



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 19, 2017  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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The City Council convened at 7:00 p.m. on the above date 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  
Valerie Therrien, Seat C  
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E  
David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: Jerry Norum, Seat D

Also Present: Paul Ewers, City Attorney  
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff  
Eric Jewkes, Police Chief  
Jackson Fox, City Engineer  
Kurt Lockwood, Police Officer  
Michael Sanders, Housing & Homeless Coordinator  
Christina Rowlett, HR Admin

At Mayor Matherly's request, 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

Ms. Rogers led the Flag Salutation.

Mayor Matherly asked Officer Robert Hall to bring in retiring K-9 Officer "Stryker" and thanked him for his 8+ years of service. Officer Hall stated that Stryker has been a wonderful partner and that he is happy he will retire and live at home with his family. Officer Hall thanked his wife for all the love and support that she has given from home. He thanked Mt. McKinley Animal Hospital for their generous donations of both Stryker and the new K-9 Officer, "Diesel." Police Chief Eric Jewkes stated that police dogs make good officers that everyone loves them. He spoke highly of Officer Hall and thanked him for his dedication to being a K-9 trainer. Officer Hall explained that Stryker has to retire because he is trained to detect marijuana; now that the substance is legal, it is time to train a new K-9 for the job.

## CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Brittany Smart, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Smart reported that there is a Special Assembly meeting taking place at the Borough, so she will keep her testimony short in order to attend that meeting. She stated the meeting will address Ordinance No. 2017-44 regarding air quality control measures. She spoke about the “Clear the Air Program” and stated that she would give an update about the program in the future.

Scott McCrea, 2965 Westgate Place, Fairbanks – Mr. McCrea stated he is speaking on behalf of Explore Fairbanks; he spoke to international markets interested in Fairbanks. He stated he is excited to be part of an upcoming conference in Anchorage about career travel agents.

Arturo Maceo, 1547 Levee Way, Fairbanks – Mr. Maceo spoke to problems with overpopulation and its effects on the environment. He stated he could break a car window in five seconds using some billiard-type balls he carried with him and that he would like to demonstrate his technique to the Police and Fire Departments. He stated if he is given the opportunity, he would use his own car to demonstrate how quickly he can break a car window.

Kurt Lockwood, 911 Cushman Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Lockwood spoke to the commitment and dedication of Officer Hall and his K-9 partners, Stryker and Diesel. He thanked Mayor Matherly for his support of the Police Department since taking office. He stated he is the head of the K-9 program at the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). Mr. Lockwood stated his mentor and partner was killed May 1, 2014 in Tanana, Alaska, and he thanked the Mayor for having faith in him. He stated a former Mayor turned down free K-9 training in 2012, and he spoke to how valuable K-9 units are. Officer Lockwood stated a group of FPD employees traveled to Washington D.C. to place a memorial to Sergeant Allen Brandt on the Memorial Wall for Fallen Officers. He presented Mayor Matherly with two challenge coins: one an identical replica of the coin President Donald Trump presented to the Brandt family, and another one honoring National Police Week. **Mayor Matherly** thanked Officer Lockwood for his service to the community.

Floyd Terry, P.O. Box 73514, Fairbanks – Mr. Terry stated he was not planning on attending the Council meeting but that he would like to talk about Fairbanks getting a roller rink. He stated roller skating is something fun families can do together. He stated he was driving down Phillips Field Road and there was a teenager skateboarding down the middle of the roadway. He stated that if there was a roller rink, kids would have a safer place to be.

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger stated he drove through South Fairbanks and was pleased to see the street he complained had been taken care of. He stated he drove by the Clay Street Cemetery and that it is looking better than he has seen it in some time. He accused the City of hiding the bid results of the Clay Street Cemetery lawn maintenance contract. He stated there should not be closed door Executive Sessions.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated that police officers who shoot someone in the line of duty need to be given time with a psychologist. He stated the officers are working a lot of hours, and he is concerned for their safety. He reported that he testified at the last Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) meeting about jury consultants “cherry-picking” the jury pool. He stated he would like to hear Police Chief Jewkes’ take on jury consultants.

Eric Jewkes, 911 Cushman Street, Fairbanks – Chief Jewkes asked the Council to support Ordinance No. 6050, establishing a recruitment bonus for FPD. He stated that officers need help and that they are taking risks by working so many hours.

Bob Myers, 2084 Lakeview Terrace, Fairbanks – Mr. Myers stated he received a public notice from the City about a marijuana facility near his home but that he does not see it on the agenda. Mr. Myers stated he lives about 200 yards from the location, and he spoke in opposition to it.

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**Mr. Cleworth** pulled Ordinance No.6052 and Ordinance No. 6053 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.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2017

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### **SPECIAL ORDERS**

a) The Fairbanks City Council, Sitting as a Committee of the Whole, heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Application for Transfer of Ownership:

Type: Beverage Dispensary, License #2847  
To: No DBA / Nash Holland, LLC  
No Premises  
From: Bojangles / Scruff-N-Pork's, Inc.  
1351 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Application for Transfer.

Kara Nash, 673 Fordham Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Nash stated she is the owner of Event Alaska and one of three owners of Nash-Holland, LLC. She gave a background of her professional

career and some of the things she does in the community. She stated she hopes to continue raising money for local non-profits.

**Ms. Huntington** asked Ms. Nash how she plans to use the liquor license. Ms. Nash stated that the location will somewhat dictate the use, but that the license would be used for special events. **Ms. Huntington** stated that the Council has had some concerns about the previous owner of the license and asked if she was connected to the previous owner. Ms. Nash stated she has no connection to the previous owner.

**Ms. Therrien** asked Ms. Nash if she had any potential locations for the Event Center. Ms. Nash stated they are in the early stages of looking and that they do not want to sign a lease without first obtaining the liquor license.

**Ms. Rogers** stated she has worked on many projects with Ms. Nash and that she has the utmost faith in her abilities. She asked Ms. Nash if she was aware of the Council's concern with the previous owner of the license. Ms. Nash stated she has listened to many City Council meetings; she stated that since parking will be an issue, they are not looking for a downtown location.

Ryan Holland, 673 Fordham Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. Holland gave some history of his work as a volunteer and his accomplishments in the community. He stated he is a City employee but that he is present to testify on a personal matter, not as a City employee.

Adam Nash, P.O. Box 71825, Fairbanks – Mr. Nash stated he is also one of the three owners of Nash-Holland, LLC and that they found the liquor license for sale on Craigslist. He stated they have no business dealings in any way with Mr. Curtis Hatcher. Mr. Nash stated that if anyone has suggestions for a potential location he would be happy to hear them.

**Ms. Huntington** spoke in support of granting the license without a location, so the LLC could continue to move forward with their business model. She stated that the Council will have the opportunity to review the license again in the future. Mr. Nash stated it is his understanding that when they find a location, they will be back before the Council for a transfer.

**Mr. Pruhs** thanked Mr. Nash for coming to testify and for acknowledging the concerns of the Council relating to the liquor license. He asked Mr. Nash to tell him why he should not protest the liquor license. Mr. Nash stated that there are a limited number of liquor licenses, and if this one goes away it would be one less revenue source for the City of Fairbanks. **Mr. Pruhs** asked whether the new entity would have any association with the former owner if the Council were to waive protest on the license. Mr. Nash stated they have not and will not have any association with Mr. Hatcher. He stated they plan to run a reputable business, one that would make his parents proud. He stated he understands the Council's concerns but that they are worthy of purchasing the liquor license.

Judah-Pegs Christian, 1461 Gillam Way, Fairbanks – Mr. Christian stated he is challenged by the question of the liquor license transfer. He stated he moved here from Colorado where marijuana is legal, and he spoke to the challenges it has put on the police department there. He discussed the problems that arise when alcohol and drugs are involved in police call-outs. He stated there are almost as many drinking establishments as there churches in Fairbanks.

Janey Holland, 2010 East President Street, Georgia – Ms. Holland stated she is visiting her son Ryan Holland from Savannah, Georgia. She spoke to her son's character and integrity. She stated he son was not raised in a bar and that they do not intend to open a bar; rather, they intend to open a venue. Ms. Holland stated she is opposed to drinking, but alcohol is everywhere and Nash-Holland, LLC is trying to capitalize on the opportunity. She stated she is happy that three young people with principal and integrity are stepping up to try to better themselves and the City.

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

**Ms. Huntington** thanked Mr. Pruhs for his line of questioning. She stated she feels strongly that the previous owner should not monetarily gain anything off the sale of the liquor license. She thanked each of the owners for coming to the meeting to testify on the type of business they intend to operate. **Ms. Huntington** stated she did not think initially that she would be comfortable with the transfer the license, but after hearing from the owners, she could support it.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated if the Council does not waive protest on the transfer of the license, it will remain with Mr. Hatcher. He stated that the State overrode the City's recommendation for protest previously and that he believes these owners have a good business model. He stated he will support the transfer but that he does not want Mr. Hatcher to gain recompense.

**Ms. Therrien** stated she believes Nash-Holland, LLC will be a good owner of the liquor license.

**Ms. Rogers** spoke highly to the character of the applicants and stated it is obvious that they all love Fairbanks. She stated she did not think there could be a better representation of who the liquor license should be transferred to.

**Mayor Matherly** stated that private events are not like bars and that he also does not like drinking. He stated that transferring the license to Nash-Holland, LLC makes sense.

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

YEAS:           Huntington, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth, Rogers

NAYS:           None

ABSENT:       Norum

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

**Mayor Matherly** commended FPD for the great work they do enforcing the law. He stated that there would be more information in the next few days relating to the events that occurred earlier in the day. He stated the FPD needs new employees and asked everyone to think outside the box as to how to do that. **Mayor Matherly** stated that public safety is the most important thing on citizens' minds and hearts. He gave condolences to the Schaible family who recently lost a 91-year-old family member. He stated he would look into the bids that were submitted for the Clay

Street Cemetery Maintenance contract. **Mayor Matherly** stated the Cemetery looks beautiful, and he thanked the Public Works Department for the great job they are doing.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Ordinance No. 6050 – An Ordinance Establishing an Incentive Bonus Program Within the Fairbanks Police Department for Recruitment and Hiring. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6050.

Judah Christian, 1461 Gillam Way, Fairbanks – Mr. Christian asked if the revenue from alcohol and marijuana would offset the bonus program.

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

**Mayor Matherly** stated the cost of sending a new recruit to the required training costs the City about \$45,000; he stated that the bonus would save the City money. He stated it will take some time to fully staff FPD.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that when the Council speaks of FPD it can become emotional making it difficult to see things rationally. He stated he supports the lateral hire bonus program but that he has some concern with paying the whole bonus up front. He encouraged the Council to consider incrementally paying the bonus out over time. He compared it to paying a contractor up front to build a home. **Mr. Cleworth** proposed a hypothetical situation of someone accepting the bonus, then quitting the job without paying the funds back to the City.

Chief of Staff Mike Meeks defended the idea of paying the bonus up front and spoke to the great expense of moving to Fairbanks. He compared the costs of training a new recruit with that of training a lateral hire. He stated that some new recruits quit right after finishing the academy, and that is a huge loss to the City.

**Ms. Therrien** stated she did not think \$20,000 was enough but that it is the first step. She stated she believes if a police officer makes the commitment to move to Fairbanks, they have also made a commitment to stay.

**Ms. Huntington** stated the most compelling part of paying the entire \$20,000 up front is the cost of moving to Fairbanks, buying a home, and all the other costs associated with relocation. She spoke in favor of the full, up front bonus, but she acknowledged Mr. Cleworth's concern.

**Ms. Rogers** also acknowledged Mr. Cleworth's comments, but indicated that the bonus is a reinvestment in the City.

**Mr. Pruhs** spoke in favor of the full bonus program. He stated that he will expect City staff to keep the Council up to date if employees are abandoning their positions and taking the bonus.

Chief Financial Officer Carmen Randle stated the Finance Department has been successful in collecting funds from employees who have moved to Fairbanks but have quit before the agreed-upon period of employment.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated he thinks the Council is taking a risk with taxpayers' money.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6050 by changing the date in Section 3 to December 31, 2017.

**Ms. Therrien** stated it was discussed at the Finance meeting that cutting the program off after only six months does not make sense.

**Ms. Huntington** suggested that the sunset date be extended to July 1, 2018.

**Mr. Cleworth**, with the concurrence of the Second, amended the date to July 1, 2018.

**Mayor Matherly** stated he has spoken with some officers who are considering quitting their jobs; he stated that public safety is a must. He stated that approving the ordinance is important because the officers live with life-or-death decisions, and the City needs them. He stated if it was Fire or Public Works asking for such a bonus program he would think twice about it. He stated the department is too low-staffed, and the City needs an incentive to bring lateral hire officers to Fairbanks.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6050 BY CHANGING THE DATE IN SECTION 3 TO JULY 1, 2018 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Rogers, Huntington, Pruhs

NAYS: Therrien

ABSENT: Norum

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Ms. Huntington** thanked the Council for discussing the ordinance thoroughly.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6050, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Rogers, Huntington, Therrien

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Norum

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and ORDINANCE NO. 6050, as Amended, ADOPTED.

**Mayor Matherly** called for a brief minute recess.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 4797 – A Resolution to Award a Contract to Perform Thirteen Water Service Connections in Response to the Fire Training Center Groundwater Contamination. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Ordinance No. 6051 – An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Amendment for Additional Space in City Hall to the Boys & Girls Club of Alaska, Inc. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Ordinance No. 6052 – An Ordinance Amending FGC Chapter 66, Solid Waste. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6052.

**Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the issues he has with some language in the ordinance relating to dumpsters at commercial properties. He stated there is already a section of Code that addresses the issue. He spoke to another section of the ordinance that appears to have a typo, and he asked for City staff to review it.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6052 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth, Huntington  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Norum

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- d) Ordinance No. 6053 – An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing Retention of the Property Located at 804 Cowles Street for Public Purpose Upon Tax Foreclosure. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6053.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked **Mr. Meeks** to speak to the ordinance. **Mr. Meeks** stated the owner is looking into a Quit Claim Deed in order for the Polaris Building to become City property. He stated he is working with Development Manager Pat Smith, and they have a contract in the works. He stated he needs a little bit more time to work out details for the plan of action.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6053 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Huntington, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth, Rogers



NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Norum  
**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a) Committee Reports

Polaris Work Group – **Mr. Pruhs** stated that the group met recently, and he is happy to say the wheels are starting to roll. He stated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) toured the Polaris Building to verify whether it would qualify for a Brownfield Assessment. He stated he would have more news in the coming weeks.

Fairbanks Diversity Council – **Mayor Matherly** reported a few FDC members have resigned because they have too much going on; he stated he is working with HR Director Angela Foster-Snow to fill the vacancies. He stated the last meeting very good; he reported that Jeff Walters has been appointed as the Vice Chair of the FDC.

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL**

a) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

b) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

c) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

d) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

e) Reappointment to the Fairbanks Diversity Council

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Ms. Huntington** requested to be excused from the City Council Meeting of July 24, 2017.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection to Ms. Huntington's request to be excused on July 24, 2017 and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Ms. Huntington** stated she is not feeling the best but that she appreciated being at an uplifting meeting. She thanked Mr. Pruhs for his hard work and determination in working on the Polaris Building issue.

**Ms. Rogers** stated she missed the Polaris Group meeting because she was in Anchorage. She reported that while she was in Anchorage, she met with Senator John Coghill at the airport and spoke with him about the FDC. **Ms. Rogers** stated Senator Coghill would attend the August FDC meeting to speak about jury selection. She reported that as of two days ago she became a great grandmother, and it brings her great joy.

**Ms. Therrien** stated she had the opportunity to attend the Juneteenth Celebration, and it was a wonderful event. She stated the Midnight Sun Festival was well-attended and that it was fun to see so many people downtown. She asked to be kept in the loop when police shootings occur.

**Mr. Pruhs** spoke to the need to have a speed indicator sign on Lathrop Street, because he hears lots of complaints that it has become a speed avenue. He stated he sent Ms. Foster-Snow an email asking why FPD is unwilling to hire military police (MPs) from Fort Wainwright. He stated he received a complaint from Senator Murkowski's Office which stated the Commander at Fort Wainwright is concerned that retiring MPs are not being hired by FPD. **Mr. Pruhs** requested that Ms. Foster-Snow determine how many former MP's have applied at FPD within the past six years, and how many were turned down. He indicated that so many MPs have been turned down that they no longer apply locally; he stated that they send their applications to Anchorage instead. He stated there is a lack of staff at FPD and if MPs are already trained, they should not be turned away. He questioned whether HR is involved in hiring at FPD.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated he read the FDC minutes was concerned that a member commented that the FDC would like to review City budget items. He asked Ms. Rogers to please let members know that the City budget is to be determined by the Council and the Mayor. He thanked Public Works for getting the fountain working in the Golden Heart Plaza. **Mr. Cleworth** thanked the Mayor for looking into the reasons why the Clay Street Cemetery lawn maintenance bids have not been released to the public. He asked why there is a no left turn sign at the corner of Gaffney and Cushman Street. He spoke to the K-9 Unit at FPD and stated that, when he was Mayor, former Police Chief Zager wanted to do away with the K-9 Unit.

**Mr. Pruhs** shared that on Wednesday, June 21, Governor Walker will sign House Bill 23, a bill that provides health insurance to surviving family members of Alaska first responders killed in the line of duty.

**Mayor Matherly** reported that his son was the 9th runner who ran by his house during the Midnight Sun Run.

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

City Clerk Danyielle Snider reported that there will be a Candidate Open House at the Fairbanks North Star Borough on July 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Snider stated the event is intended to educate the public on running for local office.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

City Attorney Paul Ewers reported that he will be out of the office for the rest of the week but that he will be available via phone, email and text.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing IBEW Labor Negotiations.

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

**Ms. Rogers** excused herself from the Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a) IBEW Labor Negotiations

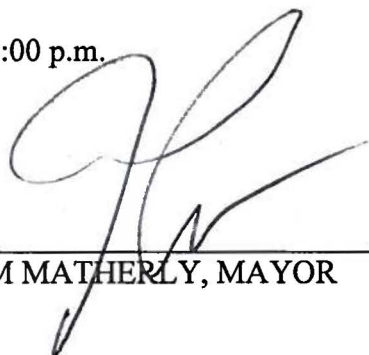
The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss IBEW Labor Negotiations. Direction was given to staff and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Huntington**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

**Mayor Matherly** declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.



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JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB