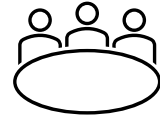




**FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR WORK SESSION AGENDA
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023 AT 7 A.M.**



MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#)
AND AT FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

1. Roll Call
2. 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 (postponed from the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2022).
3. Ordinance No. 6243 – An Ordinance Amending the Incentive Bonus Program with the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center for Recruitment and Hiring.
4. Ordinance No. 6244 – An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing Retention of the Real Property Located at 730 Front Street for Public Purpose Upon Tax Foreclosure.
5. Finance Committee Report
6. Mayor and Council Member Comments
7. Next Regular Work Session – Tuesday, May 16, 2023
8. Adjournment

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**

WHEREAS, the room rental tax was first enacted as the hotel/motel tax in 1979;
and

WHEREAS, the rate of the tax was increased to the current 8 percent in 1985; and

WHEREAS, the “purpose and limitation” section of the ordinance has been amended at least 10 times since 1979; and

WHEREAS, Explore Fairbanks deserves recognition for its diligent, hard work which has resulted in an increase in tourism for the Fairbanks North Star Borough, especially during the winter tourist season; and

WHEREAS, the allocations for discretionary grants and to Golden Heart Plaza/ Barnette’s Landing have not been changed since 2003; and

WHEREAS, Golden Heart Plaza is a historical landmark that annually attracts many thousands of visitors from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the City received discretionary grant applications from 32 organizations requesting a combined total of \$857,512; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the City received discretionary grant applications from 29 organizations requesting a combined total of \$784,156; and

WHEREAS, as recognized from the original enactment of the hotel/motel tax, discretionary grant applicants play an important role in attracting visitors to Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, had discretionary grant funding been adjusted for inflation, today’s grants would total \$585,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, as follows:

Section 1. FGC Sec. 74-117(b) is amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~ font]:

Sec. 74-117. Room rental tax purpose and limitation.

(b) Subject to annual appropriation, revenues collected under this article shall be allocated as follows:

- (1) The City of Fairbanks will receive 22.5 percent for fund collection, administration, and tourism impact.
- (2) ~~\$500,000~~400,000 will be distributed annually as follows:
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation \$ 100,000.00
Golden Heart Plaza and Barnette Landing Maintenance \$ ~~30,000.00~~ **50,000.00**
Discretionary Grants \$ ~~270,000.00~~ **350,000**
- (3) All remaining room rental tax revenues will be distributed to the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau, dba Explore Fairbanks (hereinafter "Explore Fairbanks").
- (4) **The allocations under this section will be reviewed by the city council at least once every five years.**

Section 2. That the effective date of this Ordinance is the ___ day of _____ 2022.

David Pruhs, Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
FAILED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Paul J. Ewers, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 6243

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE INCENTIVE BONUS PROGRAM
WITH THE FAIRBANKS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
FOR RECRUITMENT AND HIRING**

WHEREAS, an incentive bonus program for recruitment and hiring at the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC) was established by the City Council on April 22, 2019, with the adoption of Ordinance No. 6102 and was extended by the City Council on December 12, 2022 with the approval of Resolution No. 5040; and

WHEREAS, the reasons for providing a bonus to lateral hires are: (1) the high cost for the City to support an employee in the Dispatch Academy (approximately \$23,200); and (2) a one-time, sign-on bonus of \$15,000 for a lateral hire would help attract applicants and would constitute a significant cost savings to the City; and

WHEREAS, the program has been successful in recruiting lateral-hire personnel; and

WHEREAS, the FECC continues to have a need for the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, as follows.

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 6102, as Amended by Resolution No. 5040, (the incentive bonus program for recruitment and hiring within the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center) is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~ font]:

SECTION 1. (a) An applicant who is a certified dispatcher in the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) Protocols or is able to meet certifications required by established FECC standards will be paid a \$15,000 "sign-on bonus" in two installments. One payment, half of the "sign-on" bonus, will be paid **with** the first paycheck after completing the Communications Training Program. The second payment of the remaining "sign-on" bonus will be paid ~~on~~**with** the first paycheck after completing the probation period, subject to the payback provisions specified in the attached Sign-on Bonus Agreement. **No applicant may receive a sign-on bonus more than once, and no applicant may receive a sign-on bonus if they have previously been employed by the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center within 12 months of rehire.**

SECTION 2. (b) If an active City of Fairbanks employee recruits a new dispatcher (as defined in **section (a)**~~Section 1~~) who successfully completes the training process and probationary period, the employee will receive a recruitment bonus of \$5,000. The City of Fairbanks employee will receive half of the recruitment bonus upon the employee completing the Communications Training Program. The second half of the bonus will be paid upon the employee completing the probation period. **The recruitment bonus does**

not apply to employees with duties that are related to recruitment or hiring.

SECTION 2. The Sign-on Bonus Agreement (Attachment A) is hereby approved, with new text in **bold/underline** font and deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~ font.

SECTION 3. Bonuses will be funded through savings from budgeted salaries, as available.

SECTION 4. This program will sunset on December 31, 2024 unless extended by Resolution of the City Council.

David Pruhs, City Mayor

YEAS:
NAYS:
ABSENT
ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

CITY OF FAIRBANKS
FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST:

Ordinance or Resolution No: 6243

Abbreviated Title: ORDINANCE AMENDING FECC SIGN ON BONUS

Department(s): FECC

Does the adoption of this ordinance or resolution authorize:

1) additional costs beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No X

2) additional support or maintenance costs? Yes _____ No X

If yes, what is the estimate? see below

3) additional positions beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No X

If yes, how many positions? _____

If yes, type of positions? _____ (F - Full Time, P - Part Time, T - Temporary)

II. FINANCIAL DETAIL:

EXPENDITURES:	Total
SALARY AND BENEFITS	
TOTAL	

FUNDING SOURCE:	Total
GENERAL FUND	
TOTAL	

Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center recruitment incentive bonuses will be paid from salary savings. The City paid a \$15,000 bonus to one employee in 2019/2020.

Reviewed by Finance Department: Initial mb Date 4/19/2023



Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center Sign-On Bonus Agreement

This agreement is made between the CITY OF FAIRBANKS (“the City”) and _____ (“Employee”).

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. ~~6243-6102, as Amended~~, the City is offering a sign-on bonus to a person who begins employment for the City of Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC) ~~for the first time as a DISPATCHER~~ and who meets the City requirements as a Lateral-Hire Dispatcher; and

WHEREAS, no employee may receive a sign-on bonus more than once, and no employee may receive a sign-on bonus if they have been previously employed by the FECC within 12 months of rehire; and

WHEREAS, in return for the bonus, the Employee agrees to the terms and conditions set out below.

The City and the Employee agree to the following terms:

1. The City agrees to pay the Employee \$15,000.00 as a Sign-on Bonus in return for the Employee accepting the City’s offer of employment. Half of this amount will be paid directly to the Employee on the Employee’s first paycheck following the completion of the Communications Training Program. The second half of this amount will be paid directly to the Employee on the Employee’s first paycheck following the completion of the probation period.
2. The City will apply all required federal and state tax deductions and will report all payments made under this Agreement as required by federal and state law. Taxes will be withheld as bonus earnings from the Sign-on Bonus and reported to the Internal Revenue Services as income on the Employee’s Form W-2. The Sign-on Bonus is not considered “salary” and will not be included for purposes of retirement benefit calculations or salary increases.
3. The Department will adhere to all relevant City and Department policies during the hiring process and in making bonus payments to employees.
4. In return for accepting the Sign-on Bonus the Employee agrees to work for the Department, on a regular and full-time basis for at least three years beginning _____ and ending on _____. Should the Employee resign, quit, or be terminated for cause before the above-stated ending date, the Employee shall repay a prorated amount of the Sign-on Bonus as provided for in the following paragraphs.
5. The Employee’s failure to remain employed by the Department for three years will trigger the Employee’s duty to repay, pro-rata, the amount paid by the Department pursuant to paragraph 1, above. (This amount may be more than the Employee received due to tax or other withholdings.) For example, if the Employee leaves one year prior to the end date, they will repay 12/36 of such amount. To facilitate this repayment, the Employee, by signing below, expressly gives the City a lien on all their salary, wages, and other sums payable to them by City. In addition, the Employee

hereby authorizes the City to withhold all amounts so due from any sum payable to the Employee by the Department and City. The Employee also agrees that any tax consequences that result from the repayment of the Sign-on Bonus or any portion thereof will be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the Employee.

6. If the Employee fails to remain employed by the Department for three years for reasons beyond their control (e.g. injury, illness or death), other than just cause termination, the Department may in its sole discretion waive all or part of the liability owed by the Employee. Any such waivers must be approved in writing by both the FECC Manager and the Mayor.
7. If any part of the Agreement is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the other parts will remain valid and enforceable, and Employee agrees, represents, and warrants that they will be held to any applicable repayment of the Sign-on Bonus.

BY SIGNING BELOW, the Employee certifies that they have not accepted a financial incentive for accepting employment at the City, other than as described in this Agreement.

IN WITNESS THEREOF:

FECC Dispatcher

Date

FECC Manager, Kristi Merideth

Date

Mayor, David Pruhs

Date

ORDINANCE NO. 6244

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE RETENTION
OF THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 730 FRONT STREET FOR
PUBLIC PURPOSE UPON TAX FORECLOSURE**

WHEREAS, the property located at 730 Front Street is legally described as Block D, Lot 01 & TL-1 Tract D Graehl Townsite and is identified for tax purposes as Parcel Account Number (PAN) 0068756; and

WHEREAS, property taxes for PAN 0068756 have not been paid for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022; and

WHEREAS, if the 2020 taxes remain unpaid at the close of business on May 25, 2023, the Fairbanks North Star Borough will receive title to the property by tax foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute 29.45.460 provides that a tax-foreclosed property may be retained by a municipality for public purpose by adoption of a retention ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the 730 Front Street property has been in disrepair for several years and is scheduled for demolition under the authority of the City's Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings; and

WHEREAS, vehicles and similar solid wastes are routinely abandoned at 730 Front Street, creating unsafe conditions that ultimately are addressed by City Public Works; and

WHEREAS, retention of the 730 Front Street property for the public purpose of neighborhood revitalization will allow the City to eliminate and prevent future illegal dumping on the property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, as follows:

SECTION 1. The City hereby exercises its right, as provided by AS 29.45.460, to retain for public purpose upon tax foreclosure the property located at 730 Front Street (Block D, Lot 01 & TL-1 Tract D, Graehl Townsite, PAN 0068756).

SECTION 2. The effective date of this ordinance shall be the 22nd day of May 2023.

David Pruhs, City Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

CITY OF FAIRBANKS
FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST:

Ordinance or Resolution No: 6244

Abbreviated Title: ORDINANCE RETENTION OF 730 FRONT STREET

Department(s): GENERAL

Does the adoption of this ordinance or resolution authorize:

1) additional costs beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No X

2) additional support or maintenance costs? Yes _____ No X

If yes, what is the estimate? see below

3) additional positions beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No X

If yes, how many positions? _____

If yes, type of positions? _____ (F - Full Time, P - Part Time, T - Temporary)

II. FINANCIAL DETAIL:

EXPENDITURES:	Total
PROPERTY TAXES AND FEES	\$4,550
TOTAL	

FUNDING SOURCE:	Total
CAPITAL FUND (MAYOR'S CONTINGENCY FUND)	\$4,550
TOTAL	

The City of Fairbanks will exercise its right to retain 730 Front Street upon tax foreclosure for public purpose. The property taxes and fees will be paid from the Mayor's Capital Contingency line item in the budget.

Reviewed by Finance Department:

Initial mb

Date 4/28/2023