



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 13, 2022
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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: 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 (remotely)
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief (remotely)
 Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
 Teal Soden, Communications Director (remotely)
 Scott Raygor, Fire Chief
 Clem Clooten, Building Official (remotely)
 Robert Pristash, City Engineer

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Matherly led the Flag Salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Julie Jones, Festival Fairbanks – J. Jones spoke in favor of Ordinance No. 6210 which would provide funding to increase security at Golden Heart Plaza (GHP). She spoke to a proposed solution that would provide a foot patrol officer and allow Festival Fairbanks to complete data collection regarding the issues in the area. She noted that the proposal would cost significantly less than the cost referenced in the ordinance. She noted the apparent communication problems between the involved entities which may contribute to repeat offenders returning on a regular basis.

Ms. Rogers asked for information on the issues J. Jones has witnessed over the years. J. Jones clarified that there have been positive programs in the past, but currently there are numerous people who have been arrested multiple times for the same offense coming to the plaza immediately after release and actively disturbing the peace. She shared that the Festival Fairbanks staff clean, patrol, and wake up homeless people on a regular basis. She noted the Emergency Service Patrol (ESP) has aided in the past and that violations were much lower when their presence was in the plaza. **Ms. Rogers** asked if J. Jones was fearful of being at the GHP; J. Jones stated that she is not afraid of being there or talking to people, adding that while people can be disrespectful, she can remain kind and walk away when necessary.

Mr. Marney asked J. Jones how long she has been with Festival Fairbanks. She stated she has been there about 15 years, and this problem has always existed. She noted that some years there is more graffiti, while other years vandalism spikes. She added that this year there has been an increase in camping, aggression, and public alcohol consumption.

Timothy Ledna, Reentry Coalition Coordinator – T. Ledna shared that he serves many roles in the community, including being a member of the Crisis Now Mobile Team. He thanked the Council for approving the resolution that made the City the fiscal agent for the Reentry Coalition. He provided pictures from the Reentry Simulation Event, adding that he created a Facebook page that compiles many of the events happening throughout the City. He shared information about the monthly Fairbanks Community Bingo events and the recent partnership with City Recovery.

Mayor Matherly asked if T. Ledna had noticed an increase in meaningful outreach over the past 5 years. T. Ledna replied that he has only been in the area for two and a half years but noted that there are more social services, non-profits, and resources available in the Fairbanks area than in any other community he has lived in. He recognized that there seems to be more partnerships forming between various organizations, which is helping get the right resources to the people who need them.

Scott McCrea, CEO of Explore Fairbanks – S. McCrea spoke to Ordinance No. 6210. He recognized the intent of the ordinance but did not agree with using tourism funds to address an issue that affects local citizens as well as visitors. He added that while his organization would like to be a part of the solution, it does not want to be fully responsible for the issue. He noted that while the tax revenue from short-term rentals is very high, rising inflation could have a negative impact on those revenues going forward.

Ms. Therrien asked if Explore Fairbanks would be willing to contribute to the cost of keeping the downtown area patrolled. S. McCrea stated that the organization would need to know a specific dollar amount before he could answer that question.

Ms. Rogers asked S. McCrea if he had been contacted by a Council member prior to learning of the ordinance. S. McCrea stated that he had not been contacted.

Mr. Clark asked S. McCrea if he had changed his phone number or been otherwise unavailable. S. McCrea stated that he had been out of town recently. **Mr. Clark** went on to explain the recent

budget amendment and the funding issues the City was facing, noting that the GHP serves both citizens and tourists alike, in many ways.

Victor Buberger, Fairbanks – V. Buberger spoke to the Polaris Building and the process the City used to acquire the property. He added that he did not agree with the previously proposed convention center idea, noting that there was perfectly good vacant land near the Mitchell Expressway. He expressed concern about what was going to happen to the property and who would be paying for it.

Hearing no more requests for in-person comment, individuals on Zoom were heard next.

Billie Kassel, Angels in Motion – B. Kassel shared that Angels in Motion had been serving for the past six years through partnership with local schools, churches, and hospitals and that they served over 400 meals in the past year. She expressed the importance of remembering to use respect and compassion when dealing with homeless people and other people related to the problems being discussed at meetings and throughout the City. She added that they are real people who deserve to be treated as such.

Julie Smyth, Fairbanks – J. Smyth gave a land acknowledgment. She spoke in her role as a Bread Line board member and shared a recent Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Letter to the Editor that spoke to the serious homeless problem that fails many, including some who work but cannot use the shelter due to the hours conflicting with their work requirements. She added that when discussing the safety of the public, it is important to remember that the homeless population is also part of that discussion.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Cleworth pulled items 12(a), Resolution No. 5016, and 12(d), Ordinance No. 6208. **Mr. Marney** pulled item 12(f), Ordinance No. 6210.

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 May 9, 2022

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
3151	Fred Meyer #485	Package Store	Fred Meyer Stores, Inc.	3755 Airport Way

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Application for Renewal.

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

Ms. Rogers recognized that the call reports do not necessarily pertain to the license but felt that the overall discussions regarding public safety and the GHP warranted more communication with the businesses that are closely associated with the list of calls provided by the FPD.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly shared his appreciation for those who participated in the asphalt artwork done in the downtown area. He addressed V. Buberger's concerns regarding the Polaris Building, adding that the funding for demolition has been secured, and they are working to accomplish that task before selling the property to a private entity. **Mayor Matherly** shared that Summer Solstice was coming up soon and recognized the work done by Public Works to clean up the streets for the Midnight Sun Festival activities. He recognized J. Jones for her work at the GHP and spoke to the issues that have been occurring in the area. **Mayor Matherly** went on to address the complaints he has received regarding road construction and shared his own frustration with the lack of communication between the local entities and the State of Alaska. He added that he had been told the Cushman Street Bridge would be open by Solstice weekend, noting that Alaska has many challenges including short construction periods; he asked that people try to remain patient. **Mayor Matherly** added that he would be attending his 42nd high school class reunion as well as a remembrance for former City Chief of Staff, Mike Meeks. He added that Mike Meeks had been a talented photographer and his family had donated some beautiful photographs that would be placed in City Hall, alongside a plaque remembering M. Meeks.

- a) Special Reports: Fairbanks Police Department

Fairbanks Police Chief Dupee shared that there had been less calls in 2022 than in 2021, and while there have been more homicides, there seems to be an overall drop in violent crimes. He noted that the Council has approved the department to have 50 employees and that despite multiple new hires,

the department seems to be holding at a deficit of 11 officers. Chief Dupee ask that the public remain patient, noting that the police are working hard to provide the best service they can. He went on to speak about increases in training at the department, including the Arbinger training that they are now offering to all City employees.

Ms. Therrien asked for more information regarding the Arbinger training. Chief Dupee explained that the training teaches about the differences between inward and outward mindsets while providing useful tools to help improve communication and collaboration.

Mr. Marney asked about potential new hires. Chief Dupee explained that they had received five applications the previous month, and two of them had made it through the oral review board process. He added that two more applications had recently been received.

Mr. Rogers commended the Police, Fire, and Dispatch departments on their continued presence and participation in the various community programs throughout the City. She stated she felt that they work hard to ensure they see people as people, not problems.

Mayor Matherly stated that he felt the Arbinger training was worthwhile for all City employees. He went on to speak to a new program he would like to implement before he retires as Mayor, a citizen award program, perhaps called the “Glen Hackney Award,” that would recognize citizens for helping make Fairbanks a better place to live.

Ms. Rogers expressed her support of a citizen’s award, suggesting that it might be a joint effort with the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB).

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Gibson shared that he had attended the 52nd Annual Military Appreciation Banquet, adding that it had been a great event. He spoke to the awards presented.

Mr. Marney thanked Mr. Clark and his out-of-the-box solution for the GHP and his ability to get the conversation started. He added that he had similar concerns to those presented by J. Jones and S. McCrea. He noted that it is a community-wide problem that seems to get pushed aside each fall when winter arrives, and he expressed his desire to see a solution.

Mr. Clark thanked Mayor Matherly for the updates on the Cushman Street Bridge project.

Mr. Cleworth addressed V. Buberger’s concerns regarding the Polaris Building, adding that everyone has a different idea of what should be built on the property when the building is finally demolished. He noted that the City’s main concern is seeing the demolition happen. He added that he had been contacted by someone who had read an article regarding the demolition of the building and expressed concerns that the plan, as he read it, would contribute to greater distribution of hazardous materials. He thanked Chief Dupee for his presentation.

Ms. Rogers asked people to remember to support the construction workers and to keep in mind how fortunate Fairbanks is to have the work being done in the community. She read a

communication she provided to a citizen who wrote to her regarding the GHP issues. She expressed appreciation for the community organizations that want to provide help to those less fortunate.

Ms. Therrien thanked J. Jones and S. McCrae for their comments regarding Ordinance No. 6210, as well as Mr. Clark for bringing up the issue for discussion. She added that she would like to see the security cost more in line with that presented by J. Jones. She asked if the Mayor could facilitate a meeting with the District Attorney regarding the non-prosecution of repeat offenders.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6205 – An Ordinance Repealing and Reenacting Chapter 70, Article X, Right-of-Way Permitting System and Revising and Renumbering Sections 70-321 and 70-322 Regulating Snow Removal and Planting in Certain Public Places. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Marney** moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6205.

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

City Attorney Ewers provided a staff report to explain the corrections, including the strikethrough language on Page 23, Section 662, No. 5, which was a proposed amendment made by the City Engineer. He noted that the markup would not be included in the final draft.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6205 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6205 ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6206 – An Ordinance Amending FGC Section 22-15(d) Absentee Voting by Personal Representative and Amending Other Sections of Chapter 22 Elections to Authorize Youth Election Workers in City Elections, to Clarify the Definition of Election Official, and to Standardize Election Terminology. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6206.

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

Ms. Therrien stated the youth she has worked with, as an election chair, have been diligent and good workers; she added her support for the ordinance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6206 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Therrien, Clark, Marney, Rogers, Cleworth
NAYS: None
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance
No. 6206 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5016 – A Resolution Establishing the Rate of Levy of 2022 Real Property Taxes for the City of Fairbanks, Alaska. Introduced by Mayor Matherly

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5016.

Mr. Cleworth clarified information that had been provided in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner regarding the lowering of property taxes within the FNSB; he added that the cap may have been tweaked, but taxes had not been lowered. He went on to speak about the unique “cap within the cap” that the City tax currently has. He credited CFO Bell for her work in obtaining an additional \$600,000 from rising assessments that might otherwise go unclaimed.

Ms. Rogers thanked CFO Bell for her diligence.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5016 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Clark, Rogers, Marney, Therrien, Cleworth, Gibson
NAYS: None
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution
No. 5016 APPROVED.

- b) Resolution No. 5017 – A Resolution Amending the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services by Adjusting Garbage Collection Rates. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Ordinance No. 6207 – An Ordinance Amending the 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Second Time. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Ordinance No. 6208 – An Ordinance Amending FGC Section 74-36, Economic Development Property Tax Exemption or Deferral, and Adding FGC Section 74-37, Tax Incentive for Housing. Introduced by Council Member Therrien.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6208.

Mr. Cleworth spoke against advancement of the ordinance, adding that the FNSB has already granted a hefty tax relief that includes properties within the City. He stated that the City is very similar to a service area within the Borough, which provides road maintenance, waste

management, emergency services, and other essential services. He expressed concern about fairness amongst new developers and existing taxpayers, as well as the potential impact the lack of revenue will have on the City overall.

Ms. Therrien asked that the Council to support advancement so that the public may have the opportunity to speak on the issue. She added that she had been approached by a citizen prior to introducing the ordinance. She stated that beautifying and developing the City is important to encourage future growth.

Mr. Gibson asked if Ms. Therrien was referring to Span Alaska. **Ms. Therrien** stated that it had been public testimony given by a contractor, but she could not remember his name.

Ms. Rogers asked for clarification of what temporary relief meant. **Ms. Therrien** stated that the relief would be a 5-year tax exemption on improvements to a property.

Mr. Gibson clarified that buildings would not be taxed but properties would. He asked if that would have an impact on the tax cap. CA Ewers stated that it was a complicated answer but likely it would not affect the tax cap because it was not part of the cap to begin with. CFO Bell stated that it would not affect the tax cap, adding that taxes would still be levied on the land. She stated that the new structure's taxes would be levied in the sixth year.

Mr. Gibson asked how the tax cap would be affected if an existing structure was demolished. CFO Bell stated that the City would effectively lose the revenue from the property's improvements; she noted that the proposed ordinance would exempt any new improvements from taxes for five years.

Ms. Rogers thanked Ms. Therrien for bringing the ordinance forward.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6208 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Marney, Clark, Therrien, Rogers

NAYS: Cleworth

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- e) Ordinance No. 6209 – An Ordinance to Apply to the State of Alaska to Designate the City of Fairbanks as a Military Facility Zone. Introduced by Mayor Matherly and Council Member Therrien.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- f) Ordinance No. 6210 – An Ordinance Amending FGC Sec. 74-117(b) to Change the City's Room Rental Tax Allocation and to Distribute Additional Funds for Golden Heart Plaza. Introduced by Council Member Clark.

Mr. Clark, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6210.

Mr. Marney thanked the ordinance sponsor for formally starting the conversation but expressed his disagreement with the estimated cost to hire two seasonal employees. He added that J. Jones from Festival Fairbanks had come up with a drastically reduced rate. **Mr. Marney** added that there was a much larger issue that should be addressed and that this ordinance, while helpful to start the conversation, was only a temporary solution. He stated that a change to the room rental tax distribution may be worth discussing, and he mentioned how small Festival Fairbanks' budget is.

Mr. Clark spoke to the longevity and severity of the problem at the GHP. He noted that Fairbanks is a community with many great programs to help people, yet the homelessness issue is only increasing. **Mr. Clark** added that the fiscal note would be for providing PSA and FPD foot patrol, and he pointed out that it had been part of the City's budget in the past.

Mayor Matherly spoke of a past attempt to increase room rental tax, adding that it has been adamantly opposed. He added that he was not in favor of reducing the Explore Fairbanks budget but did see value in increasing the room rental tax by 1%. He noted that 1% would equate to approximately \$400,000 and that the Fairbanks was low in comparison to other municipalities. He commended Mr. Clark on opening the conversation to provide solutions to a growing issue, noting that there is never an easy answer to the address issues like homelessness. **Mayor Matherly** thanked the FPD for their recent efforts in the downtown area, noting that the GHP is the primary drop off point for tour buses.

Ms. Therrien asked what percentage the room rental tax would need to be increased if the smaller rate provided by J. Jones was used instead of the proposed cost in the ordinance. CFO Bell clarified that the current ordinance does not increase the room rental tax rate but only shifts 10% from Festival Fairbanks back to the City, increasing the City's portion to 24.5%.

Mr. Gibson stated that he felt Mr. Clark was attempting to solve a problem with an identified funding source and suggested that instead of shifting the funds, the Council increase the room rental tax by 1% and retain those funds to provide security.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6210 by substituting Ordinance No. 6210, as Amended.

Mr. Gibson spoke to the changes in the substitution, noting that it would increase the room rental tax by 1% to be retained by the City. He explained that it would not affect the current distribution of room rental tax revenues.

Mr. Marney expressed concern with the Discretionary Fund Committee distributions, noting that many of the organizations did not receive funds in the amount they requested; he stated that it is difficult to address the needs of all those who applied with the funds that are available. He added that he felt the grant funding should be increased, and the language present in the substituted version may complicate that process.

Ms. Therrien expressed concern about changing the tax rate in the middle of tourist season. She added that the proposed cost for security could be reduced, with the extra funds being distributed for GHP and Barnette Landing maintenance. She suggested that the tourism industry have an opportunity to provide input on a proposed increase.

Mr. Gibson agreed that more discussion may be necessary to come to a workable solution but asked that the Council approve the amended version and advance it so that work could continue.

Mayor Matherly noted that Explore Fairbanks has done a great job of promoting the Fairbanks area in all seasons and that it is never a great time to increase room rental tax rates.

Mr. Cleworth confirmed that there had been a downtown patrol officer budgeted in the past, noting that it was dismissed after a year or two. He went on to speak about the fixed distribution amounts which were put in place to avoid the Council amending distributions on a regular basis. He agreed that the proposed substitution would eliminate some of the issues but also had the potential to cause issues for those who could be impacted by the increase. He noted that the increased revenue could not be fully designated, but that there may be a round-about way to do so without going against requirements within the Alaska State Constitution. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he would support either version presented and that he would like to work internally with the FPD. He stated that a consistent approach to carry forward would be important to the success of whatever program is decided upon.

Ms. Rogers expressed her concern for the issues presented and felt that she could not support the original ordinance that would remove funds from Explore Fairbanks; she shared that she could also not support the amendment. She asked that a group of impacted businesses and organizations meet to discuss a solution. She confirmed Mr. Marney's statement, adding that there are many groups that apply for discretionary grant funds, and they should be part of the conversation.

Mr. Clark stated that he spent time talking to downtown business owners who expressed a lack of enthusiasm that anything would be done on a permanent basis to increase police presence downtown. He added that he is generally against raising taxes but felt that he could support the room rental increase of 1% if it would help to fix the growing issues in the downtown area.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6210 BY SUBSTITUTING ORDINANCE NO. 6210, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Clark, Gibson, Therrien, Cleworth

NAYS: Rogers, Marney

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to AMEND the motion to ADVANCE by changing the date of advancement to the Regular City Council Meeting of July 25, 2022.

Ms. Therrien asked if the effective date would remain as August 1, 2022 if advanced to that later date. City Clerk Snider confirmed that, unless amended, it was feasible to keep the original effective date. CFO Bell noted that the meeting date and effective date would be too close together for businesses to implement the changes.

Mr. Clark agreed that the issue would now need to be extended to 2023.

Mr. Gibson agreed with **Mr. Clark**, stating that he was in support of moving the effective date to allow for more conversation.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADVANCE BY CHANGING THE DATE OF ADVANCEMENT TO THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 25, 2022 AS FOLLOWS:

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

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6210, as Amended, by changing the effective date to January 1, 2023.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6210, AS AMENDED, TO THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 25, 2022 AS FOLLOWS:

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

City Clerk Snider asked for clarification as to the sponsorship of the ordinance, given that the substituted version was drastically different from the original ordinance. Both **Mr. Gibson** and **Mr. Clark** indicated they would like to be co-sponsors.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Appointment to the Discretionary Fund Committee

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Gibson stated he had no committee reports. He congratulated the Mayor on his upcoming class reunion, adding that he remembered attending school dances where the Mayor had been the DJ. He recommended that anyone who can attend future military banquets do so, as they are a great way to learn how the military interacts with the community.

Mr. Marney spoke to the previous conversations throughout the meeting and thanked Explore Fairbanks and Festival Fairbanks for their efforts throughout the City in promoting tourism.

Mr. Clark shared his appreciation for the comments regarding the issues at GHP, adding that it was a City issue. He stated that the GHP is a beautiful location that citizens deserve to visit.

Ms. Therrien shared that she had been involved in the FPD Captain interviews, adding that it had been a great experience; she noted that any of the candidates would be a good choice. She shared that the patch ceremony she had attended at Fort Wainwright had been an impressive event. She asked about the feasibility of getting help from the FNSB with the GHP or turning over responsibility to them.

Mayor Matherly stated that he had spoken with the Borough Mayor about that possibility, but he was hesitant to do so based on the way they were managing the park directly across the river.

Ms. Rogers shared that she had also attended the patch ceremony at Fort Wainwright and had enjoyed it immensely. She mentioned that she had attended the most recent Crisis Now and FNSB Assembly meetings, where she spoke highly of the Crisis Now Coordinator, Brenda McFarlane. She noted that her first statewide Coalition on Housing and Homeless meeting would be happening the following day, and she recognized Mike Sanders for his work on the Coalition prior to nominating her for membership. **Ms. Rogers** shared that the Stars of Gold Readers had been meeting to work on ways to ensure that books and resources are available to help achieve a minimum third-grade reading level across the Borough. She spoke to the issues at GHP, adding that there had been suggestions of holding summer concerts there; she stated that there was security then as well.

Mr. Gibson left the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Mr. Cleworth shared that he had recently resigned his seat with the Golden Heart Parking Services Board of Directors after many years of service. He spoke to the meaning behind the name of the GHP, recognizing the request made by Dr. Wood to designate the space as a plaza – not a park – to keep it under the City’s responsibility. He noted the multifaceted issues in the area and spoke to some of the different taskforces that there have been; he stated that there have also been individual officers who have had success in the Plaza in the past. **Mr. Cleworth** went on to speak to some voluntary safety officer programs, noting success that has been seen in other states. He added that a non-sworn officer could respond to approximately 1/3 of the current police calls, referencing the call list provided for the earlier liquor license renewal application as an example. **Mr. Cleworth** asked that the Council and public remain patient in discussions regarding raising the room rental tax, noting that the conversation was an important one to work through properly.

Mayor Matherly drew attention to the wall outside City Council Chambers where a framed land acknowledgment would be mounted prior to the next Council meeting. He stated that the Work

Session regarding the Manh Choh Mine had been rescheduled for the first regular meeting in July at 5:00 p.m.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

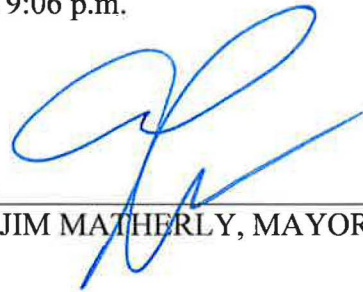
City Clerk Snider reminded everyone the local election would take place on October 4, 2022. She stated that the local Clerks were planning an event to help encourage participation by voters and potential candidates.

ADJOURNMENT

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

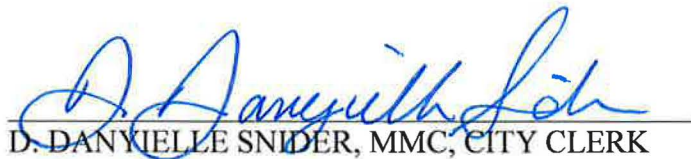
Mayor Matherly called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR