



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 12, 2024
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:

Councilmembers 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: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Thomas Chard, City Attorney
 Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
 Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
 Jake Merritt, HR Director
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief (remotely)
 Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
 Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief
 Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator
 Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

Mayor Pruhs called for a moment of silence to honor former City Councilmember Kathy Ottersten who recently passed away.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, **Ms. Tidwell** led the flag salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

[Clerk Note: Names of citizens who provide comments may not be spelled correctly if their name was illegible on the physical sign-up sheet.]

Jerry Evans, Public Relations Manager for Explore Fairbanks – J. Evans shared an AI-generated statement regarding his work to promote Fairbanks as a destination and shared a summary of upcoming events, including media tours and aurora viewing. He noted that there is a deliberate slowdown in April and May as everyone prepares for the rush of summer visitors. He highlighted multiple noteworthy articles that have been recently published, or will soon be, regarding various special events and attractions in the community.

Mayor Pruhs asked J. Evans if he had any information regarding Ice Alaska. J. Evans shared that the annual event begins February 17, and in addition to the traditional ice block competitions, they have added a snow carving category. He indicated that there is a renewed interest from groups around the globe, as the excitement that existed prior to the pandemic is returning.

Mr. Ringstad asked J. Evans if the individual from Major League Baseball, mentioned as one of those writing an upcoming article, would be told how many Hall of Fame members have participated in Midnight Sun Baseball events. J. Evans assured him that this would be covered.

Ms. Rogers asked J. Evans if he is involved with any of the Sister City programs in the community. J. Evans stated that he personally is not but wondered whether President/CEO Scott McCrea or other Explore Fairbanks staff may have additional insight. He shared that he could assist with the marketing side and media contacts for any renewed efforts. **Ms. Rogers** asked if Explore Fairbanks could be counted on to be involved if a group is formed to reconvene Sister City meetings. J. Evans agreed that someone would be happy to join such a group and extended an invitation for anyone to visit or email him to discuss the work he is doing to promote Fairbanks.

Victor Buberger – V. Buberger reported that none of the streetlights on the Old Steese Highway that he had previously reported on were working yet. He asked about the City's plan for the Polaris Building and surrounding area. He expressed hope that the City could get some young volunteers to help at the fire department.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to APPROVE the agenda and consent agenda.

Mr. Cleworth pulled item 12(d), Ordinance No. 6274, and item 12(e), Ordinance No. 6275, 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 January 8, 2024

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

SPECIAL ORDERS

- a) The Fairbanks City Council held a public hearing and considered the following marijuana license application for renewal:

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
17250	Pipe and Leaf: Premium Alaskan Cannabis	Retail Marijuana Store	Pipe and Leaf, LLC	3546 Airport Way

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the marijuana 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 MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Pruhs asked if Crisis Now Coordinator Brenda McFarlane would like to follow up on the report that she sent out earlier that day. B. McFarlane thanked the Council for supporting the Alaska Mental Health Trust project and reported that the Mobile Crisis Team had responded to 146 calls in the previous two months, with an 87% average resolution rate in keeping people out of the hospital or incarceration. She shared details about a recent presentation on stabilization centers and ideas for implementing such in a diverse community like Fairbanks, with varying needs of support. She reported that she and Deputy Police Chief Sweet would be traveling to Juneau later in the month to speak to legislators about the mental health needs of the Fairbanks area.

Mayor Pruhs invited Housing and Homeless Coordinator Brynn Butler to provide an update. B. Butler reported that 19 families have been helped thanks to the Ray of Hope grant and various stakeholders, allowing the City to provide targeted support for those facing eviction. She shared about the recent "Point-in-Time" count, which collects and makes available valuable information about homelessness in the community to better inform policy decisions and allocate resources. B. Butler indicated that over 20 agencies have been involved with the Project Homeless Connect program this year, making numerous resources and services available to those seeking assistance and stability. She shared that she has been invited to participate at a state-level event later this

month where she and other members of the Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition will have the opportunity to advocate for the needs of Fairbanks. She thanked the Mayor and Council for supporting the initiatives she oversees on behalf of the community.

Ms. Sprinkle asked B. Butler about her knowledge of anyone trying to survive the nights outside on their own during the recent cold snap. B. Butler stated that she and another community member were out looking for encampments during the coldest nights, and the ten or so individuals they observed did not appear to need assistance. She also provided information about Hope Link, the recently opened no-barrier, overnight warming center.

Mayor Pruhs shared that he and B. Butler have a monthly drive around the City so she can show him specific locations and share details pertaining to current homelessness issues.

Ms. Rogers gave special recognition to B. Butler and the other grant-funded positions in the Mayor's Office that are providing important services to those in need. She discussed the various reports, charts, data summaries, etc. that get shared, noting that the personal work often gets overlooked and that those three individuals are excellent examples of the heart being given.

Ms. Tidwell asked if there are any details on how many people have been served so far by the new warming center. B. Butler explained that the Hope Link leadership made a conscious decision to not track certain data, such as the number of individuals served. She shared that according to one worker there, it has been slow, with only a couple individuals per night.

Mayor Pruhs reported on multiple topics, including:

- The Fairbanks Diversity Council has been operating strongly and will host a potluck the following evening, open to the public and all current and past members.
- Two temporary construction easements have been executed for the demolition of the Polaris Building. A crane will be coming in, stretching over existing businesses, with traffic rerouted to ensure safe access to any affected areas. A celebration will be held on Friday April 5, which is when the building will begin to come down, after all the necessary abatement and removal of contaminants has concluded. Termination of the demolition contract is slated for late October 2024, but they want to be aggressive and not wait until the building is demolished before there is a plan for development.
- The Polaris Working Group met the previous week to review RFQs from two different planners. The Council will be forwarded all relevant information prior to the execution of any contract. The planning is for rents, economics, construction costs, and what will or will not work in the area, so they can provide a clear picture to potential developers. They want to incorporate the parking garage. The goal is for something to be built within two years.
- Public Works has been active in the extremely cold weather and has begun frequent road sanding in five critical areas, while still performing snow removal in various subdivisions.
- Employment: The City Clerk has chosen a candidate for the new Records Manager position, with a start date of April 1. Several new Dispatchers are in various stages of the hiring process. FECC has eight applicants for its open administrative position and four for the supervisor role. The Police Department has two new recruits at the academy in Sitka, and a Crime Scene Investigator has been hired. The Fire Department has 14 applicants for

the open clerk position. The Legal Department is currently taking applications for the Legal Secretary position. A Structural Engineer is still being sought for the Building Department.

Ms. Rogers asked when the current Legal Secretary, Ingrid, will be leaving. City Attorney Chard indicated that it will be April 1 or 2. **Ms. Rogers** spoke favorably of Ingrid and expressed desire to hold a going-away type event to honor her efforts and celebrate retirement. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked if they had budgeted for an overlap in staffing to allow for a training period with her replacement. Attorney Chard replied affirmatively.

Mr. Marney asked for an update on the traffic signal at 1st Avenue and Cushman Street. **Mayor Pruhs** reported that the replacement parts had arrived and will be installed in the coming week or two. He acknowledged that while the intersection has appeared to flow efficiently with the all-way stop sign arrangement, it has made it difficult for pedestrians attempting to cross the street.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for an update on the Alaska Motor Inn. **Mayor Pruhs** reminded Councilmembers that they had received a report from the Fire Chief; he noted that additional information would be forthcoming as the Building Department is communicating with the owners. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked if the City is asking whether individuals were paying rent in the building. **Mayor Pruhs** pointed out that such a matter is not within the City's purview.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Sprinkle expressed distress regarding the Alaska Motor Inn and the concern she believes it presents to the City. She acknowledged that it was not something to be discussed presently but stated that she intends to chase updates about the building.

Ms. Rogers thanked FECC Manager Kristi Meredith for her informative report that was recently sent to the Council and thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to hear reports from other staff during Council meetings. She recalled K. Ottersten with fond memories of her smart, savvy work on behalf of the community, leaving a mark on Fairbanks. She also thanked Chief Cocco for a recent Letter to the Editor, which highlighted the incredible work of Dominic Lozano.

Mr. Cleworth stated it is a miracle no one died in the Alaska Motor Inn fire, considering the details surrounding its inhabitants. He stated he was grateful for the information in the reports and articles he has seen thus far. He asked what the plan will be for eastbound traffic on 1st Avenue during the demolition of the Polaris Building. **Mayor Pruhs** responded that he believes the one-way lane that goes around the northwest corner of the courthouse will be made two-way temporarily. **Mr. Cleworth**, in reference to Ms. Rogers' earlier comments, stated that Julie Jones with Festival Fairbanks has typically taken the lead on the various Sister City programs. He shared positive experiences with K. Ottersten over the years and stated he was sad to hear of her passing.

Ms. Tidwell thanked B. McFarlane for her efforts with the Crisis Now program and stated she is excited for her to see the stabilization center in Juneau, which she was recently able to personally tour. She agreed that there is a significant need for a similar facility in Fairbanks.

Mr. Marney echoed the sentiment that the City is fortunate to have excellent staff members. He noted that it has been a while since the Council has heard a report from Public Works Director Jeff

Jacobson and indicated that he would like to hear from him. **Mayor Pruhs** shared that J. Jacobson had sent in a report and offered to provide it in-person, but he told him that would not be necessary. He reported that he met with the J. Jacobson, Laborer Foreman Sean Rice, and other key personnel to put together a taskforce to discuss retention efforts and replacing institutional knowledge that will be lost with upcoming retirements in the Public Works Department. He stated that he would like Ms. Tidwell and Mr. Marney to join that taskforce. Mayor Pruhs explained that his priorities going forward are the Firefighter Union contract, Dispatch, and Public Works retention and recruitment. He mentioned that the Council will likely hear a lot more from J. Jacobson in the coming months.

Mr. Ringstad indicated that he had no comments at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6269 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Sec. 74-117, Room Rental Tax Purpose and Limitation, by Adding Compliance Requirements to Subsection (e). Introduced by Councilmembers Marney and Ringstad. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2023; a public hearing was held at that time.

[Clerk Note: At the December 18, 2023 regular City Council meeting, Mr. Cleworth, seconded by Ms. Sprinkle, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6269. The motion remained on the floor.]

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6269 by substituting the amended, proposed version.

Mayor Pruhs called for objection to the motion to AMEND Ordinance No. 6269 by substituting the amended, proposed version and, seeing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Rogers stated that the work was worthy of the extra months of consideration the Council put into it after 20 years of status quo, and she thanked those who had contributed to the effort.

Ms. Sprinkle echoed appreciation for the work that had been done and asked if the Council had finalized what the additional 7% City portion would be designated for and how it would be reported. **Mayor Pruhs** reminded the Council that it could not bind future Councils by any such designation but that each year the funds could be utilized as the Council sees fit.

Mr. Ringstad spoke of the nuances in trying to officially dedicate funds of this nature for a specific purpose and expressed that he views it as more of a political and moral commitment to honor the initial intent when it the comes to the budget season.

Mr. Cleworth stated that thanks were owed to the City Attorney for researching the history of the topic. He spoke to the initial intent of the funds being made available for departments to tap into for focused needs outside of their regular budgets, such as barricades for special events.

Mayor Pruhs thanked Mr. Marney for his perseverance, noting that the issue had been worked on since August 2022. **Mr. Marney** thanked Attorney Chard for his help.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6269, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6269, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6272 – An Ordinance Amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1547. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6272.

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

Mr. Cleworth shared that moving the Deputy Clerk II position out of IBEW and under the Fairbanks General Code had been discussed for many years due to confidentiality issues that might arise, but he had given up hope that it would ever be accomplished. He expressed kudos to those who helped make it happen.

Mr. Marney stated it was wonderful that 12 individuals applied for the Records Manager position.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6272 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6272 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5100 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Allocated by Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Resolution No. 5101 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the FFY2024 State Homeland Security Program. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Ordinance No. 6273 – An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the United States Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program for Island Homes Subdivision Reconstruction and Amending the 2024 Capital Budget. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Ordinance No. 6274 – An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the United States Department of Transportation for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program for Cowles Street Reconstruction and Amending the 2024 Capital Budget. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6274.

Mr. Cleworth pointed out that this project was for the section of Cowles Street that spans from 1st Avenue to Airport Way and as such, one of the “Whereas” statements needed to be corrected to state “North-South” rather than “East-West.” **Mayor Pruhs** thanked Mr. Cleworth for identifying the error and confirmed that it would be corrected.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6274 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6274 ADVANCED.

- e) Ordinance No. 6275 – An Ordinance Amending the 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets for the First Time. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6275.

Mr. Cleworth addressed the amount of funding that would remain in the General Fund with the adoption of the ordinance. He explained the need to maintain a minimum balance of \$10MM to cover cash flow, given that significant revenue sources such as property taxes and Permanent Fund earnings typically do not come until later in the year. He stated the importance of keeping about \$2MM available for emergencies which the Council could have access to quickly. He shared that the existing budget surplus of \$1.3MM will likely be needed for labor contracts, and the goal is to see the Capital Fund balance return to approximately \$10MM.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6275 by increasing the transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Fund from \$5MM to \$5.5MM.

Mr. Ringstad expressed concern with the timing of the amendment. He stated that he would prefer to wait and see where things are at in a couple months, suggesting that any additional transfer to the Capital Fund occur in May or June instead.

Mr. Cleworth pointed out that the current surplus is more than sufficient. He stated that additional funds in the General Fund help keep the Council from deficit spending, although the Council may do so if needed. He reiterated that the City would still have several million dollars available for emergencies and other considerations.

Mr. Marney stated that he would like to hear from CFO Bell regarding the amendment. CFO Bell indicated that she would prefer to wait a couple months, noting that the City still needs to finalize property tax numbers. She added that some estimates may change due to the CPI ending lower than forecasted during budget preparation. She recommended waiting until mid-year or even as late as September.

Ms. Sprinkle mentioned that the \$5MM amount had been agreed upon in Finance Committee meetings, and she would like to stick with that number.

Mr. Cleworth acknowledged that a transfer could occur at any time, but he wanted to see it happen presently since the City has the money and capacity to do so. **Mr. Ringstad** indicated that he did not want to see themselves painted into a corner. **Mr. Cleworth** responded that it should not get anywhere near that, citing that the bottom line still shows nearly \$16MM.

Mayor Pruhs stated it is not often that after sending \$5MM to the Capital Fund there is still a reserve of nearly \$16MM. He congratulated the Council on its budgetary processes and reviews and thanked the Finance Committee for its work. He reminded the Council that the issue would be addressed again in September regardless, to discuss needs for the following winter.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6275 BY INCREASING THE TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL FUND FROM \$5MM TO \$5.5MM AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Ringstad, Rogers, Pruhs

NAYS: Sprinkle, Tidwell, Marney

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarification on the \$10,000 to the Clay Street Cemetery Commission and acknowledged being absent when the item was previously discussed. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that the Commission had received money through the bed tax grant program and that this \$10,000 request was to cover the purchase of additional grave markers. He encouraged Ms. Sprinkle to speak with CFO Bell after the meeting to get caught up on any discussion she had missed.

Mr. Ringstad stated that as he recalled, the Commission has the capacity to perform all the work, noting the necessary research and materials required, and that this would be a multi-year project, needing additional funds each year on top of what the Commission receives from the bed tax grant.

Ms. Sprinkle asked why the Commission asked for additional money. **Mayor Pruhs** gave a summary of the special report that Commission Chair Kilbourn had provided at a recent Council meeting, citing the availability of physical labor and research work to make significant progress towards the City's goals for the cemetery. **Ms. Sprinkle** acknowledged the value of the Commission's work and clarified that her confusion is tied to them having a combination of funding sources and whether they truly needed more funds. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that they have over 400 more graves that still need marked. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked why all of it should not be funded at once versus funding smaller amounts each year. **Mayor Pruhs** recounted the volume of work done annually and reiterated that the Commission has a higher capacity than ever before to accomplish more during the summer season, but even then, it is still limited.

Ms. Rogers stated that there have been other instances in the past of organizations receiving both bed tax grants and other funding allocations from the City.

Mr. Marney pointed out that the minutes from the previous Council meeting included a thorough narrative of the discussion on the matter.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6275, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- f) Ordinance No. 6276 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 78-398, Authority to Impound Vehicles. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2023

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2023

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Chena Riverfront Commission Special Meeting Minutes of November 29, 2023

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ringstad indicated that he had no additional report or comments at this time.

Mr. Marney shared that there was a special meeting for the Discretionary Fund Committee where the group made some adjustments to the application, including adding a detailed cover letter to ensure that applicants are informed of several important aspects of the process.

Mayor Pruhs thanked Ms. Tidwell for taking part in the Manh Choh Mine trucking safety group.

Ms. Tidwell indicated that she had no additional report or comments at this time.

Ms. Sprinkle reported on a recent Chena Riverfront Commission meeting where the group discussed a particular piece of land next to Pike's Waterfront Lodge. She explained that the State owns it, and the plan was for the land to be transferred to the Borough to develop a park, which they have since determined cannot happen due to funding. She noted that the State discussed sending the property to a public sale, which is done by silent auction. **Ms. Sprinkle** shared that the matter is complicated due to Jay Ramras, the owner of Pike's, wanting to purchase the property. She explained that the sale must follow the established process of public auction even though Mr. Ramras has intentions to use the space for community purposes not dissimilar to a park.

Ms. Rogers stated that she is aware of the project Ms. Sprinkle referenced and considers it a positive thing for the community; however, she is unsure how it can be accomplished given the situation. She noted that this would be an important lesson for future development.

Mr. Cleworth offered to share with anyone interested a list of upcoming projects from the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) under FAST Planning, which included the year each project is slated for. He listed some of the projects in the city occurring in the near future, including 4th Avenue reconstruction, bike lane striping and signing, Cowles Street reconstruction, and others that are further out. He discussed right-of-way acquisitions as pertaining to Minnie Street reconstruction and spoke about the State being responsible for the Minnie Street bridge. **Mayor Pruhs** interjected that it is a 60-year-old bridge with a 45-year lifespan. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked for confirmation that the bridge had been removed from the TIP. **Mr. Cleworth** replied that he does not believe it is on the TIP but that he can find out if it still shows on the State's list of projects. He stated that the Capital Fund was created 20 years ago and spoke about how the City became debt-free 12 years ago while simultaneously taking care of everything on its deferred maintenance list. He recalled how he has been able to stay on top of maintenance expenses each year while staying ahead of equipment costs, which is something few cities can do. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that there will be a guest speaker in Fairbanks to discuss what Fairbanks should be doing regarding downtown design planning. He stated that the speaker has a questionnaire for participants to complete, which includes a question asking what portion of their tax dollars go to servicing interest on their city's debt. He expressed how great it is that City residents can answer "none."

Mayor Pruhs discussed his commitment to provide the Council regular reports from various departments throughout the year and encouraged Councilmembers to reach out if they have specific questions. He addressed the 7% additional funding referenced earlier and stated that he will have the CFO provide a report to the Council in April before the tourist season.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider indicated that she had nothing to report.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard indicated that he had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ENTER Executive Session to discuss Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) Labor Negotiation Strategy.

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

Mayor Pruhs called for a brief recess. The Council reconvened in Executive Session following the brief recess.

a) Fairbanks Firefighters Union Labor Negotiation Strategy (*entered at 8:02 p.m.*)

Mr. Cleworth brought the City Council out of the Executive Session noting that the City Council met in Executive Session to discuss FFU Labor Negotiation Strategy. He stated that direction was given to the negotiating team, and no action was taken.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:26 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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


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

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC