

of the staffing issues that had plagued the department for over a year and announced that as of December 1, 2022, the fire department was fully staffed. Deputy Chief Andrew Coccoaro swore in the new recruits and promoted employees. Chief Raygor invited the family members of the firefighters to assist in the badging ceremony.

Mayor Pruhs called upon the three new lateral hires to the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) to come forward, as well as Police Chief Ron Dupee and Deputy Chief Rick Sweet.

Chief Dupee shared that they were very fortunate to have three lateral hires come on board, noting that three other officers had left the department recently. Deputy Chief Sweet administered oaths of office to the new police officers.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Dawn Murphy, Director of Finance at Explore Fairbanks – D. Murphy spoke to the recent questions regarding the budgeting process for Explore Fairbanks and provided a detailed timeline of how the annual budget is prepared. She added that Council Member Marney was present for the 2023 budget meetings and noted some changes that had been made, including those that had been discussed with the City Council.

Ms. Rogers asked D. Murphy whether that information is shared with the City Council, and D. Murphy referenced the binder that is presented to the Council in October.

Kory Eberhardt, Board of Directors Chair at Explore Fairbanks – K. Eberhardt spoke against any changes to the distribution of the room rental tax. He stated that the intended use of those funds is to promote tourism, not to support City services. He spoke to the Explore Fairbanks' efforts to keep Fairbanks at the top of the list for northern lights viewing through their extensive marketing campaigns. K. Eberhardt indicated that changing the distribution would have a negative impact on the tourism industry, noting that the original intent of the tax revenue was to invest in tourism.

Ms. Rogers asked K. Eberhardt if he had been involved in the creation of the current distribution formula. K. Eberhardt stated that his involvement began in 2011.

Mayor Pruhs asked if it would be more appropriate to hear comments regarding Ordinance No. 6223 during the public hearing for the ordinance. City Attorney Paul Ewers stated that the public hearing for Ordinance No. 6223 had occurred prior to the postponement on November 28, 2022.

Mr. Marney asked for K. Eberhardt's input about the 29 applications for the Discretionary Fund grant as they relate to tourism. K. Eberhardt stated that he felt that while some contribute to tourism activities, many do not. **Mr. Marney** asked if K. Eberhardt felt that the Discretionary Fund should remain at the 19-year flat rate. K. Eberhardt stated that he did not, arguing that both the City of Fairbanks and Explore Fairbanks should contribute to the increase.

Scott McCrea, President and CEO of Explore Fairbanks – S. McCrea spoke to Ordinance No. 6223 and the recent conversations between the City and Explore Fairbanks. He reiterated his desire to see a partnership between the two entities in regard to the increase to the Discretionary Fund. He stated that there had been a lot of questions about the accountability of Explore Fairbanks, and he

asked the Council to consider the number of industry leaders who had been vocal in their support of the organization, including those sitting in Council Chambers. S. McCrea offered a one-time contribution of \$100,000 from Explore Fairbanks to the Discretionary Fund, noting that time was becoming an issue, and he would prefer to have a deeper discussion on any permanent changes to the distribution of room rental funds.

Mr. Cleworth thanked S. McCrea for the offer, noting that the Council would be approving the 2023 budget later in the meeting. He asked if there would be any opposition to an immediate amendment to reflect the \$100,000. S. McCrea stated that he would support the amendment as a one-time donation for 2023.

Mr. Marney asked S. McCrea about any other caveats. S. McCrea stated that the offer was intended to postpone Ordinance No. 6223, along with any amendments, until the next year.

Victor Buberger, Fairbanks – V. Buberger stated he appreciated seeing new police officers being hired and shared that he had been pulled over recently. He added that the officer had been extremely polite and had pulled him over to alert him that he had a headlight out. V. Buberger commended Chief Dupee for his good work at the FPD and recognized Mayor Pruhs' ability to find funding. He requested that something be done to install public restrooms in Fairbanks.

Jomo Stewart, President and CEO of Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) – J. Stewart stated that the Winter Solstice Festival had started on Friday at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center. He shared that the calendar of events was filling up with promotions and events provided by local businesses. He announced that on Saturday, December 17, there would be reindeer, photographs, a scavenger hunt, and fireworks, and he thanked the City of Fairbanks and the Public Works Department for helping make it a successful event.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Cleworth pulled item 12(c), Ordinance No. 6229, 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.

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
4488	R.J.'s Lounge & Grill	Beverage Dispensary	Roy J. Stoltz	3450 Airport Way
270	Lavelle's Taphouse	Beverage Dispensary	Lavelle's Taphouse, LLC	414 2nd Avenue

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

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

Ms. Rogers shared appreciation for the call reporting process.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

b) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Marijuana License applications for renewal:

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
10131	Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc.	Retail Marijuana Store	Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc.	1851 Fox Avenue
10230	Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc.	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc.	1851 Fox Avenue
10589	Nature's Releaf, LLC	Retail Marijuana Store	Nature's Releaf, LLC	503 7th Avenue
10869	Grass Station 49	Retail Marijuana Store	The Grass Station, LLC	1326 Cushman Street
11051	Northlink, LLC	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	Northlink, LLC	1550 Cushman Street, Suite B
12325	Good Cannabis	Retail Marijuana Store	Good, LLC	356 Old Steese Hwy
13479	North Star Fire	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	North Star Fire, LLC	3780 Leasure Street, Suite 3
14467	Tanana Herb Company, LLC	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	Tanana Herb Company, LLC	1200 Well Street
15800	Baked Alaska, LLC	Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility	Baked Alaska, LLC	2745 Hanson Road, Unit B
15814	Tanana Herb Company, LLC	Retail Marijuana Store	Tanana Herb Company, LLC	1200 Well Street
16006	Arctic Bakery, LLC	Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility	Arctic Bakery, LLC	1409 Well Street
16091	Tanana Herb Company, LLC	Marijuana Concentrate Manufacturing Facility	Tanana Herb Company, LLC	1200 Well Street
22809	Airport Way Best Bud	Retail Marijuana Store	Airport Way Trade Center, LLC	3598 Airport Way

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Marijuana License applications for renewal.

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

Mayor Pruhs spoke to a call regarding fraud on the report for Nature's Releaf, noting that a \$20 counterfeit bill had been used as payment and turned into the FPD.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- c) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Marijuana License application for transfer of controlling interest:

Type/Lic. No: Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility, Lic. #15800

DBA: Baked Alaska, LLC

Applicant: Baked Alaska, LLC

Location: 2745 Hanson Road, Unit B, Fairbanks

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Marijuana License application for transfer of controlling interest.

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

Ms. Sprinkle disclosed that she had previously worked with Baked Alaska, LLC but was no longer doing so. **Mayor Pruhs** declared that Ms. Sprinkle did not have a conflict of interest.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF CONTROLLING INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- a) Special Reports: Reentry Coordinator, Marsha Oss

Mayor Pruhs gave a brief history of M. Oss's experience and asked her to give an update to the Council.

M. Oss shared that she had been focusing on building connections and rebuilding the Reentry Coalition, and she invited members of the audience to join as well. She stated that her role is to secure the availability of resources to help people leaving incarceration be successful. She added that the Coalition is always looking for places that will hire people who have been recently incarcerated, adding that there is bonding available as well as other financial incentives.

Mr. Ringstad asked if services were limited to individuals who had been incarcerated or if other citizens could participate. M. Oss stated that they serve individuals who served long- and short-term sentences, as well as those on probation, and Wellness Court participants. She added that she had previously served as a Reentry Case Manager and helped over 350 people return from incarceration, noting the importance of preventative services.

Mayor Pruhs thanked M. Oss for her report and noted that she is a remarkable person.

b) Special Reports: Housing Coordinator, Brynn Butler

Mayor Pruhs introduced Brynn Butler and gave a brief biography.

B. Butler shared that she had been in her position for a little more than a week and was excited for the opportunity to help the homeless. She added that she was working hard to build relationships and had big hopes for the position. B. Butler shared that she had been homeless in Fairbanks five years previously and felt that her perspective would be an asset.

Mayor's Comments & Report: **Mayor Pruhs** reported that the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) would be meeting the following day and that he would also be attending a Human Rights Commission presentation at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He shared that he had recently attended the Alaska Municipal League (AML) conference with other Council members and staff, adding that the snow removal in Anchorage left a lot to be desired. He recognized Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson for the excellent services provided by his crew.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Marney thanked Explore Fairbanks representatives for their comments and for the work that they do. He noted that the organization works very above-board, and he appreciated their efforts.

Ms. Tidwell apologized for attending virtually and welcomed the new hires at the FFD and FPD, adding that it was exciting to see public safety departments becoming staffed. She thanked Chief Raygor for all the hard work he has put in. She noted that a firetruck had recently been used to transport a young child to the hospital due to the wait time on an ambulance, adding her thanks to the Council for continuing to work towards staffing a third ambulance. **Ms. Tidwell** shared her shock and dismay at the possibility of losing the child due to the lack of ambulance transportation, reminding everyone of the importance of the work they are doing together.

Ms. Sprinkle welcomed the new emergency personnel and shared her excitement to see \$800,000 in grant funds to support the Crisis Now Mobile Team. She shared that she had enjoyed her time at the AML conference in Anchorage, adding that she had met many people from across the state.

She disclosed that she has a potential conflict of interest regarding Ordinance No. 6223 and that she would speak to that further when the item was heard.

Ms. Rogers shared her excitement to see the new firefighters and police officers. She spoke to the reports provided by M. Oss and B. Butler, adding that both women were very enthusiastic in their desires to help the community. She mentioned the work done in Fairbanks to take care of citizens and spoke to the work done by Chief of Staff Mike Sanders to establish the Crisis Now Coordinator position. **Ms. Rogers** noted that even when tragedies are occurring, she is always heartened to attend a committee meeting and hear the collaboration and outpouring of solutions. She thanked everyone, including community members, who are diligent in their observations and desires to work together to make Fairbanks the great place it is.

Mr. Cleworth thanked Mayor Pruhs for his report and welcomed M. Oss and B. Butler. He stated that the Council used to be consumed with issues in the FPD, noting that it is no longer very common. He commended Chief Raygor and Deputy Chief Cocco for the recruitment and promotions at the FFD, adding his hope that the overtime costs would be positively impacted. He shared his eagerness to find some solutions to the current issues and stated that he felt it was important to provide the administration with the ability to accomplish what needs to be done.

Mr. Ringstad shared that he had attended the AML conference and was thankful for the time to get to know other Council members. He observed that many municipalities are dealing with many of the same issues, including PERS contributions. He noted that Kenai has been doing a lot of work on the issue, and most municipalities agree that something needs to be done at the state level. He added that it would behoove the Council to work with other municipalities on a solution.

Ms. Rogers noted that Yakutat had always been eager to work together on issues and suggested that they be contacted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) 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. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2022. A public hearing was held at that time.

The motion to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6223 was made by Ms. Sprinkle and seconded by Mr. Marney at the November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting and remained on the floor.

Ms. Sprinkle declared a conflict of interest based on her participation as a board member of Festival Fairbanks. She added that both Explore Fairbanks and FEDC are long-standing clients.

Mr. Ringstad asked for verification that the Mayor planned to move forward with a committee; **Mayor Pruhs** confirmed. **Mr. Ringstad** shared some concerns about the issue, including that the Fairbanks General Code (FGC) states that the disbursement of funds is subject to annual appropriation by the Council. Further, he stated that he felt the FEDC should also be considered for an increased allotment, noting that the organization had been stuck at the same rate for as long as the other groups. He suggested an additional increase of \$25,000 to the FEDC.

Mr. Marney shared his disappointment that no other Council members had joined him as a sponsor of Ordinance No. 6223. He reminded the Council of the many Discretionary Fund grant applications that had been denied in 2022 based on mistakes in reporting and paperwork, adding that \$270,000 does not go very far with so many applicants. He spoke to the work he and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) had done to help reduce the rate of denied applications and stated that this conversation had begun in January of 2022. He stated that he felt it unfair to deny organizations funding when they have gone for 19 years with no increase, adding that most of them run completely on volunteers. He expressed confusion as to how this topic had become a political discussion, noting that Explore Fairbanks is the only room rental tax disbursement that has seen an increase. He stated that passing the ordinance would eliminate a lot of repeated discussion in the following year.

Mr. Ringstad stated that in the past 11 years, Explore Fairbanks has received an 85% increase in funding while the distributions to all others have remained the same for 19 years. He stated that the inequity is unexplainable and that it is the right and fair thing to address the issue now, including increasing the FEDC distribution by \$25,000.

Ms. Rogers spoke to her difficulty in voting on the ordinance, adding that she could understand the needs of the grant applicants as well as the needs of Explore Fairbanks. She stated she felt that the process was being rushed and more discussion was needed before a decision could be made.

Mr. Cleworth shared some history on the room rental tax and the various changes made over the years. He stated that the current allocation was a result of a committee, and he was surprised that it had remained in place or as long as it has. He agreed that it was time to look at the allocations and asked about the Mayor's intent in forming a committee. He added that he had served on the original committee with former Council Member Thies and other stakeholders.

Mayor Pruhs stated that he would like to appoint members to a committee in January, adding that he has spoken with Explore Fairbanks about addressing future disbursements as part of the annual budget process. He explained that he would like to look at the total room rental revenue as part of the City's budget and address each of the organizations as part of the budgeting process, noting that the final review and decision would come to the City Council for approval.

Mr. Cleworth asked if the Mayor intended to stay away from a percentage-based disbursement, and **Mayor Pruhs** replied affirmatively.

Ms. Tidwell she was in favor of an overall increase that would benefit all stakeholders equally, adding that the amount of money has increased over the years and that the Council should be very careful in making changes.

Mr. Ringstad asked for clarification on when the changes would be presented. **Mayor Pruhs** clarified that the Council would likely address the issue through an ordinance in the coming year, but the actual allotment would not be considered until the 2024 budget process began.

Mr. Cleworth stated that prior to the current agreement, allotments had been made through the budgeting process and had made for some very long and difficult meetings. He stated that an

ordinance to make a change would still need to be introduced and approved prior to making changes to the way the funds are distributed. He spoke to the opinion piece published in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, noting that the industry made a good case for their stance on the topic; however, he argued that the author was incorrect when stating that the original intent of the room rental tax was to be put into “destination marketing.” He reference a 2018 memo from the City Attorney that stated the intent of collecting daily room rental tax was for the funding of tourist and entertainment facilities for the general public, the tourist industry, and economic development in the City of Fairbanks. He added that any decision made by the Council would be contentious and suggested that the Council accept Explore Fairbanks’ offer for this year and take the opportunity to discuss the matter in greater detail. He commended Mr. Marney for his sense of fairness and for bringing the topic to the table, adding that he would like to postpone the ordinance to a specific date so that it could be readdressed in the future.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6223 to the May 8, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting.

Mr. Ringstad expressed concern with moving the discussion to May, hoping that the work would begin much sooner than that. He also asked for clarification regarding 2023 disbursements.

Mayor Pruhs stated that he felt May was an appropriate amount of time for the committee to prepare a recommendation.

Ms. Rogers restated her desire to work through the process of finding a solution without rushing the discussion.

Mr. Marney stated that he felt the Council tends to kick the can down the road rather than make decisions on difficult topics. He said he would be in favor of accepting the offer from Explore Fairbanks but that it only served as a band-aid to the bigger issue. He added his preference to have the postponement changed to March instead of May.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6223 TO THE MAY 8, 2023 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Rogers

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Sprinkle

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

b) Ordinance No. 6226, as Amended – An Ordinance Adopting the 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6226, as Amended.

Mayor Pruhs called for public testimony.

Adriel Butler, 1932 Frank Avenue – A. Butler asked how much the total room rental tax revenue had increased over the past twenty years and if there were any other revenues that may have increased by a similar amount. He asked that the City consider its revenue sources and how the reinvestment of the revenues has impacted the increase, adding that the Council should use caution.

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

Mr. Ringstad asked about the \$75,000 increase in traffic citation revenue. City Clerk D. Snider stated that there had been a dramatic increase in Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) garnishments, which are collected for past due citations.

Mr. Cleworth shared that revenue generated by the issuance of citations and impounds had decreased dramatically in recent years.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6226, as Amended, by decreasing the Explore Fairbanks allotment by \$100,000, by increasing the Golden Heart Plaza and Barnette Landing disbursement to \$50,000, and by increasing the Discretionary Grants to \$350,000.

Mr. Ringstad spoke in favor of the amendment.

Ms. Tidwell spoke in support of the amendment and added her desire to see the allotment to FEDC increased as well.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6226, AS AMENDED, BY DECREASING THE EXPLORE FAIRBANKS ALLOTMENT BY \$100,000, BY INCREASING THE GOLDEN HEART PLAZA AND BARNETTE LANDING DISBURSEMENT TO \$50,000, AND BY INCREASING THE DISCRETIONARY GRANTS TO \$350,000 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Tidwell, Rogers, Marney, Cleworth
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Sprinkle
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Tidwell, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6226, as Amended, by increasing the FEDC allotment to \$125,000 and by decreasing the allotment to Explore Fairbanks by \$25,000.

Mr. Cleworth expressed concern regarding the amendment based on the offer from Explore Fairbanks, which did not include any changes to the FEDC disbursement. He suggested that the Council revisit FEDC's needs at a later point and consider a budget amendment at that time.

Ms. Rogers spoke in favor of the amendment based on equality, noting that leaving one organization out would be likely to generate ill will moving forward.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6226, AS AMENDED, BY INCREASING THE FEDC ALLOTMENT TO \$125,000 AND BY DECREASING THE ALLOTMENT TO EXPLORE FAIRBANKS BY \$25,000 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Ringstad, Tidwell

NAYS: Cleworth, Marney

ABSTAIN: Sprinkle

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Ringstad stated that the City's proposed allotment to Explore Fairbanks is currently \$2.73 million dollars, but Explore Fairbanks only budgeted for \$2.23 million dollars. He stated he did not feel it was responsible to distribute an additional \$600,000 without a budget request. He added that any City department requesting an increase must prove a need and value to the Council and risk being denied.

Mr. Ringstad moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6226, as Amended, by changing the allotment to Explore Fairbanks from \$2.73 MM to \$2.3 MM.

Mayor Pruhs declared that the motion FAILED due to a lack of a second.

Mr. Cleworth asked for clarification on the transition of one non-bargained position to an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) contract position with a cost of \$11,210.

Chief of Staff Mike Sanders stated that they had wanted to move the Mayor's Executive Assistant position to fall under the IBEW contract but had not heard back from the union in time to do so.

Mr. Cleworth asked if the costs were still included in the current version of the budget. CFO Bell stated that they were not.

Mr. Cleworth noted that the budget includes a lot of growth, including seven new positions. He pointed out that while the budget has a lot of room, there were still labor negotiations to be considered. He spoke to concerns regarding budget amendments that are approved after funds have been spent, and he thanked the Mayor, CFO, and department heads for their work on the budget.

Ms. Tidwell asked to revisit Mr. Ringstad's motion as she was not able to respond quickly enough prior to the motion failing.

Ms. Tidwell, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6226, as Amended, by reducing the Explore Fairbanks allocation to \$2.3MM.

Mr. Marney stated he felt that the discussion should be had in greater length and could be more appropriately addressed by the committee that would be appointed to look at the room rental tax.

Ms. Rogers spoke against the motion, stating that more discussion needed to be had.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6226, AS AMENDED, BY REDUCING THE EXPLORE FAIRBANKS ALLOCATION TO \$2.3MM AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mayor Pruhs thanked the Council for its hard work and discussion during the budget process and extended his thanks to CFO Bell for her work as well.

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

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers, Tidwell
NAYS: None
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6226, as Amended, ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5040 – A Resolution to Extend the Sunset Date for the Incentive Bonus Program with the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center for Recruitment and Hiring. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Ordinance No. 6228 – An Ordinance Authorizing Release of an Easement Near 7th Avenue and Cushman Street. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) 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.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6229.

Mr. Cleworth asked for clarification regarding the time limitation for public testimony during hearings and how it had historically been addressed. CA Ewers stated that it had not been addressed prior to this ordinance.

Ms. Rogers stated that she was in favor of increasing the time limit for public comment and felt that the limitations on extending by one minute were restrictive.

Mr. Ringstad asked for clarification on past practices.

City Clerk Snider stated that the Council has routinely allowed for three minutes of testimony during Citizens' Comments as well as public testimony; however, the time limit on public testimony had not been addressed in the FGC.

Mr. Cleworth stated the proposed changes were not clear on the time limit, noting that it appeared that the time limit was being eliminated for the Citizens' Comments portion of the meeting.

CA Ewers explained that the time limit on Citizens' Comments was moved to section (h) so that the time limit for all public comment periods could be addressed in one section.

Mr. Cleworth requested that the sponsor consider increasing the time limit.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- d) 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.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (INFORMATION AND REPORTS)

- a) Committee Reports

Mr. Marney shared that the Discretionary Fund Committee would be hearing presentations from grant applicants later in the week, adding his thanks for the increased funding.

Ms. Rogers stated that she had attended the Reentry and Crisis Now meetings, noting that the Housing & Homeless State Coalition would meet the following day.

Ms. Sprinkle shared her excitement to be attending the Chena River Front Commission and Polaris Building Work Group meetings soon.

Mr. Cleworth shared that both he and Ms. Sprinkle have been serving with the Downtown Working Group for the past five years, adding that staff from the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) attended to discuss the Downtown Plan. He noted that it was an overall good plan and should be ready for presentation to the Council in early 2024, providing an opportunity to give input and ask questions.

Mayor Pruhs invited Ms. Sprinkle to meet the following day to discuss issues with the contaminated concrete in the Polaris Building and how to dispose of it.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

a) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Tidwell stated she had no comments.

Mr. Marney stated he had no comments.

Mr. Ringstad stated he had no comments.

Ms. Sprinkle stated she had no comments.

Ms. Rogers thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mr. Cleworth asked Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson to come forward and asked about his plans to tackle the increased snow accumulation. J. Jacobson stated that the day and night crew shifts were now fully staffed and would be running Monday through Thursday, noting that only the day crew would run on Fridays. He added that the forecast predicted much less than snowfall that what had occurred and that his department is working hard to catch up.

Ms. Rogers noted that the bridge over the Noyes Slough on Aurora Drive receives a lot of foot traffic, and without snow removal the roadway becomes very narrow and dangerous to drive on.

Mr. Cleworth spoke to the contaminated concrete issue, adding that it was likely the concrete would no longer be contaminated by the time it arrives in the lower 48 for disposal. He expressed disappointment that there was no landfill in the state willing to purchase the appropriate liner to allow for a much less expensive disposal.

Mayor Pruhs clarified that the State of Alaska has not been allowed to open a facility that can handle the contaminated concrete based on regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He added that there is a permit in progress, but it would take another two years before it might be available.

Mr. Cleworth shared that he had attended a memorial service for Mark Herzberg, who had been very active in the downtown area and was a senior manager at Big Rays for decades. He asked if complaints regarding the odor of marijuana establishments were being received and whether complaints were considered during the license renewal process.

Mayor Pruhs confirmed that he had received complaints and that he was following up with the offending businesses to find a solution. He asked that if any Council members received additional complaints to please let him know.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Snider stated that she had attended the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerk (AAMC) conference in Anchorage with Deputy Clerk Rochelle Rodak. She thanked the Council for making it possible for staff to attend and shared that it had been nice to visit with a few of the new Council members and staff. Clerk Snider shared that Deputy Clerk Rodak served as the AAMC Fundraising Chair and that her committee had raised over \$16,000 for the organization, noting that Council members have donated to the organization in the past. She added that she had been re-elected as AAMC Secretary and would be serving another two-year term, again thanking the Council for its support.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, 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. **Ms. Tidwell** was not present due to a previously declared conflict of interest.

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. Ringstad, 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 9: 38 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR