



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 9, 2023  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council via Zoom webinar and at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor 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 (remotely)  
    Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief  
    Andrew Coccaro, Assistant Fire Chief  
    Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

### **FLAG SALUTATION**

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

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Gary Wilken, Fairbanks – G. Wilken referenced the photos he had provided that related to the Kinross ore hauling project. He stated that he had not been aware of the proposed amendment but spoke in favor of Resolution No. 5021 as it had been presented originally. He spoke against the repeated attempts to turn City roads and State highways into mining roads. He asked that the Council make a statement that health and safety is their priority and oppose the Kinross ore hauling project until a detailed plan could be reviewed.

Patrice R. Lee, Fairbanks – P. Lee spoke in favor of Resolution No. 5021 adding that the City has been out of compliance with the Clean Air Act for many years. She shared that the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) stated that any further pollution of the City's air will only compound the health and safety of the residents and stated that the Manh Choh project would be detrimental to the wellbeing of Fairbanks citizens. She added that the electricity supplied to Fort Knox is from the Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA), and if they were to decide to run shifts 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7), the power plants in Fairbanks and North Pole would be forced to burn more fuel, further polluting the air.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked if the Fort Knox mine ran 24/7 currently; P. Lee stated that they did not.

David Cornberg, Fairbanks – D. Cornberg spoke to a report commissioned by Peak Gold, LLC, who hired Michael Miner and Associates to provide a noise and vibration report regarding the ore hauling project for Fort Knox mine; he added that it had too many missing factors to be considered valid. He added that a recent survey indicated that the Fort Knox mine may be operational up to 50 years, and the vibration and noise that will come from the hauling of the vehicles will be considerable.

Robert Shields, Fairbanks – R. Shields shared that he has been working on a solution for the Polaris Building for the past ten years, and he read a letter that had been provided to the Council. The letter indicated that there would be funds available to transform the Polaris site into an eco-village based upon the acquisition of utility information and support from the City and the State.

**Mr. Ringstad** asked about R. Shields' relationship with the Polaris Building. R. Shields stated that he has been an advocate for creating something positive and constructive there for many years.

**Ms. Rogers** asked R. Shields what board he was referring to in his requests. R. Shields clarified that he would like a letter of support from the City of Fairbanks, and he requested a work session to discuss the opportunity further.

Sue Wilken, Fairbanks – S. Wilken shared that she has lived in Fairbanks since 1955 and has been very involved in the community for the past 50 years. She spoke to the history of mining claims and how it differs greatly from the mining operations proposed by Kinross Fort Knox Mine. She clarified that she is not against the mine but would like to see a plan with more transparency and less large vehicle traffic. She acknowledged that the City does not have the power to make the final decision but asked that the Council use its voice to speak up for citizens.

Jenny Campbell, Fairbanks – J. Campbell thanked the Council for considering Resolution No. 5021. She referenced a proposed action by Fort Knox to build a separate hauling road, which would avoid safety issues by using the Tetlin village roads. She stated that the same issue is present with the use of public highways and asked the Council to support the resolution.

Mary Farrell, Fairbanks – M. Farrell spoke in support of Resolution No. 5021, adding that the project pits those who stand to make a lot of money against the health of residents. She spoke to alternatives, such as limiting hauling hours to evenings. She indicated that other mine developers would be watching to see how the project works out, and she commented that Fairbanks should not be the guinea pig. She thanked Council members for their service.

Gabriele Larry, Fairbanks – G. Larry agreed with the testimony provided earlier, adding that it broke her heart to learn that the lives of citizens are being jeopardized for the profit of the mine. She spoke to fears of accidents involving haul trucks as well as poor road conditions.

Andy Warwick, Fairbanks – A. Warwick spoke in favor of the proposed substitution to Resolution No. 5021. He shared that when he served on the school board years ago, there had been over 16,000 students enrolled in the district, and now there were less than 11,000. He noted that the drastic decline had caused multiple schools to be closed. He stated that the Department of Licensing had recently declared Fairbanks to be the biggest loser in population and provided examples of the failing economy, such as the recent closure of Fairbanks Memorial Hospital's OBGYN department. He added that the community needs to provide opportunities to keep young people in the area and that the proposed Kinross project could provide a much-needed economic boost.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked A. Warwick why he predicted an increase in employees. A. Warwick stated that it had come from one of the Kinross proposal documents.

**Mr. Marney** asked A. Warwick if an alternate route would also supply those extra employees. A. Warwick stated that it may, but there is not enough information to provide comparable data. He added that he is not opposed to the trucks, noting that there is little traffic for most of the route.

**Ms. Rogers** asked A. Warwick if he supported the proposed substitute to Resolution No. 5021. A. Warwick repeated that he did, adding that it provided a positive face for the resolution.

Ronin Short, Fairbanks – R. Short spoke against the Manh Choh ore hauling project and spoke to the dangers of cyanide. He added that cyanide is used in the extraction of gold from the ore, and the reason the ore must be hauled is because there is either no means or no authority to extract on Tetlin land. He added that cyanide is very easily exchanged naturally and does not linger in the environment.

Steven Hovenden, Fairbanks – S. Hovenden spoke in favor of Resolution No. 5021, as Amended, and presented on the agenda. He asked the Council to consider the difficulty in driving a 16-axle vehicle loaded with ore, adding that empty trailers are even more difficult to control in bad conditions. He stated that the trucks would not only stir up arsenic dust but also create congestion in the Fairbanks area; he added that Kinross has already raised the possibility of hauling ore from other mines. He referenced a report that ranks Alaska 48th on road safety, specifically noting the number of fatalities and the dangers that are already present before adding the increased traffic.

**Mr. Marney** asked S. Hovenden if he was aware of a return route for empty ore trucks. S. Hovenden stated that they provided the route that trucks are supposed to use but predicted they would use the Steese Highway to reduce mileage on the vehicles on their return.

Joe Paskvan, Fairbanks – J. Paskvan spoke in support of the mining industry and Resolution No. 5021, as Amended. He added that the weight and length of the vehicles, coupled with the 24/7 operation throughout the year, posed a significant risk to the community and asked that the Council vote to protect the community.

Bill Wright, Explore Fairbanks Director of Tourism and Meeting Sales – B. Wright shared that he had attended multiple travel and trade shows, including the National Tourists Association Annual Exchange. He spoke to changes in the international market strategy due to pandemics in both China and Japan. He added that tourism was the highest it has been in some areas, but the overall return would not likely be recognized until 2025. He shared that arrivals and departures at Fairbanks International Airport were at 90% of 2019 travel. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide an update.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked if the potential road traffic issue had been discussed during marketing meetings. B. Wright suggested that the Council reach out to Scott McCrea for more information on that matter.

Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator – B. Butler reported to the Council that a local homeless man had recently passed away. She explained that his tent appeared to have caught fire, and he died from exposure. She noted that he had not been engaged in, nor had he sought out, any of the services provided through her organization.

Deborah Ryan, Fairbanks – D. Ryan spoke against the Manh Choh mine ore hauling project, stating that despite Kinross' claim that they would not participate in unsafe activity, she believed that their plan was truly dangerous. She referenced the bad weather and conditions such as ice fog that makes driving difficult, adding that the air quality will be greatly affected in both the Fairbanks and North Pole areas. She stated she did not feel that the comment regarding declining population was relevant to the conversation, and she mentioned that both her son and her daughter-in-law were employed.

Jomo Stewart, President/CEO of Fairbanks Economic Development Corp (FEDC) – J. Stewart spoke to the great success of the Winter Solstice Festival and about the plans underway to improve the event next year. He spoke in support of the proposed substitution for Resolution No. 5021, with exception to the first "Now Therefore" statement. He stated that the working age population has been leaving Fairbanks, and it is not surprising given the high housing and living costs. He added that he had concerns about Fairbanks becoming a center for the mining industry but wished that the community could capitalize on the opportunity.

**Ms. Rogers** asked J. Stewart to elaborate on the portion of the proposed substitute that he objected to. J. Stewart stated he felt that Fairbanks stood to benefit from ore being processed at Fort Knox and would not encourage one to be established in Tetlin. **Ms. Rogers** asked if he would be interested in assisting with an amendment; J. Stewart stated he would.

*The City Council allowed for Public Testimony to continue past 7:30 p.m. No motion was made.*

Brenna Schaake, Kinross Fort Knox – B. Schaake shared that this was the third time Resolution No. 5021 had been before the City Council. She added that the resolution contained inaccurate or outdated information regarding the length of the vehicles, the number of proposed trips in a 24-hour period, and the latest air quality report, among other things. She stated that Manh Choh is important to Fairbanks, and the use of the existing mill is the environmentally responsible thing to do. She added that it would bring additional jobs that would directly impact the Fairbanks economy. B. Schaake listed many of the supporters of the project and asked the City to be involved

with the project by participating in the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). She requested that the resolution be delayed until the TAC could complete its research and until real data was available.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked B. Schaake why the railroad had not been considered as a means of transportation. B. Schaake stated that it was not a feasible option at the time of the project proposal.

**Ms. Rogers** asked B. Schaake if she would be support Mr. Cleworth's proposed substitute. B. Schaake stated that while she appreciated the different options available, she could not express support without discussing it with her leadership team.

**Mr. Marney** asked B. Schaake about the most recent EPA report that would put more restrictions on the area and how that would affect the project. B. Schaake stated that she did not have the specifics on the air quality but would take those concerns to her leadership team.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked B. Schaake if the trucking company that contracted with Kinross would be solely liable for accidents. B. Schaake stated that she was not sure about the legality regarding the contractor's liability but would return with an answer.

Cheyenna Kuplack, Doyon Limited – C. Kuplack read a letter in opposition to Resolution No. 5021. The letter stated the many benefits that the project would bring to the Tetlin tribal members, including the building of a much-needed elders facility and the employment of local tribal members in the exploration process.

**Ms. Rogers** asked C. Kuplack if she was aware of the proposed substitute; when C. Kuplack replied that she had not read it, **Ms. Rogers** asked her to take it back to her board for consideration.

Hearing no more requests for in-person comment, individuals on Zoom were heard next.

John Jackovich, Fairbanks – J. Jackovich spoke to the previous testimony, but noted that he had read a lot of the reports available from Kinross and felt that they had done their due diligence regarding the truck traffic and EPA requirements. He went on to state that no one can predict the "what if" situation, adding that it would be better to come together and find a better route or solution rather than continually tell Kinross that Fairbanks does not like the idea of increased traffic. He spoke to the opportunity of opening a rail line that would provide access to many parts of the Interior, which would be beneficial in many areas – not just mining. He reiterated J. Stewart's comments that there is a way to make this happen if everyone works together.

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

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

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

**Mr. Cleworth** pulled item 14(a), the Fairbanks Diversity Council Letter of Recommendation to the City Council Regarding the NAACP's "Seven Points for a Safer Fairbanks" 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 28, 2022

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

**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
3483	Fairbanks Curling Club	Beverage Dispensary	Fairbanks Curling Club, Inc.	1962 Second Avenue
3020	American Legion Post #57	Club	American Legion Post #57	1634 Cushman Street

**Mr. Marney**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, 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** stated she was pleased to see a short list of calls on the report.

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.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

- a) Special Report: Chief Financial Officer Margarita Bell

CFO Bell shared that the Finance Department was in the process of finalizing the 2022 year and was planning to begin working with the auditors in February; she stated she hopes to have the audit completed and before the Council by the end of May. She explained what each of the sections in her department were responsible for, adding that January is a very busy month with audits, tax forms, and over 5000 bills to be processed. She spoke to the 2023 budget book and highlighted a

few of the items that had been added since the Council's review, including the City profile, strategic plan, and financial summaries.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked CFO Bell if she had a good vacation, and CFO Bell stated that she did.

**Ms. Rogers** thanked CFO Bell for being prompt.

**Mayor Pruhs** stated that the EPA had approved the Polaris Building plan on December 22, 2022, noting that the only remaining item to complete, prior to awarding a contract, is the State historical agreement. He thanked R. Shields for the letter he provided and reminded the Council that it addressed what could happen after demolition of the building. He explained that the property will be available for sale, which would be approved by the City Council. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that City staff would be meeting the following day to begin the planning process for building demolition.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Ms. Sprinkle** stated she had no comments.

**Ms. Rogers** shared her concerns about and interest in the Manh Choh ore hauling project, adding that she has known miners and truck drivers in her family and in the community. She expressed appreciation for the open communication from the public and thanked Mr. Cleworth for his work in providing a document that was more inclusive.

**Mr. Cleworth** thanked CFO Bell for providing the budget book in such a short amount of time, noting that the budget had been passed less than a month ago. He thanked everyone who took time to provide testimony.

**Ms. Tidwell** thanked everyone for their testimony and disclosed that she represented some of the employees in Tetlin through her job at the Operating Engineers Local 302. She clarified that their work was not directly related to the topic of hauling ore.

**Mr. Marney** shared that it was Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and recognized Deputy Police Chief Sweet. He stated that Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) employees work very hard and are still understaffed. He also thanked the public for their testimony, noting that regardless of the outcome of the resolution or the project, it would affect everyone for a number of years.

**Mr. Ringstad** stated he had no comments.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 5021, as Amended – A Resolution Expressing Opposition to the Ore Trucking Proposal for the Manh Choh Mine Project. Introduced by (former) Council Member Therrien. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of September 12, 2022.

*The motion to APPROVE Resolution No. 5021 was made by Ms. Therrien and seconded by Mr. Clark at the July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting and remained on the floor.*

**Mayor Pruhs** ruled that Ms. Tidwell did not have a conflict of interest on Resolution No. 5021.

**Ms. Rogers** disclosed that she had family working at the Fort Knox mine. **Mayor Pruhs** declared that Ms. Rogers did not have a conflict of interest on Resolution No. 5021.

**Mr. Cleworth** reminded the Council that the original postponement had been done with the intention of meeting with the DOT, and because that did not happen, he had been inclined to suggest an additional postponement. He went on to state that he changed his mind regarding further postponement and instead provided the proposed substitute based on the overwhelming support for the overall project; he noted that the only opposition seemed to be related to the ore hauling process. He expressed disappointment with the amount of negativity in the original resolution, noting that there are corporations, communities, and organizations that could greatly benefit from the project, including those related to mental health. **Mr. Cleworth** acknowledged the potential risks and inconveniences that could occur, also noting that many do not believe the actual number of vehicles on the road will amount to what is in Kinross' proposal. He thanked City Attorney Paul Ewers and City Clerk Danyielle Snider for their help in preparing the proposed substitute.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5021, as Amended, by substituting the amended, proposed version of Resolution No. 5021.

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

**Mr. Ringstad** shared that he has spent a significant amount of time with the senior management teams of both the oil and mining industries, where he has been continually asked why Fairbanks is against both industries. He agreed that the original resolution was extremely negative and sends the wrong message to any entity that wishes to invest the better part of a billion dollars in the community. He stated he felt that the proposed amendment recognizes the issues while moving forward with a positive statement. **Mr. Ringstad** indicated that the City should have taken a spot on the DOT advisory committee and helped to work through the process rather than introduce a negative resolution; he noted that it would be nice to have more jobs in the area for the youth that are entering the workforce. He thanked Mr. Cleworth in his efforts to change the resolution's tone.

**Ms. Sprinkle** raised concerns about the language inferring that the only economies that created wealth in the area were mining and farming.

**Mr. Cleworth** clarified that most industries are ultimately supported by the mining and farming industries, and without those two industries, no one can ultimately do their jobs.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked about the reference to creating research, stating she felt it had created more concern than research. **Mr. Cleworth** explained that both sides have provided a lot of information, which required a lot of time spent on research.

**Mr. Marney** stated he preferred the positive tone of the resolution but felt strongly that the City oppose the trucking of ore; he stated he did not feel the substituted version accomplished that.

**Ms. Rogers** agreed that the ore trucking is the greatest concern and did not feel that the resolution adequately expressed that.



**Mr. Ringstad** spoke to the concerns with the trucking, noting that the railroad would not be a feasible option for 10 or more years and would be highly cost-restrictive. He shared that he knows truckers who haul double trailers from Kenai to the Slope often, and it is not an issue. He addressed concerns about bad weather and adverse driving conditions, noting that those are things the company considers when avoiding unnecessary risks. He clarified that he does not have a problem with the trucking of ore in general, but he did have concerns about how that trucking is managed. He noted that opposing trucking completely could close down the project.

**Ms. Sprinkle** stated that the haul road to the North Slope was not comparable to the regular travel ways Kinross would be using, noting that taxpayers pay for road maintenance. She added that she did not hate the project but did not want the truck traffic.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked Mr. Marney if he would be more comfortable with verbiage that addressed the issue as “problematic.”

**Ms. Rogers** noted that many of those who provided testimony seemed eager to work on a more amicable resolution and recommended the Council postpone, allowing for time for drafting.

**Mr. Ringstad** clarified that the resolution will not have an impact on the approval of the ore hauling plan and that those decisions would come from the federal and state government. He predicted that, if the company had already fulfilled the requirements from government, they likely had the necessary permits. He went on to state that the City’s resolution was nearly an after-the-fact action that would not benefit from being put off even further.

**Ms. Rogers** stated she felt it was warranted to postpone a short while to address the new language and the testimony received. She stated she believed the City’s action would be valuable regardless of when it was received, based on the respectful conversation that has taken place.

**Ms. Rogers**, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 5021, as Amended, to the next Regular City Council Meeting of January 23, 2023.

**Mr. Marney** stated that he would not be available at the next meeting and was planning to ask the Council to excuse him. He stated he would not prefer to attend remotely but would if the topic was delayed.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that he would not be opposed to postponing the resolution but felt that it was a lot to ask of the public to continue to show up for a pending decision.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION NO. 5021, AS AMENDED, TO THE NEXT REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2023 AS FOLLOWS:

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

**Ms. Sprinkle** moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5021, as Amended, by replacing the language “hopes that a legitimate alternative” with “requires an alternative” in the “Now Therefore” section.

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

**Mr. Marney**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved AMEND Resolution No. 5021, as Amended, by replacing the word “current” with “problematic” at the bottom of the first page.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 5021, AS AMENDED, BY REPLACING THE WORD “CURRENT” WITH “PROBLEMATIC” AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FIRST PAGE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Rogers, Tidwell

NAYS: Sprinkle

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5021, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Ringstad, Cleworth, Tidwell

NAYS: Sprinkle, Rogers

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5021, as Amended, APPROVED.

- b) Resolution No. 5037 – A Resolution Adopting a City of Fairbanks Diversity Action Plan. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of November 14, 2022.

*The motion to APPROVE Resolution No. 5037 was made by Mr. Ringstad and seconded by Ms. Sprinkle at the November 14, 2022 Regular Meeting and remained on the floor.*

**Mr. Marney** stated he felt that the Diversity Action Plan (DAP) addressed matters that were not an issue for the City and was ultimately unnecessary. He asked if there has been a more diverse group of applicants for City positions since the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) had been created. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that the Human Resources (HR) Director was not available for comment. **Mr. Marney** clarified that he would like more information on the intent of the document and what it is meant to achieve.

**Mr. Ringstad** shared Mr. Marney’s sentiment, stating that he was not sure whether the DAP was needed. He indicated he would like more information on the history of the document and what the problem was that it was meant to address.

**Ms. Rogers** shared that the FDC is an ongoing committee that is required to address the DAP every five years. She added that there are still difficulties recruiting persons from diverse backgrounds to City positions and asked Chief of Staff Mike Sanders to speak.

M. Sanders stated that he was not aware of any work done specifically by the FDC to further the work of the City, clarifying that it is the FDC's job to advise the Council, not give directives.

**Mayor Pruhs** repeated Ms. Rogers' statement that the FDC is required to perform this review as established by the City Council when the FDC was created. He explained that the original document had seven or eight different goals, and the FDC had reduced them to five, noting that the group had struggled to get a quorum for many months. He reminded the Council of the work session held with the FDC. He stated that the Council could amend the document as it saw fit.

**Mr. Ringstad** spoke to the need for the FDC, suggesting that perhaps the committee could meet only for the years the DAP needed to be addressed.

**Mayor Pruhs** redirected the conversation back to the motion on the floor, noting that the larger conversation regarding the FDC as a whole would need to be held a different time.

**Mr. Cleworth** shared the importance of the first goal, which was to recruit capable people. He added that lately it has been very difficult to do so. He expressed desire to see a more active role by the FDC in attending job fairs or other community events to try and recruit people for City positions. He expressed concern for the language in item five of goal three, which stated the FDC would revise policies. He noted that the FDC's role does not include drafting or changing City policy.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to AMEND the DAP by replacing the word "revise" with "recommend revisions to" in the fifth desired result on page three.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE DAP BY REPLACING THE WORD "REVISE" WITH "RECOMMEND REVISIONS TO" IN THE FIFTH DESIRED RESULT ON PAGE THREE AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None.

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the first item of goal three that stated the FDC would establish a work group to review internal City polices. He stated that it was a redundancy and hoped that the FDC could go over the document another time to remove other redundancies and items that do not pertain to the role of the FDC. He asked if City department heads had been given the opportunity to weigh in on the changes. **Mayor Pruhs** stated they had not. **Mr. Cleworth** recommended that the Mayor provide department heads the opportunity to read and make recommendations to the DAP prior to a vote of the City Council.

**Ms. Rogers** recognized that the FDC is a Council, not a committee, and had been created that way for a reason. She stated that the FDC works most closely with HR, the Chief of Staff, and FPD and asked Police Chief Dupee to provide insight on his interactions with the FDC.

Chief Dupee stated that the FDC generally provides a member to sit in on FPD interviews and oral boards. He stated that he does not have any other interaction with FDC outside of interest-specific meetings, such as when the NAACP brought forth its “Seven Points for a Safer Fairbanks.”

Chief of Staff Sanders stated that he has not had much interaction with the FDC and did not have a formal opinion, adding that the City and the FPD have created relationships with many of the Native organizations without assistance from the FDC. He recalled the few interactions he had with the group, noting their issues with a quorum and reluctance to let him address the NAACP.

**Mayor Pruhs** reminded the Council that the document before them was an advisory document that the FDC was required to provide the City Council.

**Ms. Rogers** shared that she has served on the FDC for many years and has seen multiple changes in the way the group works as the make-up of its members have changed. She stated she believes there has been a lot of misunderstanding about the role of the FDC over the years and felt that the current work has been focused in a positive direction. She expressed concern about disbanding the group and suggested another work session for the Council and the FDC.

**Mr. Ringstad** spoke in favor of having a work session to discuss mutual expectations and asked if a work session should happen prior to voting on the DAP.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked if a two-week postponement would be enough time to allow department heads to read over the document and provide feedback. Chief Dupee and **Mayor Pruhs** indicated that it would.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 5037 to the next Regular City Council meeting of January 23, 2023.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION NO. 5037 TO THE NEXT REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2023 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 5042 – A Resolution Allocating Discretionary Funds from the Room Rental Tax in the Amount of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000). Introduced by Council Member Marney.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS (INFORMATION AND REPORTS)**

- a) Committee Reports

**Mr. Cleworth** spoke about FAST Planning and projects that are funded federally dealing with congestion, mitigation, and air quality (CMAQ) and the criteria used for projects to qualify. He stated that the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) was looking good for the City, adding that there would be discussions to consider the scope of some projects in order to have them completed sooner.

**Ms. Rogers** shared that she would not be in Fairbanks on March 6, 2023 and asked to be excused from any meetings that might be scheduled then. City Clerk Snider stated that there were no meetings scheduled for that date.

**Ms. Sprinkle** stated that she attended a Chena Riverfront Commission meeting for the first time recently and shared some updates, including the support of boat launching and parking at Pioneer Park; she shared that the bridges downtown would be finished in the spring. She commented that the Chena River is the second largest nursery for Chinook salmon in both Alaska and Canada. **Ms. Sprinkle** added that the Chena Flood Control project was ongoing, and they were currently working on repairing the vegetation to encourage more fish survival along the speedway.

**Ms. Tidwell** stated she had no committee reports.

**Mr. Marney** shared that the Discretionary Fund Committee would have its annual wrap up meeting later in the week and asked to be formally excused from the January 23, 2023 Regular City Council meeting.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to EXCUSE Mr. Marney from the January 23, 2023 Regular City Council meeting.

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

**Mr. Ringstad** stated he had no committee reports.

**Ms. Rogers** remembered that the FDC would meet the following evening at 5:30 p.m. She asked Crisis Now Coordinator Brenda McFarlane to talk about her upcoming meeting. B. McFarlane explained that there would be a presentation by Sandy Snodgrass in Council Chambers regarding Fentanyl, a very dangerous synthetic opioid that is killing many people in accidental overdoses all over the country. She added that S. Snodgrass lost her son to the drug in October of 2021 and is working with Alaska State Legislature to enact "Bruce's Law," which would bolster federal and state prevention and promote education about the dangers of street drugs being potentially laced with Fentanyl.

### **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

- a) Fairbanks Diversity Council Letter of Recommendation to the City Council Regarding the NAACP's "Seven Points for a Safer Fairbanks"

**Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the point regarding a Police Civilian Review board, adding that there had previously been a City Public Safety Commission for a similar purpose. He noted that usually the public comes directly to the City Council with issues, which is likely more effective in the long run. He went on to talk about the Fact Finding Commission, which was also under-utilized, adding that efforts in fully staffing that commission should be made instead of creating a new board. He asked that City Attorney Paul Ewers investigate the powers of the Fact Finding Commission and questioned whether it would be a viable substitute for a Police Civilian Review Board.

**Ms. Rogers** asked for clarification behind the NAACP's intent in going before the FDC, adding that she thought they had wanted to meet with the City Council next.

COS Sanders said he was not sure of the NAACP's intent, adding that the discussion had begun with former Chief of Staff Mike Meeks. He stated that the City is meeting with the NAACP regularly, and the relationship between the NAACP and the FPD has greatly improved. He spoke to the various points within the document, adding that the groups have been discussing them in detail, including the one regarding the Civilian Review Board.

**Ms. Rogers** asked for clarification about the Fact Finding Commission. She stated she believed it had been done away with years ago, but there was still a person who believed she was a member.

City Clerk Snider shared the purpose of the Fact Finding Commission with the Council, including its powers regarding subpoenas and oaths. She clarified that Ms. Gatewood was a former member of the Fact Finding Commission, but her term expired in December 2021. She went on to state that it is a five-member Commission that currently has four vacancies. City Clerk Snider stated that the Commission had not met in the 14 years she has worked at the City.

**Mr. Cleworth** explained that the only committee commissioned by the City Council with subpoena powers is the Fact Finding Commission.

b) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

c) Discretionary Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

d) Discretionary Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

e) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

f) Memorandum from Clay Street Cemetery Commission Requesting 2023 Capital Funds

APPROVED 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 for the record that she is not against the Manh Choh mine or the mining industry, only the trucking of the ore on public roadways.

**Ms. Rogers** explained that she voted against Resolution No. 5021, as Amended, because she did not feel that the resolution was complete and that it should have been discussed more. She thanked Mr. Cleworth for his work on the document but wished it had been worked on a more as a group.

**Mr. Cleworth** thanked Ms. Sprinkle and Ms. Rogers for their comments.

**Mayor Pruhs** complimented the Council on how they addressed Resolution No. 5021, noting that there were very strong feelings on both sides of the issue.

### CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Snider reminded the Council that they had been provided an invitation in their email to attend the Fentanyl presentation and noted that it was advertised as a public meeting so all Council members could attend. She shared that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the FDC would like to publish a calendar of events that the group could participate in, and they requested City Council input; she stated that Council members could email her suggestions and she would share them with the FDC.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked how often the Council met with the FDC. City Clerk Snider explained that the Council does not generally meet with the FDC, but per the Fairbanks General Code, the FDC is to provide a report to the Council annually; she noted that has not happened for some years. She added that the Council could request a work session to meet with the FDC.

### CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Ewers stated that the Fact Finding Commission had met while he had been with the City, but it had been a long time. He added that he would have information regarding the search for his replacement as City Attorney within the next week.

**Mr. Ringstad**, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, 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. Cleworth**, 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 10:39 p.m.

  
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DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR