners and felt that they had come to a reasonable compromise regarding the vendor booths for the Midnight Sun Festival. He spoke to the history of the Community Service Patrol (CSP) and to the DTA’s involvement in starting the program.

Rosco Britton, No Limits Program Director – R. Britton spoke to issues regarding homelessness, noting that there are people who, for different reasons, are not able to stay at the shelter, and there are no other options for them. He added that he knows of working individuals who cannot find affordable housing and are living in their vehicles. R. Britton spoke to possible future meetings that may bring about support in addressing the homeless situation in the City, adding that it would require a community effort to come up with a solution before next winter.

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

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

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

**Mr. Cleworth** pulled item 12(c), Ordinance No. 6204, 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 April 11, 2022

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Type/License: Wholesale – General, License #5887  
DBA: RNDC Alaska  
Applicant: RNDC Alaska, LLC  
Location: 945 Elizabeth Street, Fairbanks  
From Owner: White Mountain Beverage, LLC  
From DBA: K&L Distributors Alaska  
From Location: 945 Elizabeth Street, Fairbanks

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

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

Andrew Klair, RNDC Alaska Representative – A. Klair thanked the Council for the opportunity to testify, adding that RNDC was looking forward to becoming part of the Fairbanks community.

**Mr. Clark** observed that the Council does a lot of work regarding liquor licenses and that there is rarely any public testimony on the matter.

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

YEAS: Cleworth, Gibson, Rogers, Therrien, Clark, Marney  
NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

## MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

**Mayor Matherly** recognized the Public Works (PW) Department for all their hard work in getting the snow removed and the drains working, adding that he had recently approved the rental of additional jet-vac trucks to pump water from areas where drainage is insufficient. He asked Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson to give an update.

Director Jacobson updated the Council on the current equipment being used to try and keep up with the excessive melting and subsequent flooding. He added that it is the first year he had seen the entire storm drain system freeze solid, noting that it was taking a great deal of time to thaw

drains. He spoke to the high cost of renting additional equipment and that while it was extreme, it was imperative to prevent property damage that the City could be liable for. Director Jacobson gave a rundown of current and upcoming expenditures, noting that it was helpful that the Council had approved the use of emergency funds earlier in the year.

**Mayor Matherly** added that there may be funds available through the Governor's Emergency Declaration and that they were waiting to hear back on the status of that request.

**Mr. Marney** noted that under much of the standing water there are potholes which will require significant repairs.

**Mayor Matherly** asked that drivers please avoid splashing pedestrians and that drivers should assume there is a pothole or hazard hidden under the standing water on roadways. He shared that he had asked the Clerk to assist in the installation of a land acknowledgment in the Council Chambers as a historical document. He again welcomed the new police officers and recognized the retirement of Capt. Adams. He thanked PW and FPD staff for all their hard work and noted the positive work session that had been held earlier with Fire Chief Scott Raygor. **Mayor Matherly** shared that the Administration and Department Heads would be attending an Outward Mindset training provided by Chief Dupee and DC Sweet, adding that the City recognizes the importance of training for all City employees.

**Mayor Matherly** asked Crisis Now Coordinator, Brenda McFarlane, to present to the Council in response to the Chief of Staff's initiative to spotlight a City department at each meeting.

B. McFarlane provided information on the AmeriCorps VISTA Program and the City's involvement, noting that the recruitment process has been difficult; she encouraged citizens to apply. She went on to speak about her role as the Crisis Now Coordinator and explained the current process and her vision for what it will become; she spoke to the community benefits in store.

**Mr. Clark** asked if the earlier public testimony regarding the elderly man needing assistance was related to the Crisis Now program. B. McFarlane stated that it would depend on whether the person was needing help due to a mental illness or whether it was a strictly medical call. She went on to share more information regarding the Crisis Now program and its affiliates.

**Ms. Therrien** asked if Crisis Now was able to assist with providing members of the military access to mental health services. B. McFarlane stated that they are not currently working with the military but that she had met with Senator Sullivan's office and recommended a joint effort between the community and the military bases. She noted that any combination of services would have to be approved at a federal level, but that Senator Sullivan's office seemed very excited about the prospect. She clarified that any veteran in the community would be served by Crisis Now. She went on to give updates on the current 2022 services and the number of calls that have been diverted from law enforcement to the Crisis Now team. B. McFarlane noted that each diverted call leaves first responders available for other needs and provides a significant cost savings to the City.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Mr. Cleworth** shared information on the chronic nuisance ordinance passed by the City Council, suggesting that the property at 152 Third Avenue could be addressed using the authorities defined

in the ordinance. He went on to speak to the deteriorating roads underneath all the standing water, noting the future work that was being created for the PW Department. **Mr. Cleworth** provided some history on downtown parking issues, starting with the removal of parking meters, and the issues that gave way to the establishment of the Fairbanks Parking Authority. He clarified that the funds the City provides to the Parking Authority are strictly for the maintenance and upkeep of the parking garage. He noted that the RFP process is a possibility, but it has not drawn much interest in the past. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the tickets issued for expired registration, noting that the FPD had requested those citations to be issued by the Parking Authority. He spoke to the ways tickets can be reduced or dismissed if proper proof of registration can be provided. He invited other board members of the Parking Authority to add comments.

Bob Pristash, City Engineer – B. Pristash spoke to his role at the Parking Authority, adding that he has served on the appeals board in the past as well.

Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director – He stated that he serves in his capacity as facilities manager as well as President of the Board, noting that finding volunteers to fill vacancies has been very difficult. He added that there are laws in place for the greater good of citizens and downtown businesses, noting that the Parking Authority is a non-profit providing enforcement of those laws.

**Ms. Rogers** thanked Capt. Adams for his years of service with the City and welcomed the new FPD officers. She stated she appreciated hearing the accolades from S. Sprinkle regarding the FFD and the services they provided. She added her appreciation for the multiple ways citizens can communicate with the Council.

**Ms. Therrien** spoke to the earlier testimony regarding tax incentives and updated the public on the process, adding that a draft ordinance would be before the Council at the next Finance Committee meeting. She thanked Ofc. Reyes and Ofc. Vandenberg for coming to Fairbanks and offered her congratulations to Capt. Adams on his retirement.

**Mr. Clark** congratulated Capt. Adams on his retirement and welcomed the two new police officers. He shared his appreciation for the public comment period and the varied topics that were discussed. He expressed his excitement regarding Span Alaska and hoped there could be a discussion regarding their request. He asked everyone to be patient with the water situation, noting that it would soon pass. **Mr. Clark** spoke to the homeless and mental health issues present in the community and cautioned the City to be vigilant in providing the right services; he indicated the City should work with local organizations and churches to prevent the situation from worsening.

**Mr. Marney** recognized the lateral recruitment program at the FPD, noting that it has been working very well for the City. He offered his congratulations to Capt. Adams, adding that he would be a difficult person to replace. He spoke to the issues regarding homelessness and the need for the community to be involved.

**Mr. Gibson** expressed appreciation that the Council Chambers seating had been restored to the pre-pandemic set up, noting the number of public participants present. He shared his excitement to swear in two more police officers and his sadness to lose Capt. Adams; he wished Capt. Adams a happy retirement.



## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6203 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of Golden Heart Plaza to Festival Fairbanks. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6203.

**Mayor Matherly** called for testimony.

Dave Dean, Fairbanks – D. Dean shared that he served on the Festival Fairbanks Board of Directors and spoke in support of the ordinance, adding that the park is a central point of interest for tourists.

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

**Mr. Cleworth** thanked D. Dean for the work of Festival Fairbanks and the beautification they provide. He asked about the standard language that allows a one-year extension by the Mayor. City Attorney Ewers stated that it was not included in the lease due to discussion regarding the future of the park and the Council's desire for flexibility in revisiting the topic before the lease renewal.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6203 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6203 ADOPTED.

## NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5010 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for and Accept Funds from the Alaska Highway Safety Office for the FFY23 DUI Traffic Enforcement Unit. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 5011 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Johnson River Enterprises LLC for the Senior Center Dining and Kitchen Subject to Available Funding. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Ordinance No. 6204 – An Ordinance Establishing an Education Reimbursement Program within Fairbanks Fire Department for Recruitment and Hiring. Introduced by Mayor Matherly and Council Member Marney.

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6204.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked for clarification regarding Section 2 and the bonus mentioned. Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Margarita Bell stated that the bonus would come from salary savings, as available, adding that the program would provide an overall savings to the department. **Mr. Cleworth** asked how the planned overtime would be funded; CFO Bell stated that it would likely come from the General Fund based on the use of the salary savings. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern that if there was not adequate salary savings, the City could be responsible for bonuses it did not budget for.

**Ms. Therrien** asked to be added as a co-sponsor to Ordinance No. 6204. She asked that the bonus be divided up so that more money would be given towards the beginning of the training process; she spoke to a possible increase to the initial bonus from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

CFO Bell clarified that except for the initial \$1,000, the affected employees would not receive the bonus until their training had been completed, making it less of a liability for the City.

Human Resources Director Angela Foster-Snow agreed that providing a bit more towards the beginning of the bonus program could be beneficial to the recruits.

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6204 by increasing the sign-on bonus to \$2,000.

**Mr. Marney** requested that Chief Raygor be involved with any changes.

Fire Chief Raygor spoke in favor of the amendment, adding that even with the bonuses the City of Fairbanks was far from competing with other fire departments in the Pacific Northwest.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6204 BY INCREASING THE SIGN-ON BONUS TO \$2,000 AS FOLLOWS:

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6204 AS FOLLOWS:

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

### **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

a) Appointment to the Fairbanks Diversity Council

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

b) Appointment to the Building Code & Landscape Review & Appeals Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Appointment to the Council Finance Committee

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of January 17, 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 he had no comments or committee reports.

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

**Mr. Gibson** shared that FAST-Planning had met; he stated they discussed the Mahn Choh Mine issue and encouraged a community study to be completed.

**Mr. Cleworth** recognized the FPD for their recruitment process. He recognized Capt. Adams for his devotion to the City and congratulated him on his retirement. He spoke to his concerns with the current year's budget and the likely extreme overtime costs at the Public Works and Fire departments. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke to possible revenue increases and discussions to hold at the next Finance Committee meeting, adding that any proposed change to the tax cap would require unanimous consent of the Council in order to be placed on a ballot. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that he understood the request for and the idea behind property tax exemptions but felt that it is important to have a plan to address all requests. He added that he is not in favor of any exemptions presently due to the status of the City's funds.

**Ms. Rogers** shared that she had attended a FDC meeting where a quorum was not reached. She noted the recent appointment and stated that she hopes for a quorum at the next meeting. She stated that she had recently been appointed to the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness and that she would be attending the Opioid Meeting the following day. She expressed her gratitude for Mike Sanders and the work he did to ensure that the next Crisis Now Coordinator could succeed, adding that B. McFarlane was doing a remarkable job. **Ms. Rogers** stated that she planned to attend the free training offered by Cultural Diversity and Integration, LLC and encouraged others to attend also.

**Ms. Therrien** gave an update on the City's Permanent Fund Board Meeting, stating that there had been some loss, but it was still outperforming the open market. She shared that she had attended the Legislative Committee Meetings for the City and the AML, adding that the AML would be meeting in August to plan for November legislation and would be discussing property tax exemptions. **Ms. Therrien** stated that the FNSB would be hearing Ordinance No. 2024 regarding election dates, adding that she would be proposing a resolution opposing the change of dates from November to December. She gave a land acknowledgment and stated that she would try to attend the diversity training virtually if possible.

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

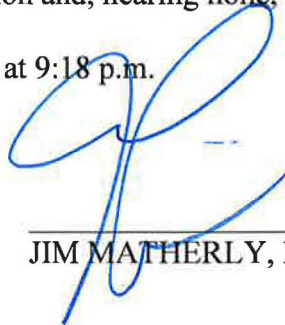
City Clerk Snider mentioned that she had advertised the Boards and Commission vacancies on the City's social media page and that the Daily News-Miner had written an article regarding the vacant positions. She added that there were still several vacancies, but the exposure had made a difference.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Gibson**, 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 9:18 p.m.



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JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR