



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 26, 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

Absent: *Vacant*, Seat F

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
 Teal Soden, Communications Director (remotely)
 Scott Raygor, Fire Chief (remotely)
 Andrew Coccaro, Assistant Fire Chief
 Clem Clooten, Building Official (remotely)
 Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director (remotely)
 Angela Modrell, Dispatch
 John Ringstad, City Council Nominee

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Matherly, **Mr. Marney** lead the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Matherly recognized Hutchison High School graduate and UAF student Tyler Newman for being one of the six recipients of the Summer of Heroes \$1,500 scholarship. He stated that the program recognizes youth who actively work to make positive impacts within their communities and is sponsored by Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) and the Boys and Girls Club. **Mayor**

Matherly asked Heather Marron from ACS and Tyler Newman to come forward. H. Marron shared Tyler’s qualifications, including his time spent volunteering with youth sports and at the local food bank.

Mayor Matherly spoke to the importance of the “two v’s” – volunteering and voting and to how important it is to encourage young people to participate.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

Charity Gadapee, Explore Fairbanks Director of Visitor Services and Partnership Development – C. Gadapee gave an update on the 2022 summer season, adding that the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center had seen over 49,000 visitors. She noted that while it was a 57% increase from the previous year, it was still a 36% decline from pre-pandemic times. She expressed excitement about moving into the Aurora season and thanked the City Council for its support of tourism.

Angela Modrell, FECC – A. Modrell thanked the City Council, Administration, and members of the community who had expressed support for the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC) staff during their times of short staffing and long hours.

Aaron Lojewski, Fairbanks – A. Lojewski, speaking on his own behalf, shared some highlights and low points from the most recent Borough Assembly meeting. He stated that the high points included: the efforts made by the citizens of Two Rivers to create their own fire service area in response to the run of arsons that had occurred the previous year, and the Assembly approving a program that would pay for school busses the following year. He added that the school district would be able to hire enough bus drivers to ensure that all students had access to safe and adequate transportation. He shared his disappointment that his ordinance regarding the restoration of the Board of Adjustment powers to the City had not been heard after being tabled in order to hear other public testimony. He stated he felt that the procedure to lay on the table had been improperly used and that he was very dissatisfied that the issue had not been discussed.

Ms. Therrien thanked A. Lojewski for his update.

Mr. Marney asked if he would have more information after the next Assembly meeting. A. Lojewski indicated that the ordinance was likely to fail if it was heard at all.

Ms. Rogers asked A. Lojewski if he had felt the relationship between the Borough and City had improved since the increase in communication. A. Lojewski stated that it will always be beneficial to have more communication between the two entities.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Cleworth pulled item 14(b), Memorandum from the City Attorney Regarding Joining the State of Alaska’s IRS Section 457(b) Plan, from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Marney pulled item 12(b), Resolution No. 5030 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 August 22, 2022
APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.
- b) Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2022
APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Type: Restaurant/Eating Place
License No.: 6080
DBA: KC’s Kitchen
Applicant: Curt Michael Haley and Ok Hui Haley
Location: 1707 S. Cushman Street, Fairbanks

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the New Liquor License Application.

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

Ms. Rogers shared her excitement to see the revitalization of the South Cushman area.

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

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Gibson, Therrien, Rogers
NAYS: None
ABSENT: *Vacant*, Seat F
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Marijuana Onsite Consumption Endorsement Application:

Type/Lic.: Marijuana Onsite Consumption Endorsement, Lic. #10131
DBA: Pakalolo Supply Company
Applicant: Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc.
Location: 1851 Fox Avenue, Fairbanks

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Marijuana License Onsite Consumption Endorsement Application contingent upon the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

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

Cole Hollister, Owner – C. Hollister shared the history of his business in Alaska, adding that they had recently received unanimous approval by the Marijuana Control Board (MCB) for onsite consumption. He described their retail store, adding that they also sold many houseplants. He stated that the larger back area would become the consumption lounge as originally intended.

Ms. Rogers noted that the original application indicated their intent to operate as an onsite consumption establishment. She shared her appreciation for C. Hollister’s willingness to educate the Council and work with the City regarding his business.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE MARIJUANA ONSITE CONSUMPTION ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION CONTINGENT UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Cleworth, Therrien, Rogers, Gibson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: *Vacant*, Seat F
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly shared that Lathrop High School had won the Mayor’s Bowl football game against North Pole High School, and he passed his congratulations on to the Lathrop football team. He noted that there would be discussion at the next Finance Committee meeting regarding the purchase of a third ambulance. He shared his enthusiasm for a new establishment being erected at Pike’s Landing to house the Aurora Institute, and he encouraged people to visit the Institute when it is complete. **Mayor Matherly** congratulated Tyler Newman on his scholarship and welcomed the new Deputy City Attorney, Tom Chard.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Gibson thanked A. Lojewski for his attendance and expressed hope that his ordinance would be heard by the Assembly.

Mr. Marney reiterated Mr. Gibson's comments and his own desire to see more Assembly members interacting at City Council meetings.

Ms. Therrien congratulated Tyler Newman and shared her appreciation for the presentation. She thanked A. Lojewski for his update and for his efforts to inform the Council on items that are important to the City. She added that she could have used her comment period as the City representative at the Assembly meeting to speak to A. Lojewski's ordinance but had not anticipated that the ordinance would remain tabled.

Ms. Rogers thanked A. Lojewski and expressed hope for further conversations between Council and Assembly members. She stated she enjoyed the celebration of Tyler Newman and his accomplishments and invited the public to use the City Council as a platform for recognizing their scholarship and award recipients. She spoke to a series of lectures she had watched through the UAF Summer Sessions, noting one about Mary Nordale and the historical resources those lectures can provide. **Ms. Rogers** added that she had not been aware that ACS had begun as a military program and had been originally called the Army Communications System before being renamed as the Alaska Communications System.

Mr. Cleworth thanked A. Modrell for coming before the Council, noting that it was nice to hear positive comments from departments and employees. He went on to talk about the recent negotiations that he and Mr. Marney had observed between the City and the FECC and thanked A. Modrell and Chief Dupee for their participation, noting that it had gone remarkably well. **Mr. Cleworth** thanked A. Lojewski for his efforts and expressed his opinion that the Assembly seemed to be increasing the separation between the City and Borough. He added his strong support for the City sitting as a Board of Appeals.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6219 – An Ordinance Amending the Public Safety Employees Association/City of Fairbanks Collective Bargaining Agreement to Add a Community Outreach Specialist Position. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6219.

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. 6219 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Therrien, Marney, Rogers, Cleworth

NAYS: None

ABSENT: *Vacant*, Seat F

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6219 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5029 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for and Accept Funds for the Housing Coordinator. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 5030 – A Resolution Clarifying Council Member Authority When Representing the City at Borough Assembly Meetings. Introduced by Council Member Cleworth.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5030.

Mr. Marney requested to have his name added as a sponsor.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5030 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Marney, Therrien, Cleworth, Gibson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: *Vacant*, Seat F.
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5030 APPROVED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6220 – An Ordinance Amending FGC Section 2-487, Composition of the Clay Street Cemetery Commission. Introduced by Council Member Cleworth.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Request for Concurrence to Appointment of New Council Member to Seat F

Mayor Matherly outlined the term of the appointment, adding that if Mr. Ringstad was confirmed by the Council, he would be sworn in at the next Regular City Council meeting.

Ms. Rogers, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to CONFIRM John Ringstad’s appointment to Seat F of the City Council.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CONFIRM JOHN RINGSTAD’S APPOINTMENT TO SEAT F OF THE CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gibson, Cleworth, Marney, Therrien, Rogers
NAYS: None
ABSENT: *Vacant*, Seat F.
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Memorandum from the City Attorney Regarding Joining the State of Alaska’s IRS Section 457(b) Plan.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ACCEPT the Memorandum from the City Attorney regarding Joining the State of Alaska’s IRS Section 457(b) Plan.

Mr. Cleworth shared concern over the \$20,000 cost to maintain the plan and asked if the City was required to retain a third party rather than have the Deferred Comp Committee fill that role.

City Attorney Paul Ewers noted that the Deferred Comp Committee procedures were not before the Council to be discussed, noting that the expenditure to Pacific Portfolio had been approved in the 2022 budget, and they had been contracted for the calendar year. He advised that the Council revisit this topic during budget discussions if they wished to make a change, adding that he and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) would be able to address concerns and recommendations at that time.

Mr. Cleworth asked if there was a legal obligation by the City to hire a third party to oversee the portfolio. CA Ewers stated that there was not.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY REGARDING JOINING THE STATE OF ALASKA’S IRS SECTION 457(b) PLAN AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Therrien, Rogers, Gibson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: *Vacant*, Seat F.
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- c) Appointment to the Discretionary Fund Committee

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Ms. Rogers shared that the Alaska Housing Corporation would be meeting soon and she would be attending an Opioid Task Force meeting later in the week. She added that she would soon assist in another “Pizza with Police” event at the Golden Heart Plaza (GHP) and noted that the first event

was very positive. She shared her gratitude for the many organizations working to make Fairbanks a better place and thanked C. Gadapee for her updates. **Ms. Rogers** thanked A. Lojewski for his continued efforts to keep communication flowing between the Assembly and the Council, noting that many disagreements can be worked out by listening to other perspectives. She thanked A. Modrell for the letters she provides to the Council and the pride she expresses through her work. She concluded by stating that she has a lot to be thankful for.

Mr. Gibson shared that at the last FAST Planning meeting the group had been presented with new projects to be scored and considered against the current projects for priority in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). He spoke to the conversations around hiring public safety employees and to how the public often forgets about the importance of Dispatch personnel.

Mr. Marney shared that the Discretionary Fund grant applicants would be able to meet with the CFO and her staff on October 12, 2022, adding that it was a great opportunity for applicants to ask questions about the process. He recognized A. Modrell for her hard work and concluded by reminding everyone to vote on October 4, 2022.

Ms. Therrien provided a land acknowledgment. She shared that the Alaska Municipal League (AML) board would be meeting soon and asked that the Council provide feedback on the resolutions she had sent through the City Clerk. **Ms. Therrien** shared her experience visiting the FECC Dispatch Center and expressed her admiration for the number of calls they handle and the quality of work they provide. She suggested that the Council meet to discuss legislative concerns soon. She stated she had attended a well-received event at the Department of Transportation (DOT) and expressed that she was looking forward to working with Mr. Ringstad.

Mr. Cleworth thanked Mr. Ringstad for his willingness to serve on the Council and spoke to Mr. Ringstad's knowledge of state and local issues. He wished all the candidates running for office the best of luck and shared his appreciation of the positive campaign messages. **Mr. Cleworth** acknowledged Julie Jones with Festival of Fairbanks and thanked her for the work done to keep the grounds at City Hall looking nice. He noted that he had taken many tours of the FECC and he hoped that the recruitment videos capitalized on the technology within the department.

Ms. Therrien asked if Mr. Cleworth had provided an article to the Fairbanks Daily News Miner regarding Proposition A. Mr. Cleworth stated that he had received mixed feedback on his draft article and was hesitant to publish it based on the complexity of the issue. He added that he felt very good about both propositions on the 2022 ballot.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Snider reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming election, noting that early voting and in-person absentee voting is available. She shared that the Council's annual Work Session with the Interior Delegation is scheduled for November 28, 2022.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

CA Ewers shared that he would be pushing his retirement date back to March 1, 2023. He indicated that he would recommend around the first of the new year that the Council form a committee for the purposes of hiring his replacement.

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ENTER into Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy.

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

Mayor Matherly called for a brief recess. The Council reconvened in Executive Session following the brief recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy

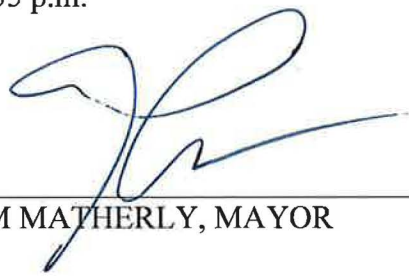
The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy. Direction was given to the negotiating team, and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

 *Rochelle Rodak Deputy Clerk for:*
D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR