



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 13, 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 (remotely)

Absent:                                        None

Also Present:                                Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer  
   D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
   Thomas Chard, City Attorney  
   Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff  
   Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager  
   Scott Raygor, Fire Chief  
   Andrew Coccaro, Assistant Fire Chief  
   Clem Clooten, Building Official (remotely)  
   Sarah Fuerst, Grants Administrator  
   Marsha Oss, Reentry Coordinator  
   Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator  
   Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

**FLAG SALUTATION**

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

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

a)        Oath of Office: City Attorney

Clerk Snider administered the Oath of Office for newly appointed City Attorney, Thomas Chard.

## CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Marsha Oss, Reentry Coordinator – M. Oss introduced Housing Coordinator Brynn Butler and Crisis Now Coordinator Brenda McFarlane. She spoke to the “Save-the-Date” flyers she distributed regarding the four-day symposium that will be put on using Opioid Settlement Act funds. She stated they will discuss the impact that opioids have had on reentry, housing, and Crisis Now. M. Oss stated this is a good opportunity for the community to come together. She shared that Sandy Snodgrass will come back and do a Narcan kit-building event and that there will be an awards ceremony at the symposium to recognize those who have been doing great work in the Fairbanks community for many years.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked how to make contact in regard to the event. M. Oss stated that registration will open within 48 hours and will be linked to the City website and Facebook page, as well as the Coalition website.

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.

**Mr. Cleworth** pulled items 12(c), Resolution No. 5053, and 12(f) Ordinance No. 6238, 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.

## MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

**Mayor Pruhs** thanked Chief of Staff Mike Sanders, Clerk Snider, and Chief Financial Officer Margarita Bell for their work in helping prepare all the resolutions on the agenda in a short period of time. He shared that on March 8, the City received a memorandum of agreement signed by the State of Alaska Historic Preservation Office and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in regard to the demolition of the Polaris Building. He announced that earlier in the day he signed the last easement with a neighboring property to take down the annex portion of the building. **Mayor Pruhs** shared that the request for proposals (RFP) has been completed, and there will be a bid opening on March 27. He stated that the Council will be asked to approve the award of the annex demolition contract on April 10, the notice to proceed will be executed on April 11, and a ceremony will take place at the Polaris Building on April 12 at 1 p.m. to pay homage to its history. He shared that the City is currently working on RFPs for gutting and demolishing the Polaris Building tower. He shared that the Polaris Building annex demolition should be complete between May 7 and 21.

a) Special Reports

Sam Kirstein, Fairbanks Food Bank – S. Kirstein shared that a couple of weeks ago she received an emergency call from the Office of the Governor and the Commissioner of Health concerning the food stamp backlog. She stated that the press release, along with other details, are in the packets she distributed to the Council. She stated that the Commissioner of Health called together four of the biggest food banks in Alaska together to buy food with funds the Governor had recently identified to distribute within their respective regions. S. Kirstein stated that the Food Bank of Alaska's plan was to purchase food from the Lower 48 and have it trucked to Alaska, which would take 6-8 weeks for distribution. She stated that she responded that Fairbanks would like one-fourth of the available funds and shared with them her plan to buy local so that the food would be available to those in need right away. She stated that her biggest concerns were senior citizens, rural populations, schools, and getting food out to the community quickly. She commented that the State worked incredibly quickly to distribute the funds, and she immediately purchased 30,000 pounds of coho salmon. She stated that the fish have been coming in for about a week and are being distributed throughout the borough, villages, and so forth. She stated she was notified earlier in the day that 41,000 pounds of canned salmon is being donated to the food bank. S. Kirstein shared that \$50,000 has been donated to the North Star Council on Aging to buy non-perishable food items. She stated she continues to work with existing partners to meet the needs in the community and that the food stamp shortage has been an issue since last October. She asked the Council to hold signs thanking Governor Dunleavy and pose for a photo, and the Council agreed to do so.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Mr. Ringstad** stated that he was working in Juneau and apologized for not attending in person.

**Mr. Marney** shared that he went on a ride along with the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) earlier in the day. He stated that he had a good time, and he recommended that each Council member sign up to go on a ride along.

**Ms. Tidwell** thanked S. Kirstein for the report and for all the impressive work the food bank does for the community.

**Mr. Cleworth** thanked S. Kirstein for her work, and he recognized the other social service efforts by City staff. He welcomed newly appointed City Attorney, Thomas Chard. He asked Clerk Snider why Ordinance No. 6227 under Unfinished Business was on the consent agenda. Clerk Snider stated that the first reading of the ordinance was postponed from November and will now be advanced to a second reading at the next regular meeting.

**Ms. Rogers** welcomed Attorney Chard. She stated she could probably speak the rest of the evening giving accolades to S. Kirstein and others in the room. She stated that despairing circumstances occur every day in the Fairbanks community, and there are many working to help. She praised S. Kirstein for her tireless work in the community and for doing so in new and invigorating ways. She spoke to the importance of working together with others throughout the state.

**Ms. Sprinkle** thanked S. Kirstein and commented on what an amazing effort she made. She reported on her recent experience representing the City at a Borough Assembly meeting. She stated she learned that Fairbanks was nominated as one of the top 5 military communities in the country, and she expressed great pride for Fairbanks.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Ordinance No. 6227 – An Ordinance Amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Firefighters Union IAFF Local 1324 (FFU) to Change the Staffing Levels and Amending the 2023 Operating Budget. Introduced by Council Members Tidwell and Sprinkle. First Reading was POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2022.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Ordinance No. 6237 – An Ordinance Authorizing Lease of City-Owned Real Property to Yukon Quest International, Ltd. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6237.

**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. 6237 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6237 ADOPTED.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 5051 – A Resolution Designating Check Signing Authority for Banking, Investment, and Custodial Accounts of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 5052 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Federal and State Appropriations for the Construction of a New Fire Station. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Council Member Sprinkle.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 5053 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the State of Alaska Department of Health for a Restore Hope in Linkage to Care Collaboration Grant. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Council Member Sprinkle.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5053

**Mr. Cleworth** asked about the employment of two peer support specialists and how the mechanics of that would work at the City. Chief of Staff Sanders explained that there are two ways to do it: 1) they could be City employees and the City could bill Medicaid, or 2) the City could contract for the two positions. **Mr. Cleworth** asked whether the two employees would receive IBEW benefits. CFO Bell replied that the employees would fall under the City’s personnel code – not the union – but would receive IBEW benefits like the other non-bargained staff. **Mr. Cleworth** asked whether there is an agreement with the union to exclude the positions. CFO Bell replied that there is no agreement in place; she explained, however, that as grant-funded positions they would be non-bargained.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5053 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5053 APPROVED.

- d) Resolution No. 5054 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Congressionally Directed Spending on Behalf of Golden Heart Utilities for a Bio-Solids Incineration Project. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Resolution No. 5055 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds for the Sponsorship of the Fairbanks Symposium on Opioids and the Impact on Reentry, Crisis Now, and Housing Insecurity. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- f) Ordinance No. 6238 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Sec. 78-572 Special Events by Removing the City Barricade Package Fee and Establishing a Deadline for Permit Applications. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6238.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6238 by replacing “Fairbanks Police or Fire Departments” with “City of Fairbanks” in Sec. 78-572(a).

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6238 BY REPLACING “FAIRBANKS POLICE OR FIRE DEPARTMENTS” WITH “CITY OF FAIRBANKS” IN SEC. 78-572 (a) AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended, by changing the word “may” to “will” in the first sentence of Sec. 78-572(a).

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that the word “may” is ambivalent, not definitive. He stated that it indicates there is an option to have a permit.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6238, AS AMENDED, BY CHANGING THE WORD “MAY” TO “WILL” IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF SEC. 78-572(a) AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended, by adding, “and barricade packages” after the words, “Disputes over additional fees” in Sec. 78-572(c).

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6238, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING, “AND BARRICADE PACKAGES” AFTER THE WORDS, “DISPUTES OVER ADDITIONAL FEES” IN SEC. 78-572(c) AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended, by adding “or effectively present alternatives that meet city requirements” after the words “use a private firm” in Sec. 78-572(c).

**Ms. Tidwell** stated that this is the subsection that was discussed quite a bit by the Council at the Finance Committee meeting. She stated that the amendment would not fix the issues she sees with removing the service the City provides in offering a barricade package.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that he is trying to make the ordinance more palatable before its second reading.

**Ms. Sprinkle** stated that she does not like the idea of removing the barricade package as a service.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6238, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING “OR EFFECTIVELY PRESENT ALTERNATIVES THAT MEET CITY REQUIREMENTS” AFTER THE WORDS “USE A PRIVATE FIRM” IN SEC. 78-572(c) AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Chief of Staff Sanders reminded the Council that if the barricade package continues to be offered, the City will have to purchase about \$90,000 in devices due to the theft and destruction of devices that occurred the prior year.

**Mr. Marney** stated that he did a little homework and found that Exclusive Paving, the company that helps with the Midnight Sun Festival, donates the barricade package. He stated that they do not want to extend the package. He reported that he also spoke with Great Northwest, who has changed their policy and no longer offers a barricade package. He indicated that options are very limited unless the City steps up. **Mr. Marney** stated that both the companies indicated they would likely loan barricade devices to the City for special events.

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended, by removing the proposed strikethrough in Sec. 78-572(c) regarding barricade packages.

*Clerk Note: The strikethrough language to be reinstated is, “or elect for the city to provide barricades and labor at a flat fee of \$1,000.00, provided that the mayor is authorized to negotiate in-kind arrangements where the city receives good or services in lieu of the full or partial flat fee.”*

**Ms. Sprinkle** indicated that the City should keep people safe during special events and keep offering the barricade package.

**Ms. Rogers** echoed Ms. Sprinkle’s comments in regard to public safety.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6238, AS AMENDED, BY REMOVING THE PROPOSED STRIKETHROUGH IN SEC. 78-572(c) REGARDING BARRICADE PACKAGES AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Ms. Tidwell**, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended, by increasing the barricade package from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

**Ms. Tidwell**, with concurrence of the Second, changed \$2,500 to \$3,000.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6238, AS AMENDED, BY INCREASING THE BARRICADE PACKAGE FROM \$1,000 TO \$3,000 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6238, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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

a) Committee Reports

**Ms. Tidwell** stated she had nothing to report.

**Mr. Marney** stated he had nothing to report.

**Mr. Ringstad** stated he had nothing to report.

**Ms. Sprinkle** stated she had nothing to report.

**Ms. Rogers** stated she had nothing to report.

**Mr. Cleworth** reported that he and Ms. Sprinkle attended the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee meeting, which is a subcommittee of FAST Planning. He stated that there are various plans for bike paths in Fairbanks, and he spoke about the need to keep the shoulder of City streets available for snow berms. He stated it will come down to the practicality of bike paths according to the City Engineer. He stated that Public Works is adamant that bike paths are seasonal, as snow storage in the shoulder is a priority in the winter. He stated it will ultimately be up to the City on where the bike paths go.

**Ms. Sprinkle** stated that some of the projects do not seem feasible, but she believes that some others should be tried. She expressed some concern with liability to the City for some of the proposals.

**Mayor Pruhs** stated that he instructed City Engineer Bob Pristash to go through each proposed section and determine what is safe and what is not, then provide the information to Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson to weigh in regarding maintenance issues. He stated that he has also instructed Public Works to prioritize maintaining the sidewalks along Cowles Street during the winter.



## WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Memorandum of Recommendation for Appointment to the FNSB Planning Commission  
APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.
- b) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of August 2, 2022  
ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.
- c) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2022  
ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.
- d) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2022  
ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.
- e) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of December 28, 2022  
ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.
- f) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2022  
ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Ms. Sprinkle** stated she was proud to represent the City at the recent Borough Assembly meeting. She shared that during their public comment period, she wanted to ask a question of a public commenter, and it took a while to determine whether she could. She shared that, ultimately, she was allowed to ask the question, and she thanked Mr. Cleworth for swapping nights with her.

**Ms. Rogers** shared comments of appreciation for staff and community members who have brought ideas before the Council throughout the evening.

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

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

**Mr. Marney** welcomed Attorney Chard to the team and thanked Ms. Kirstein for doing a wonderful job.

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

**CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Snider welcomed Attorney Chard. She shared that the first-ever Citizen Engagement Academy will begin soon, and she invited citizens to visit the City website for more information.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Chard thanked everyone for the warm welcome and stated that the City is a great place to work. He shared that the City is recruiting for a Deputy City Attorney and directed people to apply by visiting the City website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Tidwell**, 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 7:38 p.m.



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DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS