



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 20, 2014
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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 John Eberhart presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Perry Walley, Seat B
Bernard Gatewood, Seat C
Jim Matherly, Seat D
Lloyd Hilling, Seat E
Chris Anderson, Seat F

Absent: Renee Staley, Seat A (Excused)

Also Present: Warren Cummings, Fire Chief
Paul Ewers, City Attorney
Janey Hovenden, City Clerk
Jim Williams, Chief of Staff
Stephanie Johnson, Dispatch Center Manager
Carmen Randle, Controller
Ben Barrio, IT Director
Michael J. Schmetzer, City Engineer
Barbara Sunday, Director HR/Risk Management/Purchasing
Jim N. Soileau, Chief Financial Officer
Brad Johnson, Acting 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. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Matherly, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

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

City Clerk Hovenden read the Consent Agenda into the record.

Mayor Eberhart presented awards to the following Fire Department employees for outstanding emergency response service in the Northward Building incident: Captain Sean Aldrich, Captain Tom Monicken, Driver Dominic Lozano, and Firefighter Shane Powers. He recognized Mr. Powers also for his life-saving actions in responding to the Geraghty Street Apartment fire and presented him with an award from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, naming Mr. Powers the 2014 Alaska Firefighter of the Year.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Darlene Herbert, 906 Woodlawn Road, Fairbanks - Ms. Herbert congratulated the newly-elected officials and reminded them that they are supposed to work together.

Daisy Stevens, 1841 Hilton Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Stevens echoed Ms. Herbert's comments. She commended Chris Anderson for his time served on the Council and congratulated the newly-elected officials. She stated that she voted for Jerry Cleworth and that she expects him to do a good job on the Council. Ms. Stevens commented that she has seen a lot of fighting occur amongst the Council and emphasized the need for the Council to work together for the good of Fairbanks citizens.

Victor Buberger, PO Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger thanked Mr. Hilling and Mr. Anderson for their service on the City Council. He commended the Public Works Department and Director Mike Schmetzer for the work done on South Cushman Street. He spoke to the inflated wages of City police officers and pointed out that one officer is earning \$188,000 a year. Mr. Buberger stated that the officer's overtime wages alone were more than an average person's annual wage. He spoke in opposition to the 36-hour work week that was recently proposed in the Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) labor contract. He sarcastically commented that maybe City police officers are so good that they should be earning \$1 million per year. He expressed distaste with hearing City police officers whine about their wages and suggested that they may be happier being employed elsewhere.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated that he hates to see Mr. Hilling not run again for City Council and expressed his belief that Mr. Hilling is a man with genuine principles. He thanked Mr. Hilling for introducing the first resolution passed in the State of Alaska in support of industrial hemp farming and for introducing a resolution opposing the United Nation's (UN) Agenda 21 Program. Mr. Turney thanked Mr. Anderson for his service on the Council and commended him for his consistency. In regard to citizen decorum at City Council Meetings, Mr. Turney quoted Harry S. Truman, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." He commented that the Council should be able to handle direct criticism from constituents. He stated that Mr. Matherly should not have criticized citizens for "cop bashing" during the process of selecting the new Chief of Police. Mr. Turney suggested that some Council Members may want to sweep issues of misconduct at the police department under the rug. He welcomed new Chief of Police Randall Aragon and stated that the people of Conway, Arkansas where Aragon used to work have had good things to say about him. Mr. Turney suggested that the City of Fairbanks install sanitizing machines in the halls of its buildings for the public to wash their hands.

Floyd Terry, PO Box 73514, Fairbanks – Mr. Terry stated that he has been sorting through 33 years-worth of collections representing the various activities he has been involved in since he has been in Alaska. He stated that he has lived with no running water for 33 years and that two of those years he had no electricity. Mr. Terry mentioned that he has been actively trying to promote a roller skating rink in Fairbanks for many years and stated that he has been unsuccessful in simply putting together a presentation meeting for his idea. He pointed out that he has never asked anyone for money to support his goal and that he has given thousands of his own dollars to promote his idea. He spoke out against local non-profits asking for money from other organizations.

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Eberhart thanked Mr. Hilling for his service on the City Council and stated that he enjoyed his discussion and discourse. He thanked Mr. Anderson for being willing to serve on the Council again after having served several years ago. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Anderson's views, input and the diversity he brought to the City Council. **Mayor Eberhart** presented each departing member of the Council with a gold pan to commemorate their service. **Mayor Eberhart** congratulated Mr. Cleworth on his return to the City Council and shared that Mr. Cleworth has the most seniority of all time on the City Council of Fairbanks. He stated that Mr. Cleworth's accounting and budget experience will be very helpful in preparing the upcoming budget. **Mayor Eberhart** congratulated Mr. Pruhs for his election to the Council and stated that his background in real estate will be a welcome contribution to the body. He asked the Council to let him know if changes should be made to their Board/Commission assignments. He announced that with Mr. Anderson's departure, he would like to appoint Council Member Gatewood to the Fairbanks Diversity Council. **Mayor Eberhart** shared that there are many upcoming vacancies for seats on City Boards and Commissions and encouraged members of the public to apply. He stated that all applications will be considered. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that the City signed an agreement with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD) for two school resource officers (SRO's) and another agreement with the School District for a work/study program for high school students. He stated that there are five high school students currently working at the City and participating in the work/study program and added that another student will soon start working. **Mayor Eberhart** referenced the handouts regarding the Community Service Patrol (CSP) and stated that the program is a terrific investment and offers a significant savings for the City of Fairbanks. He spoke to the many activities, events and meetings that he and others in his office have been involved in since the last Regular City Council Meeting. He shared that there is a tentative future plan to build an overpass at three-mile Richardson Highway to improve driver safety at the railroad crossing. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that he attended a Celebration of Life for a man who was recently found deceased in a park earlier in the month. He explained that police are investigating the cause of death of the 39-year-old man.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 5958 – An Ordinance Amending the 2014 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Sixth Time. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Hilling**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 5958.

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

Mr. Matherly stated that because there has not been a recent Finance Committee meeting and because there are two new Council Members to be sworn into office later in the meeting, he would like to postpone the budget ordinance to a later date.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Mr. Hilling**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 5958 until the Regular City Council Meeting of November 3, 2014.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 5958 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Hilling, Walley, Matherly, Gatewood
NAYS: Anderson
ABSENT: Staley
Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED.

2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

- a) Certification of the 2014 Municipal Election Results

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to CERTIFY the 2014 Municipal Election Results.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CERTIFY THE 2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Anderson, Gatewood, Hilling, Matherly, Walley
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Staley
Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Council Members' Comments

Mr. Matherly thanked Mr. Anderson for his tenacity and consistency as a Council Member. He commented on Mr. Hilling's long-winded discussions and stated that he enjoyed getting to know Mr. Hilling and listening to his comments. He stated that Mr. Hilling is a smart and committed

man who has always been respectful of his peers. He expressed hope that the outgoing Council Members would stay involved in City matters.

Mr. Gatewood echoed the sentiments of others in regard to Mr. Hilling and Mr. Anderson. He stated that he has known Mr. Anderson for a number of years and commended him for coming out of retirement to serve on the City Council. He spoke to Mr. Anderson's steadfastness and to his involvement throughout the Fairbanks community. **Mr. Gatewood** stated that he will miss Mr. Hilling and his discussions that nearly always held a historical point and offered a different perspective. He thanked both departing members for their service.

Mr. Walley expressed appreciation to Mr. Anderson for viewpoints and commitment to the Council. He stated that it has been an honor to serve with Mr. Hilling for two years on the City Council and commented that he will remember Mr. Hilling for sharing his knowledge. He thanked the families of the departing Council Members for their commitment to share Mr. Hilling and Mr. Anderson with the City. **Mr. Walley** acknowledged Mr. Hilling's strong belief against accepting federal grant dollars. He thanked both Mr. Hilling and Mr. Anderson for their service.

Mr. Hilling commented that he believes his fellow Council Members are principled and hard-working individuals. He stated that Mr. Anderson is a wonderful desk mate and has been an enjoyable person to get to know. He commented that Mr. Gatewood is a very wise man. **Mr. Hilling** stated that although Mr. Walley was new to the Council two years ago, he feels that he is a very dedicated man. He commented that Ms. Staley is a great public servant who is very involved in the community. **Mr. Hilling** also expressed appreciation for Mr. Matherly's dedication as a public servant. He commended Mayor Eberhart for being so involved in innovative processes and for opening his mind to new ideas. He thanked City Clerk Hovenden for her work in supporting the Council and expressed gratitude to City Attorney Ewers for being there to help him when needed. **Mr. Hilling** stated that public servants are supposed to vote their conscience and not necessarily according to what their constituents want.

Mr. Anderson stated that he is humbled by the kind words of everyone. He thanked Mayor Eberhart for giving him the opportunity to serve on the Council for the past year and stated that he will miss the things happening with the Diversity Council and the new Chief of Police. He wished everyone well and congratulated Mr. Pruhs and Mr. Cleworth for their victory in the election. **Mr. Anderson** commented that it was good to get reacquainted with City staff members who have been around since he served on the Council many years ago. He expressed his belief that the City has extraordinary staff who strives to keep the City in a good financial state. He specifically thanked City Clerk Hovenden for her dedication and commitment to the City and commented on the camaraderie he feels with fellow Council Members.

Mayor Eberhart called for a five minute transition recess.

c) Oaths of Office

City Clerk Hovenden read the signed Certification for the 2014 Municipal Election into the record as follows:

That **Jerry Cleworth**, having received the majority number of votes cast for COUNCIL SEAT E, for a three-year term ending October 2017, is hereby declared elected as a Member of the Fairbanks City Council.

That **David Pruhs**, having received the majority number of votes cast for COUNCIL SEAT F, for a three-year term ending October 2017, is hereby declared elected as a Member of the Fairbanks City Council.

City Clerk Hovenden swore in newly-elected Council Members Jerry Cleworth and David Pruhs. New Council Members assumed their respective Seats, E and F.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 5959 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 14-176 Regarding Possession of Alcoholic Beverages. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Committee Reports

FMATS Policy Committee – **Mr. Walley** stated that the Policy Committee approved a project list which identifies short-range projects from 2015 – 2020, mid-range projects from 2021 – 2030, and long-range projects from 2031 – 2040. He stated that the Committee also reviewed the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Needs Assessment, which is an overview of future needs through year 2040 for the FMATS area. He stated that needs include everything from lighting to pedestrian walkways to bicycle paths that may need to be addressed in the future. **Mr. Walley** stated that the Committee approved the 2015 Policy Committee meeting dates.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Board of Plumber Examiners Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2014

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2014

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2014

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Gatewood commented that the high school football season has ended. He congratulated the Eielson Ravens for winning the small schools championship and the North Pole Patriots for taking second place in the medium schools championship. He stated that the Lathrop Malemites lost in the semi-finals. **Mr. Gatewood** commended coaches, student athletes, parents and those in the community who support youth football.

Mr. Walley welcomed Mr. Cleworth and Mr. Pruhs. He stated that he has known both gentlemen for a while and stated that it is good to have them both on the Council.

Mr. Matherly gave Mr. Cleworth and Mr. Pruhs a warm welcome. He stated that Mr. Cleworth is very knowledgeable and approachable and commented that he has known Mr. Pruhs for many years. He stated that it is an honor to serve on the Council.

Mr. Cleworth commented that it is a joy to be back on the City Council. He spoke to Mr. Gatewood's longevity as a Council Member. He stated that he is back in the first seat he ever held on the Council back in 1987. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he has known Chris Anderson and his family for many years and that he was a great singer in high school. He stated that he has enjoyed working with Lloyd Hilling who is a wealth of knowledge in the field of economics and a true libertarian. **Mr. Cleworth** welcomed Mr. Pruhs to the City Council and commended him for his work on the Borough Planning Commission. He expressed appreciation to City staff for their service. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that the Borough will soon be introducing an ordinance to change the way they collect property taxes. He stated that his understanding is that property owners run the risk of losing their homeowner exemption if they are delinquent in paying their taxes. He stated that the change would ensure that tax payments go directly to the principal rather than to penalties and interest. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the change may help those who are going through a hard time to not lose their home. He indicated that the sponsors of the Borough ordinance, Lance Roberts and Kathryn Dodge, would like to see a letter of support from the City of Fairbanks. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that Mable Hopson recently passed away and spoke to her contributions to and leadership in the Fairbanks community.

Mr. Pruhs stated that it is a great honor to join the Fairbanks City Council. He stated that he is a true Fairbanksan and that he believes it is his duty to help the City in any way he can. He stated that he looks forward to working with everyone.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Labor Contract Negotiations for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), AFL-CIO and the Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU).

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

Mayor Eberhart called for a brief recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss IBEW, AFL-CIO and FFU Labor Contract Negotiations. An update was provided to the Council on the FFU Contract. The City Council gave direction to the negotiating team on the AFL-CIO and IBEW Contracts and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

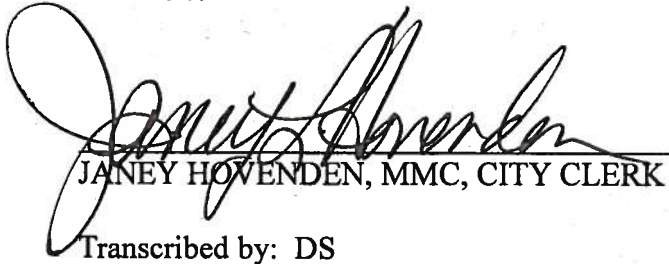
Mayor Eberhart called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Eberhart declared the Meeting adjourned at 10:25 P.M.



JOHN EBERHART, MAYOR

ATTEST:



JANEY HOVENDEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS