



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 27, 2023
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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
 D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Thomas Chard, City Attorney
 Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
 Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief (remotely)
 Scott Raygor, Fire Chief (remotely)
 Andrew Coccaro, Assistant Fire Chief
 Clem Clooten, Building Official (remotely)
 Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director
 Robert Pristash, City Engineer (remotely)
 Nathan Werner, FPD Captain
 Nick Clark, Firefighter & FFU President
 Dominic Lozano, Firefighter
 Jeff Whipple, Engineer Tech

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, Chief of Staff Mike Sanders lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Pruhs asked Darlene Supplee to come forward, and he read a Proclamation recognizing her efforts in the community, especially her work with the senior citizen population.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Kerry Gronewold, 116 Gruening Way, Fairbanks – K. Gronewold stated that he is a general contractor in Fairbanks and has been building for more than two decades. He stated he would like the City Council to write a letter of support for a new economic development district in downtown Fairbanks, valued at a minimum of \$500 MM. He stated he recalls when he first moved to Fairbanks when he was 21 years old, the downtown area was vibrant. He referenced a letter he distributed to the Council, and he stated, along with local partners, they are creating a fully financed project with private funds. He stated that plans include mixed-use buildings, modern apartments, condominiums, business retail and office space, recreational facilities, restaurants, educational opportunities, senior care and support, as well as exploring options for food sustainability. K. Gronewold stated that, most importantly, the hope is to create a sustainable economic engine that will change downtown for the better long-term and improve the quality of life in Fairbanks.

Ms. Rogers asked how much awareness K. Gronewold has of downtown Fairbanks and its visitors year-round. She asked how they plan to revitalize the image of the downtown area. K. Gronewold stated that it would not be building just to build; rather, they would build to improve quality of life and community. He stated that the model starts with a market research plan, and they build the master plan around that, utilizing existing infrastructure. He stated they are currently at the conceptual stage. K. Gronewold listed the businesses he has owned and been involved with over the years.

Mr. Cleworth asked if Mark Hewitt's organization is just the lender. K. Gronewold replied affirmatively. **Mr. Cleworth** asked for clarification on what is being sought from the Council. K. Gronewold explained that they are seeking a letter of support from the Council indicating an interest in pursuing the project; he stated that he has a brief sample letter to share with the Council. He stated that letters of support would validate and reinforce to Mr. Hewitt's board that the Fairbanks community is sincere about development.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarification on whether the City would be on the hook for anything by writing a letter of support. K. Gronewold indicated it would not. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked whether the project would fail without a letter of support from the Council. K. Gronewold stated that is not necessarily the case. He shared that funds have already been committed for the project and that the Borough and the State will also be approached for support.

Mr. Marney asked if there is a downside. K. Gronewold stated that he would not be asking for support if he felt there was something improper. He stated that he is very comfortable with this approach and that he has a background in building with renewable energies and high-efficiency structures. He stated he is encouraged by the willingness of the property owners that have already been approached to sell.

Kathy Hedges – K. Hedges introduced herself as the 2023 Chair of the Explore Fairbanks (EF) Board of Directors. She shared that the Fairbanks visitor industry has continued to grow, which has contributed to the local economy. She stated that the visitor industry has been able to accomplish that through stable funding. She recalled when there used to be a battle for the organization to obtain funding when it had to go through the budget process with the City Council each year, which took time and resources away from the primary mission of both the City and EF.

She stated that, working together, a new solution was reached. K. Hedges stated that the purpose of the bed tax, which began in 1979 under the request of the visitor industry to self-impose a tax, was to reinvest into destination marketing and economic development. She went on to discuss how the bed tax was eventually removed from the City's tax cap. She stated she would like to continue to work together with the City to make Fairbanks a great place.

Andy Anger, EF – A. Anger spoke in regard to Ordinance No. 6239 and asked whether the visitor industry has been successful over the last 20 years, since the new distribution formula was instated. He responded to his question affirmatively, pointing out several statistics that indicate growth. He stated that the visitor industry has become one of the economic backbones in Fairbanks, and he emphasized the need for long-term planning and predictable budgets. A. Anger stated that the proposed ordinance would put EF at the whim of whichever Mayor is in office and their financial needs. He stated it will be easy for the Mayor to take funding away from the visitor industry and put it into other projects.

David Adams – D. Adams stated he works for a local non-profit and serves on the Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition Board. He stated, however, that he is not representing either of those organizations in his testimony. He shared that he does a lot of homeless outreach in the area, and it has come to his attention that the community is failing the homeless population. He spoke to the need for a warming center, and he told about how he recently approached an intoxicated gentleman who he found lying on a sidewalk. He expressed frustration with the way the Emergency Service Patrol (ESP) officer handled the situation, stating that he did not offer to make phone calls or find resources for the gentleman. D. Adams stated that he stayed with the man until an ambulance arrived. He stated that Fairbanks Resource Agency (FRA) held a meeting and allowed people to speak; he stated that many homeless people spoke and expressed concerns about their circumstances. He spoke again of the importance of having a warming center in Fairbanks, and he expressed hope that Senate Bill 77 passes and that Fairbanks can get some more affordable housing.

Victor Buberger – V. Buberger spoke to the lack of lighting at the corner of Trainor Gate Road and the Old Steese; he urged the City to change the lightbulbs. He requested that the City look into getting a public restroom in the downtown area and indicated that it could be a part of the downtown development project.

Arlette Eagle-Lavelle – A. Eagle-Lavelle stated she is the sole owner of Lavelle's Taphouse, and her business shares a wall with the Polaris Building Annex. She stated that she was honored to be invited to the many meetings related to the demolition of the Polaris Building. She stated that she was graciously given permission to extend her business premises onto the sidewalk of 2nd Avenue, as the courtyard will be part of the construction easement when the annex is being demolished. A. Eagle-Lavelle stated that there will be times that people should not sit outdoors and other times where her business will likely have to be closed due to the demolition. She stated she feels the City has her back as a small business owner during the demolition, and she is under the impression that the annex portion of the project will be completed by May 7. She stated, however, that there are many unknowns with the project, which causes her to be a little wary. She spoke to the effects of the pandemic on her business, and she indicated that she may face some of the same challenges if there are mishaps with or addendums to the project. A. Eagle-Lavelle stated that events in June and July are especially important for her business. She stated she is not speaking to foreshadow

the project with negativity, rather she is speaking to bring awareness to the complexities of the project and the impacts it could have on her business if things do not go as planned.

Jomo Stewart, President of Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) – J. Stewart spoke to Ordinance No. 6239, stating that one of the fears is that it would pit non-profit organizations against each other in an effort to get funding from the City. He stated although he does not have an official position on the ordinance, he does have concerns that non-profits would have to compete with City departments during the annual budgeting process. He stated that the ordinance could also pit room rental tax recipients against taxpayers.

Scott McCrea, 296 Westgate Place, Fairbanks – S. McCrea, President and CEO of EF, stated that he testified before the Council in December 2022 when the Council was considering an ordinance introduced by Mr. Marney, which proposed changes to the distribution of room rental tax funds. He stated that EF offered up an olive branch at that time to make a one-time contribution of \$100,000 to go towards discretionary fund grants and the maintenance of Golden Heart Plaza (GHP) and Barnette Landing. He stated that compromise was offered in the hopes that EF and other stakeholders could have more discussions with the City on the room rental tax as a whole. S. McCrea stated that he feels that olive branch was snapped in two and tossed back at him with the introduction of Ordinance No. 6239, which proposes one of the most extreme overhauls of the tax ordinance to date. He stated that the discussions with stakeholders did not happen, although he appreciates that Mayor Pruhs and Council Member Ringstad and Marney presented the ordinance to the EF Board prior to introduction. S. McCrea stated that is a lot different than sitting down together and having a discussion, and he does not believe that enough amendments could be made to the ordinance to make it acceptable to EF. He urged the Council to fail Ordinance No. 6239.

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 12(b), Resolution No. 5057, and item 12(c), Ordinance No. 6239, 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 April 11, 2022

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

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
5887	RNDC Alaska	Wholesale General	RNDC Alaska, LLC	945 Elizabeth Street

Mr. Marney, seconded by Mr. Ringstad, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License application for renewal.

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

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Marijuana License application for transfer of controlling interest:

Type/License: Retail Marijuana Store, License #17250

DBA: Pipe and Leaf: Premium Alaskan Cannabis

Applicant: Pipe and Leaf, LLC (transfer of controlling interest only)

Location: 3546 Airport Way, Fairbanks

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by Mr. Marney, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Marijuana License application for transfer of controlling interest.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF CONTROLLING INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- a) Special Reports

Brett Rotermund, FNSB Assembly Member – B. Rotermund thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. He stated that at the last Assembly meeting, Mr. Marney verbally extended an olive branch, inviting Assembly Members to come to City Council meetings to speak to the

Council. He stated that Assembly Presiding Officer Aaron Lojewski, in return, extended an actual olive branch to Mr. Marney. He shared that things over the years have been tense between the two bodies, although he is new to the Assembly and does not know all the history. He stated that the FNSB Assembly is about to enter its budget season and that he is looking forward to diving in and learning more. He shared that the Assembly recently approved its resolution regarding the Manh Choh Mine trucking project and offered to answer questions from the Council.

Ms. Sprinkle and **Mr. Marney** thanked Assemblyman Rotermund for coming.

Mayor Pruhs gave the floor to Chief of Staff (COS) Sanders for a report on the summer plans for GHP.

COS Sanders stated that last year, the GHP was overrun at times, and there was a lot of unwelcome activity. He stated the City is trying to get a head start on planning to prevent some of those issues from reoccurring. He shared that Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) Capt. Nathan Werner is working on scheduling foot patrols in the area for four-hour blocks each day. COS Sanders stated that the Restore Hope grant application was recently submitted in hopes of getting some certified peer support specialists. He stated that in the winter, the specialists would help provide support to folks in need in the FPD lobby and, in the summer, would help engage and offer resources and services to folks in the GHP. He stated that there will be efforts to get the ESP into the GHP every morning to provide a ride to the detox or sobering center for anyone who may need it. COS Sanders stated that walkthroughs by City staff will continue and will expand in the summer. He talked about plans to install “no camping” and “no alcohol” signage throughout the GHP to help expedite FPD’s efforts in removing violators. He shared that Mayor Pruhs is coordinating with Borough Mayor Ward to get matching signage posted in Griffin Park. COS Sanders stated that the camera system for the GHP is nearly ready to go, and features include anti-glare and infrared capabilities. He stated there will be an ability to record, and the footage will be live streamed to the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC). He shared that FPD hopes to have the ability to issue citations for vandalism in the GHP. He stated that the plan for the 2023 summer is to have Porta Potties installed from May 15 through September 15, which will cost about \$2,000 per month; he clarified that the restrooms would be installed in areas monitored by video cameras. COS Sanders stated that Julie Jones with Festival Fairbanks and Police Chief Dupee came up with an idea to have a security/information shack in the GHP to provide wayfinding services and a place for FPD officers to do paperwork. He shared that the City hopes to purchase a Portland Loo, a nearly indestructible restroom that is being used with success all over the country.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Ms. Rogers thanked COS Sanders for the extensive and informative report. She thanked everyone who came and testified respectfully before the Council amidst all the uncertainty. She spoke to working together and commended A. Eagle-Lavelle for her hard at work to make things happen and for creating new avenues of thought. She stated that she hopes to gain more understanding of the plans brought forward by K. Gronewold, and she stated that construction in Fairbanks can be a challenge. She expressed appreciation for people trying to come up with solutions to problems in the community. **Ms. Rogers** reported that she called in to the House Finance Committee to comment on the State PERS issue and remind them about the need to restore Community Assistance (formerly known as revenue sharing) to municipalities. She spoke to the importance in gaining funding for sexual assault kits throughout the state. **Ms. Rogers** shared that there will

be an Opioid Task Force meeting on March 29 at 10 a.m. and a Legislative Committee meeting on March 29 at 3 p.m. She shared that there will also be an Advisory Committee for the Housing and Homeless on March 29, a committee to which she was recently appointed.

Mr. Marney requested to give his comment time to FNSB Assembly Member Savannah Fletcher, and **Mayor Pruhs** allowed it.

Savannah Fletcher, FNSB Assembly Member – S. Fletcher stated she appreciated being acknowledged by the Council. She shared that the Borough Assembly will soon be discussing whether to put a question on the 2023 ballot to expand the Borough’s powers and allow it the authority to receive Opioid Litigation funds to put towards the community.

Ms. Rogers asked Ms. Fletcher if she would be available attend the Opioid Work Group the following morning. Ms. Fletcher stated that she would try to attend if Ms. Rogers would send her the link.

Ms. Sprinkle reported that she attended the Citizen Engagement Academy the prior Thursday, and she is excited about the academy. She commended Mayor Pruhs and COS Sanders for the presentations at the academy.

Mr. Ringstad stated he had no comments.

Ms. Tidwell thanked K. Gronewold for speaking to the Council about downtown revitalization. She stated that Fairbanks lacks modern housing to attract younger people, and she is hopeful the Council can produce a letter of support for the project.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the sample letter of support provided by K. Gronewold is very generic, and he believes the Council could provide such support. He thanked Mr. Rotermund for coming to speak to the Council, and he commented on how the Borough used to send Brittany Smart from the Borough Mayor’s Office to provide regular reports to the Council. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that Porta Potties come with liability, and he requested that COS Sanders look into who bears the liability if a Porta Potty is destroyed. COS Sanders replied that the City would bear the liability.

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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6227.

Mayor Pruhs called for testimony.

Joseph Blanchard – J. Blanchard thanked the sponsors of the ordinance and stated that it is an acknowledgement of the challenges with staffing issues, that the incident rates are increasing, and the importance of emergency services. He stated that there is talk about getting a grant, and he

spoke in support of grant funding. He stated that by approving the ordinance, the Council would be making a statement that it supports City fire and emergency services.

James Janoso, Ester – J. Janoso expressed hope that the Council would vote to approve Ordinance No. 6227. He stated he has owned and operated a small business for 20 years and has been involved as a volunteer emergency medical technician (EMT), firefighter, rescue technician, and most recently as a member of wilderness search and rescue – over 32 years of community service. He stated that he understands the stresses of emergency responders. He stated he was shocked to learn that the City of Fairbanks currently staffs only two ambulances, and he stated postponing the vote has endangered City residents and has placed a burden on the residents of outlying areas, because the City pulls in mutual aid from those areas leaving lives at risk in those outlying areas. He urged the Council to vote to approve Ordinance No. 6227.

Nicola Baker – N. Baker stated that Fairbanks needs a third ambulance staffed, and there are many new EMTs and paramedics being trained through the UAF Community and Technical College. She stated the program delivers the best and brightest students, and she pointed out that Fairbanks pays its medics, which is a rarity. She stated that the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) is a top-notch department, and when she receives her EMT license in June, she plans to further her education at the paramedic academy and become a part of the Fairbanks team. She stated that Fairbanks' population is aging, resulting in more calls, and time is of the essence.

Zach Rittel – Z. Rittel stated that he is currently a captain at the FFD, and he recounted a recent incident involving a child experiencing a life-threatening situation when an ambulance was not available. He stated that, fortunately, they were able to transport the child in a fire engine, which is not recommended. He commented that stacked calls are getting worse, mutual aid is refusing to respond more often, and calls for service continue to increase. He warned that the City is going to get caught flat-footed unless something is done. He stated that the letter of agreement (LOA) is a good deal for the City and has a significant concession on contract language. Z. Rittel stated that the Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) offered up a LOA during the last contract negotiation and was rejected by the City. He urged the Council to approve the LOA before them.

Ms. Sprinkle asked about the outcome of the incident involving the child. Z. Rittel reported that the child survived after spending some time in Anchorage in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Mr. Marney stated that he does not recall rejecting the LOA Z. Rittel referred to. Z. Rittel replied that the LOA was rejected by the City's negotiating team – not directly rejected by the Council.

John Wagner, 1289 Lowbush Lane, Fairbanks – J. Wagner stated he has worked at FFD for 11 years and is currently a captain paramedic and has been an acting battalion chief for about 6 months. He stated that in his first year at the department in 2012, FFD responded to 4,030 calls, and last year the department responded to 7,382 calls, an 83% increase. He stated that the department projects that it will respond to about 8,000 calls in 2023. He spoke to the deep roots of his family in the Fairbanks area, and he recalled a time when he was a part of a team attempting to save his brother-in-law's life, unfortunately unsuccessfully. J. Wagner stated that he warns new firefighters that if they stay in the career long enough, they will inevitably respond to a tragic call involving someone they know and love. He stated it is important to prepare for that and process it properly afterwards. He spoke to some of the challenges firefighters and paramedics frequently face in responding to calls, including icy driving conditions, construction and snow plowing,

congested traffic, houses with poorly marked addresses, doors that must be forced in, and combative bystanders. He stated that when “Plan A” is to outsource the increased workload to mutual aid, the City is doing a disservice to its residents. J. Wagner stated that the City is creating a whole host of “what-ifs” by not adequately staffing enough ambulances to meet the increasing demands. He stated it is not his intent to fearmonger, but the decisions made by the Council affect whether people live or die. He thanked the Council for hearing his comments.

Mr. Ringstad disclosed that J. Wagner is his cousin.

Kevin Johnson, 116 Ivy Drive, Fairbanks – K. Johnson stated that he works at FFD, and he stated that J. Wagner’s experience looms over him, as his grandmother lives at Raven Landing and is 93 years old. He stated that when he looks at available staff during a shift, he is concerned with the stacked calls that he sees. He stated that for a person who is 93 years old, things can escalate very quickly, and it is a disservice to citizens to make them wait for an emergency response. He stated the wait time is unacceptable. K. Johnson stated that Medic 3 is something the FFD has been discussing for years, and the department is beyond that need and needs a Medic 4.

Mr. Cleworth asked K. Johnson if he was on the FFU negotiating team during the last contract negotiation. K. Johnson replied that he was. **Mr. Cleworth** asked whether the Union or the City suggested the change to the language regarding apparatus manning, resulting in the loss of the third ambulance. K. Johnson replied that Nick Clark should have record of that in his notes which can be reviewed. **Mr. Cleworth** asked why the Union would be in favor of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) that was signed, knowing that it would eliminate the third ambulance. K. Johnson stated that it is not that they wanted to lose the third ambulance; rather, they wanted to gain a third fulltime paramedic.

Ms. Sprinkle asked about the difference between a paramedic and an EMT. K. Johnson explained that a paramedic offers the highest level of care in an emergency setting. He stated that there are three levels of EMTs, and he explained details about each level. He explained that paramedics have abilities to include critical thinking in emergency situations and practice more advanced medicine.

Mr. Cleworth asked K. Johnson to explain what an advanced EMT is. K. Johnson replied that an advanced EMT can attach a cardiac monitor, establish an IV, and administer some drugs. **Mr. Cleworth** asked how many paramedics the City currently has. K. Johnson replied that the City currently has about 16 or 17 paramedics. And in response to Mr. Cleworth’s follow-up question regarding the number of advanced EMTs, K. Johnson stated that he does not know. **Mr. Cleworth** questioned whether the current paramedic staffing levels would allow the City to staff a third ambulance. K. Johnson replied that it would be doable, but the City still needs more staff due to the growing number of calls.

Mr. Marney asked whether it is a training issue to see advancement into becoming a paramedic. K. Johnson replied that it is a retention issue, and a repeated shutting down by the City Council. **Mr. Marney** asked about the hierarchy of EMTs and paramedics. K. Johnson replied that the steps are EMT 1, EMT 2, advanced EMT, EMT 3, then paramedic. **Mr. Marney** asked if an EMT 3 could advance to a paramedic through classes at the university or through in-house training. K. Johnson replied that it could not be done in-house, but each year the FFD sends two personnel to paramedic school, which requires a 5-year commitment to the City.

Ms. Tidwell asked K. Johnson to confirm that if the proposed LOA was passed, it would give the department the ability to cross-staff a third ambulance. K. Johnson confirmed that is correct.

Savannah Fletcher – S. Fletcher clarified that she is speaking personally and not representing anyone else. She stated that although she lives outside the City, she works in the downtown area. She spoke about the building she works in and to how critical it would be if a fire occurred there, as she sometimes brings her young child to the office; she commented that one of her coworkers has a disability, and it would be difficult to get them down to the ground floor in an emergency situation. She strongly encouraged the Council to pass Ordinance No. 6227.

Cassie O'Morris – C. O'Morris stated that she is a lifelong Fairbanks resident with four children, and she maintains a job while being a fulltime student. She commented that she is a busy person, but she felt it was important to come testify in support of a third ambulance for the FFD. She stated that her father was a firefighter/paramedic for 23 years, and her husband and two of her brothers are in local law enforcement. She commented that taxpayer dollars should ensure emergency response services, and she pointed out that Mayor Pruhs ran his campaign citing a goal of providing a third ambulance at the FFD. She stated it is vital to add a third ambulance.

Tony Naber – T. Naber stated that he has been with the FFD for three years and that his father retired from the FFD about a year-and-a-half ago. He stated that when Medic 3 was cross staffed with a fire engine, he was one of the EMTs who staffed that ambulance. He explained that Dispatch cannot differentiate when a paramedic is needed for a call versus an EMT. He spoke to the many steps required to get a paramedic license; he explained that it takes about 350 hours of training to become an EMT and over 1,600 hours to become a paramedic. He stated that Medic 3 needs to be staffed with a paramedic.

Dominic Lozano – D. Lozano stated that he is a battalion chief at the FFD. He shared that the Fire Chief realized when he took the position that the FFD needed to serve citizens differently. He stated that the Chief sat down with the Union and brought forward the proposed LOA. He stated that the LOA will allow the Chief to manage the department how he sees fit to best serve citizens. He urged the Council to approve Ordinance No. 6227.

Mr. Marney commented that he does not see anywhere in the LOA that the Chief will be able to manage the department as he sees fit. He asked for help in understanding D. Lozano's comments to that effect. D. Lozano stated that he disagrees with the notion that Chief cannot manage the FFD because of the Union contract; he stated that the Union is not there to stand in the way of providing services to citizens. He stated that the Union works hand-in-hand with the Fire Chief.

Nick Clark – N. Clark stated that there has been a lot of passionate testimony. He clarified that the LOA came about because the Fire Chief saw a need for a third ambulance. He stated that he, the Fire Chief, and the COS sat down and negotiated the LOA before the Council, and he pointed out that the FFU conceded on the cross-staffing issue. He urged the Council to approve the LOA, and he stated that the best interest of Fairbanks citizens is at stake.

Mr. Cleworth asked whether the Union would be receptive to returning to the LOA that was in place in 2019. N. Clark stated that what is before the Council is what the Fire Chief is requesting and is what is needed to move forward.

Mr. Marney stated that the Council is concerned with the amount of overtime at FFD, given that overtime costs in 2022 were \$1.6 MM. He asked whether the Union has a plan on how to decrease that cost. N. Clark replied that FFD is currently 5% under budget for overtime, and he stated that the Chief is doing a fantastic job. He stated that one-third of the department was hired in 2022.

Ms. Sprinkle asked whether the proposed LOA would help with retention. N. Clark turned the focus back to the need to provide the service to residents. He stated that the LOA will allow the Chief to manage the department in a way that provides the best service to citizens.

Mr. Ringstad thanked N. Clark for taking some time with him the week prior to help him better understand the issues.

Janelle Hoffman – J. Hoffman stated she has no relation to the FFD. She stated that the issue is about providing a needed service. She commented that Fairbanks is growing, and more tourists are visiting, and the essential services are not keeping up with that growth.

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

Ms. Tidwell thanked everyone for coming out to testify on Ordinance No. 6227. She shared that when she ran for office in 2022, the third ambulance issue seemed to be one of the biggest concerns of the public, so she brought forward an ordinance to address it. She stated she believes that every Council member agrees that the City needs a third ambulance. She talked about the journey of the ordinance so far and stated that she does not want to see it kicked further down the road while the City waits for funding.

Ms. Tidwell, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6227 by striking the words, “this change will add staffing for a third ambulance and allow pro-pays for the additional ambulance unit” and by replacing the fiscal note with the amended fiscal note.

Ms. Tidwell explained that the amendment would separate the LOA from the funding issue and would give the Chief the ability to use existing personnel to staff a third ambulance. She stated that more positions are needed, but the language change is also needed. She read one of the long-term goals of the Fire Department in the City budget book, which states, “increase current in-service ambulance levels to provide the best possible service to customers.”

Mr. Ringstad stated that his daughter works in the emergency room at the hospital, and one of her responsibilities has been to keep track of the number of patients. He stated that the number of calls and patients is up, and this proposal would help the Fire Chief manage his department. He stated that by splitting the issue, at least that part of the problem can be addressed. He asked Chief Raygor whether the ordinance would solve the problem with his ability to manage staff. Chief Raygor clarified that the LOA was drafted by him, and he worked with the Union and the City to put it forward. He stated the department has a problem with staffing the under-utilized platform, while other vehicles are being overused. He stated this would allow him to employ a part-time, third ambulance to meet the call level. Chief Raygor explained that, starting in 2024, a third, fulltime ambulance – not connected to the platform – could be discussed in negotiations for a new contract. He stated that the amendment would not affect his ability to begin cross staffing the third

ambulance right away. He commented that it will be up to the Council whether to increase staffing in the future.

Ms. Sprinkle asked whether there would still be enough staff with the amendment to accomplish what is needed. Chief Raygor stated that there may be some changes in the overtime structure; he stated that overtime costs can be driven down by increasing staffing.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6227 BY STRIKING THE WORDS, "THIS CHANGE WILL ADD STAFFING FOR A THIRD AMBULANCE AND ALLOW PRO-PAYS FOR THE ADDITIONAL AMBULANCE UNIT" AND BY REPLACING THE FISCAL NOTE WITH THE AMENDED FISCAL NOTE AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the amendment changes a lot, but he would like to do some more research on how the current proposal compares to the LOA in 2019. He clarified that the Council wants to operate a third ambulance, but the issue is with how to accomplish that. He expressed frustration that the City had the ability to staff a third ambulance in 2019, but that ability was taken away. He read into the record an excerpt from a letter from former Fire Chief Tod Chambers, which was sent to the Council in 2021. **Mr. Cleworth** stated the letter indicates that it was the City Council's goal to maintain staffing at nine personnel, with additional staffing to be determined through the annual budgeting process, thus resulting in the inability of the City to staff a third ambulance. He stated that the City Code states that amendments to CBAs are not effective unless approved by the Council, and the City was never aware of the 2019 LOA. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that City Code also states that before an ordinance to ratify a CBA is introduced, the City Council will be provided with a comprehensive list of proposed changes, along with a fiscal note from the CFO. He stated that the CBA language change regarding staffing of apparatus was so subtle that only one Council member at the time was aware of it. **Mr. Cleworth** went on to explain that he was off the Council in 2020 when a new labor contract was presented for approval, but he was serving as a public member on the Council Finance Committee. He explained that the administration at the time prohibited members from discussing the CBA at the Finance Committee meeting prior to the second reading of the ordinance to ratify the labor contract. He questioned why the Council was kept in the dark that the City would lose its ability to staff a third ambulance. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he would like some time for to review the current contract language before voting on Ordinance No. 6227, as Amended. He stated that Chief Raygor should have the right to manage staff as he sees fit, but the current CBA language does not allow him to do that.

Ms. Tidwell stated that she does not believe that postponing the ordinance again is the answer. She stated that by approving the earlier amendment, the Council removed the associated cost. She asked Chief Raygor to respond to the questions raised by Mr. Cleworth.

Chief Raygor stated that he drafted the language for the LOA in 2019 and shared that he has some expertise in staffing modeling. He stated it was determined by the former COS, former Fire Chief, and former CFO that the LOA had no associated cost and, therefore, would not need to be approved by the Council. He explained that during subsequent labor negotiations, the same language was

brought forward by the Union to the former COS, which he rejected, stating that any proposal to increase minimum staffing would be rejected because the Council would not agree to it. He reported that the former COS indicated that it would be up to the City to staff a second and third ambulance, and the City has been staffing enough since then to man a second ambulance.

Mr. Cleworth asked Council members who were serving on the Council at the time of the former LOA whether the issue was brought before them. **Mr. Marney** and **Ms. Rogers** stated that they have no recollection of that issue being brought to the Council.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6227, as Amended.

Mr. Ringstad stated that he is willing to vote right away on Ordinance No. 6227, as Amended, but he empathized with Mr. Cleworth's desire to postpone so that he could have the opportunity to carefully study the language. He stated he has no doubt that the ordinance will pass.

Ms. Rogers appreciated Mr. Ringstad's comments and stated it is important for everyone to feel comfortable before voting. She thanked the sponsors of the ordinance and spoke to the importance of discussion and working together.

Mayor Pruhs thanked all those who testified and thanked the ordinance sponsors for continuing to pursue the issue. He also thanked Chief Raygor and CFO Bell for their work and input.

Ms. Rogers requested to be added as a sponsor of Ordinance No. 6227, as Amended.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6227, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Rogers

NAYS: Tidwell, Sprinkle

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended – 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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended.

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

Mr. Marney spoke to the many issues related to special events, including FPD involvement in events. He stated that he reached out to several people in the community regarding the barricade package, traffic control plans, and City fees and costs.

Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson stated that the information provided to the Council at the last Finance Committee meeting broke down the labor costs associated providing barricades for special

events, and he explained the processes of his department. He shared that the City experienced theft of barricade devices in 2022, and he spoke more about Public Works' low device inventory.

Mr. Marney asked whether it is redundant for organizers to be required to get a new traffic control plan each year for the same parade on the same unchanged City streets. Director Jacobson stated that the traffic control plan is required by the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended, by substituting the proposed version of Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended.

Mayor Pruhs asked Attorney Chard to speak to the proposed changes. Attorney Chard stated that staff made an attempt to clean up some of the language and provide more clarity.

Ms. Sprinkle asked what the biggest change was. Attorney Chard replied that the majority of changes are in Sec. 78-572(c). Clerk Snider stated that the changes in the proposed substitute incorporate the language presented by City Engineer Bob Pristash at the last Finance Committee meeting. Engineer Pristash explained that all special events require a permit, but those special events that will use the right-of-way also require a traffic control. He stated it reduces liability when events are put on according to standards.

Mr. Ringstad stated that he does not see where it is written that devices will be delivered by the City. Clerk Snider pointed out the language in Sec. 78-572(c) of the substituted ordinance that reads, "...provide traffic control devices and labor to set up the submitted and approved traffic control plan..."

Ms. Sprinkle explained her understanding was that Public Works drops off the barricades, but the organization putting on the event sets up the devices according to the traffic control plan. She stated that is not clear in the ordinance. Director Jacobson stated that the language in the proposed substitute will intensify the labor costs for Public Works. **Ms. Sprinkle** stated that she would like to see the language clarified.

Mr. Ringstad agreed with Ms. Sprinkle that it is unclear which party is responsible for the labor.

Mr. Marney recalled years where Public Works would collect devices and clean the streets after a parade. Director Jacobson stated that the City does that only after the Golden Days Parade, given the size of the event. **Mr. Marney** asked whether that service would be included in the barricade package fee. Director Jacobson replied that it would, but only for the Golden Days Parade event. He stated that FPD can back charge for overtime costs related to an event, but Public Works cannot.

COS Sanders suggested that the labor costs for special events could be included in a budget line item. Attorney Chard pointed out that the proposed substitute includes language that the City will set up barricade devices. Director Jacobson stated that is a change from the current practice.

Members discussed the language in Sec. 78-572(c) regarding barricade set up and the current practices of Public Works relating to special events.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND the amendment on the floor by striking “labor to set up the submitted and approved traffic control plan” in Sec. 78-572(c) and replacing with “deliver them to a designated location.”

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT ON THE FLOOR BY STRIKING “LABOR TO SET UP THE SUBMITTED AND APPROVED TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN” IN SEC. 78-572(c) AND REPLACING WITH “DELIVER THEM TO A DESIGNATED LOCATION” AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Pruhs called for objection to the motion to AMEND Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended, by substituting the proposed version of Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended, and hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6238, as Amended.

Members briefly discussed the local companies that provide traffic control plan services. **Mr. Marney** stated that Exclusive Paving is the only company that still provides the service. Engineer Pristash stated that he can think of three others that do. **Mr. Marney** stated that he spoke with the person at Exclusive Paving who performs the traffic control duties, and she indicated that she provides the service for free but would not want to further extend that. He stated that he also contacted Great Northwest who stated that they no longer provide that service.

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

YEAS: Marney, Cleworth, Rogers, Pruhs

NAYS: Ringstad, Tidwell, Sprinkle

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Sprinkle requested to have a short break. **Mayor Pruhs** called for a brief recess. The Council resumed the agenda at New Business following the brief recess.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5056 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept the FFY2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 5057 – A Resolution Amending the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services by Adjusting the Special Event Permit Fee, Adding a Permit Officer Fee, and

Amending the Emergency Response to a Motor Vehicle Accident Fee Description.
Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5057.

Mr. Cleworth addressed the fee for emergency fire/EMS response to a motor vehicle accident (MVA). He questioned the language in the description and asked whether and how often fault is determined on-scene by the police.

Chief Dupee reported that in the State of Alaska, the police do not determine fault when a MVA occurs. He stated, however, that some drivers are issued a citation on-site if the investigation reveals there was a traffic violation. He explained that ultimately, the insurance companies determine fault.

Mr. Cleworth asked the City Attorney whether the fee would work, given the information Chief Dupee provided. Attorney Chard stated that it could be problematic if a driver was charged the fee but was found later to have not been at fault. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that has happened, and he has waived the fee in such cases. Fire Chief Raygor stated that there have been four or five cases in the last year where the court has found the person not guilty, and the person has come back to the City to request the fee be waived. He explained that the FFD has no way to determine fault, but his administrative assistant has access to a database showing MVAs that resulted in the issuance of a citation. He stated that is the only mechanism FFD has to charge the fee.

Mr. Ringstad asked for clarification on the database where the MVA data is retrieved. Chief Dupee stated it is through the CAD or RMS system. Chief Raygor explained that his assistant uses the call list and cross references with the list of drivers who received a citation for an MVA.

Mr. Ringstad suggested getting rid of the “that caused accident” language in the fee description since there is not a way to prove who was at fault. He stated that if a person is ticketed, they clearly have some responsibility.

Attorney Chard explained that one of the reasons the language “that caused accident” was left in the fee description was because a driver involved in an accident could be ticketed for a violation that has nothing to do with the cause of the accident, such as a ticket for a vehicle registration violation.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5057 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5057 APPROVED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6239 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 74, Article V, Section 74-117, Room Rental Tax Purpose and Limitation. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Council Members Ringstad and Marney.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6239.

Mr. Cleworth asked how the Discretionary Fund Committee would know how much money they have available each year for the grant. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that it will be determined each year through the budgetary process. He stated that he would meet with the Committee then put an amount forward in his annual budget proposal to the Council.

Mr. Cleworth stated that this process was tried before in 1996, and he recalled that it did not work out very well. He stated that he would like to see some parameters in the ordinance, perhaps some allocations set by percentage. **Mayor Pruhs** disagreed and stated that the amounts would be determined in the budget process and would be based on the projected room rental tax revenues for the year. He stated that the proposed ordinance would allow the Council to decide each year how much to fund and how much of a subsidy the City taxpayers would provide. He stated that it is the Council's obligation to make the annual determination.

Mr. Ringstad commented that he feels the Council has a responsibility to discuss the distribution of the tax revenue each year before making a decision. He stated that the Council has no authority to tell a future Council how to spend City revenues.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the current Code provision provides that distributions are "subject to annual appropriation," which would not tie the hands of future Councils. He questioned the last whereas in the ordinance that talks about taxpayers subsidizing distributions over the 1999 level. He stated that nearly all the funds used to be distributed to the former Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau (FCVB); he indicated that became a bone of contention with the Council because, at that time, the room rental tax was under the tax cap, which resulted in a negative impact on the City budget. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the City worked with the former FCVB to propose a City Charter amendment to remove the tax from the tax cap. He stated that he does not understand the claim that the taxpayers are subsidizing the room rental tax distributions.

Mayor Pruhs asked CFO Bell to weigh in. CFO Bell stated that the amount of room rental tax collected above the ~\$2.2 MM level would reduce the property tax, or the City could retain the funds to use for City services. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that the ordinance would allow the Council to decide whether to offer a benefit to property taxpayers or fund other City services.

Ms. Rogers stated she has many thoughts on the whole topic. She stated it is her understanding that the visitor industry first proposed the idea of the City levying a tax. She indicated that they have been successful at managing the funds, and she feels there are some "sticky thorns" in the current conversation. She expressed concern with overthrowing a traditional agreement.

Mayor Pruhs stated that the proposed change has nothing to do with the organizations' management of the funds; rather, it has to do with the Council's obligation to direct funding.

Mr. Ringstad commented that this is an issue of process, and, procedurally, the question is how to manage the money. He suggested that the proper way to make allocations is through the annual budget process; he stated that this allocation has been the exception to that process, but it accounts for 9% of the total annual revenue of the City. He stated that he feels the Council has been derelict in its responsibility regarding the distribution. **Mr. Ringstad** explained that when the City Council sets the budget, it in essence funds the activities that implement policies. He stated that it is just

as important for the Council to go through the room rental tax allocations each year just as it does for each City department. He commented that what was appropriate 20 years ago may not be now.

Mr. Marney expressed his belief that more discussion should be had. He indicated that there is much fear and that working together may ease everyone's concerns.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he is not opposed to advancement, but he has concerns with the whereas that talks about the subsidy. He commented that the room rental tax portion of the budget may take up most of the Council's time in budget discussions. **Mayor Pruhs** disagreed. He stated that the requests would come through him first. **Mr. Cleworth** argued that even after a budget ordinance is drafted, there will still be a tremendous amount of public testimony on the issue.

Ms. Tidwell restated the proposed process as she understood it. **Mayor Pruhs** clarified that, under the new ordinance, requests for funding over \$100,000 would come directly to him. He stated that the Discretionary Fund Committee would make its total grant request to the Mayor and recommend allocations to the City Council for requests under \$100,000. **Ms. Tidwell** remarked that she would be more supportive if EF was more a part of the process. **Mayor Pruhs** argued that EF has been involved with the process, and there has been a great deal of discussion about the room rental tax.

Ms. Rogers indicated that there has not been enough working together on the issue. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that this has been a volatile issue. He indicated that there has been much discussion and will likely be much more. He stated that in the end, the Council will be the final arbitrator for the distribution of the funds. **Ms. Rogers** took exception to the Mayor's use of the term "volatile" and disagreed with his assessment of the discussions so far. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that the issue is where it is at now because of a fight over \$100,000, which he felt was shocking.

Mr. Ringstad stated that he has spent many hours doing his homework on the issue, and the more information he finds, the more upsetting it is. He stated that back in 1979, the stated purpose of the bed tax was for tourism marketing and other economic development. He questioned what the City has put towards economic development other than the \$100,000 allocation to the FEDC. He questioned whether the City has done anything for other industries, such as health care, mining, transportation, and oil. **Mr. Ringstad** stated that it seems there has not even been a conversation in that regard, and discussions need to be had. He mentioned that other government services has been added as a third purpose for the bed tax funds since its origination, and he reiterated that the funds belong to the City and should be reviewed and discussed each year by the Council during budget discussions.

Mr. Marney pointed out that the City could give \$10 MM to EF, but the City has to be a clean and desirable place to visit. He stated that without City services, the funds allocated to the visitor industry would be wasted.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6239 AS FOLLOWS:

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

- d) Ordinance No. 6240 – An Ordinance Amending Schedule A of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Ordinance No. 6241 – An Ordinance Amending Schedule A of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks AFL-CIO Crafts Council. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (INFORMATION AND REPORTS)

- a) Committee Reports

Mr. Cleworth stated he had nothing to report.

Ms. Rogers stated it was refreshing to have a room full of people so well-versed about the community speaking respectfully to the Council.

Ms. Sprinkle reported that the Chena Riverfront Commission met the prior week, and she heard about different projects, including the posting of signage along the Chena River. She stated that the Chena Riverwalk Phase III project is still moving along but indicated that it has been slowed down by the Alaska Railroad. She stated that the Borough would like to make a loop on the north side of the river to meet the south side of the river at the Pioneer Park bridge. She stated that the Borough plans to review the Comprehensive River Plan in the coming year.

Ms. Tidwell stated that she attended the TAC Committee (the advisory committee for the Manh Choh Mine ore hauling project) on March 21. She stated that the group was brought up to speed with crash data, stopping distance for trucks, and other items the engineering company has been working on. She stated it is her understanding that the first stage of the full report will be available in August, and she encouraged people to visit their website for more information about the meetings and progress of the group; she recommended doing an online search for “DOT Alaska Tetlin to Fort Knox.”

Mr. Marney shared that he attended the EF Board of Directors meeting the prior Wednesday, and it was an interesting meeting.

Mr. Ringstad stated he had nothing to report.

Ms. Rogers shared that the DOT is already working on a much needed reconstruction of the bridge on Aurora Drive, and she provided some details about the project.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Tidwell stated she had no comments.

Mr. Marney thanked Ms. Tidwell for her amendment on Ordinance No. 6227.

Mr. Ringstad agreed with Mr. Marney.

Ms. Sprinkle invited everyone to the 2023 International Bonspiel at the Curling Club starting on March 30.

Ms. Rogers stated she had no further comments.

Mr. Cleworth thanked COS Sanders for preparing Ordinance Nos. 6240 and 6241. He requested that the Council receive hard copies of the IBEW labor contract before negotiations begin. He asked COS Sanders if the plan is to enter FFU labor negotiations before the end of 2023. COS Sanders replied affirmatively. He stated that the City will also be renegotiating the IT contract in 2023. **Mr. Cleworth** asked Chief Raygor if he could provide a language comparison at the next work session of the proposed LOA and current CBA. He asked Ms. Sprinkle about the signage to be posted along the Chena River. **Ms. Sprinkle** replied that the posting areas have already been designated, such as Graehl Landing, the Boatel, and other areas with river access. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he was not a fan of the idea.

Mayor Pruhs announced that he would limit the April 4 work session topics to the FFU LOA and the room rental tax ordinance. He shared that the bid opening for the first demolition phase of the Polaris Building occurred earlier in the day; he stated that he would follow up with the Council when he had more information.

ADJOURNMENT

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

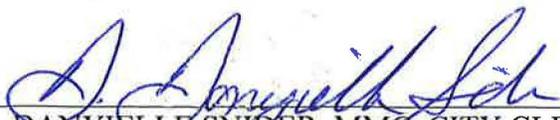
Mayor Pruhs called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS