



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 13, 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 5:30 p.m. Work Session for the City Attorney Applicant Interview, 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 (remotely)
 Lonny Marney, Seat E
 John Ringstad, Seat F (*Joined remotely at 7:03 p.m.*)

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
 Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief (remotely)
 Thomas Chard, Deputy City Attorney
 Scott Raygor, Fire Chief
 Andrew Coccaro, Assistant Fire Chief
 Clem Clooten, Building Official (remotely)
 Teal Soden, FPD Community Outreach Specialist
 Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Kasey Gillam, Explore Fairbanks Director of Communications – K. Gillam explained her role at Explore Fairbanks as the primary advertising coordinator. She shared their newest endeavor into streaming advertising and the extra data they can obtain by participating in digital advertising. She thanked the City Council for their support and partnership.

Ms. Rogers asked about her history with the Fairbanks area and **K. Gillam** explained that her family had a long history in Fairbanks, noting that her grandfather had been a former Mayor for the City of Fairbanks.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Sprinkle pulled items 12(c), Resolution No. 5049, and 12(f), Ordinance No. 6236, 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.

SPECIAL ORDERS

a) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Application for Renewal:

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
5736	SOBA LLC	Restaurant/Eating Place	SOBA LLC	353 2nd Avenue, Suite 106

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

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

Ms. Rogers thanked the department heads for providing reports for the Special Orders.

Ms. Sprinkle had a question about one of the calls listed as "threat bravo."

City Clerk Danyielle Snider informed the Council of the incorrect address listed on the Agenda, adding that it should read 535 2nd Avenue and deferred to the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC) Manager, Kristi Meredith to answer **Ms. Sprinkle's** question.

FECC Manager Meredith stated that "threat bravo," is used when any small threat is made against another person, clarifying that the location does not mean that it happened at the business.

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

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports: Fairbanks Police Department Community Outreach Specialist, Teal Soden.

T. Soden spoke to the use of social media in recruiting and shared some of the successes they have had using the various social media platforms. She shared the recent recruitment video that had been released, stating that it is geared towards lateral hires and transfers. She went on to discuss past and upcoming education and outreach opportunities. She noted that the current staffing levels have made it difficult for officers to participate in the outreach programs and that it is much appreciated when City Officials and other departments help. T. Soden spoke to the Arbinger philosophy of adopting an outward mindset and the efforts to provide training to all City employees and community partners. She shared that Paul Butler would be coming to Fairbanks to teach courses on leadership and teamwork, adding that the sessions would be provided to the FPD staff and then opened to the public.

Mr. Cleworth acknowledged the work that went into making the recruitment video, noting that it had turned out very well. He asked T. Soden if she had been involved with the officer highlights being published in the Daily News-Miner and T. Soden stated that the paper has been great to work with, sometimes catching stories simply by following the City and FPD social media and website.

Ms. Sprinkle noted the many beautiful scenery shots of the Fairbanks area in the recruitment video and recognized the teamwork between the City and Explore Fairbanks. T. Soden stated that Explore Fairbanks was very helpful in providing clips and other resources for the video.

Mayor Pruhs thanked T. Soden for her presentation.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cleworth did not have any comments.

Ms. Tidwell had no comments at this time.

Ms. Rogers reserved her comments.

Mr. Marney recognized the work done by T. Soden in creating the newest recruitment video adding that it was wonderfully done.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she had attended the Arbinger classes provided by FPD, adding that it was valuable training and highly recommended it.

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 23, 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.

Mr. Cleworth thanked the staff who took time to go through the document and make recommendations.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5037 by substituting the amended attachment.

Ms. Sprinkle expressed concerns regarding the lack of a measurement component within the plan. She added that while the plan was not perfect, she did feel it was a good place to start and asked about any monetary costs associated with the Diversity Action Plan (DAP).

Mayor Pruhs explained that the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) did not have an operating budget and that any training they recommended could be paid for from the Mayor's contingency fund. He added that he would make the Council aware of any expenses incurred on behalf of the of the FDC. He spoke to her concerns regarding a way to measure success, adding that he would work with the Human Resources Director to come up with a matrix. **Mayor Pruhs** noted that City staff had been taking part in employee engagement surveys and have ranked the City an eight out of ten for satisfaction.

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

Mr. Cleworth agreed with Mayor Pruhs, stating that HR would likely be the first to hear about things that are working well or not at all, adding that the HR Director was very involved with the FDC and aware of their role as advisory only.

Ms. Rogers shared that she has been involved with the FDC since it began, adding that the group provides a community voice to the City.

Mayor Pruhs spoke to the various ways the City works to reach out to different organizations on a regular basis.

Ms. Rogers felt that the DAP format may be problematic.

Mr. Marney stated that he believed in merit-based hiring processes.

Ms. Tidwell did not understand the need for the DAP given that there was not any data to compare or evaluate the goals presented within the plan.

Mayor Pruhs reminded the Council that this is a required item for the FDC to provide the Council.

Mr. Ringstad stated that he still did not understand the need for the DAP but would not oppose the resolution.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 5037, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Sprinkle, Ringstad, Rogers, Cleworth

NAYS: Tidwell, Marney

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5037, as Amended, APPROVED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6231, as Amended – 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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6231, as Amended.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6231, as Amended, by substituting the amended, proposed version of Ordinance No. 6231.

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

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

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6231, As Amended, ADOPTED.

- c) 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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6232.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6232, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Tidwell, Rogers, Sprinkle, Marney, Cleworth
NAYS: None
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6232, ADOPTED.

- d) 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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6233.

Mayor Pruhs called for testimony.

Lake Williams, Fairbanks – L. Williams referenced a previous conversation that occurred at a Finance Meeting regarding the effective date of the ordinance. He stated that by changing the effective date to February 1, 2023, operators would see an increase of about \$82.30 over the nine-day period but clarified that he did not intend delay approval of the contract by making that request. He added that the previous contract had left the operators without any increases in pay for over two years.

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

Ms. Tidwell declared a conflict of interest.

Mr. Ringstad asked for clarification on the process of approving the contract and if making the pay retroactive would cause a delay.

Chief of Staff Sanders stated that the effective date for Ordinance No. 6233 is February 16, 2023, adding that previous direction from the Council had indicated that there would not be any retroactive pay.

City Attorney Paul Ewers clarified that the Council's role is to either adopt or fail the ordinance by a vote. He added that any changes would have to go through the negotiating team for the other party's approval and could result in additional delays.

Ms. Sprinkle spoke against delaying the ordinance.

Mr. Cleworth spoke to L. William's comment about operators not receiving pay raises for three years, adding that the previous contract had been negotiated so that the pay increases were front-loaded in the beginning of the contract. He added that this complaint is why he is against front-loading contract increases and recommended that the Council adopt the ordinance as presented.

Ms. Rogers thanked L. Williams for coming before the Council and appreciated his desire to do his best for the people he represented.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6233, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Sprinkle, Rogers, Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Tidwell

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6233, ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5047 – A Resolution Designating Signing Authority for Custodial Services with U.S. Bank National Association. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 5048 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Participate in the Alaska High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Overtime Reimbursement Program. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 5049 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5049.

Ms. Sprinkle felt disappointment that the City was not able to take better advantage of this program, adding that she thought there were other offerings available that were not mentioned in the resolution.

Mr. Cleworth spoke to Ms. Sprinkle's concerns, stating that FAST-Planning had looked at the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and projects that would qualify for the CMAQ funding, noting that some of those funds had just come available in the last month or so. He went on to commend the Public Works department for preparing this as quickly as they did. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he had made sure that the Fast-Planning Chair was aware of this resolution, adding that all the local governments are scrambling to find ways to spend these funds.

Ms. Sprinkle had heard about opportunities to switch out diesel powered garbage trucks with those that run on gasoline, adding that it could have a big impact on the air quality issues they are facing. She clarified that she appreciated what Public Works had come up with.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5049, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 6049, APPROVED.

- d) Ordinance No. 6234 – An Ordinance Amending the 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets for the First Time. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Ordinance No. 6235 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 2, Article II, Section 2-118 Work Sessions and Council Committees and Section 2-118.1 Council Finance Committee. Introduced by Council Member Cleworth.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- f) Ordinance No. 6236 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 54 Procurement. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6236.

Ms. Sprinkle asked about the multiple changes in Section 54-287(a).

CA Ewers stated that the chapter on procurement had not been updated in quite sometime, and there were many areas that needed cleaned up to bring consistency and better understanding. He was hopeful that the clean versions would be easier to comprehend and follow going forward.

Mr. Cleworth stated that there were many instances where changing words to “may,” instead of “shall,” left the interpreter the ability to chose to do something or not, when perhaps it should be clearer.

CA Ewers stated that he had tried to clean up the misused instances of “shall” throughout the code, adding that using “shall,” required that an actor and action be named. He invited Mr. Cleworth to provide him with instances where he felt the word “shall” could be better used, adding that he would look at those recommendations prior to the second reading of the ordinance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6236, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6236, ADVANCED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (INFORMATION AND REPORTS)

a) Committee Reports

Mr. Ringstad did not have anything to report.

Ms. Tidwell had attended the Highway Corridor Study Advisory Committee regarding the proposed Kinross ore hauling plan at the Carlson Center. She stated that there were more people present to talk than the original agenda allotted time for, however, they had allowed every one the opportunity to speak. She went on to state that the first phase of the study was to look at effects in the 5-to-10-year range before looking at longer term effects over 25 years. **Ms. Tidwell** stated that there was discussion on how to engage more people as well as how often and where they should be meeting. She had also attended the Fairbanks Economic Development Corps (FEDC) meeting, adding that they were accepting applications to attend the Interior Business Accelerator program through March 5, 2023.

Mr. Marney had no comments.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that the Polaris Working Group had been meeting weekly and talking to nearby property owners regarding safety, security, parking, etc. She added that they were waiting for approval from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Ms. Rogers shared that she had attended the Opioid Task Force meeting where they talk about various drugs that are infiltrating the community. She complimented Brynn Butler on her work as the Housing and Homeless Coordinator.

Mr. Cleworth would be attending the FAST-Planning meeting later in the week.

Mayor Pruhs shared that the Polaris Working Group had met with Senator Murkowski's staff, noting that they were waiting for ratification of their agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and SHPO. He noted that he will be appointing two members to the Historic Preservation Committee and asked that if anyone was interested to contact him.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

a) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2022

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2023

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Rogers did not have any further comments.

Mr. Cleworth had attended the FSNB Assembly meeting where Ordinance No. 2022-46 passed with a 8-1 vote, reminding the Council that they had spoke against this ordinance when it had been originally introduced. He was disappointed at the Assembly’s decision to limit City and School Board participation at the Assembly meetings, noting that the public now had more authority in the meetings than the City representatives did. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he did not see a point in attending their meetings and suggested that a written report be provided instead.

Ms. Sprinkle shared her appreciation for the way the City Council conducts their meetings and asked if the Assembly had engaged with City representatives in the past. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he has provided reports but has not received much feedback or interaction from them for many years.

Mr. Ringstad apologized for not attending the Work Session earlier, noting that there had been several flight delays. He asked if there would be an Executive Session and **Mayor Pruhs** stated there would be. **Mr. Ringstad** went on to express his disappointment with the FNSB decision to limit interactions with the City.

Mr. Marney felt that the FNSB Assembly did not respect the City Council, adding that the two entities could work better together. He did not feel his attendance as a City representative had been of importance to the Assembly.

Ms. Tidwell agreed that the Assembly did not seem to appreciate or value the reports provided by the City, stating that she has been asked to keep her reports extremely short at times. She commented on the recruitment video presented by T. Soden and shared excitement to seeing its impact.

Mr. Cleworth shared that former Mayor Matherly had often invited Brittany Smart from the FNSB to speak at Council meetings, adding that he has requested the FNSB Chief of Staff about continuing that practice.

Ms. Rogers noted that outside organizations such as the FNSB Mayor’s office or Explore Fairbanks should not be held to 3-minutes during Citizens Comments, noting that the reports often bring value to the Council.

CITY CLERK’S REPORT

City Clerk D. Snider asked for direction from the Council regarding City Council attendance at the Assembly meetings.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he would like to discuss the topic further with a work session but in the meantime, he would fulfill his obligation to attend the next couple of meetings.

City Clerk Snider stated that outside organizations such as Explore Fairbanks can provide their reports during the Mayor’s comments under Special Reports, which had been added for that specific purpose. She added that most representatives have chosen to limit themselves to three minutes rather than wait until Special Reports would be heard.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ENTER Executive Session to discuss the Characteristics/Qualifications of City Attorney Applicant and Possible Compensation Negotiations.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Discussion of Characteristics/Qualifications of City Attorney Applicant and Possible Compensation Negotiations.

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss the Characteristics/Qualifications of City Attorney Applicant and Possible Compensation Negotiations. Direction was given to the staff and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR