



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 12, 2016  
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 (Telephonic)  
Valerie Therrien, Seat C  
Jerry Norum, Seat D  
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E  
David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Clem Clooten, Building Official  
Paul Ewers, City Attorney  
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director  
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff  
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
Carmen Randle, Chief Financial Officer  
Eric Jewkes, Police Chief  
Jim Styers, Fire Chief  
Greg Foster, Police Officer  
Doug Welborn, Police Officer  
Bonnie Nolan, Lead Dispatcher  
Yumi McCullough, Administrative Assistant  
Martha Jewkes, Front Desk Clerk

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

**FLAG SALUTATION**

Mayor Matherly led the Flag Salutation.

**READING OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS**

Ms. Megan Schreder's fifth grade class from Arctic Light Elementary School read aloud the Bill of Rights.

After the reading of the Bill of Rights, Mayor Matherly called for a brief recess to have some cake provided by Frank Turney.

## CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Brittany Smart, 809 Pioneer Way, Fairbanks – Ms. Smart reported that the Recycling Center project is moving forward and that the Assembly is continuing negotiations with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) on a lease. She stated that the Assembly passed Resolution No. 2016-60 to support the City of Fairbanks in assessing the contamination levels in the Polaris Building. Ms. Smart relayed Mayor Kassel's wish to recognize Building Official Clem Clooten for his expertise and participation in the Mayor's Code Enforcement Group. Ms. Smart wished everyone a happy holiday.

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192 – Mr. Buberger thanked the students for reading the Bill of Rights, and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He wished new Police Chief Eric Jewkes the best of luck. He asked the Council to make public restrooms their New Year's resolution.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney thanked the students for coming to the meeting to read the Bill of Rights. He stated it is the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights and spoke to its history. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that the Bill of Rights should be posted in the Council Chambers. Mr. Turney agreed.

Meagan Scheer, 1845 Caribou Way, Fairbanks – Ms. Scheer stated she is the Vice Chair of the Housing and Homeless Coalition; she spoke to the economic challenges of living in Fairbanks. She stated that she has worked with the coalition over the past five years and shared the importance of having a full-time employee to continue to move forward with their goals. She stated that the coalition would also like to establish sobering centers in Fairbanks.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked Ms. Scheer if the coalition is a non-profit organization or just a gathering of various groups. Ms. Scheer stated that it is a gathering of people and that they are not a 501(c)(3); she stated that the North Star Community Foundation is the group's fiscal agent.

Christopher McClain, 726 27th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. McClain stated that he is the Reentry Coalition Coordinator at the Fairbanks Rescue Mission and that he is in attendance to speak to the need for a housing and homeless coordinator. He stated that the family community at the rescue mission is a beautiful thing, and he shared that he eats lunch with the group every day. Mr. McClain spoke to the efforts of community members and organizations to help with the homeless and housing problem in Fairbanks. He stated he is where he is supposed to be even though he deals with difficult issues every day. He thanked the Council for their service and asked them to support the housing and homeless coordinator position.

Kelvin Lee, 253 Romans Way, Fairbanks – Mr. Lee stated he is the Chair of the Homeless Coalition and the President of No Limits, Inc., a reentry program in Fairbanks. He spoke to the importance of all organizations working together with a common goal and the importance of the housing and homeless coordinator position.

Marylee Bates, 1290 Saint Anton Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Bates stated that she is the Director of Fairbanks Youth Advocates and that her organization operates The Door. She stated that she is

also a member of the Homeless Coalition. She urged the City Council to approve Resolution No. 4774 and spoke to the importance of a housing and homeless coordinator position at the City.

Pete Pinney, 814 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Pinney stated that he is the Chair of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Health and Social Services Commission and the Volunteer Director for the North Star Community Foundation. He stated that over the years he has housed three different homeless teens who have transitioned into independent, self-sufficient individuals. He spoke in support of the housing and homeless coordinator position at the City.

Karen Taber, 3410 Rosie Creek Road, Fairbanks – Ms. Taber stated she represents the Fairbanks Wellness Coalition and that she fully supports the housing and homeless coordinator position. She stated that she understands the importance of having a full-time coordinator in place because she is a coordinator. She stated it is very cold outside and that it is time to end homelessness. She stated she fully supports the position and encouraged the Council to pass the resolution.

Kara Carlson, 782 7th Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Carlson stated she is the interim coordinator for the Housing and Homeless Coalition, and she spoke to the importance of having a full-time coordinator position because it would facilitate the needs of the community. She shared that she volunteers for the coalition because it is no longer grant-funded through the Center for Non-Violent Living. Ms. Carlson stated she was supposed to phase out of the position in October of 2016, but that she could not drop it because it is too important for the community. She stated a Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) position is being filled in March of 2017 that will fall under the City of Fairbanks' new position. She spoke to what a huge asset it will be to the community.

**Mr. Norum** thanked Ms. Carlson for the work she has done in helping the community. He asked how many lives are lost each winter due to homelessness. Ms. Carlson stated that there are 398 people who have applied for housing in Fairbanks and have not yet been housed. She stated another member of the coalition may have a better answer as to how many deaths have been attributed to homelessness. **Mr. Norum** shared his shock that the statistic of deaths due to homelessness is not known.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that he would like to ensure that the position is for a fixed, three-year term. Ms. Carlson stated that there has been discussion as to whether the position will be a City employee or a contracted position.

**Mr. Norum** stated that together the City and Borough can make the housing and homeless coordinator position work. Ms. Carlson reported that she has spoken with the Borough, and they are willing to help at some level. She stated she would not push so hard for the position if it would not be sustainable.

Brittany Smart, 809 Pioneer Way, Fairbanks – Ms. Smart stated that as a Second Class Borough, funding a position like this would have to be authorized by the voters. She stated that the VISTA position at the Borough would be able to help the housing and homeless coordinator.

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

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

**Mayor Matherly** pulled Resolution No. 4774 from the Consent Agenda.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADD Hand-Carried Resolution No. 4776 to the Agenda.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADD HAND-CARRIED RESOLUTION NO. 4776 TO THE AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection to APPROVING the Agenda, as Amended, 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 September 12, 2016.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

## MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

**Mayor Matherly** thanked the public for showing up to testify and commended City employees for their hard work. He spoke to how wonderful City employees are and to how humbled and honored he is to be City Mayor. **Mayor Matherly** spoke to changes he is going to propose to City Council meetings. He spoke to the City Christmas party that would take place in Council Chambers on December 22, 2016 in the afternoon. He stated he supports the housing and homeless coordinator position, and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Ordinance No. 6034 – An Ordinance Establishing a Claims, Judgments and Mitigation Insurance Special Revenue Fund. Introduced by Council Member Cleworth. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6034.

**Mayor Matherly** called for Public Testimony.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney asked Mr. Cleworth what the word “judgments” means in the ordinance.

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

**Mr. Cleworth** explained that claims and judgments come from the General Fund until they are reimbursed by a recovery of funds the following year in the tax cap. He explained that the ordinance would create a special fund for claims and judgments.

**Mr. Norum** spoke in support of Ordinance No. 6034.

**Ms. Rogers** thanked Mr. Cleworth for his simple explanation of the ordinance and spoke in support of the ordinance.

**Mr. Norum** asked City Attorney Paul Ewers if there was any legal situation that could arise relating to the tax cap. Mr. Ewers replied that he did not see any potential issues.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6034 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6034 ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6037 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2017 Operating and Capital Budgets. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Norum**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6037.

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Ms. Huntington** moved to SUBSTITUTE Ordinance No. 6037, as Amended, for Ordinance No. 6037.

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

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

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6037, as Amended, by reducing the budget for lobbyist services (account #5501) by \$10,000.00.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6037, AS AMENDED, BY REDUCING THE BUDGET FOR LOBBYIST SERVICES (ACCOUNT #5501) BY \$10,000.00 AS FOLLOWS:

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

**Ms. Therrien** requested a Staff Report on the salary of Fire Chief Jim Styers. **Mayor Matherly** asked Chief of Staff Mike Meeks and Chief Financial Officer Carmen Randle to come forward to speak to the issue.

Mr. Meeks stated that Chief Styers' wage should be bumped up to \$119,000.00 because of his 23 years of experience. Ms. Randle stated the actual wage would be \$118,914.00. Mr. Meeks suggested that the Deputy Chief hiring could be moved back to July 1, 2017.

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6037, as Amended, by increasing the Fire Chief's wage to \$118,914.00 and by moving the date to fill the Assistant Chief position to July 1, 2017.

**Ms. Huntington** asked Chief Styers to address the importance of the Assistant Fire Chief position. Chief Styers stated that it will be difficult for his department to go until July 1 without an Assistant Fire Chief because it will increase everyone's duties until then. He stated that he does not want the position to be eliminated.

**Ms. Therrien** requested an update on the financial aspect of Chief Styers' increase and the delay in filling the Assistant Chief position. Ms. Randle stated that pushing the hiring back three months saves the City money and allows for the Chief's pay increase.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6037, AS AMENDED, BY INCREASING THE FIRE CHIEF'S WAGE TO \$118,914.00 AND BY MOVING THE DATE TO FILL THE ASSISTANT CHIEF POSITION TO JULY 1, 2017 AS FOLLOWS:

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

**Mr. Cleworth** stated he is uncomfortable with the small bottom line of the 2017 budget. He stated that the Council continues to add positions to fund. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he will vote for the ordinance but commented that the Council needs to keep an eye on expenditures.

**Mr. Norum** asked how many vacancies there are between the Fire and Police Departments. Staff reported that there are 11 vacancies at FPD and 3 at the Fire Department.

**Ms. Therrien** stated Mr. Cleworth's concerns are valid but that something has to be done to keep police officers from leaving the City.

**Mr. Norum** stated that vacancies result in inflated overtime costs.

**Mayor Matherly** stated that Chief Jewkes has indicated that it is FPD's goal to bring the department to full staff in 2017.

**Ms. Huntington** commended everyone for their hard work getting the 2017 budget prepared; she stated that the Council needs to give some attention to a future decline in revenues.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that the City will make it through the year because of everyone's hard work on the 2017 budget.

**Ms. Rogers** thanked everyone for all the attention that was given to the 2017 budget.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked how to ensure that Sergeant Allen Brandt's family is included in the \$2,000.00 Christmas bonus. Ms. Randle stated that there is enough in the budget to fund a bonus for the Brandt family; she stated that the Council will have to decide whether to grant the bonus.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6037, as Amended, by increasing the Police Department wage account #5001 by \$2,000.00 so a bonus can be paid to the family of Sergeant Allen Brandt.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6037, AS AMENDED, BY INCREASING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WAGE ACCOUNT #5001 BY \$2,000.00 SO A BONUS CAN BE PAID TO THE FAMILY OF SERGEANT ALLEN BRANDT AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Randle stated she updated numbers, and the 2017 budget surplus is now \$383,577.00.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6037, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6037, as Amended, ADOPTED.

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

**Mayor Matherly** commended Eric Jewkes for his years of service to the City of Fairbanks; he thanked him for stepping up and applying for the position of Chief of Police.

City Clerk Snider swore in Eric Jewkes as the City's Chief of Police.

Chief Jewkes thanked the Mayor and the Council for their support in selecting him to become the Chief of Police. He thanked his family and his FPD family for their support over the years.

Chief Jewkes spoke to the hard job that police officers do and stated that he would be there to support them.

**Mayor Matherly** called for a five minute recess before proceeding with New Business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

a) Resolution No. 4774 – A Resolution to Accept Funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for a Homeless and Housing Services Coordinator. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

**Mr. Norum**, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4774.

**Mayor Matherly** stated he supports the resolution but that there is some clean up that needs to be done before proceeding. He proposed adding the language, “contingent upon receipt of the grant award notice and a signed memorandum of understanding” after the word “grant” in the “be it resolved” section of the resolution.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 4774 by adding the language, “contingent upon receipt of the grant award notice and a signed memorandum of understanding” after the word “grant” in the “be it resolved” section.

**Mayor Matherly** stated that the community needs a homeless and housing services coordinator; he stated that with the help of the grant funds, the City can help save lives.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated he would like to see the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) because he has concerns about whether it will be a contractual or a union position. He stated if it is a union position it could create problems for the City; he stated he would prefer it to be a contracted position. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he did not want the position to go the way of the Community Service Patrol (CSP) with the City being left responsible for sole funding of the position.

**Mayor Matherly** expressed agreement with Mr. Cleworth; he stated that he has been working with City Staff to address the issue.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that when the discussion of the position came up under former Mayor Eberhart, the intent was for the position to be a contracted with no benefits.

**Mr. Norum** spoke in support of the resolution.

**Ms. Therrien** stated she would like to pass the resolution because it is such a serious issue.

**Ms. Huntington** thanked Mr. Meeks for coming by her office to speak to her about the resolution earlier that day because she had some questions. She thanked everyone who is working to end homelessness in the City of Fairbanks.

Mr. Meeks stated he would email the MOA out to Council Members the following morning; he requested they only respond to him to avoid a violation of the Open Meetings Act (OMA).



**Ms. Rogers** stated she would be comfortable voting in favor of the resolution because there is a great need for the position.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4774 BY ADDING THE LANGUAGE, "CONTINGENT UPON RECEIPT OF THE GRANT AWARD NOTICE AND A SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING" AFTER THE WORD "GRANT" IN THE "BE IT RESOLVED" SECTION AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Ms. Therrien** stated she would be out of country for three weeks and requested she not be a reason for the Council not to move forward with the MOA.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4774, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4774, as Amended, APPROVED.

- b) Resolution No. 4775 – A Resolution in Support of the Bill of Rights and Civil Liberties. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) HAND-CARRIED Resolution No. 4776 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to NC Machinery to Provide a Front-Line Grader in the Amount of \$359,589. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

**Mr. Norum**, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4776.

**Mayor Matherly** stated that the funds were already budgeted and that NC Machinery gave the City a good price on the grader.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 4776 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4776 APPROVED.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a) Committee Reports

Polaris Building Work Group – **Mr. Pruhs** stated that the group will meet twice per month for the next three months. He stated that the group is on task and moving forward.

## COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

### a) Hotel-Motel Discretionary Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2016

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Ms. Rogers** stated she is in New York about to head to the airport to return home. She stated there will be a Diversity Council meeting on Tuesday, December 13 and a Hotel-Motel Discretionary Fund Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 14.

**Ms. Huntington** stated that she is impressed with how many citizens came out to speak in favor of the housing and homeless coordinator position. She stated she is a “glass half full” kind of person and that she looks forward to working on coming up with a solution to homelessness. **Ms. Huntington** stated she is excited for Chief Jewkes to get started as Police Chief. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Ms. Therrien** wished everyone Happy Holidays, and she congratulated Chief Jewkes on his promotion. She encouraged him to fill the vacant positions at FPD.

**Mr. Pruhs** wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He stated that he enjoys working with everyone on the Council because they all have the best of intentions for the City of Fairbanks.

**Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the passing of Andy O’Grady, a former Public Works Director at the City of Fairbanks. He wished the best to Chief Jewkes and his family and mentioned he is taking the reins at a difficult time. He spoke against changing public testimony to three minutes because it is not enough time for citizens to voice their concerns. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he would be getting the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) packet from FMATS to distribute to Council Members so they can answer questions from residents. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Mr. Norum** stated he is happy to see some positive editorials in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

City Attorney Ewers advised that there is no need for an AFL-CIO Labor Negotiations Executive Session because there is nothing new to report.

**Mr. Norum**, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing *Gavora, Inc. v. City of Fairbanks Mediation*.

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a) *Gavora, Inc. v. City of Fairbanks Mediation*

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss *Gavora, Inc. v. City of Fairbanks Mediation*. Direction was given to counsel, and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**Mayor Matherly** declared the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.



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JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB