

FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 28, 2022 FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:15 p.m. Work Session for a 2023 City Legislative and Capital Priorities discussion with the Interior Delegation, 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 David Pruhs presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present:

Jerry Cleworth, Seat A

June Rogers, Seat B Sue Sprinkle, Seat C Crystal Tidwell, Seat D Lonny Marney, Seat E John Ringstad, 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)

Ron Dupee, Police Chief

Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief

Kurt Allen, FPD

Scott Raygor, Fire Chief

Clem Clooten, Building Official (remotely)

Robert Pristash, City Engineer

Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, Ms. Rogers lead the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Pruhs shared that Ofc. Kurt Allen was retiring for the second time and asked Deputy Police Chief Rick Sweet to speak.

Deputy Chief Sweet shared that Ofc. Allen had been with the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) for 25 years, adding that he had initially retired in 2017 but returned in 2018 to lend his years of

experience to a very young and understaffed department. Deputy Chief Sweet went on to list some of the accomplishments and merits that Ofc. Allen brought to the police force, adding that he would be missed greatly by the department. Fairbanks Police Chief Ron Dupee presented Ofc. Allen with a City of Fairbanks gold pan, and Deputy Chief Sweet gave him an Honorary Service Medal, reading the qualifications to earn such award. DC Sweet also spoke to the Meritorious Service Award Ofc. Allen had been presented with earlier in the week. Ofc. Kurt Allen thanked the Chief and Deputy Chief for their kind words, noting that he would miss the FPD family.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

<u>Sam Hachey, Fairbanks</u> – S. Hachey spoke to the issues of paying taxes on cultivated cannabis. He stated that cultivators must travel to Juneau or Anchorage to pay taxes, given that many of the businesses are unable to obtain bank accounts due to federal restrictions. He asked that the City consider passing an ordinance that would allow for the collection of the State cultivation taxes at the City level to be passed on to the State, noting that the City is already collecting a retail tax.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarification on S. Hachey's request and how taxes are paid. S. Hachey stated that while some credit unions will allow cannabis businesses to bank with them, the fees are very cost prohibitive. He stated that cultivators are having to haul large amounts of cash to Anchorage.

Mr. Ringstad asked why the State had not provided a place to make payments locally. S. Hachey stated that originally Anchorage had been the only place for payment, and the Juneau office was opened within the last two years to facilitate the business owners in the Southeast region.

Ms. Tidwell asked S. Hachey to leave his contact information for future follow up.

Mr. Marney asked S. Hachey if he had contacted the Marijuana Control Board and what their position was on this issue. S. Hachey stated that there does not seem to be any desire to change the current setup. He added that the State does accept check and ACH transfers but stated that the bank bases his fees on the amount of revenue deposited, and he would essentially be taxed twice if he chose to send payment electronically.

Jomo Stewart, President/CEO of Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) – J. Stewart gave updates on the Alaska Interior Business Accelerator, reminding the Council that the FEDC had planned to meet with other entities to come up with a plan to bring more businesses to the Interior. He noted some of the partners they have been working with and described the cohort event where start-up companies could compete on their "pitch," which has been offered twice this year and will be offered again in the Spring of 2023. He added that there had been six fundable pitches, including a 12-year-old jewelry maker and a person interested in opening a dog hotel. J. Stewart referenced a calendar that offered a large range of events happening over the winter, noting that they had tried to include as many groups and organizations as possible.

Ms. Rogers asked J. Stewart if he knew about the former cat hotel. J. Stewart said he had not been aware but had been intrigued by the doggie hotel business model.

<u>Victor Buberge, Fairbanks</u> – V. Buberge complimented the Public Works Director for the work done by his crew. He spoke against the roundabouts in Fairbanks, noting that they continually cause hazards. He thanked the City for cleaning out the homeless camp near the Richardson/Airport intersection. He added that he would like to see the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) allow volunteer firefighters and that new street lights were needed in the Trainer Gate area.

David van den Berg, Downtown Association (DTA) – D. van den Berg spoke to the invoices being distributed to the Council Members by Chief of Staff Michael Sanders. He stated that there were 73 invoices, including one that will be used as a grant proposal to the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) to assist with Community Service Patrol (CSP) costs. He added that the total was roughly \$100,000, and the DTA would be making a payment before year end. He noted that the FNSB has been contributing to the CSP since the original request in 2012. He spoke in support of Ordinance No. 6223, asking that the City be prepared to provide support during downtown events. D. van den Berg stated that the new sidewalk clearing machines have been doing a great job of keeping crosswalks and sidewalks clear.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Tidwell pulled item 12(d), Ordinance No. 6227, from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Cleworth pulled item 12(c), Ordinance No. 6226, from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Pruhs 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 November 14, 2022

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports: AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corp (NCCC)

Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator – B. McFarlane introduced Makaela, who leads the AmeriCorps NCCC team, and added that the team would be in Fairbanks until the beginning of January when they leave for Anchorage. Makaela Lesniewski shared that it was her first time visiting Alaska and went on to explain that the AmeriCorps NCCC groups spend ten-and-a-half months serving different communities by working with local non-profits. She added that in Fairbanks they have partnered with Breadline, Inc., Fairbanks Community Food Bank, Fairbanks

Soil and Water Conservation District, the NorthStar Community Foundation, The Door, and Tanana Chiefs Conference. M. Lesniewski highlighted some of the events her team had participated in, noting that they were working an average of 50 hours per week; she stated that ten more team members would be arriving soon. She thanked the City Council for its support, adding that it was the second year an Alaska team had been sent. She noted that no other NCCC team had traveled as far north as Fairbanks. She expressed hope that she would be able to return to the Council, prior to departing, to give a final report.

Mayor Pruhs asked for an introduction of the members present, and they introduced themselves.

Mayor's Comments & Report: Mayor Pruhs stated that outreach regarding the Polaris Building had begun, noting that the RFP regarding the demolition of the annex would not be released to the public until all neighboring business owners had the opportunity to review it and ask questions. He expressed the necessity for extreme care and consideration when removing a building of such size that is located as close as six inches to a neighboring building. Mayor Pruhs went on to address S. Hachey's concerns about cultivation tax payments to the State, adding that the City Clerk's Office currently accepts marijuana retail tax payments; he spoke to the possibility of the City being a go-between and collecting the cultivation tax on behalf of the State. He went on to share that the Alaska Human Rights Commission would be in Fairbanks and that the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) would be presenting at their meeting as well as hosting the group during the regular FDC meeting.

b) Special Report: Fairbanks Police Department

Chief Dupee asked DC Sweet to report on some of the community outreach efforts the department had been involved in.

DC Sweet shared that each year the FPD organizes with the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) to work with Costco and the Food Bank, adding that they helped the Food Bank set records for donations by collecting over 23 thousand pounds of food. He thanked Ace Adams and his wife for their hard work, noting that they put a lot of effort into making the event successful.

Mayor Pruhs shared that he has been working closely with the FPD and Chief of Staff to address complaints or issues regarding the FPD and to work with citizens and find solutions.

Chief Dupee added that the Ice Dogs Hockey team hosted the FPD the prior week to support the Shop-with-a-Cop program, adding that they had raised about \$1,500. He noted that donations could be made through the Facebook page.

Mayor Pruhs congratulated Ofc. Allen on his retirement.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Marney thanked Ofc. Allen for returning to the FPD after his first retirement and wished him well.

Ms. Rogers thanked Ofc. Allen and all those who spoke highly of him. She added her thanks to the AmeriCorps NCCC group for their enthusiasm to help the Fairbanks community. She spoke to the many outreach programs that the FPD participates in and how much it impacts the community by building trust and relationships. She mentioned that it would be nice to share those things with the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (FDNM) to build awareness. She commended those who had the idea for the City to collect cultivation taxes on behalf of the State, noting that it is a public safety issue for business owners.

Ms. Tidwell thanked the AmeriCorps NCCC group, adding that she had worked with them at the Food Bank for a couple hours. She noted that they had been there before she arrived and stayed long after she left. She commented that it is a lot of hard work, and they did a wonderful job.

Mr. Cleworth shared his appreciation for the Clerk's Office in arranging the Work Session with the Interior Delegation, noting that there is a lot of coordination that goes in to scheduling a meeting of that size. He thanked the Clerk and the Mayor for working towards a solution for marijuana cultivators who are having to travel to Anchorage to pay taxes. Mr. Cleworth thanked D. van den Berg for his work in procuring donations, noting that it takes a lot of effort. He thanked Ofc. Allen for his consistent hard work and support of the FPD when they needed help. He offered his best wishes to the AmeriCorps NCCC group, adding that the most precious thing they can offer is their time and that he really appreciated their efforts. He recognized that it takes many groups and lots of people to make Thanksgiving work for the community, noting that Ms. Tidwell and Mr. Marney both spent time volunteering.

Mr. Ringstad thanked D. van den Berg for getting people to come to the table, and he thanked Mayor Pruhs for his efforts to accommodate the marijuana cultivators that are having to pay their taxes in Anchorage. He added his disappointment in the State for not making that a priority from the beginning, noting that if the City is able to accommodate such a service, it should be done.

Ms. Sprinkle shared her appreciation for D. van den Berg's efforts regarding the CSP. She thanked the AmeriCorps NCCC group, adding that she hoped they were being taken care of as well as they were taking care of the Fairbanks community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Resolution No. 5036 – A Resolution Stating the City of Fairbanks Legislative and Capital Priorities for 2023. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by Mr. Ringstad, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5036.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by Ms. Sprinkle, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5036 by substituting the amended, proposed version of Resolution No. 5036.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5036, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Ringstad, Cleworth, Sprinkle, Rogers, Tidwell

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution

No. 5036; as Amended, APPROVED.

b) Ordinance No. 6223 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 74, Article V, Room Rental Tax, to Change the Allocations to Golden Heart Plaza/Barnette's Landing and Discretionary Grants. Introduced by Council Member Marney. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by Mr. Marney, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6223.

Mayor Pruhs called for testimony.

<u>Julie Jones, Festival Fairbanks</u> – J. Jones thanked the Mayor and City Council for bringing Ordinance No. 6223 up for discussion. She stated that it had been a long time since the Golden Heart Plaza (GHP) had received any additional maintenance funds, adding that the labor costs associated with maintaining the Plaza had increased by over \$20,000 since the original allocation. She went on to state that the increase would be very helpful, noting that outside of labor, the cost of flowers and supplies has also increased by about \$18,000.

Scott McCrea, President and CEO of Explore Fairbanks (EF) – S. McCrea stated that EF agreed with the City that the smaller organizations and GHP deserved an increase from the room rental tax funds but felt that the City of Fairbanks should share in that cost, rather than deduct directly from EF's allocation. He stated that the EF Board supported a 3% reduction and budgeted for a \$70,000 loss in revenue to account for it; he added that the City should be responsible for the additional \$30,000. He reiterated that EF was in favor of supporting the smaller organizations but would like to see a partnership from the City. He stated that while they can likely absorb the entire \$100,000, they felt the City was just as able to absorb a \$30,000 reduction to its budget.

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

Ms. Sprinkle was appreciative of the desire for all parties to make this change work best and asked whether a change to the allocation percentage had been considered versus making changes to the actual dollar amount. Mr. Marney shared that the EF Board had proposed an increase to the City's percentage with the increased allocations to the organizations coming out of the City's share. He shared his appreciation for the EF Board's willingness to work with the City on this matter, adding that he felt their concerns were centered around future changes to the allocation. Mr. Marney added that he believed the allocations should be looked at every 5 years, as stated in the ordinance, but he did not feel that another change would occur anytime soon.

Mr. Ringstad shared that he had some concerns regarding the room rental tax, adding that the current year projected revenues had been exceeded with the anticipation of an even larger revenue increase in the coming year. He stated that he understood that EF essentially gets anything left over after the City's percentage and the allotments to organizations, which is a considerably large amount of money. He added that every other City budget item is discussed and questioned in detail, while potentially unknown thousands or millions of dollars are being disbursed without even a

conversation. **Mr. Ringstad** clarified that no one is asking EF what they plan to do with the excess funds and that the City is responsible to know where tax revenues are being spent. He spoke in favor of Mr. Marney's efforts to change the allocations to make up for inflation and other cost increases but felt that the City should have questioned these disbursements a long time ago. He added that the idea of having a partnership is great, but when one party is on the receiving end of all the excess funds, it did not feel like much of a partnership.

Ms. Sprinkle asked about the FEDC allocation and why it was not being considered for an increase as well. Mr. Marney stated that he had considered an increase to FEDC but felt that the GHP and the Discretionary Fund required more immediate attention.

Ms. Rogers shared that she appreciated hearing all the comments and that she had been involved in discussions regarding the room rental tax allocation for decades. She stated that she felt more discussion should be had prior to making a decision.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the ordinance presents a difficult decision. He went on to share that the current formula had required a lot of negotiation and work to come to an agreement. He stated that he believed the City should get more than 22.5% of room rental tax revenues, noting that a lot of things change in 20 years. Mr. Cleworth suggested that the ordinance be postponed, allowing for the EF Board to meet and consider taking on the distribution of the funds via donation. He added that those donations could be subject to EF Board approval on an annual basis. He added that this would keep the current formula and eliminate the risk for future changes.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by Ms. Sprinkle, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6223 until the Regular City Council meeting of December 12, 2022, to allow for a Work Session to be held.

Mr. Marney spoke against postponement due to the timeline for the Discretionary Fund Committee to make allocations to grant applicants.

Ms. Rogers stated that Mr. Marney's concerns were minor considering the larger topic at hand. She added that a proposed change could have been done earlier in the year and felt that none of the Discretionary Fund applicants would be damaged by not increasing the funds at this time.

Mr. Ringstad asked if a Work Session would be appropriate for the matter, noting that the December 12 meeting would be the same meeting for the approval of the 2023 City budget.

Mayor Pruhs stated that a Work Session could be scheduled and thanked the Council for taking care to make sound decisions with as much information as possible.

Ms. Sprinkle spoke in favor of postponement so that a Work Session could be held.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6223 UNTIL THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2022, TO ALLOW FOR A WORK SESSION TO BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

Tidwell, Cleworth, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers

NAYS:

Marney

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

c) Ordinance No. 6224 – An Ordinance Amending FGC Sec. 22-25(f) Regarding Procedure for Determining the Winner of a Tie Vote in City Elections. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by Ms. Sprinkle, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6224.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6224 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers, Tidwell

NAYS:

None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6224, ADOPTED.

d) Ordinance No. 6225 – An Ordinance Amending the 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Fourth Time. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Marney, seconded by Mr. Ringstad, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6225.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by Ms. Sprinkle, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6225 by substituting the amended, proposed version of Ordinance No. 6225.

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

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

Mr. Cleworth spoke to his concerns regarding the overtime costs at the FFD. He added that both the FPD and the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC) have substantial overtime costs but very few budget amendments, noting that they manage to cover overtime costs within their appropriated budget. **Mr. Cleworth** recognized Fire Chief Raygor and COS Mike Sanders for their work to fix the overtime issue, but he still expressed concern about the increase of over one million dollars to the FFD overtime line item; he noted that much of the overtime is allocated to Captains and Battalion Chiefs. He added that this is an increase he has not seen before and felt that the money could be better used elsewhere.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6225, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

Ringstad, Tidwell, Rogers, Sprinkle, Marney, Cleworth

NAYS:

None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance

No. 6225, as Amended, ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Resolution No. 5038 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Alaska Energy Authority to Fund the Solar Panel Array Project. Introduced by Council Members Marney, Cleworth, and Tidwell.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Resolution No. 5039 – A Resolution Requesting the Alaska Municipal League's Participation in Addressing Alaska Municipalities' High PERS Contribution Rate. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

c) Ordinance No. 6226 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by Ms. Sprinkle, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6226.

Mr. Cleworth noted that many of the budget discussions had been during Finance Committee meetings and asked that the Council consider the garbage collection rates for 2023. He noted that the Fairbanks General Code (FGC) is written in a way to make the rates resistant to inflation by only covering the City's cost to provide the service. He asked that the Council not increase the garbage collection rates in 2023, noting that the City had experienced a bit of a windfall in 2022. He stated that there were seven new positions being added in the budget, and he felt the taxpayers deserved a break.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by Mr. Ringstad, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6226 to reduce the garbage rate increase by decreasing revenue by \$90,882 and to increase the Public Works equipment replacement account, 0012-7610, by adding \$10,906.

Mr. Cleworth clarified that while he wanted to reduce the revenue that would be gained by increasing the garbage rates, he did not want to reduce the portion that should be allocated to Public Works for equipment replacement.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarification on the funding for equipment replacement and if it was dependent on raising the garbage collection rates.

Mr. Cleworth confirmed that it would normally be dependent on the increase in revenue, but the second part of his amendment would ensure the increase to the equipment replacement fund would still occur.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6226 TO REDUCE THE GARBAGE RATE INCREASE BY DECREASING REVENUE BY \$90,882 AND TO INCREASE THE PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT ACCOUNT, 0012-7610, BY ADDING \$10,906 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

Rogers, Marney, Sprinkle, Ringstad, Tidwell, Cleworth

NAYS:

None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6226, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

Marney, Cleworth, Ringstad, Tidwell, Rogers, Sprinkle

NAYS:

None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

d) Ordinance No. 6227 – An Ordinance Amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1324 (FFU) to Change the Staffing Levels and Amending the 2023 Operating Budget. Introduced by Council Members Tidwell and Sprinkle.

Ms. Tidwell thanked Mayor Pruhs for reaching out to her and explaining his intentions on the matter, adding that during the campaign it had been made very clear that the staffing of a third ambulance was extremely important to the community. She added that she would continue to work towards meeting that expectation. Ms. Tidwell stated that spending money on essential services is not wasteful spending but having an ambulance without staff to provide those services was very wasteful. She stated that she would like to continue to work towards a goal of staffing the third ambulance but that she would also be willing to postpone so that the best resolution could come about for City residents.

Ms. Tidwell, seconded by Ms. Sprinkle, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6227 until the regular City Council meeting of March 13, 2023.

Ms. Rogers thanked Ms. Tidwell for her insight and commitment to finding a reasonable solution.

Mr. Cleworth stated he had no issue with postponement but expressed his disappointment that it the item had become an issue in the first place. He added that the third ambulance had been running the previous year and noted that there were two solutions: either increase the FFD budget by \$300,000 or strike one sentence in the most recent collective bargaining agreement (CBA) that requires 12 people be staffed in order to run a third ambulance.

Mr. Marney spoke in favor of the third ambulance and postponement, noting that funding the ambulance was a priority for the Council as well as the Fire Chief.

Ms. Sprinkle spoke in favor of the ordinance and postponement, noting that Ms. Tidwell had done a lot of work to make sure the issue did not go unnoticed.

Mayor Pruhs thanked the sponsors of the ordinance for their willingness to work with him to find a viable solution. He added that there has been a very active working group trying to find the best solution for the City and its citizens.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6227 UNTIL THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2023 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

Sprinkle, Cleworth, Ringstad, Marney, Tidwell, Rogers

NAYS.

None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (INFORMATION AND REPORTS

a) Committee Reports

Mr. Cleworth stated he had no committee reports.

Ms. Rogers shared that she had participated in some FPD interviews.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that she had missed the Chena Riverfront Commission meeting due to a scheduling error.

Ms. Tidwell shared that J. Stewart from FEDC had provided much of the information she had planned to share with the Council, adding that she was very excited about the one-week combination of winter events and being more involved with the FEDC.

Mr. Marney stated he had no committee reports.

Mr. Ringstad stated he had no committee reports.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

a) Reappointment to the Interior Gas Utility Board

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

c) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cleworth stated he had no comments.

Ms. Rogers shared that she was looking forward to working with the Interior Delegation, adding that she had wished for more public participation. She noted that a lot of the discussion between

the public and elected officials ends after campaigns are finished. **Ms. Rogers** added her gratitude for having a City Legislative Committee and the opportunities it provides for staying up-to-date with the State Legislature and the work they do with City Lobbyist Yuri Morgan.

Ms. Sprinkle shared her excitement for the upcoming AML conference, hoping to learn more about her role as a City Council Member.

Ms. Tidwell shared that she had attended a meeting at Raven Landing where she learned that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would be doing a study in downtown Fairbanks regarding Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) moving through the groundwater. She added that the EPA did not believe there was a danger but wanted to survey approximately 30 homes between Kellum, Cushman, and Airport up to Fifth or Sixth Avenue. Ms. Tidwell noted that it would require a device to be installed in homes to collect data, which would not be available to the public, just the homeowner. She stated that if anyone was interested or had questions, they could learn more at the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) website.

Mr. Marney hoped that everyone had a nice Thanksgiving, adding that it had been low-key at his home. He stated that he had done some volunteering the day before Thanksgiving and helped provide roughly 2,300 food boxes, including turkeys, to the community.

Mr. Ringstad shared that he had met with the City Attorney and City Clerk to discuss ways to make the process regarding the Consent Agenda more transparent and clean up some language. He added that the practice has been to limit all public testimony to three minutes, but nothing in the Code specified that. He stated that he is working on an ordinance to introduce in December to address the issues.

Ms. Rogers asked that people remember to use their headlights.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by Mr. Ringstad, moved to ENTER Executive Session to discuss Roberts et al v. City of Fairbanks Mediation 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) Roberts et al v. City of Fairbanks Mediation Strategy

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss Roberts et al v. City of Fairbanks Mediation Strategy. Direction was given to legal counsel, and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR

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