



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 24, 2014
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 7:00 p.m. on the above date, following a 6:15 p.m. Work Session with Housing First, to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor John Eberhart presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Renee Staley, Seat A
 Perry Walley, Seat B
 Bernard Gatewood, Seat C
 Jim Matherly, Seat D
 Jerry Cleworth, Seat E
 David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Warren Cummings, Fire Chief
 Margarita Bell, Grants Administrator
 Paul Ewers, City Attorney
 Janey Hovenden, City Clerk
 Jim Williams, Chief of Staff
 Stephanie Johnson, Dispatch Center Manager
 Ben Barrio, IT Director
 Michael J. Schmetzer, City Engineer
 Barbara Sunday, Director HR/Risk Management/Purchasing
 Brad Johnson, Deputy Police Chief

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Janey Hovenden.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Eberhart led the Flag Salutation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by Mr. Matherly, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

Mr. Cleworth pulled Resolution No. 4650 and Resolution No. 4651 from the Consent Agenda.

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

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

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Richard Lane, 3010 Picket Drive, Apt. A, Fairbanks – Mr. Lane stated that it is a time to give thanks. He wished Chief of Police Aragon the best in his new position and commented that everyone should support City officials and leaders because it is a team effort. Mr. Lane stated that he has personal goals for his role within the Fairbanks community and wants to help serve and protect.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney spoke to the press conference on the unsolved death of Johnny Wallis. He told of how he asked the Fire Chief if Mr. Wallis' clothing could be contaminated if the items are not stored properly and stated that the Chief's response was that it is a yes and no question. Mr. Turney stated that another unanswered question asked at the press conference was in reference to the type of material found on Mr. Wallis' clothing. He expressed his belief that the Fire and Police Departments do not have their act together. He indicated that he would like to see the Police Department memo that was sent along with the clothing to the lab in Anchorage where the testing was allegedly denied due to the use of a fire extinguisher. Mr. Turney welcomed new Chief of Police Randall Aragon. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Victor Buberger, PO Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger spoke against the recently-proposed Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) labor contract and stated that he would like to see the Police Department go back to a five-day, eight-hour week. He suggested giving the police a minimal wage increase and spoke out against the family relationships within the Police Department. Mr. Buberger commented that he does not like to see police vehicles not being used and suggested that the Council increase the Mayor's wage. He thanked Chief Aragon for attending the meeting and expressed hope that he will be able to diversify the police force and get it back into good shape. He expressed his disgust that he has never seen a Native Alaskan on the Fairbanks police force. Mr. Buberger wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Doug Schrage, 2575 Allen Adale Road, Fairbanks – Chief Schrage stated that he is the Fire Chief at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF). He asked for the Council's support of Resolution No. 4650, stating that it would enable the City of Fairbanks to enter into a contract with UAF for dispatching services. He stated that he has been working with the Dispatch Manager Stephanie Johnson and others for over a year to get the agreement into place because he believes it will better serve the UAF Fire Department and will also better serve joint constituents. Chief Schrage stated that roughly 75% of the calls UAF responds to are initially received at the Fairbanks Communications Center (FCC) then are transferred to the UAF Dispatch Center, which takes extra time for dispatching. He stated that as a result, many times the City responds more quickly to the emergencies in UAF's area than his own department can. Chief Schrage explained that since the contract has been under discussion, the UAF Fire Department has been faced with the possibility of closing its Dispatch Center completely and contracting with FCC for Fire, EMS and Police dispatching services. He stated that UAF has since decided to keep the dispatch function on campus with a reduced scope of just Fire and EMS units but that the contract is temporary and will only carry UAF through the end of the fiscal year. Chief Schrage offered to answer any questions the Council may have.

Mr. Cleworth asked Chief Schrage how many employees work in the UAF Dispatch Center.

Chief Schrage stated that there is typically one dispatcher on duty at all times. He explained that presently, there is at least one dispatcher being trained during the daytime hours. He stated that he believes there are about six total dispatch employees.

Mr. Cleworth asked how the UAF Dispatch Center is funded.

Chief Schrage replied that Dispatch is an indirect service provided by the University and explained that it is currently funded through the UAF Police Department. He stated that the UAF Fire Department does not pay anything for dispatch services presently.

Mr. Cleworth asked Chief Schrage if dispatch staffing may be reduced with the continuation of UAF police services.

Chief Schrage stated that there are no plans to reduce UAF Dispatch staffing. He explained that in order to maintain services, the UAF Dispatch Center has taken on additional duties such as the management of the shuttle service and parking enforcement.

Mr. Cleworth asked if payment would be coming from the service area upon approval of the contract.

Chief Schrage replied that the payment would be apportioned between the service area and the University by an approximate 55/45 ratio, respectively.

Mr. Cleworth asked if the Dispatch Center is in jeopardy given the financial situation at UAF.

Chief Schrage stated that he has no reason to believe that the Dispatch Center is in jeopardy because the Police Department would be unable to function without it.

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2014.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Eberhart introduced Chief of Police Randall Aragon by reading aloud a brief biography and welcomed him to the City of Fairbanks.

City Clerk Hovenden conducted the swearing in of Chief Aragon.

Chief Aragon thanked Mayor Eberhart for the welcome. He stated that while he has spent most of his life in the South he was inspired to pursue a career in law enforcement because he was born in Hell's Kitchen, New York City and saw how badly crime impacted his community and those he loved. He spoke briefly to his experience in the armed services and stated that he is honored to be a part of the Fairbanks community. Chief Aragon stated that he has been treated with great dignity and respect from the community and commented that Fairbanks is truly the "Golden Heart City."

Mayor Eberhart shared that the City's Fire Department has achieved a Class 1 Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating, making them the first department to do so in Alaska. He stated that out of 47,000 Fire Departments in the U.S., only 60 have a Class 1 rating and asked everyone to join him in congratulating the Fire Department on their great achievement. **Mayor Eberhart** shared that Council Member Pruhs recently attended the Newly-elected Officials (NEO) training at the Alaska Municipal League (AML) Annual Conference in Anchorage. He stated that he and Chief of Staff Jim Williams also attended the conference. He referenced the resolutions passed by AML and listed the three with the most significance to the City of Fairbanks: 1) a resolution in support of keeping the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) employers contributions at 22%; 2) a resolution supporting efforts to protect municipal revenue sharing; and 3) a resolution requesting that the legislature either fund the senior citizen/disabled veterans property tax exemption or give control to municipal governments. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that staff has been working on the City's 2015 legislative requests. He indicated that it may be a tough budget year for the state and stressed the importance of making the City's legislative requests reasonable and well-founded. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that his 2015 proposed City budget started with a \$1.4 million surplus which is now down to about a \$700,000 surplus after staff input and Finance Committee review. He stated that the Mayor's Office Travel and Dues accounts are up a significantly because he is trying to involve his office more with AML and the legislative process and for the good of the Fairbanks community. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that he has been asked by the Borough Mayor's Office to consider traveling to the states in February to support the F-35's coming to Eielson Air Force Base (EAFB). He listed the many activities, meetings and events he and his staff have been involved in recently. He spoke briefly to the Johnny Wallis case stating that the City is making efforts to answer questions and solve the case. He commented that he will be speaking to the new Police Chief about the possibility of implementing a crime-stoppers program. **Mayor Eberhart** wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 5960 – An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Section 14-71 Multi-Vendor Events. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Gatewood, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 5960.

Mayor Eberhart called for Public Testimony.

Jason Avery, 1932 Kittiwake Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. Avery stated that he is the manager of Pioneer Park. He explained that the Holiday Bazaar hosted by Pioneer Park is a community event with proceeds going towards entertainment such as bands, fireworks, the Santa train and

photos with Santa Claus. Mr. Avery stated that the City and the Borough have a long history of cooperation in the use of their facilities. He stated that any fees incurred to host the event will take away from the activities that are available at the Holiday Celebration. Mr. Avery stated that there are four or five bazaars held each year at Pioneer Park by various groups and commented most of the events are held for fundraising purposes such as to fund student scholarships. He expressed hope that the Council would support Ordinance No. 5960.

Mr. Matherly asked Mr. Avery if he is as happy with the improvements at Pioneer Park as he has been.

Mr. Avery stated that he is very proud of the work done at the park and the history contained in the park.

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

Mr. Cleworth spoke to the history of the City Code regarding multi-vendors and transient vendors. He stated that the intent of the Transient Vendor License was to prevent non-residents from selling poor-quality wares in Fairbanks then leaving the community. He explained that the license came about as a way to keep tabs on the vendors even after they were gone. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the Multi-Vendor Permit was created to cover similar situations on a larger scale with multiple vendors participating in an event. He questioned whether there was still a need for the Multi-Vendor Event Code since the Transient Vendor Code was repealed. He asked City Clerk Hovenden for input on the relevance of the Multi-Vendor Event Code.

Clerk Hovenden stated that the Multi-Vendor Event Permit eliminates the need for transient-type vendors to obtain a City Business License. She explained that the Business License Code used to allow these types of vendors to do business in the City for less than five days a year without obtaining a City Business License, but that the exemption was removed from the Code by Ordinance No. 5944, adopted in April of 2014. Clerk Hovenden stated that businesses operating for any length of time in Fairbanks are now required to obtain a City Business License.

Mr. Cleworth thanked Ms. Hovenden for the clarification. He questioned whether the City would be creating a double standard between government and private entities by adopting Ordinance No. 5960 as presented. He suggested eliminating the Multi-Vendor Code based on the reasoning that he does not want the City to be involved with exempting some groups and not others. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if there is more than one entity that obtains the permit each year.

Clerk Hovenden explained that the Clerk's Office recently went through a compliance campaign and notified local facilities and venues where multi-vendor type events typically occur of the Multi-vendor Event Permit requirements.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he has concerns with creating a double standard by adopting Ordinance No. 5960. He added that he would like to have more time to think about the issue.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 5960 to the Regular City Council Meeting of December 8, 2014.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 5960 TO THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2014 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Staley, Matherly, Gatewood, Pruhs, Cleworth, Walley

NAYS: None

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 5960 POSTPONED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4648 – A Resolution to Exclude Part-Time Employees from Participation in the Public Employees' Retirement System. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4649 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Participate in the FY2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 4650 – A Resolution Authorizing the Fairbanks Emergency Dispatch Center to Enter a Dispatch Services Contract with the University Fire Department. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Ms. Staley**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4650.

Mr. Cleworth expressed surprise to see Resolution No. 4650 on the agenda based on his understanding of the recent discussions at Finance Committee Meetings. He stated that the City had a self-contained Dispatch Center until about 2002. He stated that because there were several Dispatch Centers in the area before that time, it created an unnecessary redundancy that was recognized by local government. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that one possible solution was to create a consolidated Dispatch Center operated by an autonomous organization that all entities would participate in. He explained that the idea did not come to fruition because in 2002 or 2003 the City was approached by the City of North Pole who was maintaining their own Dispatch Center at the time. He stated that the two Cities agreed to consolidate North Pole dispatch services with the City of Fairbanks Dispatch Center. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the City of Fairbanks believed it would give the Dispatch Center the capacity to allow for the addition of other service areas in the future. He stated that the City later realized that they did not have enough staffing and had a series of meetings to structure the cost of what to charge other entities for dispatch services. He stated that there have been studies done to see what those charges should be based on call volume. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that when North Pole consolidated with Fairbanks, they recognized a considerable overall savings while the added revenue for Fairbanks did not even fully cover the cost of one dispatch employee. He explained that there have been discussions with other entities about dispatch services cost and indicated that the City's costs for dispatching services are increasing. **Mr. Cleworth** asked his fellow Council Members what the City is going

to charge for dispatch services and spoke to the possibility of increasing dispatch service fees so that the City taxpayers may enjoy a savings. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern for Chief Schrage but indicated that it is incumbent upon the Council to consider whether the philosophy in a cost of service study is the way to go. He stated that other entities are enjoying the benefits of the work and planning the City continues to put into the Dispatch Center. He stated that he would like more time to consider Resolution No. 4650 and possibly have the Finance Department dig deeper into the issue. **Mr. Cleworth** asked about the status of the Denali Borough's interest in City Dispatch services.

Dispatch Manager Stephanie Johnson stated that the Denali Borough has stopped communicating with the City of Fairbanks so she assumes they are no longer interested or that they have found another option. She stated that the City is not currently dispatching for the Denali Borough. Ms. Johnson explained that the proposed contract is only for a 7 month term for dispatching services for the UAF Fire Department. She stated that the long-term dispatch services issue with UAF and other entities will be discussed at the next Finance Committee Meeting. She provided a brief history of dispatch contracts and costs and stated that in 2004 the City of Fairbanks took on dispatch services for North Pole Fire and Police, North Star Fire, Salcha Rescue and Delta Junction for a combined cost of about \$100,000 per year. She stated that she agrees the City of Fairbanks is not making enough money for dispatch services. Ms. Johnson explained that in 2006, the Director of Emergency Operations at the Borough signed a contract with the City on behalf of the City of North Pole and the surrounding fire service areas, including UAF, to cover their dispatching services for a combined cost of around \$400,000 per year. She stated that the City has been working with UAF for a long time on the proposed contract and urged the Council to approve it. She expressed her belief that the City and the entire Borough would benefit from the contract.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the Borough has a right to collect the 9-1-1 surcharge. He stated that in Kenai, Alaska the 9-1-1 surcharge is \$1.80 and asked Ms. Johnson how much of that goes to Kenai's Dispatch Center. He asked how much the local Borough is collecting on the 9-1-1 surcharge.

Ms. Johnson replied that the Borough is currently collecting \$1.00 and stated that the statute allows them to collect up to \$2.00 without a vote of the people. She explained that the Borough's interpretation of state law is that the Dispatch Center is just for 9-1-1 call taking, provisioning and replacing the emergency equipment, providing the data connectivity and supplying staff to operate the Center. She stated that in her opinion the law is somewhat open to interpretation. Ms. Johnson stated that the Cities of Fairbanks and North Pole gave up their ability to collect their own 9-1-1 surcharge because they could not reasonably recuperate costs to provide an NG9-1-1 system like the Borough has provided.

Mr. Cleworth asked Ms. Johnson if she thought the issue could wait another week.

Ms. Johnson replied that she has been putting the UAF Fire Chief off for over a year and stated that she would rather not see the resolution postponed. She spoke to the benefits of approving the contract and reminded the Council that the terms are only for seven months.

Mr. Pruhs asked how the cost of dispatch services on page 10 of the contract was determined. He pointed out that the City would be essentially replacing six UAF dispatchers for about \$3,000 per month.

City Grants Administrator Margarita Bell explained that the total cost was evaluated, then it was broken down based on the type of service. She stated that it was broken down even further based on the task and the call volume. She clarified that the contract includes 100% recovery of direct dispatching costs and does not provide for a profit.

Mr. Matherly asked Ms. Johnson what would happen if no progress is made by the contract expiration in June. He also asked if she is concerned about the extra demands on her Dispatch staff.

Ms. Johnson stated that by agreeing to the contract the City would not necessarily be imposing a brand new workload on the Dispatch Center. She explained that City Dispatch is already handling a significant portion of UAF's 9-1-1 calls and that the Dispatch Center must track UAF's fire units when they enter City limits on a mutual aid call in the City of Fairbanks. She stated that the contract would equate to only a slight increase in workload for her department. Ms. Johnson explained that since the contract is short-term and since the City will have to re-negotiate contracts with all user agencies, it will be beneficial to already be providing UAF with fire dispatch service so that the City will know what they are dealing with ahead of time.

Mayor Eberhart asked Ms. Johnson general questions about the evolution of the UAF dispatch contract. He asked if former City Mayors signed dispatch service contracts in the past without a resolution by the City Council.

Ms. Johnson replied affirmatively.

Mr. Cleworth asked Ms. Johnson if there is a reason why dispatchers were not included in the list of staff in section 3.2.1 of the contract.

Ms. Johnson replied that it was omitted in error. She stated that 3.2.1.4 should be added to read, "Dispatchers."

Mr. Cleworth asked if the proposed contract is fairly standard with the other agency contracts.

Ms. Johnson replied that the contract follows the standard format of other agency contracts with the modification requested by the University General Council in regard to signing a contract with a state entity.

Mr. Cleworth expressed concern that the proposed contract somewhat limits the City and may cause the City to fall out of compliance in a bind. He asked Ms. Johnson if she feels that she needs more staff.

Ms. Johnson replied that her department always needs more people because she believes the Dispatch Center's authorized number of positions is insufficient to remain at a trained staffing level.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 4650 to the Regular City Council Meeting of December 1, 2014.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION NO. 4650 TO THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2014 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Pruhs, Cleworth
NAYS: Gatewood, Staley, Matherly, Walley
Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION FAILED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4650 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Walley, Staley, Matherly, Gatewood
NAYS: None
Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4650 APPROVED.

- d) Resolution No. 4651 – A Resolution Approving the Contract with MetLife to Serve as a Plan Provider for the City’s Deferred Compensation Plan. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4651.

Mr. Cleworth briefly spoke to the history of the City-sponsored 457 Plan. He stated that there have been a number of providers and that the City held some liability if any of the plans went “belly up.” He asked City Attorney Ewers if other plans would be grandfathered in under the new contract.

City Attorney Ewers replied that grandfathering the other plans in was not a part of the original idea. He explained that during the process it became apparent that some of the employees did not wish to transfer their plans and some would even be penalized for switching plan providers. Mr. Ewers stated that the Committee decided that it would not be in the employees’ best interest to force a move to MetLife.

Mr. Cleworth asked what the City’s liability is if one of the plans were to fail.

Mr. Ewers commented that some investment options may be risky but expressed doubt that the investment companies would actually fail. He stated that there is definite liability in private investment plans. He explained that as long as the City-sponsored plan operates under the certain standards and as long as the City reviews all the options that are available the City will have no liability. Mr. Ewers stated that liabilities outside of those parameters will have to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Cleworth expressed support for moving to a single 457(b) Plan Provider but expressed frustration with the potential liability the federal government places on local governments.

Mr. Ewers stated that he anticipates that a fair number of employees will move over to the new plan right away. He commented that it took the Committee much longer than anticipated to complete the selection process with the loss of Pat Cole and Tony Shumate.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4651 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gatewood, Walley, Pruhs, Matherly, Staley, Cleworth

NAYS: None

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4651 APPROVED.

- e) Ordinance No. 5961 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2015 Operating and Capital Budgets. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Committee Reports

FMATS Policy Committee – **Mr. Walley** stated that the Committee met November 19 and approved a draft release of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment No. 8 for public comment. He explained that the amendment was developed primarily to add a utility phase to the Birch Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility project, a Freight Mobility plan and a study for the Badger Road corridor. **Mr. Walley** stated that there was a last-minute amendment to Amendment No. 8 to appropriate an additional \$600,000 to the 2015 Cushman Street project for lights. He stated that the Policy Committee also accepted the 2015-2018 project evaluation criteria for other projects and forwarded the \$15 million state funding request. He commented that last year Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation System (AMATS) received \$40 million through the legislative process while FMATS did not receive any funds. **Mr. Walley** stated that FMATS has numerous projects in the coming years that have funding shortfalls and will cost an estimated total of \$19 million. He shared that the public comment period for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) draft will end December 19, 2014. He stated that North Pole Mayor Bryce Ward was elected as the new Chair of the Policy Committee and that FNSB Mayor Luke Hopkins was elected as the Vice Chair.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Re-appointments to the Building Code Review and Appeals Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Appointment to the Clay Street Cemetery Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Re-appointment to the Fact Finding Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Re-appointment to the Joint City/Borough Chena Riverfront Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Appointment and Re-appointment to the Landscape Review and Appeals Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- f) Appointment and Re-appointment to the Permanent Fund Advisory Board

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- g) Appointment and Re-appointment to the Public Safety Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Staley welcomed new Chief of Police Randall Aragon. She commended Ms. Shirley Lee for her Work Session presentation on the Housing First project and expressed concern with the long wait list. She stated that she feels passionate about the Community Service Patrol (CSP) and is concerned about the increased funding the Downtown Association wants to continue covering the expanded patrol area. **Ms. Staley** spoke to the possibility of finding other avenues for managing the CSP program that may be more effective and financially feasible. She stated that she is glad to be back in Fairbanks and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Walley stated that he did not support Mr. Cleworth's motion to postpone Resolution No. 4650 because he felt that a week postponement would not have made a difference on the short-term contract. He thanked Mr. Cleworth for initiating discussion on the issue. He wished everyone a Happy Turkey Day and reminded everyone to give thanks.

Mr. Gatewood stated that he enjoys meetings where the Mayor and all Council Members are physically present. He welcomed Chief Aragon and stated that he looks forward to meeting with him soon to talk over some issues he sees from the perspective of both a Council Member and a Fairbanks citizen.

Mr. Matherly welcomed Chief Aragon to the City of Fairbanks and commented on the mild winter. He reported that he exchanged some emails with Marc Marlow, the current owner of the Polaris Building. He read aloud a portion of one of the emails where he stated that he is working

with U.S. Bank Community Development to find new market tax credit allocations and that he feels positive pushing forward. **Mr. Matherly** stated that he remains skeptical about the potential for the Polaris Building to be revitalized. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Shirley Lee for her work with the Housing First project and stated that homelessness in Fairbanks' winter climate is a big concern. He stated that he recently witnessed two teenagers driving down University Avenue on cell phones without wearing seatbelts. He cautioned the public to buckle up and refrain from cell phone use while driving. **Mr. Matherly** stated that the Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee will hold their next meeting at noon on November 25, 2014 in the City Council Chambers. He commended the Fire Department for the accomplishing the remarkable ISO rating. **Mr. Matherly** stated that his thoughts go out to Ferguson, Missouri residents and others who are experiencing a great deal of discord in their communities following the Darren Wilson Grand Jury decision. He stated that he is thankful for his family, for the Fairbanks community and for the opportunity to serve on the Fairbanks City Council.

Mr. Cleworth congratulated Fire Chief Cummings and others involved in attaining the "one" ISO rating. He welcomed Chief Aragon and expressed hope that the Chief would stay in Fairbanks for a long time. He asked Mayor Eberhart when the meeting with the Interior delegates would take place.

Mayor Eberhart stated that the meeting will take place on December 9 and that his office would send out an email reminder to the Council.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the 2015 projected budget surplus has shrunk from Mayor Eberhart's original surplus of \$1.4 million primarily due to an increase to City Capital Funds with the likelihood of a decline in state revenue sharing. He proposed that the City of Fairbanks Public Works facility serve as the 2015 location for Santa's Clearing House. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the obligation would be short-term and asked Public Works Director Mike Schmetzer to come forward to give his thoughts on the idea.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that he received a call earlier in the day regarding such a request from Santa's Clearing House and that he forwarded the request to the Mayor's Office. He stated that the City's Public Works facility has more than enough space to accommodate the organization on a temporary basis.

Mayor Eberhart asked what hours the organization would be at Public Works.

Mr. Schmetzer replied that he does not know details, only that there is ample space at Public Works.

Mr. Cleworth requested that the Mayor's Office look into the details and invite Santa's Clearing House if everything works out. He stated that another issue has come about with the potential of the gas extension project in Fairbanks. He explained that under City Code, residents are not authorized to convert to gas because of the manufacturer testing requirement. He stated that he met briefly with City Building Official Clem Clooten about the issue to see if there is some way to accommodate those conversions without too much liability to the City. He stated that it is something that needs to be explored to avoid a potential problem in the future. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he has been getting a lot of complaints about the salt being used on Airport Way and

indicated that he is not a fan. He stated that everyone in the room has a lot to be thankful for in the whole scheme of things and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Pruhs stated that he enjoyed attending the AML Conference and found the networking opportunities to be very valuable. He spoke briefly to the marijuana issue stating that he has been receiving some feedback from constituents. He expressed hope that the City could stay in front of the issue in the hopes that the community would be ready for the change. **Mr. Pruhs** stated that he is looking forward to the upcoming hearing with other local governments regarding the issue. He stated that for Thanksgiving he is thankful that Interior delegates are already meeting with and voicing concerns to newly-elected Governor Walker.

Mr. Gatewood, seconded by **Ms. Staley**, moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing AFL-CIO, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) Labor Contract Negotiations.

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

Mayor Eberhart called for a five minute recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Labor Contract Negotiations – AFL-CIO, IBEW and PSEA

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

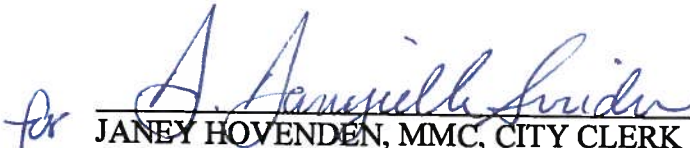
Mayor Eberhart called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Eberhart declared the Meeting adjourned at 10:06 P.M.



JOHN EBERHART, MAYOR

ATTEST:



JANEY HOVENDEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS