



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 26, 2024  
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:

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:                                Thomas Chard, City Attorney  
   Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff  
   Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer  
   Ron Dupee, Police Chief (remotely)  
   Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief  
   Kristi Meredith, FECC Manager (remotely)  
   Jake Merritt, HR Director  
   Bob Pristash, City Engineer  
   Colt Chase, Deputy City Clerk  
   Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator (remotely)

### **INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Deputy City Clerk Colt Chase.

### **FLAG SALUTATION**

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, **Ms. Sprinkle** 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.]*

*David van den Berg, Downtown Association of Fairbanks Executive Director* – D. van den Berg referenced the Alaska Motor Inn, which recently experienced a fire, and spoke about how the soon-to-be-published Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan specifically addresses goals pertaining to

properties such as the Inn. He shared concern from an economic viewpoint with buildings such as that being permitted to remain in such poor condition for a long period of time. He commented that the Inn could become similar to the Polaris Building situation and urged the City to remain diligent. D. van den Berg stated that the history of how the Polaris Building eventually became the City's liability shows that a pivotal component is in correspondence with the owner. He acknowledged that Building Official Clem Clooten's direct, clear letter to the owner outlined expectations to remedy the property or consider abatement but stated that he wanted to make sure the Downtown Association's concerns were conveyed to Council.

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. Marney** pulled item 12(b), Resolution No. 5103, and item 12(c), Resolution No. 5104, from the consent agenda.

**Mayor Pruhs** called for objection to the APPROVAL of the agenda, as amended and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Deputy Clerk Chase read the consent agenda into the record.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

**Mayor Pruhs** addressed the issue of streetlights along the Old Steese Highway that have been reported about throughout the winter. He expressed regret to have learned that replacement parts, which he had been led to believe were already ordered, were in fact not ordered. He stated that the affected stretch of road had been slated for widening by the State, a now postponed project, which is why the parts were not initially ordered. He confirmed that the parts are now on order and apologized for the misunderstanding. **Mayor Pruhs** reported on traveling to Juneau to meet with legislators about the needs of the City. He shared that a primary concern is the retention of law enforcement officers and that retired officers are currently unable to return to a department for full-time work without complications to their pension. He stated that the Governor's Office and Representative Tomaszewski are working on a solution.

### **COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Ms. Tidwell** shared that the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation board had made changes to its schedule, such that they will now only have an official business meeting quarterly; she stated that they will use a platform that will allow them to meet more frequently on focused topics in the off months. She reported that in March the Cold Climate Housing Research Center will have a week of activities, including an open house, and that Tanana Chiefs Conference will hold its annual convention.

**Mr. Marney** thanked D. van den Berg for his comments and agreed that the building referenced is an eyesore that the City needs to keep tabs on. He expressed hope that it could be cleaned up before summer. **Mayor Pruhs** shared that the owner had already been in to meet with the Building Department and is still processing things.

**Mr. Ringstad, Ms. Sprinkle, Ms. Rogers, and Mr. Cleworth** each stated that they had no comments.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) 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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6273.

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

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked for more information on the timing of the grant and the associated project.

**Mayor Pruhs** shared that the City had applied for the grant twice in the past and had been turned down, which he believes will likely happen again, although they are approaching it in a different way than before. He indicated that there is a greater sense of urgency now, with a failing sewer system in Island Homes, which makes it a higher priority. He explained the system was constructed in 1964 and has been part of a larger discussion for the subdivision regarding streets, sidewalks, etc. **Mayor Pruhs** noted that the challenge is the connecting lines for individual homes, which can cost anywhere from \$7,000 to \$35,000 based on the property. He stated that the best approach would be to replace all lines at the same time; otherwise, any single property that needs to be replaced after the other work is completed would cost more and would require newly reconstructed roads and sidewalks to be torn up. He stated they are working on how to address the issue.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6273 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6273 ADOPTED.

- b) 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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6274.

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

**Mr. Marney** asked if this would be similar to what was previously discussed in Ordinance No. 6273, given the presence of older homes in the associated area. **Mayor Pruhs** clarified that this is a slightly different project and invited City Engineer Bob Pristash to respond. B. Pristash provided details of the plans for the particular stretch of road and the affected systems.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked whether the City will be in the same situation where the application is declined due to the amount requested. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that if the City does not receive the grant, they will have to pivot and approach the project in a different way.

**Mr. Ringstad** stated he accepts that the chances of receiving the grants are low. He asked whether, if they were forced to choose, the Island Homes project would be considered a higher priority to pursue with a different funding source. **Mayor Pruhs** indicated that the Cowles Street application has a higher probability of passing but concurred that Island Homes is a higher priority. **Mr. Ringstad** asked if it would be feasible to do both projects at the same time if both happened to get grant funding. R. Pristash explained that it would likely take two seasons to complete. He added that the Cowles Street project could be completed much faster as the design work was already done. He added that a bigger partner project for Cowles Street, south of Airport Way has already finished the design phase and is being funded through FAST Planning.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked to confirm that the sewer lines are owned by Golden Heart Utilities (GHU) and that the City is primarily concerned with storm drains. He asked whether GHU would be the first party to respond if there were any failures for such in Island Homes. R. Pristash confirmed that was correct.

**Ms. Rogers** asked if the Island Homes project would get any additional consideration due to its proximity to Fort Wainwright and the importance of military housing. R. Pristash stated that given its location, with over 300 homes in the subdivision, he would think so.

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

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6273 ADOPTED.

c) Ordinance No. 6275, as Amended – An Ordinance Amending the 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets for the First Time. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Marney**, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6275, as Amended.

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

**Mr. Cleworth** addressed a footnote on page 6 of the ordinance that referenced a specific line in the General Fund to cover the cost of temporary positions at the Fire Department. He recalled that those positions were initially requested during the budget process but were ultimately not funded in the final 2024 budget. He pointed out that if approved, the item would use almost the entire balance of the line item that was set up for all departments to have access to, which allows for overlap hiring when a known vacancy is approaching. He acknowledged that the Council has the discretion to approve this but asked if the temporary positions could instead be funded with salary savings from current, unfilled positions at the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD). CFO Bell stated that to do so, the Council would have to create three temporary positions under the FFD officially through an amendment. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern about the likelihood of another budget increase in 2024 for Fire Department overtime, given the high amount that was spent in 2023. CFO Bell explained that salary savings from vacant positions may balance out the additional overtime expense.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked if the Council would find itself in violation of the labor contract if it were to hold firm with budgeted limits for overtime. Fire Chief Cocco indicated that he was not comfortable anticipating that they would not stay within the overtime budget unless something significant changed. He reiterated that while vacant positions create salary savings, those savings are typically used up by the overtime created. He clarified that the intent of the temporary firefighter positions is for the City to be proactive in hiring individuals to fill the vacancies created by promotions within the department. He explained that waiting to hire them until the promotions occur would throw off training and academy cycles and, to his understanding, this line item in the budget was set up for this exact kind of situation. He stated that since the temporary positions were not approved in the original budget, this was a way to create a smoother transition over the next couple months and assist with overtime reduction. **Mr. Cleworth** acknowledged that from the funding side, this could be done in a variety of ways; he asked if there was a preference. Chief Cocco deferred the question to CFO Bell but noted that his goal is to ensure required staffing levels are met while reducing overtime. He added that with the minimum staffing level funding, any open position is bad, which is why he hopes to create a more seamless transition with the temporary roles. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if it was certain that there would be three open positions. Chief Cocco confirmed that there is a domino effect with vacancies due to promotions that happened at the start of the year and others that were slated over the next couple months.

**Mayor Pruhs** asked if, in the future, the department could use temporary firefighter positions to fill in when full-time staff were out due to illness or approved leave. Chief Cocco reiterated that it could be possible if temporary positions were funded, but the ones currently being considered tonight were just to prepare for the upcoming vacancies. He stated that having a floater position in the future would make it possible to pivot when needed and manage staffing situations that arise.

**Ms. Sprinkle** expressed appreciation that they were having the discussion but expressed her belief that the various funding approaches would have essentially the same outcome. She noted that the goal is to give the Chief the ability to manage his department and tackle overtime, and she would like to see this request granted and give him the chance to do so.

**Mr. Ringstad** asked for confirmation that the Chief would need to come back to the Council for continued funding of the positions if the Council approved the temporary positions, then the firefighters moved into the permanent roles. Chief Coccoaro clarified that the positions are better viewed as early hiring of full-time firefighter positions that will soon be vacant, rather than calling them temporary positions. He added that normally they would hold off and wait to hire once a position opened, but this is an attempt to retain people by bringing them on now to begin the training phase, rather than waiting six months only to see them leave. **Mr. Ringstad** stated that it seems like either way, they must create temporary positions at FFD. CFO Bell explained that while it may seem that way, using the department's budgeted funds would result in an increase to FFD's full-time staffing level, which would not be the case if they used the training funds. **Mr. Ringstad** asked if all three positions would be training for the three-month period. Chief Coccoaro indicated that if things go as planned, eight weeks of that timeframe would be the training portion.

**Mr. Marney** asked for clarity on the time commitment of the training. Chief Coccoaro stated that the training referenced is specific to FFD and that all three individuals coming to them were already at a Firefighter 1 and EMT level. **Mr. Marney** expressed agreement with Ms. Sprinkle about the goal of supporting the Chief in having the ability to manage the department.

**Ms. Tidwell** asked for confirmation that there are three specific people already identified to fill the positions and whether there is a likelihood they would go elsewhere between now and the time the vacancies would occur at FFD. Chief Coccoaro confirmed that is his plan.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that one of his primary concerns is hiring someone with an expectation to fill an upcoming vacancy, only to have that not materialize and have to either lay them off or feel obligated to put more money into a temporary role. He shared his other concern about whether the current labor contract has language addressing temporary hires. Chief Coccoaro acknowledged that they need to determine how to handle one position that will soon be vacant due to the individual going on military leave but that the three positions being discussed are solely a result of promotion-triggered vacancies. He confirmed that the military leave situation is separate and will need further work to determine the best solution. **Mr. Cleworth** asked CFO Bell about her preference for handling the situation. CFO Bell stated that the idea of the training account was brought forward during the budget cycle and that this scenario with FFD fits within that intent. She confirmed that salary savings within the department will be used to cover overtime, just as it did in 2023.

**Mr. Ringstad** asked if there were other costs associated with the plan, such as actual training expenses. Chief Coccoaro explained that the staff would not be sent anywhere for training, there is no additional academy required, and all the training would be done in-house by the existing Training Captain; he stated that the trainees' salary is the only additional expense. He added that the Council's foresight from years prior, when the Training Captain position was approved, has allowed great flexibility and has saved the City a lot of money.

**Mr. Ringstad** stated that he would like to have some discussion regarding other items in the budget amendment that show increases and had not previously been reviewed. He expressed the understanding that these must be new things otherwise they would have been part of budget discussions 60 days ago.

**Ms. Sprinkle** indicated that discussion at Finance Committee meetings addressed how some of the items were only estimated during the budgeting process; she added that now updated amounts are coming through. CFO Bell confirmed that is correct for several of the items. **Mr. Ringstad** highlighted that initial quotes had been updated and came in at higher levels. **Mayor Pruhs** added that at the same time, the City just saved \$160,000 on a grader that was purchased at a much lower rate than what was budgeted. He reminded the Council that sometimes estimates come in under, and sometimes they do not. CFO Bell provided further details on the other items in question. **Mayor Pruhs** pointed out that the ordinance had been discussed in previous public meetings.

**Ms. Sprinkle** stated that she was still unsure about the Clay Street Cemetery Commission allocation of funds; she stated it feels like special treatment and a second bite at the apple. **Mayor Pruhs** responded that the cemetery is actually a City of Fairbanks property, so he would not classify the issue in that way. **Ms. Sprinkle** added that in that case, she does not understand why the Commission must apply each year for the bed tax grant.

**Mr. Cleworth** pointed out that when the Commission receives bed tax funds, their needs from the General Fund are less. He stated that the work done by the group is significant and that they could probably use twice the funds being considered; he added that the group has a multi-year plan as the Mayor previously shared about.

**Ms. Rogers** reminded the Council that the process is available to every group who applies for bed tax funds, and that this situation is not unique – nor is the group getting special consideration.

**Mr. Ringstad** acknowledged that the cemetery work needs done regardless, and if there is a chance to get more accomplished now versus later, it would be in the best interest to approve the request.

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

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6275, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- d) Ordinance No. 6276 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 78-398, Authority to Impound Vehicles. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Council Members Marney and Sprinkle. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6276.

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

**Mr. Cleworth** inquired as to what offenses were included in the cited statutes at the bottom of the first page. City Attorney Chard listed DUI, failure to submit to a test, and failure to show proof of insurance or registration. **Mr. Cleworth** indicated that he likes how the ordinance gives individuals a previously unavailable remedy to avoid towing and impound procedures. He stated that it gives

people a chance to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy and stress. Attorney Chard added that this change will more closely follow State regulations and mirror Alaska State Troopers procedures.

**Ms. Tidwell** asked for more information on the process when one of the referenced offenses was involved. Attorney Chard gave the example that if someone was being cited for driving without a license, the officer would have the authority to allow the individual to contact someone in the immediate area to come and take the vehicle, rather than the vehicle automatically being towed and impounded. He clarified that this would not apply if there was any reason why the vehicle itself could not be operated safely or legally.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6276 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Rogers, Marney, Sprinkle, Cleworth, Tidwell  
NAYS: None  
**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6276 ADOPTED.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 5102 – A Resolution Approving a Maintenance Agreement with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor Center Enhancements. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Resolution No. 5103 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the FY2025 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Appropriations. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

**Mr. Marney**, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5103.

**Mr. Marney** referenced the mass casualty bus reference in the resolution and asked if there is already an older version in the boneyard at Public Works. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that Chief Cocco had brought the item to him a while back and he took it to Washington, DC, where the idea was well-received. He stated that there was a need for a mass casualty bus as recently as within the last six months, where a training accident involving local soldiers required transportation of 15 individuals, which strained the seven-to-eight ambulances available across the Borough. He shared that the City was deemed the best entity to own and manage the equipment and that Senator Murkowski's office gravitated towards this funding request and encouraged the City to apply.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked about the timeline for equipment delivery. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that the resolution would only authorize applying for funding but that he would keep the Council informed.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked where the bus would be housed and whether there was room for it. **Mayor Pruhs** indicated that they could look at storing it at Public Works or in a bay at Fire Station #2 or



#3. Chief Coccaro confirmed that Public Works would be the best option, but they will make anything work if they get the vehicle. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the Public Works space currently houses several pieces of Borough equipment but cannot recall the reason. He requested that the issue be investigated. **Mayor Pruhs** suggested the City consider a storage fee, which he will mention to the Borough Mayor when they next meet. He added that because of the medical equipment inside the new bus, it could not be stored outdoors.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5103 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers  
NAYS: None  
**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5103 APPROVED.

- c) Resolution No. 5104 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for and Accept Alaska Department of Health Funding for a Community Paramedic Vehicle. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5104.

**Mayor Pruhs** invited Chief Coccaro to share more information about the resolution. Chief Coccaro stated that last year, after meeting with several local agencies, the need was clear to establish integrated mobile health care within the area, which is a fancier name for the community paramedic program that was approved in 2023. He shared that he spoke with an individual from the State Department of Health whose current focus is to raise and seek funding for these types of programs and their necessary equipment. He reported that this individual indicated there was State grant funding becoming available for start up programs like the City's, so this was a perfect time to try to get a new vehicle with outside funding, rather than retrofitting an older vehicle at FFD.

**Mr. Ringstad** asked if this was a readily available vehicle or if highly specialized equipment had to go into it. Chief Coccaro explained that, fortunately, any vehicle off a dealership's lot will work, and that there is a lot of flexibility, similar to existing staff vehicles for chief officers. He noted that the primary difference would be the graphics package on the side of the vehicle.

**Mr. Cleworth** pointed out the estimated cost of \$70,000, which does not sound like the cost of something off the lot. Chief Coccaro clarified that the price includes the vehicle and upfitting.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5104 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers, Tidwell  
NAYS: None  
**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5104 APPROVED.

## WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Discretionary Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

## COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Mr. Cleworth** shared that he had spoken with City Engineer Bob Pristash about having a morning work session to go over the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), to review the status and scope of current projects, and to allow for a Q&A session. He reported having sat in on a discussion regarding bicycle paths with the Mayor, Public Works, and Engineering, and believes the rest of the Council should hear about the details of that project. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that he will speak to Engineering and find a time to add the item to the agenda. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if there had been progress made on the topic of enforcement options for derelict properties and abatement issues. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that he had a meeting just that morning to begin discussing options. He indicated that the group would include the City Attorney and individuals from the Public Works, Engineering, and Building Departments, and that they would meet with the Planning Department at the Borough. He shared that an abatement letter had gone out to a new property today but that their focus will not just be on abatement, but also problem properties with a lot of trash. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that he should have an update by the next meeting and that he will be inviting some Councilmembers to join the discussions, particularly Ms. Sprinkle. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke in response to the email the Council received from the City's lobbyist, Yuri Morgan, regarding HB142 and HB156, which would implement a State sales tax and income tax, respectively. He noted that while the State reserved the right to implement an income tax, he cannot imagine a greater nightmare than an attempt to establish a statewide sales tax. He declared that this would create massive complications in municipalities all over Alaska. **Mr. Cleworth** recalled that the Council has gone on record to oppose such a move in the past, and it might consider opposing the current House Bill, either with a new resolution or the resurrection of a past one with the same stance. **Mayor Pruhs** indicated that he will also bring up the item at the next meeting with Y. Morgan. **Mr. Cleworth** concluded with an acknowledgement of the recently published obituary for Barry Donovan, a well-known character in the downtown community who passed away.

**Ms. Rogers** shared that the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) has seen recent successes with greater attendance and participation. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that the roundtable discussion format at the last meeting was a great, positive experience.

**Ms. Sprinkle** reported that she attended a soft opening for the business Roaming Root, which had moved from the west side of Fairbanks to a new location on College Road, within the City. She thanked Chief of Staff Sanders for showing her the space being renovated into the new childcare facility in City Hall and stated that this is an excellent achievement to be proud of. She asked if Officer Elzey would be returning for another seasonal assignment in the Golden Heart Plaza

(GHP). Chief Dupee indicated that they have reached out to Officer Elzey with an offer to bring him back beginning in May, based on his availability, but they are waiting for him to accept the offer. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked for an update on the Portland Loo, the public restroom intended for placement in the GHP area. Chief of Staff Sanders reported that they met with the manufacturer the previous week to get questions answered, and they have another meeting scheduled in the coming week to finalize plans for the order. He stated they were quoted 90 to 120 days for order fulfillment but that everything else on the City's side was ready to go. He confirmed that Festival Fairbanks will maintain the restroom.

**Mr. Ringstad** indicated that he had no report or comments.

**Mr. Marney** said that it was a great meeting. He wished everyone a good rest of the winter.

**Ms. Tidwell** indicated that she had no report or comments.

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

Deputy Clerk Chase shared that the deadline for applications for the upcoming Citizen Engagement Academy was Thursday, February 29.

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

Attorney Chard provided a clarification for Ordinance No. 6276, listing the Alaska Statutes referenced within the ordinance as follows:

- AS 28.35.30 – Driving under the influence;
- AS 28.35.32 – Refusal to submit to a breathalyzer; and
- AS 28.15.291 – Driving with a suspended license.

Attorney Chard indicated that in these situations, an individual being cited would have the option to contact a licensed driver within the vicinity to move the vehicle. He also referenced Fairbanks General Code for matters pertaining to insurance and stated that Ordinance No. 6276 affirms continued authority for some matters and new authority for others. He expressed appreciation for the request for clarity.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ENTER Executive Session to discuss Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) labor negotiation strategy and *Roberts, et al. v. City of Fairbanks, et al.* ongoing litigation.

**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 7:56 p.m.*)

b) *Roberts, et al. v. City of Fairbanks, et al.* Ongoing Litigation (entered at 8:50 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 and *Roberts, et al. v. City of Fairbanks, et al.* ongoing litigation. He stated that direction was given but no action was taken.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:24 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**


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

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

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

  
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DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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

Transcribed by: CC