



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 24, 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 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  
John Ringstad, Seat F (remotely)

David Pruhs, Mayor Elect  
Sue Sprinkle, Seat C Elect  
Crystal Tidwell, Seat D Elect

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  
Ron Dupee, Police Chief  
Teal Soden, FPD (remotely)  
Scott Raygor, Fire Chief  
Andrew Cocco, Assistant Fire Chief  
Clem Clooten, Building Official  
Ana Gomez Rodriguez, Finance (remotely)  
Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

### **FLAG SALUTATION**

**Mayor Matherly** lead the Flag Salutation.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Aaron Crook, Fairbanks – A. Crook thanked the outgoing Council members for their efforts to bring safety and responsibility to the City. He also thanked Mayor Matherly for his service to the

community and his outstanding leadership. He added his hope that they all would continue to do great things within the community.

**Ms. Rogers** asked A. Crook if he had considered running for office; he replied that he had.

Victor Buberger, Fairbanks – V. Buberger spoke to the poor lighting in the Trainor Gate Road and Steese Highway area, suggesting that additional lighting be installed. He wished Mayor Matherly good luck.

Bobby Dorton, Fairbanks – B. Dorton shared his appreciation for the City that welcomed him back into the community when he left the prison system four years prior. He thanked Mayor Matherly for believing in him and not holding his past against him. He went on to speak about how Fairbanks is a leader in the state in behavioral health efforts and about the highly innovative ideas being explored to treat addiction. He shared his hope for Mayor Elect Pruhs' success and hope that the City would continue to work hard to help those who are less fortunate.

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

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

**Ms. Therrien**, 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 October 10, 2022

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Ms. Therrien** gave an update on the recent Permanent Fund Review Board meeting, noting that the Fund had experienced a significant, unrealized loss; she noted that the market remained low and unstable. She added that the custodial account would be moving to US Bank, and the Board would be meeting again on January 23, 2023. She shared that the City's portfolio managers at Alaska Permanent Capital Management (APCM) felt that the Council's previous decisions had protected the Fund from greater loss, and they were hopeful the portfolio would recover.

**Mr. Marney** thanked A. Crook and B. Dorton for their testimony, commenting on his own pride in being a Fairbanksan.

### **2022 REGULAR ELECTION**

a) Certification of the 2022 Regular Election Results

City Clerk Snider read the following 2022 Regular Election results into the record:

**DAVID PRUHS**, having received a majority of the votes cast for CITY MAYOR, for a three-year term ending October 2025, is hereby declared elected as the Mayor of the City of Fairbanks.

**SUE SPRINKLE**, having received a majority of the votes cast for CITY COUNCIL SEAT C, for a three-year term ending October 2025, is hereby declared elected as a Member of the Fairbanks City Council.

**CRYSTAL TIDWELL**, having received a majority of the votes cast for CITY COUNCIL SEAT D, for a three-year term ending October 2025, is hereby declared elected as a Member of the Fairbanks City Council.

**PROPOSITION A** passed by a vote of 2,195 “yes” votes to 1,130 “no” votes.

**PROPOSITION B** passed by a vote of 2,247 “yes” votes to 1,058 “no” votes.

**Mr. Gibson**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to CERTIFY the results of the 2022 Regular Election.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CERTIFY THE RESULTS OF THE 2022 REGULAR ELECTION AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and the 2022 Regular Election Results CERTIFIED.

b) Mayor and Council Members’ Comments

**Mayor Matherly** shared that he had learned a lot about local government when he had been elected to the City Council 12 years ago. He added that he had made a goal to be City Mayor when he was in high school, and it gave him great pleasure to have made that accomplishment. He thanked the citizens of Fairbanks and spoke to his family history in the area, expressing how much the community meant to him. **Mayor Matherly** stated that it has been the joy of his life to serve the City of Fairbanks. He recalled the tragedy of losing Officer Brandt only four days after he had been sworn in as Mayor, noting that Ofc. Brandt had spoken at that same Council meeting. He shared his incredible sadness at losing former Chief of Staff and his dear friend Mike Meeks earlier in 2022. He thanked Mike Sanders for stepping into the Chief of Staff position and went on to personally address each department head, sharing his appreciation for their hard work and efforts to make the City of Fairbanks better for citizens and staff. He expressed gratefulness for City Council members, past and present, for their dedication to service and genuine care for the City. **Mayor Matherly** thanked his friends and family for their support throughout the years and wished the best to new members.

**Mr. Ringstad** welcomed new members and expressed his desire to work with Mayor Matherly again in the future.

**Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the Mayor's strengths in promoting good public relations for the City, noting the thoughtful comments he had made at Ofc. Brandt's memorial only days after he took office. He recognized the Mayor's commitment to personally responding to citizens and wished him good luck in the future. He went on to recognize Mr. Gibson as a friend and for Mr. Gibson's time and effort digging into the deeper issues of the City. **Mr. Cleworth** noted Ms. Therrien's prior service on the Council and the hard work she has done for the City, including the time she spent serving on the Permanent Fund Review Board.

**Ms. Rogers** shared that she had attended the Pizza in the Plaza event on September 30 and would be attending an Opioid Task Force meeting the following day. She spoke to the exceptional work being performed by Shelissa Thomas and her staff at Restore, Inc., asking that each Council member take time to visit and get to know her. She recognized Mr. Dorton for his testimony and the good work being done in the community to bring about positive and productive changes. **Ms. Rogers** took time to recognize City Custodian Lilibeth Lantz for her positive attitude and hard work. She expressed hope to continuing to work with Mr. Gibson in the community. She welcomed the newly elected Council members and Mayor, adding that there was a lot of work to be done. **Ms. Rogers** spoke to her history with Mayor Matherly, noting that it went back to his Cub Scout years. She thanked him for being responsive to her inquiries and to the public. She thanked Ms. Therrien for her incredible work ethic and attention to detail, adding how she had actively participated in all the issues brought before the Council. She again welcomed the new members, noting how lucky they are to work with the fine staff at the City of Fairbanks.

**Mr. Marney** thanked Mayor Matherly for being a friend, leader, and confidant, adding that he appreciated his patience in helping him learn meeting procedures. He noted that he has known Mr. Gibson for a long time and that he appreciated his innovative way of thinking. He added that he would not be surprised to see Mr. Gibson back on the Council in the future. **Mr. Marney** recognized Ms. Therrien for helping him to be more open-minded and wished her luck.

**Mr. Gibson** recalled when he had been sworn in three years prior, noting that he had not realized how long the first part of the meeting would be when he brought his three-year-old twins to the meeting. He shared that his time on the Council had been a fun experience and thanked the City Attorney, City Clerk, and Chief Financial Officer for their help and patience. **Mr. Gibson** thanked Mr. Cleworth for his wealth of knowledge about the history of the City and Borough and shared his appreciation for Ms. Rogers' thoughtfulness and commitment to community involvement. He shared his appreciation for Ms. Therrien's approach to different topics and her ability to work through issues. He wished Mr. Ringstad good luck, adding that he had hoped to get to know him better. **Mr. Gibson** spoke to Mr. Marney's abundance of knowledge and genuinely good character. He thanked Mayor Matherly for being present and always thinking of the City staff. He recognized the strong management team, noting that it is the people doing the work that are the most important.

**Ms. Therrien** recalled when she first served on the City Council back in the 1980s and how she had not known how to vote on items. She thanked Mayor Matherly and Mr. Gibson for their service and wished them both the best of luck, adding that she would not be surprised to see Mr. Gibson serving on the City Council again in the future. **Ms. Therrien** thanked the citizens of Fairbanks and the voters who supported her throughout the years. She stated that it had been her honor to

serve the City and thanked the department heads and staff for all their hard work. She welcomed the new Council members and highlighted the current Council's unique ability to work together through tough issues for the betterment of the community. **Ms. Therrien** thanked her family for their support and wished the best to the new Council members and Mayor, adding that she would be calling in about troublesome potholes.

**Mayor Matherly** recognized Teal Soden, his Executive Assistant for his entire tenure as Mayor, for her support and loyalty. He presented Ms. Therrien and Mr. Gibson with commemorative gold pans to recognize their service to the City of Fairbanks.

Chief of Staff Michael Sanders presented Mayor Matherly with a City of Fairbanks gold pan recognizing his two terms as Mayor.

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

c) Oaths of Office and Seating of Elected Mayor and Council Members

City Clerk Snider administered Oaths of Office to elected Mayor David Pruhs and Council Members Sue Sprinkle and Crystal Tidwell. The members assumed their respective seats.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 5033 – A Resolution Designating Check Signing Authority for Banking and Investment Accounts of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Ordinance No. 6222 – An Ordinance Amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Public Safety Employee Association (PSEA) to Address Critical Staffing Levels at the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC). Introduced by Mayor Pruhs

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

- a) Appointment to the Clay Street Cemetery Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of July 27, 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. Cleworth** welcomed Mayor Pruhs and recalled the work they did together on the City Council in years past. He thanked him for his continued efforts regarding the Polaris Building and wished him the best as Mayor. He welcomed Ms. Tidwell and thanked her for the time she worked for the City Public Works department, encouraging her to reach out with any questions she might have. **Mr. Cleworth** also welcomed Ms. Sprinkle, noting that he had served on other committees with Ms. Sprinkle in the past. He spoke to the incredible City staff who are very open and welcoming to everyone, adding that he is glad the City operates a bit more laid back than the Borough. He asked the City Clerk to put in a request to Public Works to remove the dividers at the daises. **Mr. Cleworth** asked for clarification on the City's Permanent Fund losses. CFO Bell confirmed that most of the losses were from bonds and stated that the unrealized losses would most likely be restored once the market went through its volatility. She added that she would change the budget meeting scheduled for November 3 to accommodate Mr. Cleworth's scheduling conflict.

**Ms. Rogers** shared her appreciation for Ms. Tidwell's enthusiasm and stated she was eager to get to know her better. She acknowledged Ms. Sprinkle, noting that they have worked together in various capacities over the years and that she was looking forward to working with her on the Council. She welcomed Mr. Pruhs back to the City and commended him for his energy and focus.

**Ms. Sprinkle** expressed her excitement at joining the City Council, adding that she would do her best to learn. She stated she does not take the responsibility lightly.

**Mr. Pruhs** recognized Congressional Candidate Nick Begich in the audience.

**Mr. Ringstad** apologized for not being present in person and welcomed the two new City Council members, adding that he looked forward to working with them. He welcomed Mayor Pruhs and added his appreciation for everyone's desire to work together to improve the City.

**Mr. Marney** welcomed Mayor Pruhs, adding that he looked forward to working with him. He also welcomed Ms. Tidwell and Ms. Sprinkle, stating that he was eager to work with them and to get to know them better.

**Ms. Tidwell** stated she was thankful to be elected to the City Council and that she looked forward to getting to know each of the other members. She shared that she had worked at Public Works for some time but had never imagined serving on the Council. She requested to be excused from the Executive Session on the AFL-CIO Labor Negotiations due to a potential conflict of interest.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that he was nearly finished preparing the budget and would be presenting it to the Council soon. He added that the new Council members would learn a lot about the City through the budget process and encouraged them to ask questions and engage in discussions. He stated that every penny matters, and every discussion holds value. He stated his philosophy is that even if he does not agree with someone today, he will agree with them the next day.

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ENTER Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy.

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a) AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that the City Council met in Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy where direction was given to the negotiating team, and no action was taken.

CFO Bell presented the 2023 budget schedule to the City Council. **Mr. Marney** asked about the possibility of a budget orientation or tutorial. CFO Bell stated that she would set aside time to discuss the budget with each Council member individually when they pick up their budget books. City Clerk Snider stated that the orientation for new Council members could be modified to include a budget orientation discussion and that she would inform the Council when that would be scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

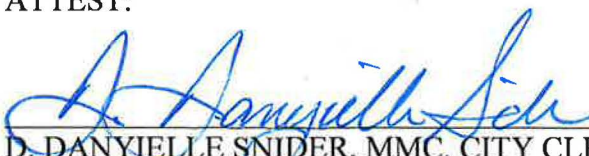
**Mr. Marney**, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

  
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DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR