



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MAY 8, 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 (remotely)  
   Lonny Marney, Seat E  
   John Ringstad, Seat F

Absent:                                None

Also Present:                        Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer (remotely)  
   D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
   Thomas Chard, City Attorney  
   Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)  
   Ron Dupee, Police Chief  
   Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief (remotely)  
   Andrew Coccaro, Assistant Fire Chief  
   Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator

### INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

### FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, **Mr. Marney** lead the flag salutation.

### CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Julie Jones, Festival Fairbanks, 516 2nd Avenue – J. Jones spoke in support of Ordinance No. 6223 or its amendment, although she expressed difficulty in doing so as she supports the other organizations affected by the ordinance. She commented that she aims to support funding for Festival Fairbanks. She stated that the increase in City funding to Festival Fairbanks in 2023 has made a tremendous difference for her organization in maintaining the Golden Heart Plaza and Barnette Landing areas. She thanked the City Council for all its hard work on the ordinance.

**Mayor Pruhs** asked J. Jones how things are going with the campers. J. Jones replied that there has been a number of people doing walkthroughs in the Golden Heart Plaza (GHP), including herself, the police, Mayor Pruhs, and Brynn Butler. She stated that they have been talking with

people camping behind the Yukon Quest cabin and informing them that they cannot camp there. She stated that they put out some trash bags, brooms, and rakes there recently, and some of the campers participated in cleaning up their mess. She stated she hopes that the campers will soon find another accommodation.

**Ms. Rogers** stated that a comment was made at the last meeting about people being afraid to go downtown. She asked J. Jones to speak to that issue. J. Jones replied that she never feels fearful in downtown area; she stated that if you treat an agitated individual with dignity and respect, they typically deescalate. **Ms. Rogers** asked J. Jones if she would recommend that people frequent the GHP. J. Jones replied affirmatively; she listed the many activities and events planned for the upcoming summer season in the Plaza, as well as some free services that will be offered.

**Mr. Marney** thanked J. Jones for her comments and for all she does for the City. He stated that she is a remarkable woman.

**Ms. Rogers** asked J. Jones to speak about the electronic sign near the GHP. J. Jones stated that they display a variety of items on the electronic reader board: awareness of missing people, advertisement of City Council meetings and community events. She stated that Festival Fairbanks can advertise free community events on the sign at no cost.

Victor Buberger – V. Buberger stated that it is pothole season. He reported that there are a number of potholes on College Road from Illinois Street to the Old Steese Highway. He questioned what would happen with the Polaris Building property once the building is demolished; he recommended building a casino as it would generate revenue instead of costing money.

Michael Altherr – M. Altherr stated that he is a local business owner, a local homeowner, and a longtime Alaskan with a very poor story to tell. He stated that he went to take his one-year-old son for a walk near his home downtown the previous evening, and he found three dirty needles on the ground across the street. He reported that he called the police, but no one answered the phone or called him back. He stated that he then called the Mayor's Office but alleged that it was not a working number. He stated that next he called the Borough, but he was informed that they do not have police powers. M. Altherr stated that finally he called the City Clerk's Office and was able to speak to someone; he asked the Mayor whether that bothers him. He stated that there are literally crackheads on Fairbanks streets, and citizens like him are paying \$28,000 per year in property taxes. He stated that people like the Mayor are taking the money while his young son is stepping on dirty needles. He again directly questioned the Mayor, then Mr. Ringstad. He stated he was unsure how else to address the issue when he was unable to reach anyone at the City. He directly addressed Ms. Sprinkle, asking where to go from here.

**Ms. Sprinkle** questioned protocol and whether she could engage. She asked Mr. Altherr to leave his phone number so that he could be contacted. Mr. Altherr stated that he would.

Mr. Altherr continued by stating that he has been in the community since 2006, he was a soldier, and he is a business and homeowner. He stated that it is heartbreaking to have watched Fairbanks fall apart, and if things are not fixed, he and his family will leave the community. He shared that he grew up in Detroit, Michigan, and he thought he knew what crime was; he stated that his son is tripping over dirty needles in Fairbanks. He reiterated that he attempted without success to contact

City departments, but the only person he knew who would answer the phone is the “tax lady.” Addressing Mr. Cleworth directly, Mr. Altherr stated that he can see on Mr. Cleworth’s face that he understands his complaint. He stated he is aware of Mr. Cleworth’s business location as is Mr. Cleworth of his.

**Mr. Cleworth** explained that, according to meeting protocol, he is unable to respond to Mr. Altherr’s comments at this time. He stated, however, that he will be able to address Mr. Altherr’s comments under agenda item 10, Council Members’ Comments.

Mr. Altherr stated that he has a one-year-old needs to go to bed soon, and he clarified that he is not angry at any individual Council member. He stated that citizens pay a lot of money to live in Fairbanks, and it angers him that his tax dollars are not being used to protect him and his family from bad people. He stated that there are bad people in front of his house every night, and even when he calls the City, no one responds. He commented that he called the police regarding a shoplifter at his business and was told that they did not have the manpower to respond. He questioned why he is paying tax dollars to the City, and he again explained that he tried to contact the City to rectify the situation. He alleged that the City simply does not answer the phone. Mr. Altherr commented that COVID no longer exists, and he criticized the City for continuing to use Zoom for meetings. He stated that taxpayers are paying City staff to do a job and that they need to go to work. Mr. Altherr addressed Mayor Pruhs directly and stated that he was told that the Mayor is trying to hire an assistant; he stated that when he is trying to hire an assistant, he picks up the phone himself because he is in charge.

**Mayor Pruhs** interjected and stated that he believes Mr. Altherr’s comments are finished. Mr. Altherr agreed but continued to question Mayor Pruhs’ leadership by alleging that he does not answer the phone in his office. He stated that he may run for Mayor, as he believes he could do a better job than Mayor Pruhs. He reiterated that there are needles in his front yard. He stated that he listens to Mayor Pruhs’ radio show every day, and while Mayor Pruhs has some good ideas, he does not do anything about them. Mr. Altherr expressed appreciation for the Council, apologized for losing his temper, and expressed that he wants his community to succeed. He stated that he is passionate about the issue, and it appears that no one wants to put forth the effort to fix the problems. He questioned how to accomplish change.

Brynn Butler – B. Butler stated that she was on Facebook the previous evening, and she saw that there was a post about an issue in the GHP. She explained that she walked to the Plaza with her dog, and it was as the Facebook post described. She stated that there were people throwing footballs over the heads of tourists, and she was not welcomed when she offered alternate suggestions to the people throwing the ball. She shared that there are ongoing efforts to improve that area, and people are typically receptive to respectful conversations. B. Butler reported that she may have gotten off on a poor start with the patrons when she opened the conversation with “I don’t want to have to call the police.” She stated that she learned something from that and will not open conversations that way in the future. She spoke to the upcoming Symposium on Opioids and invited people to register. She stated that she would be willing to pick up needles if someone contacts her and makes her aware of the issue; she stated that she picks up needles in her own neighborhood. She stated that there is safe needle disposal available to people in the community.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked whether people attending with an interest in Ordinance No. 6223 should testify under Citizens' Comments or wait until later in the meeting.

Clerk Snider stated that the postponed ordinance has no scheduled public hearing at the meeting; she stated that several of the members in the audience had already contacted her regarding the protocol surrounding the ordinance. She explained that the time to speak to Ordinance No. 6223 is during Citizens' Comments. She further explained that if the ordinance is amended substantively by the Council, it will require another reading and public hearing.

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

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

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

**Mr. Cleworth** pulled the Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023 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 10, 2023

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### **SPECIAL ORDERS**

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
2847	Goldie's AK	Beverage Dispensary	Nash Holland, LLC	659 5th Avenue
4862	Southern Glazer's of AK	Wholesale – General	Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits of Alaska, LLC	3101 Peger Road, Bay 2

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License applications for renewal.

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

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked about the "no match found" supporting documentation. Clerk Snider stated that no calls were reported for that location within the past year. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked for clarification about which location the no-call report applied to. Clerk Snider replied that she believed the no-call report applied to the Southern Glazers of AK license.

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

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

**Mayor Pruhs** reported that the Mayor's Office was short-staffed that day. He stated that it was only him and Jessica Krier in the office, and he answered the phones until about 5:30 p.m. He spoke about the subject matter of the calls he took since Friday. He stated that the City does not have an issue with wanting to respond to every police call, it just does not have the resources to do so. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that Jessica in his office did speak with Mr. Altherr earlier in the day on the phone for about 20 minutes. He reported that he is currently trying to hire a new assistant in the Mayor's Office.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

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

**Mr. Marney** empathized with Mr. Altherr and the situation with the dirty needles lying on the ground. He stated there are problems in the City that need to be addressed, and he thanked Mr. Altherr for coming to speak to the Council.

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

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked Mr. Cleworth whether College Road will be resurfaced in 2023. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he is unsure; he stated that he does not recall seeing it on the list of improvements.

**Ms. Rogers** stated that she witnessed that some potholes had been filled on College Road. She thanked Mr. Altherr for coming to speak to the Council and spoke to the need for everyone to look out for each other. She stated that there are wonderful people actively working on issues in the community, and she mentioned Brynn Butler by name. She spoke very highly of Ms. Butler and to how respectfully she speaks about others. **Ms. Rogers** stated that the only way to work together is to not label others, and she asked Mr. Altherr to not refer to the City Clerk as the "tax lady."

After an outburst from Mr. Altherr in the audience, **Mayor Pruhs** gave a reminder that it was time for Ms. Rogers' comments and her comments only.

**Ms. Rogers** continued by empathizing with the circumstances that brought Mr. Altherr to the Council meeting. She stated that she is glad that Mr. Altherr has spoken and that she respects his right to do so. She expressed understanding for Mr. Altherr's concern for his family, business, and investment and for his disappointment in the community.



Again, Mr. Altherr interrupted Ms. Rogers from the audience, and **Mayor Pruhs** called him to order.

**Ms. Rogers** stated she is challenged by her work in the community and expressed pride for the Fairbanks community. She stated that she finds it difficult that people are at each other's throats more often than is necessary. She again emphasized the need to work together.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that he does not have a solution for Mr. Altherr. He stated that each morning when he arrives at work, he encounters all the problems mentioned by Mr. Altherr plus much more. He stated that there is nothing safe about a dirty needle on the ground but indicated that he feels safe in Fairbanks in the sense that he does not feel that he will be attacked. He stated that some of the change that is necessary is difficult, and he talked briefly about the damage he has experienced to his own property and to his neighbor's property downtown. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that it is frustrating, and he invited Mr. Altherr to come by his shop to talk more.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Ordinance No. 6223 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 74, Article V, Room Rental Tax, to Change the Allocations to Golden Heart Plaza/Barnette's Landing and Discretionary Grants. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2022; a public hearing was held on November 28, 2022.

*The motion to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6223 was made by Ms. Sprinkle and seconded by Mr. Marney at the November 28, 2022 Regular Meeting and remained on the floor.*

**Mr. Marney**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6223 by substituting the amended, proposed version of Ordinance No. 6223.

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

**Mr. Cleworth** expressed appreciation that the sponsors of the amended ordinance are going back to a formula. He offered some suggestions for amendments he would like to see: 1) funding to cover the City's costs specifically related to special events; 2) a benchmark allocation for the FEDC, GHP, and Discretionary Grants, with a built-in increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI); 3) an allocation to Explore Fairbanks that is not static; 4) no statement that the allocations will be reviewed at least once every five years, since the Council can review the allocations annually; and 5) no change to the FEDC allocation so that Council Member Sprinkle would not have a conflict of interest with the ordinance. **Mr. Cleworth** explained that the Council could introduce a separate ordinance to reinstate the increase to FEDC.

**Mr. Ringstad** stated he tried drafting an amendment to implement some of Mr. Cleworth's suggestions, including a separate City allocation to cover specific costs. He indicated that it still needs more work. He shared that with the exception of a couple of years, Explore Fairbanks' allocation in recent years has been between \$2MM and \$2.2MM. He stated that he supports the version before the Council, but he would still like to try to tweak the ordinance. As for Ms. Sprinkle's conflict of interest, he spoke in support of finding a way to allow her to vote on the ordinance.

**Mayor Pruhs** asked Attorney Chard if Ms. Sprinkle could speak to the ordinance. Attorney Chard agreed with Mr. Cleworth that by removing the changes to the FEDC allocation, it would remove Ms. Sprinkle's conflict. He stated that his understanding is that her conflict lies with the allocation to the FEDC.

**Ms. Sprinkle** disclosed that she also serves on the board for Festival Fairbanks.

Attorney Chard reiterated that, procedurally, the FEDC portion would need to be removed before Ms. Sprinkle could speak about the ordinance. Clerk Snider reminded the Council that it has the ability to override the Mayor's ruling on the conflict of interest.

**Mr. Ringstad** asked Ms. Sprinkle whether she would be comfortable considering the ordinance if the FEDC portion was removed. **Ms. Sprinkle** questioned whether her service on the Festival Fairbanks Board also presents a conflict. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that Ms. Sprinkle's service on the Festival Fairbanks Board would not pose a conflict of interest as another body appropriates funds to that organization.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6223, as Amended, by reducing the allocation in Sec. 74-117(b)(2) from \$600,000 to \$550,000, to be deducted from the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC).

**Mr. Marney** spoke about how the allocations in Sec. 74-117(b) have been static for 20 years, and he commented that until he became the Chair of the Discretionary Fund Committee, it seems that it was a "no touch" topic for the City Council.

**Ms. Rogers** disagreed that the subject was "no touch," which sounds ominous.

**Mr. Ringstad** asked for clarification on the effect of Mr. Cleworth's amendment. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the Council could introduce another ordinance later to move FEDC's allocation up to \$150,000.

**Ms. Tidwell** asked for clarification on FEDC's current allocation. She stated she recalled that the Council had changed FEDC's allocation to \$125,000. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that the Council increased FEDC's 2023 allocation to \$125,000 through the budget process, but it was not codified. **Ms. Tidwell** spoke in support of the amendment so that Ms. Sprinkle could participate.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6223, AS AMENDED, BY REDUCING THE ALLOCATION IN SEC. 74-117(b)(2) FROM \$600,000 TO \$550,000, TO BE DEDUCTED FROM THE FEDC AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Rogers, Marney, Cleworth, Tidwell

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Sprinkle

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk Snider recommended that the Council postpone Ordinance No. 6223, as Amended, as it was substantially changed, to allow for another reading and public hearing.

**Mr. Ringstad**, assuming the ordinance is postponed, asked whether Ordinance No. 6223, as Amended, could be adopted on May 22 if other amendments were made at that meeting. Clerk Snider replied that it could unless substantial amendments were made. She stated that if the Council voted to substantially amend the ordinance on May 22, it would require yet another public hearing.

**Mr. Cleworth** questioned the definition of “substantive” and stated it is up to legal counsel. He stated that he has battled with that over the years as well.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6223, as Amended, to the Regular Meeting of May 22, 2023.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6223, AS AMENDED, TO THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 22, 2023 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Cleworth, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers

NAYS: Marney

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6243 – An Ordinance Amending the Incentive Bonus Program with the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center for Recruitment and Hiring. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6243.

**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. 6243 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6243 ADOPTED.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Ordinance No. 6244 – An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing Retention of the Real Property Located at 730 Front Street for Public Purpose Upon Tax Foreclosure. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Council Member Sprinkle.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS (Information and Reports)**

- a) Committee Reports



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

**Mr. Marney** recounted for the record his recent meetings with representatives of Explore Fairbanks.

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

**Ms. Sprinkle** stated that the Chena Riverfront Commission recently met, and the group will be doing site visits at the Chena Flood Control project and the Airport Way West reconstruction where the Davis Road jog came into play.

**Ms. Rogers** stated that the Opioid Work Group continues to meet, and she spoke well of the group. She stated that the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) has an upcoming meeting and expressed hope that the group could gain some new members to help with quorum issues. She shared that the upcoming Symposium on Opioids, sponsored by the Reentry Coalition, will be at the Wedgewood Resort, and it is free to attendees. She added that many groups are coming together to make the event happen. **Ms. Rogers** shared that the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness would meet on May 9.

**Mayor Pruhs** shared that he recently met with the City Clerk and the FDC Chair, and they discussed potentially changing the rules for the FDC to allow a quorum to be made up of a majority of appointed members versus being based on the number of FDC seats. He stated that, along with new appointments to the FDC, should help with the group's ability to make a quorum.

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

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

a) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ACCEPT the Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked Chief Financial Officer Bell about Brandy Niclai's comments on page two, paragraph two of the minutes that listed options for moving forward. He stated that normally, in a recession, the only tool that the federal government has is to lower interest rates. He questioned specifically B. Niclai's statement that central banks would increase rates causing equity valuations to decrease and bond prices to increase. He stated that is the opposite of what would normally happen. CFO Bell stated that she would need to look further into Mr. Cleworth's question. She stated that her comment was related more to the banks versus the federal reserve.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PERMANENT FUND REVIEW BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2023 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2023

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2023

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Ms. Tidwell** addressed the comment made earlier during Citizens' Comments regarding the City using Zoom for meetings. She clarified that she is attending via Zoom only because she is travelling, and she appreciates having the ability to attend remotely. She stated that she appreciates the public coming to speak to the Council, even when what they have to say may be hard to hear. **Ms. Tidwell** reiterated Ms. Rogers' earlier comments about working together as a community.

**Mr. Marney** stated that Spring has sprung, and he reminded everyone that the speed limit in neighborhoods is 20 mph. He encouraged citizens to slow down.

**Mr. Ringstad** requested to add his name as a sponsor to Ordinance No. 6223, as Amended.

**Ms. Sprinkle** shared that the Noel Wien Library is now closed to the public, and she recently attended a meeting of the Housing Coalition where they discussed other safe locations for people to go to use computers, restrooms, etc. She stated that while the library is not a safe house, it is the "living room of the City." **Ms. Sprinkle** indicated that she would begin meeting with some people from the Borough to see if they can come up with some alternatives.

**Ms. Rogers** thanked everyone for their comments, and she thanked Ms. Tidwell for attending via Zoom. She stated that the Council has not discussed its continued use of Zoom in some time and commented that it is beneficial to be able to include members remotely when necessary. She stated that prior to COVID, remote attendance by telephone was of poor quality. **Ms. Rogers** echoed Mr. Marney's comments regarding speeding on local streets and spoke to the dangers that speeding cars can pose to children and pedestrians. She spoke strongly to the need for a duty of care in the community and commended City staff for their work. She announced that she welcomed her fourth great grandchild on May 1, and it was a girl; she shared that she also has seven grandchildren, all of whom are in Fairbanks.

**Mr. Cleworth** expressed appreciation for the words earlier in the meeting regarding the loss of the Fort Wainwright soldiers. He pointed out that the City limits encompasses Fort Wainwright, and he requested that a resolution be drafted in the soldiers' honor for the next meeting. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke about the uninhabitable house near the Clay Street Cemetery that has been the topic of conversation recently by the Council and City staff. He stated that he saw some video footage taken at 2:20 a.m. showing people coming and going from the house, which makes it clear that City orders are not being followed. He requested that Mayor Pruhs meet with Police Chief Dupee to see if patrols can be posted there and suggested that the City may need to seal the structure. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that there is a street sign down at the intersection of First Avenue

and Stewart Street near the river; he requested that Public Works reinstall the sign. He expressed appreciation for the time Mr. Marney has taken to meet with the leadership of organizations affected by Ordinance No. 6223. **Mr. Cleworth** asked CFO Bell if the Council would be considering the mill rate at the next meeting; CFO Bell replied that it would not be before the Council until June 12, as the assessed values are not complete until the end of May. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern with the mill rate, given that the CPI is very high at over 8%. He shared two historical documents from 1967, an organizational chart for the Finance Department and a City directory.

### **CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

City Clerk Snider thanked the City administration for holding an "all hands on deck" records workday the previous Friday at City Hall. She recognized the Clay Street Cemetery Commission for their research and restoration efforts and stated that they are one of the most productive City boards/commissions. Clerk Snider shared that the Citizen Engagement Academy sessions wrapped up recently, and there will be a graduation ceremony held prior to the May 22 City Council Meeting. Finally, Clerk Snider stated that she will be wrapping up candidate interviews for the Deputy Clerk II position within a week, and she hopes to fill the vacancy soon.

### **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Chard expressed appreciation for everyone's service and commitment to the City.

### **ADJOURNMENT**


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

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

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

  
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DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS