



**FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 19, 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 5:30 p.m. Work Session with the Fairbanks Diversity Council to discuss Resolution No. 5037, Diversity Action Plan, 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: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Paul Ewers, City Attorney
 Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
 Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)
 Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
 Scott Raygor, Fire Chief
 Andrew Coccaro, Assistant Fire Chief
 Katie McConnachie, Controller
 Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Pruhs lead the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

a) Reading of the Bill of Rights

Mayor Pruhs introduced Boy Scout Troop 38 to read the Bill of Rights into the record.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Sam Hachey, Fairbanks – S. Hachey stated that he was a member of the cannabis industry and asked that the Council consider introducing an ordinance to allow local marijuana cultivation businesses to pay their state tax at the City Clerk’s Office.

Julie Jones, Director of Festival Fairbanks – J. Jones thanked Council Member Marney for his leadership during the annual Discretionary Fund Committee meetings and encouraged everyone to attend. She noted that there are a lot of great organizations that present during those meetings, and it is a great opportunity to see what is happening in the City of Fairbanks. J. Jones thanked the City Council for its support of discretionary funds and the many non-profits within the community.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor Pruhs stated that there was nothing to report regarding the AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation and removed the Executive Session from the 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 into the record.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
328	Drop In Lounge	Beverage Dispensary	N & P Enterprises, LLC	1420 S Cushman Street
3687	Thai House Restaurant	Restaurant/Eating Place	Boonchoo, Inc.	412 5th Avenue
4507	Miguel’s Restaurant	Beverage Dispensary	Miguel’s, LLC	1235 Airport Way, Suite 1
1912	The Crepery	Beverage Dispensary	Bulgar Corp	523 2nd Avenue
145	Boatel Bar	Beverage Dispensary	Abie Neubauer, Inc.	3368 Riverside Drive
4880	Friar Tuck’s Hoagie House	Restaurant/Eating Place	Joshua Roach and Stafford Roach	427 Merhar Avenue, Unit 2
5950	House of Fire Pizza	Restaurant/Eating Place	TJMN, LLC	300 Old Steese Highway
556	International Hotel & Bar	Beverage Dispensary	Hard Work, LLC	122 N. Turner Street
4076	Brown Jug – Fairbanks	Package Store	Liquor Stores USA North, Inc.	559 Harold Bentley Drive

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License applications for renewal.

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

Mr. Ringstad, in reference to a call on the police call reports, asked how it was determined that someone was trespassing. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that the calls reported are calls made at or near a business, and trespassing calls are when an individual refuses to leave after being asked to. He added that not all of the calls listed on the report may be directly tied to a liquor license holder, as Dispatch uses the closest address to document calls.

Ms. Sprinkle asked about the meaning of the code “PDPROQA,” and Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC) Manager Kristi Meredith explained that the code indicates that a call was made for services but was cancelled prior to an officer being dispatched.

Ms. Rogers thanked the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) for making the reports available and expressed concern over the number of weapons and “shots fired” incidents.

Mayor Pruhs recognized Ms. Rogers’ concern and stated that he would consult with the Police Chief and the owner of the establishment to better understand the circumstances.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports: Crisis Now Coordinator, Brenda McFarlane

Mayor Pruhs introduced Brenda McFarlane and gave a brief description of the services provided by Crisis Now.

Brenda McFarlane introduced Emmy Kanarowski from the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corp (NCCC). E. Kanarowski shared that the NCCC group had been working with six different organizations in Fairbanks since November 1, 2022. She added that they served over 1,700 meals, distributed over 200,000 pounds of food, constructed 15 hydroponic towers, assisted seven disadvantage youth, distributed 2,000 pounds of salmon to local Elders, and assisted in the delivery of 350 bags of toys. E. Kanarowski noted that their six-member team performed 2,116 hours of service. She stated that the team had been welcomed with open arms, and they better understood why Fairbanks was called “The Golden Heart City.”

B. McFarlane spoke very highly of the NCCC team and the work they performed. She went on to speak about the Crisis Now program, reminding the Council that her position was funded through a grant from Alaska Mental Health Trust. She stated that she took the position in April of 2022.

She shared a PowerPoint presentation with the City Council that included the most asked questions regarding Crisis Now and the services they provide.

Mr. Marney thanked B. McFarlane for her work.

Ms. Sprinkle asked B. McFarlane about Crisis Now's help in regard to homeless persons who may need follow up care. B. McFarlane explained that Crisis Now responds to calls generated from Dispatch and refers people to service providers after helping them through their crisis.

Ms. Tidwell asked about the relationship between Fairbanks and the Mat-Su Valley. B. McFarlane stated that Mat-Su is establishing a Crisis Now team that models the one in Fairbanks.

Ms. Rogers thanked B. McFarlane for her hard work, adding her pride that Fairbanks is a place to be admired when it comes to taking care of mental health issues.

Ms. Sprinkle referenced a law in New York City that required mental health treatment. B. McFarlane stated that Title 7 of the Alaska Administrative Code allows for the rights of an individual to be taken away under certain circumstances to deal with specific mental health issues.

Mayor's Comments and Report: **Mayor Pruhs** thanked B. McFarlane for her report and went on to speak to a nicely written article in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner about Fire Chief Scott Raygor. He referenced also a newspaper article highlighting "Shop-with-a-Cop" at FPD, a program that provides presents for under-privileged children. **Mayor Pruhs** recognized Public Works for helping put on the Christmas luncheon and spoke about the decorating contest within City Hall, which was judged by firefighters. He added that it had been a lot of fun and was well-attended, noting how nice it was to hear the staff being able to laugh and visit together. He wished everyone a happy Christmas.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ringstad stated he had no comments.

Mr. Marney stated he would reserve his comments for later in the meeting.

Ms. Tidwell shared her appreciation for the Boy Scouts organization and the troop's participation in the reading of the Bill of Rights, adding that her children had both been Scouts. She wished everyone happy holidays.

Mr. Cleworth thanked Boy Scout Troop 38 for reading the Bill of Rights and spoke to Frank Turney's memory. He went on to share that he had been advised not to listen to Frank Turney by another member when he first joined the City Council years ago. He acknowledged that Mr. Turney was prone to going off on tangents but expressed admiration for Mr. Turney's passion for issues such as incarcerated individuals who had retained their rights to vote but were not being accommodated during local elections. **Mr. Cleworth** remembered that the Bill of Rights had been very important to Mr. Turney and that the public reading of them is partly in remembrance of him; he added that he missed Mr. Turney. He thanked B. McFarlane for taking the time to explain the

workings of her organization to him personally, noting that he had not been aware she was going to provide a presentation with the same information.

Ms. Rogers thanked everyone for their participation. She spoke to the discussion of inclusion that occurred during the Work Session with the Fairbanks Diversity Council, noting that while Frank Turney could be cranky at times, he was generally a gracious and good-humored individual. She commended the Crisis Now program and spoke to the hard work that went into making it the example for other communities to follow. **Ms. Rogers** thanked Mayor Pruhs and Public Works Director Jacobson for their work on the Christmas Party, noting that she had very nice time.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that Frank Turney had been her neighbor and that she also missed him. She recognized Officer Alexander Cebula who was noted in the newspaper for fulfilling a child's wish to meet a police officer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6228 – An Ordinance Authorizing Release of an Easement Near 7th Avenue and Cushman Street. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6228.

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

Mr. Cleworth commented that, many years ago, the location noted in the easement was very near the location of the first Dairy Queen in Fairbanks.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6228 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6228 ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6229 – An Ordinance Amending FGC Section 2-119, Order of Business; Citizens Addressing City Council, to Clarify the Conduct of City Council Meetings. Introduced by Council Member Ringstad. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6229.

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

Ms. Rogers stated that she did not agree with the wording in the second “whereas” statement that states “council members have assumed the authority” to extend public testimony. She added that

the practice had been occurring for some time and that it is not an assumption of authority when she indicates that a person's time should be extended.

Mr. Cleworth asked if it was Robert's Rules of Order or the Fairbanks General Code (FGC) that limited the Council to asking questions rather than making statements during Citizens' Comments.

City Attorney Ewers stated that the practice was an interpretation of the Agenda item, Citizens' Comments. He noted that the intention of offering a time for general comments by citizens was to reserve time for the citizens to speak and that Council Members were allowed to respond during the first round of Council Members' Comments. He added that the practice has not been outlined in the FGC.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he felt it was more appropriate for the Council to provide a statement in direct response to a question rather than allowing for Council members to form a statement into a vague question, thereby ignoring the intent.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6229 by replacing "Citizens' Comments and public testimony on all other agenda items," in Section 2-119(h) with, "Public Testimony, including Citizens' Comments."

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6229 BY REPLACING "CITIZENS' COMMENTS AND PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL OTHER AGENDA ITEMS," IN SECTION 2-119(h) WITH, "PUBLIC TESTIMONY, INCLUDING CITIZENS' COMMENTS," AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Rogers** moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6229, Section 2-119(h), by changing the time limit from 3 minutes to 5 minutes.

Ms. Sprinkle asked what value the additional two minutes would provide.

Mr. Cleworth stated that, as someone who has provided testimony, three minutes is a very limited amount of time to explain a perspective and make a clear statement. He explained that while he understood why the time limit had been decreased, he felt that the five-minute time limit worked well in most cases. He added that it also eliminates most needs to provide additional time.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the time limit of 7:30 p.m. would be extended to accommodate the additional two minutes per person, and **Mayor Pruhs** stated that it would not.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that if the 7:30 p.m. time was not extended, it could effectively limit the number of individuals who could speak.

Mayor Pruhs agreed that it could affect the number of people who could testify and shared that when individuals had five minutes of time to fill, they often felt obligated to keep talking even after they had made their point.

Ms. Tidwell stated she felt that the current, three-minute time limit was preferable, noting that the Council can extend a citizen's time by a minute when necessary. She added that she would not want to limit the number of individuals that could be heard.

Mr. Marney asked whether the option to extend time would be removed if the limit was changed to five minutes.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he did not intend to remove the ability to allow for an extra minute. He when on to advocate for individuals who are often cut off by the three-minute time constraints, adding that citizens take time out of their day to attend meetings and speak to issues that are important to them. He stated he felt that five minutes provided enough time for citizens to effectively communicate with the Council. **Mr. Cleworth** recognized that it may result in longer meetings but felt that it provided a more welcoming atmosphere for citizens.

Ms. Rogers spoke against the amendment, noting that it is common to only be allowed two minutes to provide testimony, and she felt the City was generous by allowing three. She added that the ability to extend a person's time was a valuable tool, when needed, and provided the welcoming atmosphere that Mr. Cleworth was concerned about.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6229, SECTION 2-119(h), BY CHANGING THE TIME LIMIT FROM 3 MINUTES TO 5 MINUTES AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney
NAYS: Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers, Tidwell
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION FAILED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6229, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Rogers, Marney, Sprinkle, Cleworth, Tidwell
NAYS: None
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6229, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6230 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 14, Article XIII, Business Licensing. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Council Members Rogers, Tidwell, and Sprinkle. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Tidwell, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6230.

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. 6230 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Tidwell, Rogers, Sprinkle, Marney, Cleworth
NAYS: None
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6230, ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5041 – A Resolution Amending the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services by Adjusting the Minimum Business License Fee and by Increasing the Ambulance Mileage Charge. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (INFORMATION AND REPORTS)

- a) Committee Reports

Mr. Cleworth stated he had no reports.

Ms. Rogers shared that she had attended the FDC meeting and wished everyone happy holidays.

Ms. Sprinkle stated she had no reports.

Ms. Tidwell shared that she had attended the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) board meeting where they expressed gratitude for the increased funding. She added that the group had been going through the FEDC budget.

Mr. Marney shared that the Discretionary Fund Committee had a busy week with presentations and deciding awards, adding that even \$350,000 does not go very far with so many applicants. He stated that Bernie Karl had set a very good tone for the presentation meeting with his great sense of humor and noted that the Council had been provided with the proposed distributions. **Mr. Marney** stated that it had been a great committee to work with.

Mr. Ringstad stated he had no reports.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Tidwell stated she had no comments.

Mr. Marney wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr. Ringstad wished everyone safe and happy holidays.

Mr. Cleworth referenced the handout he had provided to the Council, which was an article from *The Economist* regarding pensions; he stated he hoped Council members would read it. He invited anyone interested to stay after the meeting for a tour of the building. He stated that 2022 had been a good year for the City, noting that the new Chief of Staff was doing a great job and that things seem to be going well in general. He complimented the staff on their efforts and wished everyone a merry Christmas.

Ms. Rogers thanked everyone for their contributions to the conversation.

Ms. Sprinkle shared her appreciation for being part of the Council and for the good energy everyone brings to discussions.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Ewers advised that if more than three Council members were to attend the tour, the public should be invited and the meeting should be adjourned after the tour. He noted that if less than three Council Members were to be present, then the meeting could be adjourned prior to the tour. City Clerk Snider confirmed that Council members Tidwell, Sprinkle, and Cleworth would be the only members attending the tour.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) AFL-CIO Labor Negotiation Strategy

The Executive session was removed from the Agenda due to lack of new information.

ADJOURNMENT

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

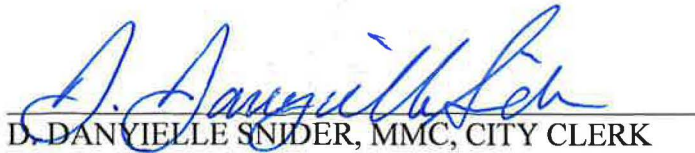
Mayor Pruhs called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANVIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR