



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 8, 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 City Marijuana Regulations, 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
June Rogers, Seat B
Jonathan Bagwill, Seat D
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E
David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: Valerie Therrien, Seat C (excused)

Also Present: Paul Ewers, City Attorney
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
Christina Rowlett, HR Admin
Eric Jewkes, Police Chief
Jim Styers, Fire Chief

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Matherly asked Chief of Staff Mike Meeks to lead the Flag Salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated there should be a public process for appealing the denial of a hotel/motel discretionary grant award, because the Clay Street Cemetery Commission was disqualified from the process this year.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

City Clerk Snider read the Consent Agenda into the record.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2017.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Regular Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2017.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Premises Address
3489	Arctic Fox Bar	Beverage Dispensary	Arctic Fox Bar, LLC	623 Old Steese Hwy

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST of the Liquor License Application for Renewal.

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

Ms. Rogers stated there is a long list of police calls to the establishment, and she questioned why there were no owners present to speak. **Mayor Matherly** stated Mr. Mensik was present, and he asked the Council if they would like him to come forward to speak.

Rick Mensik, 1115 Chief Evan Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. Mensik stated he was unaware of a protest on his property, and he did not have a copy of what Ms. Rogers was speaking to.

Mayor Matherly explained that there was no recommendation for protest; he stated that Ms. Rogers was speaking about the police callout log for the property. Mr. Mensik stated the Arctic Fox Bar hosts an older crowd that loves karaoke. He reported that sometimes incidents with incapacitated persons occur on his property outside of business hours, and he has no control.

Mayor Matherly asked Chief of Police Eric Jewkes to come forward for a staff report. Chief Jewkes stated that an “incapacitated person” means someone who is not conscious. He stated that sometimes they are on the property outside of operational business hours.

Mr. Pruhs asked Mr. Mensik to speak to his recent purchase of the property and to his efforts to improve the location. Mr. Mensik stated it is now a non-smoking bar, and they have instituted a

\$4 cover charge. He stated he has professional staff, many of whom have background in the military.

Chief Jewkes stated many of the callouts listed are outside of the bar's regular business hours.

Mr. Mensik stated he has tried to work hand-in-hand with law enforcement and has provided video footage to police. He stated he has good video equipment on the property and that the combination of the cover charge and the non-smoking atmosphere has deterred patrons who are just looking for trouble. Mr. Mensik reported he also raised the price of beverages in order to keep out an undesirable element. He stated he has brought all taxes current on the property and that he is doing all he can do to improve the location.

Mr. Pruhs asked Chief Jewkes if he finds Mr. Mensik and his staff amenable to work with; Chief Jewkes stated he has no problems working with Mr. Mensik or his staff.

Ms. Huntington thanked Mr. Mensik for improving the surveillance at the Arctic Fox Bar and for coming to speak to the Council. She asked Mr. Mensik if he has done anything to improve lighting on the outside of the business. Mr. Mensik replied that he has upgraded the outdoor lighting to LED bulbs and that there are big lights all around the front; he stated that one needs replaced behind the bar.

Mr. Bagwill asked Chief Jewkes how the Arctic Bar compares to other beverage dispensary locations. Chief Jewkes stated some of the incidents are indicative of and related to the establishment, but others are not.

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

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

b) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following application for a New Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility License:

Type: Marijuana Cultivation Facility, License #14467
DBA: Tanana Herb Company, LLC
Licensee/Applicant: Tanana Herb Company, LLC
Physical Location: 1200 Well Street, Fairbanks, Alaska

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to PROTEST the Application for a New Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility License until a Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

Sam Perkins, 2008 Perkins Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. Perkins stated he understands that people have questions and concerns about the marijuana industry and that he is present to answer those questions. He stated he has been working on getting the building ready for over a year and that

every day that it sits closed it costs a lot of money. He stated he is doing the remodel is being paid for out-of-pocket in the landmark Alaska Distributors warehouse.

Mr. Pruhs asked Mr. Perkins if he is buying a building that has been vacant since 2010; Mr. Perkins stated he bought the building and has a lease agreement with the Alaska Railroad. He spoke to their efforts to mitigate the smell of marijuana in the air surrounding the establishment. **Mr. Pruhs** asked Mr. Perkins how many people he is employing; Mr. Perkins stated that he employs eight people for the cultivation business; he indicated that if he received a retail license, he would employ 12-15 individuals.

Mr. Bagwill asked what Mr. Perkins is planning to do with the rest of the building since he is only using a small portion of it for cultivation. Mr. Perkins reported the whole building would be approved by the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Board (AMCB) for marijuana purposes. **Mr. Bagwill** asked if the cameras are already in place in his facility; Mr. Perkins replied that State law requires all areas of a marijuana business to be covered by cameras. **Mr. Bagwill** asked if there were cameras on the exterior of the facility; Mr. Perkins stated the entire facility is covered with excess lighting and cameras, both inside and out.

Leslea Nunley, 2008 Perkins Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Nunley stated she is the owner of the company and that she has been growing at a licensed facility outside of City limits since August 2016. She reported she has not had any problems or issues at the facility and that she is familiar with laws regulating the industry. She stated she understands the importance of smell mitigation and that some people are offended by the smell of cultivation facilities.

Ms. Huntington asked Ms. Nunley how amenable she would be in working with Chief Jewkes to address public safety concerns. Ms. Nunley stated being preemptive is a great thing, and her business has an open door policy with law enforcement.

Mason Evans, 8141 Goldmine Trail, Fairbanks – Mr. Evans stated he is familiar with Mr. Perkins and Ms. Nunley; he stated they are both great people. He stated he is the owner of the Grass Station 49 and that he started with only two employees. He shared that he now has 15 employees and is about to hire two more. He stated that he only has a retail facility and that the growers are who keep him in business. He stated that many of the marijuana businesses operate in previously abandoned buildings, and it is good for the City to not have vacant properties.

Mr. Pruhs asked Mr. Evans if his business would benefit from Tanana Herb Company getting their cultivation license; Mr. Evans stated he would.

Ms. Huntington asked Mr. Evans if his business ran out of product during his eight months of operation. Mr. Evans stated they have run out several times. He stated he is still battling the black market and that people are still consuming non-tested, unsafe marijuana.

Christopher Konopka, 405 Ream Lane, Fairbanks – Mr. Konopka stated he is the owner of Herbal Instincts, an establishment outside City limits. He spoke well of Tanana Herb Company and its owners and stated that he looks forward to them being a Fairbanks asset.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated he uses cannabis for medicinal purposes and that he thinks the State regulation of 5 milligrams per serving is too low. He spoke in support of Tanana Herb Company.

Tyler Settlemoir, 1770 Alder Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Settlemoir stated that he is a disabled military veteran and an employee of the Tanana Herb Company; he added that they are professional business operators.

John Banister, 4089 Kallenberg Road, Fairbanks – Mr. Banister stated he is not part of the cultivation facility but that he outsources trained staff to work at cultivation facilities. He reported that he currently has 17 employees, ranging from moms to veterans, and that Tanana Herb Company is one of his customers. He spoke well of the company and its owners.

Christian Hood, P.O. Box 83091, Fairbanks – Ms. Hood shared her excitement for Tanana Herb Company operating a local cultivation facility and asked the Council to approve their license.

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

Mr. Bagwill stated he has been opposed to the industry and that he will be voting the same way he has in the past. He stated, however, that he appreciates all the good things he has heard about the company; he added that his vote against the license is not personal.

Ms. Huntington commended the Tanana Herb Company for finding a good location for their facility; she shared that it is easier to approve licenses when they are not in populated areas.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO PROTEST THE APPLICATION FOR A NEW STANDARD MARIJUANA CULTIVATION FACILITY LICENSE UNTIL A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IS ISSUED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Rogers, Huntington, Pruhs

NAYS: Bagwill

ABSENT: Therrien

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

c) The Fairbanks City Council considered the following request by Lavelle’s Taphouse, LLC (Arlette Eagle-Lavelle) for an extension of premises of alcohol service area:

Type: Beverage Dispensary, License #270

DBA: Lavelle’s Taphouse

Licensee/Applicant: Lavelle’s Taphouse, LLC

Physical Location: 414 2nd Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mr. Bagwill**, moved to APPROVE the request by Lavelle’s Taphouse, LLC for an extension of premises of alcohol service area.

Arlette Eagle-Lavelle, 912 Kellum Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Eagle-Lavelle distributed photos to the Council pertaining to her request. She stated she had a successful summer when the street was shut down, because she was able to utilize the space outside of the Taphouse. She stated she understands that there are some concerns because 2nd Avenue will be open to traffic this summer. Ms. Eagle-Lavelle reported she has spoken with Chief Jewkes, and he stated if the Council is approves the request, the base of the jersey barrier could not be directly adjacent to the edge of the parking space. She stated she is trying very hard to rejuvenate the downtown area, and all of the foot traffic that came to her business last summer helped cause greatly. She stated she has a good relationship with former City Engineer Jackson Fox who was excited about the idea and offered his department's help. Ms. Eagle-Lavelle reported that Mr. Fox and Mr. Pristash have differing opinions on the issue. She stated City Engineer Bob Pristash has concerns with the outside serving area; she stated that she shares his concern and that she wants the public and her patrons to be safe. She spoke to the photos she distributed and explained why the extension of premises would be good for her business and the downtown area.

Kathryn Dodge, 665 8th Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Dodge spoke in support of the Taphouse extension of premises, because it brings so much business to the downtown core area. She stated that using the parking areas as lounge/walking spaces has created a vibrancy downtown that has been missing.

Chris Miller, 413 Cowles Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Miller spoke in favor of the extension of premises; he stated he owns the Elbow Room, property adjacent to the Taphouse. He reported he has had no issues with the Taphouse and that the outdoor activity that took place the past summer was very enjoyable; he added that the community seemed to embrace it. He stated he appreciates the seasonal aspect of the outdoor space because it helped bring tourists to the area during summer months. In regard to public safety along the roadway, Mr. Miller pointed out that there is only a fragile, chain-link fence along Airport Way, and vehicles traveling 45 miles per hour (mph) or more will not be stopped if they crash into the fence. He stated that jersey barriers will stop vehicles travelling 55 mph; he added that 2nd Avenue has a speed limit of 25 mph.

Bill Rogers, 408 Cushman Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Rogers reported that he owns a downtown business. He stated that he is a City of Fairbanks employee in the Engineering Department, and he shared his concern about the pictures provided by Ms. Eagle-Lavelle. Mr. Rogers stated he does not see clearly where pedestrians would walk if the sidewalk is blocked for use by the Taphouse. He stated the street was closed the previous summer, and the traffic hazard was not an issue. He reported that when he purchased his business he did not buy with the idea that he would be able to operate his business on a neighboring property. Mr. Rogers stated there is a shortage of parking in the downtown area, and the Taphouse extension would not just consume one parking spot, but likely three. He stated there are a lot of concerns relating to safety, blocked pedestrian routes, and the can of worms that the issue will open amongst other businesses.

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

Mr. Pruhs stated sometimes it takes an exceptional person with an exceptional vision to lead the Council into a good, new direction. He reported Ms. Eagle-Lavelle has not disappointed. He stated he did not see any reason for there to be an issue approving the extension, because she has

already proven it to work. **Mr. Pruhs** stated her outdoor space brought a much-needed vibrancy to the downtown area; he expressed hope that the Council approves her request.

Mayor Matherly stated the extension is not comparable to the one the previous summer, because the road outside the Taphouse was closed down entirely to vehicle traffic in 2017. He stated the events that were held in the summer were great and extended all the way across the street. He reported that he attended some of the events, and they were great fundraisers. **Mayor Matherly** stated he has mixed feelings about the issue and spoke to safety concerns with traveling vehicles. He stated he can see both sides of the issue, and he appreciates everyone who came out to speak on the extension.

Mr. Bagwill asked if increasing the service area would affect the building occupancy or the classification of the location; Fire Chief Jim Styers stated he has spoken with his department and the Building Department, and they have pulled the recommended protest regarding occupancy. He clarified that the barrier portion of the recommended protest is to remain in effect. **Mr. Bagwill** stated he liked everything that Ms. Eagle-Lavelle had to say but that he cannot ignore the safety concerns, because he thinks it will become an issue.

Mr. Cleworth stated that having the Engineering, Fire, and Police Departments all protesting the extension of premises speaks to significant liability question it raises. He stated if something were to happen to someone at the location, the City would be on the hook for approving such an extension. He stated eliminating parking spaces in the downtown area is ironic, because the Council has spent a lot of time and money coming up with ways to add parking downtown. **Mr. Cleworth** stated people are very protective of the spaces on 2nd Avenue because they are hard to come by. He indicated that allowing one business to use the street area for their business activities may be a slippery slope. He spoke to the lot the City owns behind the Taphouse and suggested that Ms. Eagle-Lavelle look into using that area for her outdoor space.

Ms. Rogers stated she is a cheerleader for all the young, entrepreneurial ventures Ms. Eagle-Lavelle has shared with the community. She reported her concern for the liability created by using the outdoor space while 2nd Avenue is open for through traffic. She stated she loves all the things Ms. Eagle-Lavelle does for the community but that she is finding it very difficult to approve the extension of premises because of the possible danger to citizens.

Mayor Matherly reported he often receives complaints about the lack of parking, and he shared his concern for using those spaces for business. He also expressed public safety concerns.

Ms. Huntington stated she understands the public safety concerns and the struggle with exposing the City to liability. She stated she takes the concerns of the City departments to heart. She stated the Council's responsibility is the safety of the public, but the draw that the Taphouse creates to the downtown area is hard to ignore. **Ms. Huntington** stated she does not agree with other Council Members' concern about parking, because there is a parking garage directly across the street from the Taphouse. She stated she does not want to undermine anyone, but the risk would benefit the entire community; she indicated that she would like to see if it would work.

Mr. Rogers, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to POSTPONE the request by Lavelle's Taphouse, LLC for an extension of premises of alcohol service area to the Regular Meeting of February 26.

Ms. Rogers stated she would like to have a better understanding of the safety risks associated with the application and more information brought to the Council before voting.

Mr. Pruhs stated he agreed with Ms. Rogers. He stated he would like to know whether it would be for one summer or indefinitely; he expressed hope that the issue could be discussed at a Finance Committee meeting.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE THE REQUEST BY LAVELLE'S TAPHOUSE, LLC FOR AN EXTENSION OF PREMISES OF ALCOHOL SERVICE AREA TO THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2018 AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mayor Matherly called for a brief recess.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly stated it was the warmest December on record and that he had a wonderful holiday season with his family. He tipped his hat to Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson for tackling snow removal for and for taking citizens' concerns so seriously. He reminded the Council of the importance of coming up with new revenues in 2018 and warned of the need to cut spending. He thanked everyone who came down to testify and share their voice with the Council and the public.

a) Special Reports

Brittney Smart, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Smart wished everyone a happy New Year and spoke to several public meetings coming up on the Borough calendar. She spoke to the telephonic survey that will be taking place over the next few weeks to help identify which services residents find essential and non-essential.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4819 – A Resolution Allocating Discretionary Funds From Hotel/Motel Tax in the Amount of Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$270,000). Introduced by Council Member Rogers.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Committee Reports

Polaris Group – **Mr. Pruhs** reported that the group is looking for the Downtown Association’s help with fundraising ideas for the demolition of the Polaris Building.

Opioid Task Force – **Ms. Rogers** stated there were about 30 people present at the last Opioid Task Force meeting, including Senator Dan Sullivan. She encouraged everyone to attend the meetings which are held on the last Wednesday of every month. She reported that the Task Force is strong enough that they are able to start discussing sub-committees, so they can take on more specific tasks.

Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee – **Ms. Rogers** thanked Mr. Turney for voicing his concern that the Clay Street Cemetery Commission was not awarded grant funds. She encouraged him to attend the wrap-up meeting. She stated she has also been attending the Polaris Group meetings and that she is excited about the wonderful things that are happening.

Mr. Cleworth asked whether some of the entities who were typically funded in the past were denied grant funds this year. **Ms. Rogers** reported the application process is very stringent, and some of the applications were incomplete. She stated it is difficult to turn down organizations that do so much for the community but that everyone has to be on the same playing field. She stated that some applications were missing required information.

Mr. Cleworth asked about the Legislative Priorities Group that meets, because he has not heard an update on it. **Mr. Pruhs** reported the group keeps an eye on legislation that could affect the City but that he, Ms. Therrien, and Ms. Rogers would bring any issues to the Council before taking action.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2016

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Board of Plumber Examiner Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- f) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- g) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- h) Reappointments to the Public Safety Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney reported that Marvin Roberts of the Fairbanks Four has filed a lawsuit against the City of Fairbanks. He stated it is important to understand why they were all released after 18 years in prison. He requested that Mayor Matherly open an investigation to see whether the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) followed the proper policies and procedures when investigating the Hartman murder. He stated there are some Council Members who do not believe the Four gave false confessions. Mr. Turney stated the Council should allow for onsite consumption at marijuana establishments. He reported that when he went to The Higher Calling, he could not smell cannabis inside even when people were smoking. He stated he would be attending the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) meeting the following night and that he wanted to get an answer on what “transgender” means.

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger stated he was happy that money was finally identified in the budget for snow removal. He spoke of the recent murder where a son decapitated his mother. He asked whether FPD would have been able to prevent the crime if they had 50, 100 or 500 additional officers. He commented that whoever had to clean up that crime scene should get some kind of hero award; he stated that he knows police officers do not have to clean up crime scenes. Mr. Buberger stated that many criminals are ending up dead because police officers shoot them in the face instead of the arm or leg. He stated the police just shot a man five times in the face, and that was not how things were when he was raised; he stated that police used to fire warning shots before opening fire. He stated that he does not see an increase in local crime, but he does see an increase in the use of lethal force by police officers. He asked the Council to call upon Chief Jewkes to speak to the reasons why FPD is using deadly force when dealing with suspects; he questioned whether the use of excessive force was brought about by the death of an FPD officer the year before.

Darlene Herbert, 906 Woodlawn Road, Fairbanks – Ms. Herbert stated she is happy to be back at the meetings, but it is under sad circumstances because the police have shot another boy. She stated that when a kid is 20 years old, they are not very grown up; she indicated that the boy may not have known what he was doing. She stated her heart breaks for the family who has had their young son ripped away from them. She stated that she has spoken with some people who have told her that boy was planning to kill himself, but the cops did the job for him. She stated the police department needs to better train their staff, so they are not killing 20 year old boys. Ms. Herbert stated all of the bars are the same, and it does not matter who frequents them. She stated

the City wants too much money to get vehicles out of impound and that there are daily storage fees. Ms. Herbert questioned the City's high impound fees while giving FPD employees a bonus. She stated the City is greedy, and it should give people a break on impound costs. She stated the City could make Fairbanks safer by providing 100 beds for people with addiction issues; she stated that people should be allowed to stay with no questions asked. Ms. Herbert stated it is hard for people to get off drugs because they do not have a safe place to go and they are hurting. She stated that medical beds are needed – not more cops – because the police will just kill more people. She clarified she does not have anything against the police.

Nick Clark, 249 Brighton Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. Clark stated he is disappointed in the decision of the City Council to non-fund the Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) contract. He stated that during the years without a contract the employees did not receive any pay increase. He reported that morale improved greatly after the Council agreed to fund the department's insurance at 80/20, and they thought they were making progress. Mr. Clark asked the City to go over the numbers again. He reported that when the Council was funding the FFU contract, employees quit looking for jobs elsewhere. He stated that they are now looking for work at other, more competitive departments again. Mr. Clark stated a member of the City Council previously stated that Tier 4 employees need to start taking their retirement into their own hands, but now there is less money for each employee to do so because of the non-funding.

Christian Hood, P.O. Box 83901, Fairbanks – Ms. Hood stated she is the owner of GOOD, LLC; she reported that her business has been open for two months and is actively investing money back into the community. She reported there are now 27 employees working for GOOD, LLC. She stated the most recent First Friday event was held at her business, and a percentage of the proceeds went to Paws for Purple Hearts. She stated her business has donated both time and money to non-profits, and she thanked the Council for allowing her the opportunity to better serve the community.

Michael Farrell, P.O. Box 83327, Fairbanks – Mr. Ferrell thanked the City Council for allowing the group of boy scouts to read the Bill of Rights at a previous meeting. He thanked Ms. Huntington for bringing up ideas to increase City revenue, and he shared his discouragement that no other Council member wanted to look into the ideas. He stated the executive salaries being paid in non-profit organizations should be looked at, because some are paid too much. He shared his concern about the increased violence in the City of Fairbanks. Mr. Farrell spoke to the importance of understanding the impacts that certain industries have on safety. He congratulated the cannabis industry for operating responsibly and for generating revenue for the community.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Pruhs stated he would like to see marijuana paper applications reduced because Council members also receive them electronically. He stated he would like to see a side-by-side comparison of the alternative health care package that was introduced to City unions. He asked Chief Jewkes to come forward, and he spoke to some of the comments that were directed toward the Chief during citizens' comments. **Mr. Pruhs** stated he believes Chief Jewkes to be a fine professional and stated that the City is lucky to have him as Chief of Police. He stated Chief Jewkes has advocated well for his department to get a 4% wage increase and two separate bonuses. He asked Chief Jewkes to try to get them to work with the Council on a future contract.

Mr. Cleworth asked Chief Jewkes if he would like an opportunity to respond to any of the public comments that were made. Chief Jewkes stated he had no comments. **Mr. Cleworth** stated the police are given rigorous training on firearms and the use lethal force. He spoke to some of the recent officer-involved shootings. He asked that marijuana application packets be reduced. He spoke to the high cost of healthcare and stated that comparable options are hard to find. **Mr. Cleworth** asked what is fair when it comes to City healthcare contributions, and he asked if every union member should receive an equal amount. He stated employees should be allowed to opt out of their health insurance if they have other coverage. He stated that Finance has a side-by-side comparison of the different healthcare options.

Mr. Bagwill wished everyone a happy New Year, and he wished Mayor Matherly a happy birthday. He thanked the citizens for allowing him to sit on the Council. He asked Ms. Rogers if the Opioid Task Force is a resource for families or only for organizations. **Ms. Rogers** stated she would like to see more friends and families attend, because the professionals bring good information to each meeting. **Mr. Bagwill** stated that serving as a chaplain to the FPD, having gone through the Citizen's Police Academy, and having several years' experience as a weapons courier in the military has taught him how much is on the line when it comes down to a split second decision. He stated the FPD is going to put on another Citizens Police Academy in the fall, and he encouraged people to sign up for it.

Ms. Huntington wished Mayor Matherly a happy birthday and stated that Mr. Bagwill and Mr. Pruhs also had birthdays recently. She thanked Mr. Bagwill for his optimistic spin on the New Year. She agreed with other Council members about reducing the size of marijuana application packets. She spoke in support of holding press conferences after officer-involved shootings, because it helps to have that openness with the public. **Ms. Huntington** thanked Nick Clark for coming to the Council meeting and discussing the impacts of the Council's decision. She stated she would like sign up for the Citizen's Police Academy and requested to be notified when it is scheduled. She spoke to Ms. Herbert's request to reduce DUI impound fees for first-time offenders and stated that teaching the severity of the offense the first time is important.

Ms. Rogers thanked Chief Jewkes for clarifying some things to the FDC at a prior meeting, and she asked him to speak to his camaraderie with the community. She spoke highly of the Chief.

Police Chief Jewkes reported that it was a very violent year in the City of Fairbanks. He stated it is a police officer's job to carry a gun and make life and death decisions. He spoke to the significance of the thin blue line; he stated that officers are not perfect, but they work hard to make the public proud.

Ms. Rogers asked Chief Jewkes to speak to the priorities of life he spoke about to the FDC.

Chief Jewkes stated it is difficult to make life-and-death decisions, and often there is no time to think through all the variables. He stated that police officers sometimes have to prioritize life. He stated that the priorities of life in law enforcement situations are: 1) hostages/involved civilians, 2) uninvolved civilians, 3) law enforcement officers, 4) criminal suspects, and 5) physical property. Chief Jewkes stated that officers are trained to deal with the trauma that comes with being a police officer, and they are trained to function through it.

Mr. Bagwill, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to ENTER an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing AFL-CIO, FFU, and IBEW Labor Negotiations.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) AFL-CIO Labor Negotiations
- b) FFU Labor Negotiations
- c) IBEW Labor Negotiations

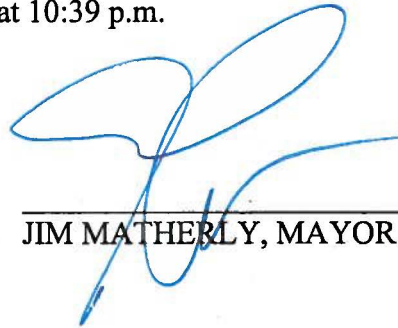
The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO, FFU, and IBEW Labor Negotiations. Direction was given to the negotiating team, and no action was taken.

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 10:39 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB