



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JULY 07, 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 6:00 p.m. Work Session to discuss the Wastewater Treatment Plant Backup Generator, 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
 Chris Anderson, Seat F

Absent: Lloyd Hilling, Seat E (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
 Keith Anderson, Acting IT Director
 Michael J. Schmetzer, City Engineer
 Barbara Sunday, Director HR/Risk Management/Purchasing
 Brad Johnson, Acting Police Chief

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Janey Hovenden.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Eberhart led the Flag Salutation.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney spoke to the bill introduced in Congress that supports the Industrial Hemp Act. He stated that the bill would remove hemp from the list of Schedule I controlled substances. He commented that Senator Begich supports the bill and suggested that the City Council introduce a resolution in support of the hemp bill. Mr. Turney stated that he witnessed an accident over the weekend in the downtown area. He stated that he called 9-1-1 and that he waited on the phone for more than twelve minutes for dispatch to answer. Mr. Turney thanked Mayor Eberhart for speaking with the man he referred to a couple

meetings ago who was pulled over and detained by a Fairbanks Police Officer. He suggested that race may play a part in the lack of public restroom facilities in downtown Fairbanks. He stated that the only public restroom is the one maintained by the Borough near the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center downtown. He questioned why the City does not place Sani-cans throughout the area, at least in the summer. Mr. Turney thanked City Facilities Manager Phil Sanders for removing the hornets from under the shed at the Clay Street Cemetery.

Mr. Matherly asked Mr. Turney why he believes that race plays a part in the lack of public restrooms.

Mr. Turney replied that he has observed many Alaska Natives being run out of businesses when looking for a restroom to use.

Victor Buberger, PO Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger spoke to the large number of potholes in the City of Fairbanks. He stated that some are so big they are marked with an orange cone inside them. He acknowledged the drastic climate conditions in the Interior and asked what the average life expectancy is for local roads. He suggested that the City hire public contractors on a temporary basis to help keep up with road maintenance.

David van den Berg, 332 Slater Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. van den Berg stated that he is the Executive Director of the Downtown Association (DTA) of Fairbanks. He provided the Council with a June report on the activities of the Community Service Patrol (CSP). He spoke to the significant increases in CSP calls and responses since its expansion earlier in the spring.

Mr. Gatewood asked Mr. van den Berg to give some examples of “definitive points of care.”

Mr. van den Berg explained that the term “definitive points of care” includes four destinations where inebriated individuals are regularly dropped off: their home address, the Fairbanks Detox Center, the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital or Fairbanks Correctional Center.

Mr. Anderson asked if the CSP tracks those who are picked up on a regular basis.

Mr. van den Berg replied affirmatively. He stated that some individuals have been reported to have been transported by the CSP more than 100 times in a calendar year.

Ms. Staley stated that she has heard a lot of good feedback since CSP’s expansion. She stated that she has also been asked why there is a CSP van always parked on 2nd Avenue that does not seem to move.

Mr. van den Berg stated that there are generally two CSP officers on shift during the day and that one will often spend most of the day on foot patrol while the other makes transports.

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

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.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2014.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Eberhart stated that June 30 was Police Chief Laren Zager's last day in working for the City of Fairbanks. He spoke very highly of Chief Zager and wished him the best in retirement. He stated that the City is currently accepting applications for Chief of Police and that he has asked Council Members Anderson and Gatewood to serve on the interview panel. Mayor Eberhart shared that the City is also accepting applications for the position of IT Director. He spoke to the large amount of potholes in the City and stated that the recent rain has only made them worse. He stated that the City's Public Works Department is doing the best they can in dealing with road maintenance and flooding throughout the City. Mayor Eberhart stated that Chief of Staff Jim Williams attended a meeting earlier in the day at the Borough to discuss possible action by local government in response to the heavy rainfall. He stated that the City of Fairbanks is waiting for the Borough to appoint members to the Fairbanks Diversity Council before holding the first meeting, hopefully in September. Mayor Eberhart spoke to the many activities and meetings that he and others in his office have been involved in since the last meeting. Mayor Eberhart stated that the Police Officer Werner has indicated that another officer may be needed to help operate the City's Downtown Foot Patrol. He stated that he plans to hold an internal meeting soon to discuss the issue. Mayor Eberhart spoke to the Municipal Assistance Group created by Governor Parnell to perform a study and compile a report on the impacts of the large diameter gasline to the Fairbanks community. He stated that the Borough has hired a consultant to help in the research with local government entities. He shared that part of the purpose of the Municipal Assistance Group is to get the state to set up an assistance fund that will help municipalities deal with the financial impacts that the project may bring. He stated that potential impacts may be increased crime, homelessness and a greater need for medical services. Mayor Eberhart stated that the family of the late Johnny Wallis has been briefed by the Fairbanks Police and Fire Departments and that he has requested that the clothing worn by Mr. Wallis at the time of his death be sent to a lab for testing. He stated that hopes are still high that Eielson Air Force Base will be selected to house the F-35 fighter planes and that there should be more information available within the next couple weeks. He stated that the selection would mean thousands of jobs and about a \$1 billion per year boost in the local economy. Mayor Eberhart reported that the City's Permanent Fund started 2014 at \$113 million and is now at a record high of over \$120 million.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 5950 – An Ordinance to Provide a Grant to the Bread Line, Inc./Stone Soup Café and Amending the 2014 Operating and Capital Budgets to Reflect the Grant Transaction. Introduced by Council Member Anderson. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 5950.

Mayor Eberhart called for Public Testimony.

Susan Rainey, 2544 Riverview Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Rainey stated that she is a board member of Stone Soup Café and a long-time City resident. She stated that the Catalyst Kitchen is a good investment for the community and asked for the Council's support of Ordinance No. 5950. She quoted the proverb, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

Jennifer Jolis, 3705 Quartz Road, Ester – Ms. Jolis stated that she is the Executive Director of the Bread Line, Inc. and Stone Soup Café. She read aloud a letter that she recently received from Steve Frank, a local restaurant owner, in support of the Catalyst Kitchen. Ms. Jolis stated that the approval of Ordinance No. 5950 would release about \$12,000 per year to support the Catalyst Kitchen. She stated that she attended a Reentry Coalition meeting earlier in the day and had the opportunity to speak with the Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Corrections. She indicated that the Catalyst Kitchen program is in line with what the Department of Corrections is trying to accomplish when they release an inmate from incarceration.

Kathy Mayo, 1618 Kassi Court, Fairbanks – Ms. Mayo stated that she is Co-Chair of the Bread Line, Inc./Stone Soup Café. She expressed her support for Ordinance No. 5950 and spoke to the organization's significant financial and operational improvements in recent years. She stated that the Catalyst Kitchen is an established and promising program that has a great deal of local support.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 5950 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gatewood, Walley, Anderson, Matherly, Staley

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Hilling

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 5950 ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 5951, as Amended – An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Chapter 22, Elections, to Allow for Poll Watchers at City Precincts. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Ms. Staley**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 5951, as Amended.

Mayor Eberhart called for Public Testimony.

Frank Turney – Mr. Turney asked who selects poll watchers.

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

Mr. Matherly asked what a poll watcher does.

City Clerk Hovenden explained that since poll watchers are often selected by political parties, they typically do not participate in the non-partisan Municipal Election. She stated that poll watchers would be required to go through a brief training by the City Clerk's Office and that they may not interfere in any way with the voting or election process. She indicated that poll watching may help increase transparency in elections.

City Attorney Ewers added that allegations that processes were not being followed in elections brought about the idea of poll watching and stated that it has been a part of State elections for a number of years.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 5951, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Matherly, Walley, Staley, Gatewood, Anderson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Hilling

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 5951, as Amended, ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4639 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security for the Upgrade of Fire and Rescue Equipment. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4640 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2014 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Board of Plumber Examiner Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2014.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Gatewood stated that the Permanent Fund Review Board will meet on July 23 at 1:30 P.M. in City Council Chambers.

Mr. Walley stated that he has concerns about Fairbanks Natural Gas' proposed rate increase to Fairbanks customers.

Ms. Staley stated that she spoke with Mark Marlow regarding the status of the Polaris Building. She reported that the vote on his loan guarantee is scheduled to take place on July 10 at 12:00 P.M. Pacific Time.

Mr. Anderson stated that he had no comments.

Mr. Matherly stated that he also talked to Mr. Marlow recently and that he hopes to attend the upcoming teleconference where they will make a decision on the Polaris Building loan. **Mr. Matherly** stated that he has been approached by several individuals who have thought that the City of Fairbanks owns the building. He indicated that he does not want to see the Polaris Building torn down. **Mr. Matherly** encouraged everyone to get involved in the upcoming Golden Days activities. He asked Mayor Eberhart if the selection process for the new Chief of Police will involve the City Council.

Mayor Eberhart replied that the City Code states that the Mayor will nominate a candidate for the Chief of Police position, to be confirmed by the City Council. He added that the City Council also has the authority to terminate the Chief of Police. He explained that he would like to go through the interview process with the panel and applicants first, then see if there is anyone he would like to nominate to the City Council for hire. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that he is open to suggestions from Council Members.

Mr. Matherly stated that he has been getting a lot of calls at his insurance agency as a result of the rain and the damage it has caused. He spoke briefly to potholes in the City and stated that he believes the Public Works Department is doing their best to keep up with the problem.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Ewers stated that he has been in talks with the Borough on a possible joint intervention in regard to FNG's intention to increase their rates. He stated that he will provide more details to the Council as things develop. Mr. Ewers announced that anyone from the community may post comments on the issue to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska's (RCA) website until July 25 at 5 P.M.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) Labor 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 – PSEA

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss PSEA labor negotiations. Direction was given to staff and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Walley, seconded by Mr. Matherly, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

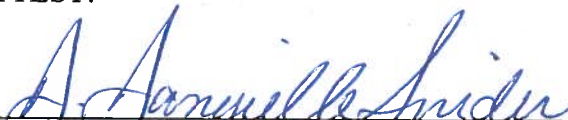
Mayor Eberhart called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Eberhart declared the Meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.



JOHN EBERHART, MAYOR

ATTEST:

for 
JANEY HOVENDEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS