



**FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 22, 2024
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA**

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:30 p.m. Work Session on the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan, 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 Councilmembers in attendance:

Councilmembers Present: Jerry Cleworth, Seat A
 June Rogers, Seat B (remotely)
 Sue Sprinkle, Seat C
 Crystal Tidwell, Seat D
 Lonny Marney, Seat E
 John Ringstad, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: D. Danyelle Snider, City Clerk
 Thomas Chard, City Attorney
 Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
 Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief
 Nathan Werner, Police Captain
 Andrew Coccato, Fire Chief
 Robert Pristash, City Engineer
 Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director
 Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator
 Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator (remotely)

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyelle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, **Mr. Cleworth** led the flag salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS (Proclamations, Introductions, Recognition, Awards)

Mayor Pruhs invited former City Mayor Jim Matherly to come forward. J. Matherly read a proclamation from Governor Dunleavy recognizing Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Mayor Pruhs read a similar proclamation from the City, recognizing April 14 – 20 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

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.]

Robert Shields – R. Shields gave an update on the 6th Annual Regenerative Planet Summit taking place the coming weekend and noted that keynote speaker, Darrel Oster, was present at the meeting. He shared that his organization's interest in the Polaris Building location has been less about its past and more about what Fairbanks could be. He cited the goals of innovation, not just on the building site, that would help address energy and air quality issues and help the community progress. R. Shields stated that there are public and private partners interested in Fairbanks who are just waiting for a solid development proposal. He spoke of his background in this field and his commitment to years of work to find viable solutions and innovations to help Fairbanks remain a great place to live and raise a family for generations to come.

Darrel Oster – D. Oster shared that he is visiting from Colorado and was pleased to see that a comprehensive plan for Fairbanks through the year 2040 had been developed but noted that the rate of technological advancements makes such plans difficult to form. He discussed the significance of food security as well as friction-free transportation and the respective distance in space that every human on Earth is traveling throughout their lifetime. D. Oster spoke on the topic of transportation through evacuated tubes and the innovation possibilities in the coming decades. He invited those listening to learn more about these designs at the summit referenced by R. Shields.

Jim Matherly, Fairbanks Director of the Office of the Governor. – J. Matherly reported that the Governor's office has received a large number of calls in 2024 about education funding and the State budget. He discussed a recent decision from a lower court judge that would essentially toss out much of the existing reimbursement program for homeschooling families and charter schools. He shared that those initially pursuing the matter have since pulled back and requested a stay on the judge's action. J. Matherly indicated that the administration has asked all school districts across the state to submit their reimbursements promptly and has assured them that they will be filled. He explained that over 23,000 students participate in that type of education system and that homeschool and charter school programs in Alaska are highly regarded across the country. He committed to sending Mayor Pruhs a link to the Governor's most recent press conference where the issue was discussed at length. J. Matherly stated that the Governor made it clear to legislators that any budget they produce would be vetoed if it did not include certain provisions such as bonuses for teachers and flexibility for alternative school programs. He affirmed that the Governor supports a higher Base Student Allotment and that education will be funded.

Mr. Ringstad pointed out that Fairbanks has six to eight charter schools and a substantial number of homeschooled students. J. Matherly concurred and added that the Governor, with years of involvement in the education system as both a teacher and an administrator, primarily wants to see parents have more choices as to what works best for their families.

Mr. Cleworth asked about the procedure for the stay on the judge's decision. J. Matherly explained that it just had to be requested and that both the defendants and plaintiffs, as well as the Governor's Office, seek the stay, as this decision was a far wider brushstroke than was intended.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for an update on the City's request that the administration look into the issue of marijuana cultivation business owners having to travel to Anchorage to pay State taxes, as no option for paying locally has ever been offered. She cited convenience and safety as primary concerns and stated the City has not heard back from anyone on the matter. J. Matherly indicated that he was not aware of the request but would pursue it and follow up.

David van den Berg, Executive Director of the Downtown Association of Fairbanks – D. van den Berg spoke about Resolution No. 5116 and the shared power for economic development between the City and Borough. He stated he had several questions and was unsure what options existed for individuals to receive more information about the subject. He referenced language on the second page which appears unclear on whether the City would be sharing or shedding certain powers under certain circumstances. D. van den Berg stated that it would be good if the City had an opportunity to learn and share how economic development priorities are shaped. He pointed out that the City does not have representation on the Economic Development Commission referenced.

Mr. Cleworth asked D. van den Berg if he had read the comprehensive economic development strategy and whether it had changed much in the last decade. D. van den Berg stated that he had and he believes it has evolved iteratively within the last year. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if he agreed with the plan. D. van den Berg discussed his organization's role in the economic development of Fairbanks and their desire to meet with all similarly involved parties to align priorities and approaches, much like the approach to the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan.

Mr. Marney stated that he too has concerns and suggested meeting to discuss the matter.

Victor Buberge – V. Buberge asked if Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson was still with the City, noting that he had not seen him at Council meetings for some time. He claimed that the materials recently being used to fill potholes seem less effective, as there are recurring issues in the same locations just weeks after a repair. V. Buberge expressed appreciation for the Chief of Police as an asset to the community. He advised the City Council to do something about the GARS intersection.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Cleworth pulled all three items under New Business from the consent agenda (Resolution Nos. 5116 and 5117 and Ordinance No. 6278).

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

Clerk Snider read the consent agenda, as amended, into the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
3381	Bahn Thai Rama Restaurant	Restaurant/Eating Place	Somnuk, LLC	338 Old Steese Highway
4434	Bahn Thai Restaurant	Restaurant/Eating Place	Somnuk, LLC	541 Third Avenue

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the alcohol license applications 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 ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Pruhs called upon Police Chief Ron Dupee to provide an update on Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) personnel.

Chief Dupee reviewed the FPD's four primary goals from the SWOT analysis completed during the 2024 budgeting period:

- Retain retirement-eligible officers
- Retain all non-retirement-eligible officers
- Recruit lateral officers
- Develop an internal Task Force Officer (TFO) program.

Chief Dupee gave details about each area of focus and explained the TFO plan to create a group of loss-prevention specialists from local retailers, led by an FPD officer, to address the increasing level of retail theft. He explained that the effort would support businesses, and the FPD work in conjunction with the District Attorney's office, which had already designated a prosecutor to focus on retail theft cases. He indicated that they are about one-third of the way to forming the task force and that Captain Werner and Corporal Welborn are heavily involved with the process.

Mr. Ringstad spoke of the brazen nature of recent retail thefts and expressed appreciation that it will get more attention. He discussed residential theft and its connection to drug-related crimes.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if there was an update on the two seasonal officers who were slated to return for the summer. Chief Dupee explained the state requirements for any retired officer to return for part-time or temporary work and explained where Officers James and Elzey were in the process.

Mayor Pruhs gave recognition to Officer Zhang who completed field training the week prior.

Ms. Rogers thanked the Chief for including the Council in communications to officers when they receive commendations so that Councilmembers could provide comments and congratulations.

At the request of **Mr. Marney**, **Mayor Pruhs** invited District Attorney Joe Dallaire to speak.

J. Dallaire indicated that he had not prepared any notes but gave an informal report on his office's current staffing levels and scope of work. He shared that thousands of cases are referred to them every year and explained how the DA's office is divided to cover the various types of crimes. He gave details about the seriousness of retail theft in the community and about their newly assigned prosecutor who will focus solely on those types of cases.

Mr. Ringstad thanked J. Dallaire for his report. He referenced comments he has heard over the last several years that many crimes are not being prosecuted due to staffing shortages at the DA's office. He pointed out that such perceptions can lead to police officers hesitating to arrest individuals when the paperwork and overall effort to enforce certain laws appears to be for naught. He stated that when the crimes are not prosecuted, individuals are empowered to return and repeat their offenses. J. Dallaire acknowledged those concerns and affirmed that the current directive in his office is that the small things matter. He expounded that while most people will never be touched by the most serious crimes, petty crime impacts nearly everyone and can make any community feel like an undesirable place to live.

Ms. Sprinkle and **Mayor Pruhs** each thanked J. Dallaire for providing the impromptu report.

Ms. Tidwell accepted the invitation from **Mayor Pruhs** to serve, pending the approval of the Borough Mayor, on the Borough's Economic Development Commission in the designated seat.

Mayor Pruhs gave a brief update on the status of the Polaris Building site. He invited Fire Chief Andrew Coccaro to give a report.

Chief Coccaro, through a PowerPoint presentation, provided a thorough overview of the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD), with departmental updates and revenue concepts, including the following:

- Services FFD provides to the community.
- Coverage areas, including City limits and the outlying areas covered through contracts and mutual aid agreements.
- Current staffing levels, updates on vacant positions, and organizational structure.
- Summary of Fire/EMS responses from the last two years, including data on the outcome of calls related to property and medical incidents.
- Details on revenue sources already in place:
 - SEMT, a Medicaid reimbursement program, newer to Alaska
 - Regular EMS billing

- Fire prevention services such as inspections and plan reviews
- Grants for equipment, training, programs, and more
- Ideas for future revenue sources FFD could pursue.

Chief Coccaro concluded by sharing his general management concepts and the department's commitment to economic considerations, industry standards, governing laws and regulations, and overall mission to serve the community.

Ms. Tidwell asked for an update on the Letter of Agreement for the Community Paramedic program. Chief Coccaro explained that it is in the works but has not yet reached the highest priority level given the other pressing matters of the City and the Union.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarity as to why the City provides fire service for the Borough landfill. Chief Coccaro explained that the FNSB does not provide any direct fire services but contracts with the various fire departments across the area to ensure coverage across the Borough. He added that the FFD is the closest fire agency to the landfill.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cleworth thanked the Mayor for the proclamations shared earlier but expressed his desire to have Public Works included as they often have to provide immediate response to emergencies that impact public safety. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that there would soon be a separate proclamation for that. **Mr. Cleworth** responded to earlier comments about the absence of Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson, noting that he sometimes has commitments to North Pole City Council meetings on the same night. **Mayor Pruhs** shared that J. Jacobson had communicated with him earlier in the day, providing notes about the Downtown 2040 Plan and asking if he should be present for the meeting; **Mayor Pruhs** stated that he told J. Jacobson that his presence was not required. **Mr. Cleworth** conveyed his amazement at the technological advances that have come about, such as the frictionless transportation innovations shared earlier during Citizens' Comments.

Ms. Rogers expressed appreciation for the various reports and information shared thus far in the meeting. She discussed meetings that were held during the preparation of Vision Fairbanks, meetings that included hundreds of local residents who provided input on important topics in the community.

Ms. Sprinkle expressed gratitude for those who participated in the long endeavor to draft the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan. She reported that had been invited to attend the Borough Planning Commission meeting taking place the following evening to discuss the process that has gotten them to where they are now. She stated that she will also attend the Chena Riverfront Commission meeting later in the week to discuss the same topics.

Mr. Ringstad recounted a recent experience of driving the Richardson Highway between Delta Junction and Fairbanks when beautiful, dry roads suddenly turned into four inches of fresh snow for 10 – 15 miles. He shared that the trucks transporting ore had some struggles, as the area was in the hills, but all drivers were being cautious, chaining up tires, and giving ample space for other vehicles. He stated that DOT plow trucks were quickly on site, and everything worked smoothly.

Mr. Marney thanked the Fire and Police Chiefs for their reports as well as the District Attorney. He expressed hope that R. Shields would have success in bringing an investor into the City to increase and improve housing and businesses. He also thanked D. van den Berg for his input.

Ms. Tidwell echoed appreciation for all who had given reports, and she thanked the Mayor for her new assignment to the Borough Economic Development Commission.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5116 – A Resolution of the City of Fairbanks Authorizing an Agreement Between the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the City of North Pole, and the City of Fairbanks to Jointly Provide for Economic Development. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5116.

Mr. Cleworth indicated that he has three concerns with Resolution No. 5116. First, he shared that in the past the property tax bill he would receive for a property outside the City included a line item titled, “NAW Eco Dev,” intended for economic development. He noted that the line item amount has been zero for some time, and a recent meeting with the Borough Mayor confirmed that nothing is currently being collected. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern that if the City enters into an economic development partnership agreement, the Borough might have the power to enact that particular tax item to property owners within the City. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that he did not have a response to Mr. Cleworth’s concern and requested that the City Attorney look into the matter. **Mr. Cleworth** shared his second concern, that while the resolution references a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the Council should see the agreement before approving it. He referred to the Economic Development Commission which appears to have significant powers compared to a similar group he was involved with when he was Mayor, and he stated that the City should have representation on that committee equal to population ratios. **Mr. Cleworth** stated his third concern was that, although the resolution refers to a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, he is unsure if all Councilmembers read that document, which should occur before proceeding. **Mayor Pruhs** confirmed that they are in no hurry to approve the resolution.

Ms. Sprinkle indicated that while it was reported that the Borough Mayor would consider allowing the City to have a seat on the Economic Development Commission, she would like to see that written into the agreement.

Mr. Ringstad shared that he was generally in support of the concept of the agreement but leery of unintended consequences, given some of the broad statements used. He stated that it is important to understand the specific entities’ roles and ensure the City is not giving up any authority.

Mr. Marney agreed with Mr. Ringstad’s statement and expressed concern about the terms of the agreement. He questioned how the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) would be involved, if at all, given the funding the City provides to that organization. **Ms. Sprinkle** stated that the FEDC should have a seat at the table.

Mayor Pruhs concurred, explaining that Ms. Tidwell represents the City on FEDC's board, which is why she is the right candidate to serve as a City representative on the Borough commission, which should also include someone from the FEDC. He explained that he promised the Borough Mayor that he would introduce the resolution, which he had done, and he acknowledged that some questions needed to be answered before Council approval. He indicated that an MOA would be appropriate to address the Council's concerns.

Ms. Tidwell asked if approving the resolution would begin the process of drafting an MOA. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that an MOA that addressed all issues discussed thus far was not yet finalized and that it would be prudent to have such an agreement prepared and approved by the Council at the same time as approving the resolution. City Attorney Thomas Chard pointed out that the resolution includes an MOA modeled after the arrangement that had been in place for many years. He gave additional context by stating that the resolution is similar to one passed by the City of North Pole in favor of the MOA.

Ms. Sprinkle asked when the City of North Pole had passed its resolution. **Mayor Pruhs** stated he believes it was a year ago and that the request for him to introduce something similar to the City Council was made back then. He acknowledged that the resolution does not read like an MOA and that the Council needs something more defined.

Mr. Ringstad stated that in addition to vague language, there is also no end date referenced. He indicated that other established entities that already play a significant role in the economic development of the region may also deserve to have a seat at the table.

Mayor Pruhs suggested that if they were to postpone the item, it would be good to have at least four weeks to get certain details confirmed with the Borough and the City of North Pole.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 5116 to the May 20, 2024 Regular City Council meeting.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION NO. 5116 TO THE MAY 20, 2024 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Resolution No. 5117 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for the FY2024 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5117.

Mr. Cleworth referenced the fiscal note's language requiring the department to have a sustainability plan in place after the funding ends. He pointed out that the amounts included cover two years and asked what the plan would be for year three and beyond.

Chief Dupee explained that most of the funding would cover upfront costs for a contractor to create and implement a wellness plan and that these expenses would occur in future years. He indicated that another large portion of the funds would be used to bring in a third-party company to identify and enact preventative maintenance for cardiovascular disease in law enforcement officers beyond what occurs in annual checkups.

Mr. Ringstad asked if the evaluations would be annual for all staff in the department, or just an initial service to help jumpstart future plans. Chief Dupee clarified that evaluations would occur only once in the first year and that the company requires the participation of at least 50 individuals to travel here and perform the evaluations; he indicated the FPD would partner with the Alaska State Troopers (AST) to reach that minimum. He explained that once it is up and running, the program will not cost much to keep in place. He shared that a small chunk of FPD's training funds is currently being used to provide wellness services to officers, particularly during the winter months. He stated that this same approach would serve as their sustainability plan to continue covering the minimal cost of the new program after the initial expenses were covered.

Mr. Marney asked whether the program was related to the Arbinger Institute training. Chief Dupee replied that the Arbinger training pertains to mindfulness and interpersonal interactions while this program will focus on mental health and wellness due to the stress of the profession.

Police Captain Nathan Werner explained that Sigma Health developed screening specifically for those in high-stress jobs, high-trauma first responders, law enforcement, and corrections officers. He shared that certain indicators of cardiovascular disease do not typically show up until after age 50 but are being discovered at higher rates with first responders and similar professions at younger ages, even in their 30s. Captain Werner discussed how Sigma Health's extensive testing goes beyond regular blood panels, includes full biological scans and stress tests, and is used to create specific lifestyle and health plans to prevent medical problems. He confirmed that the cost would be one-time and in the first year.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the program would benefit the FFD as well. Captain Werner confirmed that FFD and Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC) staff may eventually be included.

Mayor Pruhs commended Chief Dupee and Captain Werner for their work in striving for success in their department and the well-being of its members.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5117 AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5117 APPROVED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6278 – An Ordinance Amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1547 by Addressing Non-Union Position Acting Pay. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6278.

Mr. Cleworth discussed the use of the word “will” as it pertained to the requirement that a staff member be appointed as acting department head, and the short threshold of only 12 hours of absence for said department head triggering that obligation. He asked if someone would have to be designated as “acting” if a department head was taking a short vacation and was able to respond to issues immediately, if needed, and preferred to do so rather than appoint someone to act in their absence. Chief of Staff Mike Sanders shared that former City Attorney Paul Ewers had, in a past contract revision period, made some recommendations for word choices, which is why “will” appears instead of “shall” or “may”. **Mr. Cleworth** pointed out that the language implies that an acting appointment would be required during absences. Attorney Chard clarified that a department head’s physical absence was not, in itself, a differentiating factor, but rather their ability to perform work, provide direction to their staff, and so on. He explained that in such a situation, the appointment of an acting department head would not be required.

Mr. Cleworth had additional questions and asked for clarification on certain hypothetical scenarios. Chief of Staff Sanders gave additional background on situations where an IBEW employee was assigned to act in the absence of a non-union department head and how there was no pay scale in the CBA to cover those scenarios. He explained that such situations only happen with the positions of the CFO, HR Director, and Chief of Staff; he added that with the CFO’s position no longer being under the IBEW, there is a greater possibility of the situation occurring again. **Mr. Cleworth** thanked Chief of Staff Sanders for the explanation, adding his opinion that the wording could be improved to better clarify the definition of an absence.

Mr. Ringstad recalled past experiences with legal experts in Juneau telling him that there is no practical difference, other than drafting style, in the words “will” or “shall”. He noted that, while it does not state who must be appointed as an acting department head, it also does not read as being optional for the Mayor to do so.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the 10% increase referenced in the ordinance was typical. Chief of Staff Sanders explained that it is an effort to make the temporary assignment’s wage comparable.

Mr. Cleworth addressed Mr. Ringstad’s comment, noting that the question was not regarding the words “will” versus “shall” but rather the word “may,” which does not obligate. He pointed out another instance where it was stated that a person must be absent for five days before someone could act on their behalf and wondered where the 12-hour threshold came from. Chief of Staff Sanders explained the difference between leadership-level positions versus those that are not. He stated it is challenging to go a full week without someone with decision-making authority, while any crucial duties of a staff member can be handled by a department head for short periods.

Mr. Marney asked why this item was not addressed during the negotiation process. Chief of Staff Sanders reminded the Council that the CFO had been under IBEW until the start of the year, the HR department had not been in operation as it should have been for a long period, and his own absences were rare; he added that the item had not been on their radar until recently.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6278 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Ringstad, Marney, Sprinkle, Cleworth
NAYS: Rogers
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2023

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Tidwell reported that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) published its draft of the Richardson-Steeese Highway Corridor Action Plan and that the public comment period is open. She shared details about the public meeting schedule for the Plan, which will allow public input through in-person testimony.

Mr. Marney and **Mr. Ringstad** each indicated they had no further reports or comments.

Ms. Sprinkle shared details from a mailer for GVEA's annual membership meeting, which stated the need for 10% membership attendance to meet quorum requirements.

Ms. Rogers stated that it had been an interesting meeting with a lot of necessary discussion. She thanked everyone for their participation.

Mr. Cleworth expressed that his primary concern with the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan was that the Council should have a mechanism to discuss things members may feel strongly about. He suggested that each Councilmember read the full plan and submit notes, particularly suggestions for specific changes or rewording, to the City Clerk. He stated that the Council could then review all the comments in a work session. He informed the Council that Mr. Marney would be filling in for him at the upcoming Borough Assembly meeting.

Mayor Pruhs stated that he appreciated everyone's interest in reviewing the plan and that for now, it is just a document, subject to updating. He asked the Council to spend the next three days reviewing the plan, list the issues they feel warrant further discussion, draft their suggested changes, and submit them to the Clerk. He explained that they would hold a special work session to review all items to reach concurrence so the Council could approve a unified list of changes in a resolution. He recognized the work of several individuals who had contributed to the Plan over the years, including Ms. Sprinkle and Mr. Cleworth; he reminded the Council that it was time for it to flex its muscles and ensure that what they want is included.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider asked if her directive was to include the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan on the next regular work session agenda. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that there should be a work session to focus solely on the Plan. He directed that a special work session be held Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00 a.m.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

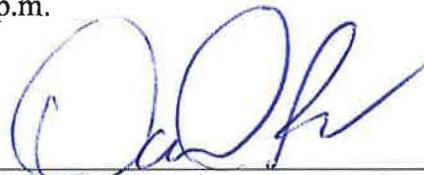
Attorney Chard stated he had no report and thanked everyone for their service.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cleworth moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC