



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 23, 2023
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:00 p.m. Work Session for the Permanent Fund Review Board Annual report, 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
 John Ringstad, Seat F

Absent: Lonny Marney, Seat E (*excused*)

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)
 Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director (remotely)
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief (remotely)
 Scott Raygor, Fire Chief
 Andrew Coccaro, Assistant Fire Chief
 Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director (remotely)
 Robert Pristash, City Engineer

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Charity Gadapee, Explore Fairbanks Visitor Services Director – C. Gadapee shared that the Morris Thompson Visitor Center had received more than 23,000 guests between Labor Day and New Year's Eve the previous year, which was a 40% increase from 2021 and a 39% decrease from 2019. She stated that Explore Fairbanks had started a new program called the Golden Heart Giving Tourism Cares program, which will replace the tourism walk for charity and would consist of pop-up charity events throughout the year to support local non-profits. C. Gadapee reminded the Council of the emailed invitation to attend the Annual Interior Tourism Conference at the

Westmark Hotel and spoke to some of the speakers that would be presenting. She thanked Mayor Pruhs for committing his participation to the opening morning events.

Mr. Cleworth asked about a recent mechanical issue at the visitor's center, and C. Gadapee shared that someone had broken the front window and donation box causing about \$6,000 in damages.

Ms. Rogers asked if she could make a comment rather than pose a question and was allowed by **Mayor Pruhs**. She stated that the Annual Interior Tourism Conference has been historically well orchestrated and provided a good opportunity.

David van den Berg, Downtown Association – D. van den Berg spoke to the Winter Solstice Festival stating that it had been a really good experience. He thanked the Fairbanks Police, Public Works, and Engineering departments for their help in clearing the bridges and allowing for the fireworks display. D. van den Berg noted that Exclusive Paving had been a great resource for a barricade package, adding that they were honored as Partner of the Year with the Downtown Association for their provided assistance with the festivals held throughout the year. He thanked the City again, noting that they were quick to help find solutions to the issues facing the Winter Solstice Festival.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Sprinkle pulled item 12(d), Resolution No. 5046 from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Cleworth pulled items 12(a), Resolution No. 5043 and 12(e) Ordinance No. 6231 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 into the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2022

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2022

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Pruhs shared that he had formed a committee to address the many questions regarding the Discretionary Fund, adding that the appointed members would be Ms. Rogers, Mr. Marney, Chief of Staff Mike Sanders, and Sam Kirstein and their first task would be to provide an updated application process to review by March 15th. **Mayor Pruhs** shared that Ms. Tidwell had been appointed to the Manh Choh Safety Oversight Committee. He recognized P.W. Director Jacobson for his efforts to save the city over \$300,000 and encouraged the Council to approve Resolution No. 5046. He shared that he had been called for Grand Jury Duty and would need to reschedule the Polaris Building Working Group meeting scheduled for the following morning but that he would be available for the on-sight meeting that evening.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cleworth did not have any comments.

Ms. Rogers did not have any comments.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she had attended a FAST-planning meeting regarding the Fast-Planning Carbon Reduction program and encouraged the City to look into ways to benefit.

Ms. Tidwell thanked the Mayor for appointing her to the Manh Choh Advisory Committee, adding that she looked forward to reporting back to the Council.

Mr. Ringstad had no comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5037 – A Resolution Adopting a City of Fairbanks Diversity Action Plan. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2023.

The motion to ADOPT 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.

Mayor Pruhs stated that COS Sanders had provided the Council with a consolidated copy of the recommended changes from the City's department heads and asked that Council postpone the Resolution to allow time to review the recommendations.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 5043 until the Regular City Council Meeting on February 13, 2023.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION NO. 5043 UNTIL THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Sprinkle, Ringstad, Rogers, Cleworth
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Marney
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5043 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2023 State Homeland Security Program. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5043.

Mr. Cleworth had concerns about acquiring a new ambulance without sufficient warm storage space.

Mayor Pruhs shared that warm storage had been donated by Sam Kirstein near the Food Bank.

Mr. Cleworth shared his relief at hearing of the donated space, noting that the other option was to revisit the space being used by the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) at the PW Facility.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5043 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Rogers, Sprinkle, Cleworth, Tidwell
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Marney
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5043, APPROVED.

- b) Resolution No. 5044 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Participate in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Air Quality Improvement Program Replacement Program for 1424 Moore Street (Fairbanks Senior Center). Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 5045 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for a FFY2022 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Resolution No. 5046 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to NC Machinery Company to Provide a Loader and Grader in the Amount of \$846,359. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5046.

Ms. Sprinkle wanted to be sure these purchases had been accounted for in the current budget and **Mayor Pruhs** clarified that both items were listed in the 2023 Capital Budget under the Public Works Department.

Ms. Sprinkle commended PW Director Jacobson for the savings he had found.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5046, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Cleworth, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Marney
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5046, APPROVED.

- e) Ordinance No. 6231 – An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the United States Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program and Amending the 2023 Capital Budget. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6231.

Mayor Pruhs explained that the language in the ordinance had been carried over from a similar ordinance the previous year and needed to be corrected. He asked the City Engineer, Bob Pristash to come forward and speak to the corrections.

City Engineer Bob Pristash explained that the application is for the same grant the City had applied for in 2022, adding that they can receive a higher score by providing a contingency rather than matching funds. He clarified that the fiscal note should show \$1.3M for a contingency rather than a \$2.6M match.

Chief Financial Officer Margarita Bell confirmed the correction in the proposed substitute.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if this cost had been budgeted for and CFO Bell explained that there were unallocated funds in the contingency account that could be used for this purpose.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6231 by substituting the amended, proposed version of Ordinance No. 6231.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6231 BY SUBSTITUTING THE AMENDED, PROPOSED VERSION OF ORDINANCE NO. 6231, AS FOLLOWS:

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE NO. 6231, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers, Tidwell
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Marney
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6231, as Amended, ADVANCED.

- f) Ordinance No. 6232 – An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security for the FFY2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Amending the 2023 Capital Budget. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- g) Ordinance No. 6233 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the AFL-CIO Crafts Council and Amending the 2023 Operating Budget. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (INFORMATION AND REPORTS)

- a) Committee Reports

Mr. Ringstad shared updates from the Permanent Fund Review board, noting that most of the information had been provided during the work session. He added that the board meets quarterly and that he would update the Council accordingly.

Ms. Tidwell did not have anything to report.

Ms. Sprinkle attended a Chena River Front Committee meeting to discuss providing a letter of support to the Corps of Engineers regarding a boat launch in Pioneer Park.

Ms. Rogers attended the Fairbanks Diversity Council and Alaska Housing & Homeless Coalition meetings, adding that the statewide Housing and Homeless Coalition had discussed the idea of establishing a trust fund for housing and homeless. She had also attended meetings for Crisis Now, Opioid, and Reentry Coalition, noting that they were three different organizations that work very well together.

Mr. Cleworth shared that he and Mayor Pruhs attended the Fast-Planning and spoke to the Congestion, Mitigation, and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds mentioned by Council member Sprinkle. He added that there may be equipment purchases for PW that could qualify for those types of funding. He spoke to the FAST-Planning's annual list of improvement projects for the fiscal year, noting that City Engineers work well with the FAST-Planning to make sure there are small projects

available for discussion when extra funds become available. He said that most of the meeting had been spent discussing a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding potential impact on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). **Mr. Cleworth** stated that surface transportation only makes up 3% of the total Particulate matter that the EPA is concerned with, noting that woodsmoke is the biggest contributor, but they had the potential to shut down the TIP projects. **Mr. Cleworth** added that the chair of FAST-Planning, Jackson Fox, was directed to acquire letters in response to the EPA letter.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Discretionary Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Tidwell did not have any comments.

Mr. Cleworth thanked COS Sanders for providing the AFL-CIO proposed contract that included the changes, adding that he likes to be able to compare changes throughout the years and offered to make copies for any other Council members who might be interested. He spoke to Resolution No. 5037, asking that it be placed on the Finance Committee Agenda so that the Council could discuss the recommendations and propose any changes. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the application for the SAFER grant had been approved on the Consent Agenda and clarified that the Council would have to approve the acceptance of any awarded funds.

Ms. Rogers recognized the useful information provided by the City Clerk's quarterly report, noting that many valuable changes to policies and code have been made based on previous reports.

Ms. Sprinkle spoke to an incident involving multiple police officers in her neighborhood over the weekend. She highly praised the officers for their promptness and efficiency in dealing with the issue while maintaining everyone's safety. She went on to reference minutes from the Clay Street Cemetery Commission, asking for clarification on the discussion regarding property acquisition. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that the property, if acquired, would be owned by the City and therefore decisions regarding its use would be made by the City Council, not the Cemetery Commission.

Mr. Cleworth noted that the property has had water service cut off, but a neighboring resident has reported that people are still living there. **Mayor Pruhs** indicated that City Attorney Paul Ewers

could provide an update on the property and **Mr. Cleworth** referenced previous protocol that required the posting of notices.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she had spoken with Building Official Clem Clooten, who stated it would take about two weeks for him to condemn the structure. She went on to state that if the condemnation of the home was not going to keep people from living in it, something more would need to be done, adding that the property in question had compounded the issues that had occurred Saturday.

Ms. Rogers referred to an email that Building Official Clooten had provided the Council.

Mr. Ringstad spoke to the air quality issues that were repeatedly reported by the EPA, adding that it could end up costing the community vast amounts of money. He added his hope that letters from FAST-Planning would help direct the EPA in a less foolish manner.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Ewers advised that Building Official Clem Clooten would be better equipped to provide and update to the Council regarding the property at 109 5th Avenue.

Mayor Pruhs stated that the title report had been returned and they were working with the owners regarding the transfer of property, noting that the process was moving forward.

Ms. Sprinkle asked what the City could do to ensure it continued to move in a timely fashion and CA Ewers stated that it wasn't something that could be forced, noting that they were currently waiting for the owners to sign the property over to the City.

Mr. Cleworth referenced a similar situation in the past, noting that there are ways to ensure that vagrants stay out of the building, noting that FPD had been used in the past.


Mayor Pruhs stated that the process is moving as quickly as it can, noting that once the City has ownership, they can move forward with the abatement process.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR