



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 5, 2018
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 7:00 p.m. on the above date, following a 6:00 p.m. Work Session on the Minnie Street Corridor Study, to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Jim Matherly presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Joy Huntington, Seat A (telephonic)
June Rogers, Seat B
Valerie Therrien, Seat C
Jonathan Bagwill, Seat D
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E
David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Paul Ewers, City Attorney
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director
Eric Jewkes, Police Chief
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
Teal Soden, Communications Director/Executive Assistant
Matt Soden, FPD Lieutenant
Christina Rowlett, HR Admin
Jim Geier, FPD Lieutenant

City Clerk Danyielle Snider read the Mission Statement of the City of Fairbanks.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Matherly asked Ms. Therrien to lead the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Matherly called Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) Investigations Division Commander Jim Geier and his wife forward to recognize his 25 years of service to the City; he presented Lt. Geier with a City of Fairbanks gold pan. Mayor Matherly reported on the many activities Lt. Geier has been involved with in the law enforcement field. Lt. Geier spoke to the new chapter in his life and to what he has planned for the future; he thanked his family for their support.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Jason McComas-Roe, 1519 Turner Street, Fairbanks – Mr. McComas-Roe stated he is a resident of South Fairbanks, and he likes the neighborhood he lives in. He spoke in favor of placing limitations on retail marijuana stores and cultivation facilities.

Mr. Bagwill asked Mr. McComas-Roe about his thoughts on density. Mr. McComas-Roe stated that strictly limiting the number of licenses that can be issued would be the best way to move forward with marijuana regulation. He stated the character of his neighborhood would be adversely affected if the Council did not regulate retail marijuana licenses.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Bagwill**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

Mr. Pruhs requested that the liquor license renewal for the Mecca Bar be considered separately from the other liquor license applications for renewal.

Ms. Rogers pulled Ordinance No. 6070 from the Consent Agenda.

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

City Clerk Snider read the Consent Agenda, as Amended, into the record.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
435	Garden Island Party Store	Package Store	Market Basket, Inc.	246 Illinois Street
703	Gavora's Liquor #1	Package Store	Market Basket, Inc.	250 Third Street
704	Gavora's Liquor #2	Package Store	Market Basket, Inc.	1255 Airport Way
1134	Thrifty Liquors	Package Store	Market Basket, Inc.	1410 Cushman Street
5266	Fushimi	Restaurant/Eating Place	Fushimi, LLC	607 Old Steese Hwy, Ste. 105
5169	HooDoo Brewing Company	Brewery	Fairbanks Fermentation, LLC	1951 Fox Avenue

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Applications for Renewal.

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

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

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Pruhs, Bagwill, Huntington, Cleworth
NAYS: None
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Applications for Renewal:

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
710	Mecca Bar	Beverage Dispensary	JRB, Inc.	549 2nd Avenue

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Mecca Bar Liquor License Application for Renewal.

Patrick Holland, 535 2nd Avenue, Suite 105, Fairbanks – Mr. Holland stated he has been in his shop for seven years, and he has issues with intoxicated people defecating and urinating on the carpet at the Co-op. He stated intoxicated patrons of the Mecca yell at tourists while they are out shopping and checking out downtown Fairbanks. He stated he has to police the Co-op because there is no building security, and that is why he has issues with the Mecca Bar.

Angelica Krinner-Croteau, 201 Cushman Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Krinner-Croteau stated she is the owner of the Arctic Travelers Gift Shop and that she used to not have an issue with the Mecca Bar; she stated her opinion has changed in the past five years. She reported she has paid for \$16,000 in window repairs and has had to clean up urine, vomit, and feces outside of her storefront. Ms. Krinner-Croteau stated she has young employees that do not feel safe to go across the street to the coffee shop because of the Mecca Bar. She stated she has been harassed by people who were drinking at the bar. She stated there needs to be some kind of stipulation on the license making the owner more responsible for who frequents the bar.

Ms. Therrien asked if the windows were broken exclusively by patrons of the Mecca; Ms. Krinner-Croteau stated the first time, a window was broken by an intoxicated man who had just left the Mecca. She stated she could not confirm the culprit the other times windows were broken, but she believes it had to do with alcohol. **Ms. Therrien** asked if more of a police presence would help; Ms. Krinner-Croteau replied that more police presence would help. She stated that it is affecting tourism which is what she is in business for.

Ms. Rogers asked what changed that has made the situation worse; Ms. Krinner-Croteau stated the crowd has gotten rougher. Ms. Krinner-Croteau stated the patrons get drunk at their gathering places before they even go into the bar which has escalated the problem.

Ms. Huntington asked if there is a time of day that is worse; Ms. Krinner-Croteau stated it is an issue throughout the day but it gets worse in the afternoons and evenings.

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger stated the City of Fairbanks has been a haven for drunks since he moved here. He suggested that a police officer walk through the downtown area similar to how it used to be back in the pipeline days.

Richard Croteau, 201 Cushman Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Croteau stated he has witnessed the problems on 2nd Avenue for two decades, and it has only worsened. He stated he is married to Ms. Krinner-Croteau, and if she files an insurance claim to have the windows repaired her property insurance cost goes up. He stated it is better for her to pay for the repairs out-of-pocket. He stated he has called the Community Service Patrol many times to pick up a person who was passed out on the sidewalk. Mr. Croteau stated he has been chased down the street by intoxicated people. He stated the Community Service Patrol used to have their own phone number, but now he has to call 9-1-1, a service that is already stretched thin. He stated there have been many times both he and his wife have had to take buckets of boiling water outside to clean up the feces and puke that have been left behind by the local bar crowd. Mr. Croteau stated all except two windows have been broken at the gift shop, and his wife has now installed a security camera in order to catch perpetrators. He stated employees do not feel safe, so he has had to walk with them to the coffee shop to get their lunch.

Ms. Therrien asked Mr. Croteau if he could offer any solutions to the problem; Mr. Croteau stated the owner should take responsibility, because they do not employ bouncers to help keep the crowd moving along.

Ms. Huntington asked if the presence of Officer Elzey made a difference in the downtown area; Mr. Croteau stated there was still a problem, but the crowd would peacefully move along when Officer Elzey would arrive on patrol.

Darlene Herbert, 906 Woodlawn Road, Fairbanks – Ms. Herbert stated she has not been in a bar in years, but when she passes by the Mecca Bar she notices drunk people smoking cigarettes outside. She stated all of the downtown businesses should get together and hire a security officer to police the area. She brought up the issue of the need for a public restroom downtown.

Sean White, 899 Senate Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. White suggested requiring a 100% identification check for alcohol purchases. He stated the City also needs more police officers on patrol; he added that because the FPD is staffed at an all-time low, there is nobody available to regularly walk the bar.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated alcohol is a big business that everyone – including the City of Fairbanks – gets a slice of. He stated police are not always the answer and that the owner should be held responsible for the feces and urine on 2nd Avenue. He reported he has had to defend himself downtown with some of the local inebriated community. He stated not having a public restroom downtown only makes the problem worse because people are forced to use the street as a restroom.

Jodi Blakley, 2000 Patricia Court, Fairbanks – Ms. Blakley stated she is the owner of the Mecca Bar, and she feels everyone's pain because she has also invested a lot into her business. She reported it is her intention to run a safe bar, and her staff goes to great lengths to remove folks

who are not safe. Ms. Blakley reported the street problem is not her business' problem, because she cannot control what people do outside her establishment. She stated she is willing to help in any way she can to ensure the safety of the public and her patrons. She stated she has a three-page long list of those who have been "eighty-sixed" from the bar, and she goes through the list every six months to remove those who have passed away. Ms. Blakley reported she has spent a lot of money in security and that she is willing to help in any way she can in the future.

Ms. Huntington asked Ms. Blakley about the Mecca Bar's hours of operation; Ms. Blakley reported it is open Sunday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m. and on weekends from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 a.m. **Ms. Huntington** asked why the establishment opens at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Blakley stated those are just the hours of operation, but that she could legally open as early as 8:00 a.m. **Ms. Huntington** asked about the people who hang out outside of the establishment; Ms. Blakley stated that most of the people are not her customers and, if they are not paying customers, she does not allow them to use her facilities. **Ms. Huntington** asked Ms. Blakley if she had considered changing the hours of operation to less impact the surrounding businesses. Ms. Blakley stated she does not believe shortening the hours of operation would change anything.

Ms. Rogers commended Ms. Blakley for making the bar smoke-free. She asked Ms. Blakley if she has had the opportunity to speak with neighboring business owners about the issues concerning the bar. Ms. Blakley stated the only neighbor she has spoken with about it is Mr. Cleworth who came to visit her. **Ms. Rogers** spoke in support of communication so that everyone can be a part of the solution.

Ms. Therrien asked Ms. Blakley how many employees she has and if they are full or part time. Ms. Blakley reported she has 14 employees and that they are only insured inside her property; she added that she would not ask her employees to work outside of her establishment. She stated she does not want anyone to get hurt but that she cannot control people who are not her customers. She stated she has one full time employee, and the others are part time. **Ms. Therrien** asked if having the presence of Officer Elzey decreased the problem; Ms. Blakley replied that when Officer Elzey walks down 2nd Avenue, the crowd in front of the bar disburses.

Mayor Matherly asked Ms. Blakley how long she has owned the Mecca Bar and what the maximum occupancy is. Ms. Blakley stated she has owned the bar for 10 years, and she has 28 bar seats and standing room for 20-30 people.

Mr. Bagwill asked Ms. Blakley if this is the first time she has heard on this level the issues associated with her business; Ms. Blakley stated it is the first she has heard of the problems.

Ms. Huntington asked Ms. Blakley about the protocol for dealing with someone who exhibits signs of intoxication. Ms. Blakley reported that all of her bartenders are TAPS trained and have had special training as to what they can and cannot do for customers. Ms. Blakley stated the staff tries to ensure that everyone gets home safely.

Julie Jones, 516 Second Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Jones stated she is glad to hear Ms. Blakley speak to the issues and that she has done a lot for the community. Ms. Jones stated the problem is more than just the Mecca Bar; she stated it is alcoholism, which is a disease that laws will not

fix. Ms. Jones stated when people are chronically inebriated, they are accepted as being drunk in public without consequence. She reported panhandling has gotten out of hand, and panhandlers have gotten very aggressive – even jumping into the fountain to take coins. She stated tourism is Fairbanks’ bread and butter, and the streets should be a nice place for tourists. She encouraged everyone to come downtown and be part of the solution; she encouraged good behavior from all.

Sandra Harley, 535 2nd Avenue, Suite 107, Fairbanks – Ms. Harley stated something has to be done to save the downtown tourist industry, because people do not feel safe anymore. She stated her customers are scared because people ask them for money in an aggressive way, and treat them rudely when they refuse. She suggested ticketing drunk and disorderly people and allowing their fines to stack up until jail time can be enforced.

Ivan Gyaurski, 535 2nd Avenue, Suite 106, Fairbanks – Mr. Gyaurski stated he does not want anyone’s license to be taken away, but the practice of serving someone who is already intoxicated needs to change. He stated he sees the daily migration from the homeless shelter to Thrifty Liquor then downtown to the Mecca, and it is not safe.

Serena McCormick, P.O. Box 753171, Fairbanks – Ms. McCormick stated she works at the Mecca Bar five nights a week, and she is a University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) student. She stated that she does not ever overserve patrons. She stated the people who linger outside of the Mecca are not customers, and she invited everyone to visit the bar and see for themselves. She stated the employees of the Mecca Bar keep the business clean, and she spoke positively of the smoke-free environment. She stated the most recent broken window at Beads and Things was caused by a teenager passing by on a skateboard.

Ms. Huntington stated she does not understand the statement that all the people outside the bar smoking are not customers of the bar since it is a smoke-free establishment. Ms. McCormick stated that the customers go outside to smoke are harassed by the chronic inebriates even though “no loitering” signs are posted.

Larry Hackenmiller, 518 Farmers Loop Road, Fairbanks – Mr. Hackenmiller stated he is the General Manager of the Interior Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant & Retailers Association (ICHRR), and that he conducts business at the Mecca Bar at least once a week. He stated the Mecca Bar should not be blamed for all the problems downtown; he spoke to the need for a larger police presence. He asked why the downtown community is not discussing the problem amongst themselves instead of blaming the Mecca Bar for the problem. He spoke to the character of Ms. Blakley and shared some of the good things she does for the community.

Lisa Sundborg, 3074 Riverview Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Sundborg stated she is friends with Ms. Blakley and has also been a patron of the Mecca Bar. She stated that she has never seen someone inside the bar drunk like people are saying. She stated the problems are not from the bar’s regulars but from people drinking in public and hanging around 2nd Avenue. She stated the open containers people walk around with are not purchased at the Mecca Bar; she stated they are buying them from a liquor store somewhere.

Tim Staton, 541 2nd Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Staton stated he owns Alaska Gold and Gems, and the problem downtown is not just because of the Mecca Bar. He stated the problem is that the

City is not addressing the health and safety problems in the downtown area. He commended downtown business owners for attending the meeting, and expressed his desire that downtown business owners meet once a month to discuss issues. Mr. Staton stated he has watched intoxicated people enter the Mecca Bar only to be removed immediately. He stated marijuana smoking is now a problem since voters chose to make it legal. He stated there needs to be a bigger police presence downtown because it deters people from congregating outside of businesses. He stated years ago there was a Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program, but they no longer patrol the downtown core area.

Christian Hood, P.O. Box 83071, Fairbanks – Ms. Hood stated that she does not think the Mecca Bar is the issue; she stated the homeless population is the issue and needs to be addressed.

Nannette Tumbleson, 535 2nd Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Tumbleson stated the cash register at her store faces the restroom in the hall of the Co-op Plaza. She stated that there is not only a problem with public intoxication but also with prostitution. She reported she has watched people lock themselves in the restroom to have sex in exchange for money. She stated she has called the police, but by the time they respond the couples are gone. She expressed concern for tourists visiting the downtown area.

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

Mayor Matherly called for a brief recess.

Upon reconvening, **Mr. Cleworth** declared a conflict of interest in regard to the liquor license renewal for the Mecca Bar. He stated that his business is adjacent to the Mecca Bar, and there would be a direct financial impact on his business whether the license is approved or denied.

Ms. Huntington asked how the vote on the liquor license would directly or indirectly affect Mr. Cleworth's business. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that his reasons for declaring a conflict of interest are: 1) the costs of repairing damaged property, and 2) the costs associated with being unable to get renters in the building. He stated that when he was a renter he was able to weigh in on issues, but as an owner of the adjacent property he cannot.

Mayor Matherly, with no objection from the Council, accepted Mr. Cleworth's declared conflict of interest.

Mr. Pruhs requested that Police Chief Eric Jewkes come forward; he asked the Chief if he has a working relationship with the owner of the Mecca Bar. Chief Jewkes stated that his staff has worked with Ms. Blakley on various problems, and they have reported that she has been agreeable to work with.

Ms. Therrien asked Chief Jewkes if there is a regular downtown patrol officer; Chief Jewkes stated there is not currently an officer assigned to the downtown area, and it has been over a decade since there has been an officer patrolling the downtown area year round. **Ms. Therrien** asked Chief Jewkes if he was aware of the prostitution that was mentioned during public testimony; Chief Jewkes stated he was not aware of the issue. **Ms. Therrien** asked Chief Jewkes

if he had a proposed solution to the issues on the street caused by the Mecca Bar. Chief Jewkes stated Ms. Blakley cannot police the street outside of her bar because it is public property.

Ms. Rogers asked how many calls the police department gets for issues in the downtown area; Chief Jewkes stated he has no way of knowing without doing research.

Ms. Huntington asked if there is any validity to the argument that the issues outside of the Mecca Bar are not being caused by patrons. Chief Jewkes stated he cannot be certain as to who is causing the incidents, but he would surmise that a significant number are caused by patrons.

Ms. Therrien stated she will not vote to protest the license because she believes that the issue stems from a public inebriate problem downtown, not just the Mecca Bar. She stated she would like to meet with the police department and downtown business owners to try to solve some of the problems in downtown Fairbanks.

Mayor Matherly stated he remembers when the downtown area was much worse, but he acknowledged it is still a problem. He stated the Housing and Homeless Coalition is working hard and making progress; he stated that the 24-hour Sobering Center is now operational. He stated he did not think that closing down a business would be a solution to the problem because there is an underlying issue that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Pruhs stated if he saw people congregating outside of his business, he would have a conversation with them instead of not getting involved. He stated the owner is not taking responsibility for the problem and that it is not right that the downtown business owners are not communicating with each other outside of a Council meeting.

Mayor Matherly encouraged the downtown business owners to communicate with each other and to invite Council Members.

Ms. Huntington expressed appreciation that Ms. Blakley came to speak at the meeting; she stated that she is not in favor of shutting down the Mecca Bar. She agreed with Mr. Pruhs that the owner should correct the problem of people congregating on the sidewalk outside the bar.

Mr. Bagwill stated he does not go downtown often, but his eyes have been opened to the public safety issues. He stated everyone should work together to solve the issue.

Ms. Rogers stated she agrees with Ms. Jones that it is a community issue, and everyone needs to work together towards a solution. She stated that people need to have compassion for each other.

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

YEAS: Bagwill, Rogers, Huntington, Therrien, Pruhs
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Cleworth
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports

Buzzy Chiu, 204 Front Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Chiu stated she attended the last Public Safety Commission (PSC) meeting where the draft marijuana ordinance was discussed. She reported most of the discussion was about setting a limit for the number of retail stores within the City. She stated that the body voted on whether the City should place a restriction on the number of marijuana retail store licenses; she reported that two members voted yes, one member abstained, and four members voted no.

Mr. Cleworth asked if FPD staff was at the PSC meeting; Ms. Chiu reported that FPD staff was out on a shooting call at the time. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if the police were able to give input; Ms. Chiu reported they attended other meetings about the ordinance, and they did share their ideas.

Mayor Matherly stated that he did a ride-along with one of the officers over the weekend, and people interested in doing a ride-along should contact Communications Director Teal Soden for scheduling. He stated he would be doing a ride-along with the Public Works crew next. He commented that the work session on the Minnie Street Corridor Study was informative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Ordinance No. 6069 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Labor Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the AFL-CIO Crafts Council. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mr. Bagwill**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6069.

Lake Williams, 945 Senate Loop, Fairbanks – Mr. Williams stated he is the President of the AFL-CIO Crafts Council, and he is happy to report that the union ratified the tentative agreement earlier in the day. He thanked members of the City's negotiating team, and he thanked Mr. Pruhs for observing negotiations. He stated he believes the meetings were a model of how negotiations should go, and he spoke to the need for the State of Alaska to reinstate revenue sharing.

Sean White – Mr. White spoke against the Council giving raises to one bargaining unit when it has non-funded another. He summarized the increases given to the AFL-CIO and IBEW bargaining units over the past several years and compared it to the increases given to the Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) over the same time period. He stated he believes that funding for the AFL-CIO increase are funds the Council saved by cutting a firefighter position.

Frank Turney – Mr. Turney stated that emergency response vehicle drivers should be drug tested.

Mayor Matherly reminded everyone that the public hearing is only for Ordinance No. 6069.

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

Mr. Pruhs congratulated the administration for successfully negotiating with the AFL-CIO.

Ms. Huntington thanked Mr. Williams and the negotiating teams for their work.

Mr. Cleworth reported he liked working with the AFL-CIO when he was Mayor because they always come to the table with a respectful and amenable attitude. He stated that the bargaining unit work to get things done and avoid mediation and arbitration.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6069 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Bagwill, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth, Huntington

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6069 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4824 – A Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 86, an Act Relating to the Sale or Other Disposal, Leasing, or Encumbrance of Alaska Railroad Corporation Land. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Resolution No. 4825 – A Resolution in Support of House Bill 176, an Act Relating to Medical Assistance Reimbursement for Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Services. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Resolution No. 4826 – A Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 63, an Act Prohibiting Smoking in Certain Places; Relating to Education on the Smoking Prohibition. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Resolution No. 4827 – A Resolution Approving Participation by the City of Fairbanks in the 2017-2018 AMLJIA Loss Control Incentive Program. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Ordinance No. 6070 – An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Chapter 14, Businesses, by Adding Article VI Regulating Marijuana Establishments. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6070.

Ms. Rogers stated she did not recall reaching a consensus to set the retail store limit to twelve.

Mayor Matherly stated he proposed limit of twelve because he knew it would be discussed by the Council. He stated that the Council had previously discussed a limitation of nine or fifteen.

Ms. Therrien asked if the ordinance would be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Pruhs stated there will be another Finance Committee meeting before the next Council meeting, so it could be discussed there.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6070 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Huntington, Bagwill, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth, Rogers

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Committee Reports

Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors – **Mr. Bagwill** stated the Board recently met, and shared two upcoming events, the Golden Heart Gala and the Alaska Railroad Customer Reception. He congratulated the new members of the Board.

Reentry Coalition – **Ms. Rogers** stated she attended a Reentry Coalition meeting as an extension of her work on the Opioid and Homeless Coalitions. She stated that there are a number of organizations who are working together on issues, and she sees a need for them all to understand each other's missions.

Legislative Committee – **Ms. Therrien** stated there will be a meeting on Wednesday at 4 p.m.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Gene Salzman, 2807 Riverview Drive, Fairbanks – **Mr. Salzman** stated he has been paying taxes for his property for 42 years. He stated he recently called Public Works to report the street light outage in his neighborhood, and they stated they would send a contractor out to work on them. **Mr. Salzman** expressed great dissatisfaction with the work of the contractor. He stated that when he contacted the contractor's office, he was given excuses about the cold, snow, and wind, and he was basically told to "go stick his head in the snow." He indicated that the outage is causing a public safety issue in his neighborhood, and he suggested that the contractor be fired.

Mayor Matherly assured **Mr. Salzman** that he would address the street lights issue.

Mr. Cleworth stated he would address **Mr. Salzman's** testimony during his comments.

Frank Turney – Mr. Turney spoke to the City resolution in support of industrial hemp, and mentioned an upcoming hearing for an industrial hemp bill in the state legislature. He spoke to transparency in local government, and he spoke in favor of an Internal Affairs Department at the FPD to investigate complaints against police officers. Mr. Turney spoke to transgender issues and stated that he hopes the issue never comes before the City Council.

Allan Heineken, 1270 Blackberry Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. Heineken introduced himself as a new firefighter at the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD). He stated he hears some good and bad things, but he has hope for better relationships in the future. He stated he is the only current Tier 4 firefighter at FFD who is not testing elsewhere for employment. He stated that he would like to extend an olive branch for his generation.

Mr. Pruhs welcomed Mr. Heineken and thanked him for introducing himself; he asked how long he has been with the department. Mr. Heineken stated he has worked at the FFD for two years, and he is a third generation firefighter. He stated he was born and raised in Fairbanks.

Sean White – Mr. White stated he sometimes gets angry with the actions of the Council. He stated that he plans to retire in a year or two, so he will not be as affected by the decisions of the Council as the younger firefighters. He stated that he is looking out for the younger generation of firefighters and would like to see a better future for them.

Christian Hood – Ms. Hood stated she is the owner of Good Cannabis, LLC, and she thanked the Council for allowing her business to open. She stated her business supported Paws for Purple Hearts in January, and they are raising funds in February for the owner of the Monderosa who was diagnosed with stage four stomach cancer. She stated that her team will also be donating time to the Fairbanks Rescue Mission recycling center. She spoke about other ideas to help the homeless community in Fairbanks.

Mr. Pruhs thanked Ms. Hood for coming to testify; he asked her to think about the proposed ordinance on marijuana regulations and to attend the next Council meeting where it would be discussed. Ms. Hood stated that she has given the issue a great deal of thought, but she does not feel that it is her place to give an opinion on limitations.

Mr. Cleworth stated that marijuana revenue on the State level has flattened out, and he asked Ms. Hood if she believes the market has reached maturity. Ms. Hood replied that she feels it would be inappropriate for her to say. She stated that there was a halt in cultivation product being moved until after the new year, so that may have contributed to flat revenues in January.

Victor Buberger – Mr. Buberger stated it would be nice if the Council would allow citizens to attend Executive Sessions. He stated that of the 44 City firefighters, only six make less than \$100,000 per year in their total package. He suggested that police officers take a pay cut like they did in Detroit, and he spoke to the lack of drug testing at the police and fire departments.

Trevor Haines, 356 Old Steese, Fairbanks – Mr. Haines stated he is the General Manager of Good Cannabis and that he appreciates the opportunity the industry has given him; he added that he would not want to take that opportunity away from anyone else. He stated it is important to

not oversaturate the market, and they are already seeing a dip in product pricing. He stated there has also been a dip in the cannabis wholesale market which reflects market supply.

Julie Jones – Ms. Jones reiterated what was discussed about the Mecca Bar and encouraged forward momentum. She spoke in support of a “clean team” and stated that just having two people downtown picking up trash on a daily basis is helpful. She stated the tolerance of public intoxication needs to be addressed. Ms. Jones stated she used to be able to call the Community Service Patrol (CSP) directly, but now calls are routed through City Dispatch. She stated that response time is 20 or more minutes, and by that time the problem may have moved on to another location. She stated that some citizens think it is okay to aggressively panhandle and behave badly downtown. Ms. Jones suggested placing more surveillance cameras in the Golden Heart Plaza and on Second Avenue so that culprits can be identified and held responsible.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Ms. Huntington thanked everyone for putting up with her telephonic attendance. She echoed Ms. Jones’ comments about public inebriation and stated it is a community issue that needs to be addressed. She respectfully asked those testifying to not refer to a person as a “drunk.”

Ms. Rogers agreed that a person should be referred to as a person, regardless of the situation. She indicated that it is disrespectful to label a person’s activities rather than their personhood.

Ms. Therrien echoed the comments of Ms. Huntington and Ms. Rogers.

Mr. Pruhs stated he was recently visited at his office by three different people in an uproar about parking tickets issued by the parking authority. He stated that the parking authority reportedly went on private property and ticketed a vehicle for an expired registration; he asked Mayor Matherly to look into it. **Mr. Pruhs** stated it is not easy for the Council to make some decisions on union issues, but they do their best. He suggested that Mayor Matherly do the ride-along on a garbage truck during the summer months.

Mr. Cleworth addressed the street light issue raised by Mr. Salzman. He stated that over the past eight years there have been multiple outages in the neighborhood that last for two or three weeks. He suggested talking to Engineering and getting a contractor out there to make a permanent fix. **Mr. Cleworth** wished Lt. Geier well in his future endeavors. He stated that he dealt with the parking ticket issue brought up by Mr. Pruhs, and he stated that the issue was resolved. He commented that a ticket should not have been issued on private property. He spoke to union issues and to the efforts of the Council to create equity in the employee packages within the various bargaining units.

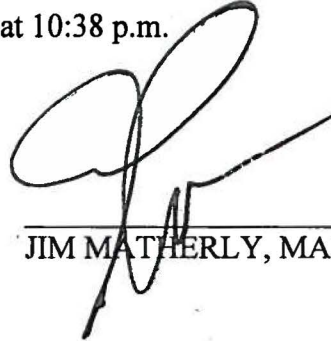
Mr. Bagwill stated he tries to listen more than speak at the union negotiation meetings. He wished Lt. Geier well in his retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bagwill, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

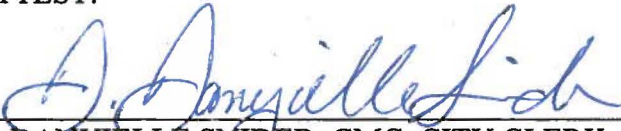
Mayor Matherly called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB