



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 23, 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 pro tem Bernard Gatewood (Council Member, Seat C) presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

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

Absent: Renee Staley, Seat A (Excused)
Mayor Eberhart

Also Present: Ernie Misewicz, Assistant Fire Chief
Margarita Bell, Grants Administrator
Paul Ewers, City Attorney
Janey Hovenden, City Clerk
Jim Williams, Chief of Staff
Keith Anderson, Acting IT Director
Michael J. Schmetzer, City Engineer
Jackson Fox, Environmental Manager

Mayor pro tem Bernard Gatewood stated that he has been asked to serve as Acting Mayor for the Meeting in Mayor Eberhart's absence.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Janey Hovenden.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor pro tem Bernard Gatewood led the Flag Salutation.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney thanked Julie Jones and Festival Fairbanks for their work in beautifying the Clay Street Cemetery. He spoke to bills in the state legislature pertaining to industrial hemp. He stated that the most important thing that the legislation will do is remove industrial hemp from the list of Schedule I controlled substances. Mr. Turney thanked the Council for approving the resolution regarding hemp in 2013. He stated that he would like to see another resolution from the City Council stating the City's support of the state legislation. Mr. Turney stated that he researched the meaning of the term "diversity"

and requested to see the mission statement of the newly-created Fairbanks Diversity Council. He suggested that race has played a role in the lack of public restroom facilities in the downtown area. Mr. Turney stated that it angers him to have to repeatedly request information regarding the cause of Johnny Wallis's death. He again requested that the Fairbanks Police Department disclose the findings of the medical examiner as to what flammable material caused the death. He suggested that it may take a request of the Council to get the information from the police.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood asked Mr. Turney if he is requesting the mission statement of the Diversity Council or information as to whether the lack of public restrooms in downtown Fairbanks is a racial issue.

Mr. Turney asked if the public restroom issue might be an appropriate matter for the Diversity Council to discuss and research.

Victor Buberger, PO Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger questioned the process by which road repairs and maintenance are prioritized stating that the more damaged roads seem to be ignored while other roads in fair shape are getting attention. Mr. Buberger spoke to the lack of speed hump signage in Hamilton Acres stating that there are only six humps with proper signage out of about 50. He spoke to the poor repair job the City has done on potholes, comparing the quality of work to that of a child. He suggested that the City would be better off letting the potholes go and allowing the roads to deteriorate stating that it may slow traffic.

Mr. Hilling asked Mr. Buberger what he believes would constitute correct signage for speed humps.

Mr. Buberger replied that a sign reading "Speed Hump" would suffice. He stated that he spoke with one of the signage managers at the State of Alaska Department of Transportation who told him that the current diagonal signage on the humps is incorrect.

Jennifer Jolis, 3705 Quartz Road, Ester – Ms. Jolis stated that she is the Executive Director of the Bread Line, Inc., a parent organization of Stone Soup Café. She stated that she has considered ways to alleviate pressure off the local shelters, decrease vagrancy and panhandling in downtown Fairbanks, and lower the number of calls to the Community Service Patrol (CSP). She spoke in support of Ordinance No. 5950, which would in essence retire the City's loan to the Bread Line, Inc. Ms. Jolis provided a brief background on the Bread Line and to the near foreclosure on the property in 2011. She stated that when a new board was elected for the organization, things began to change and improve. She stated that the organization is now thriving, serving between 650 and 850 meals a week. Ms. Jolis explained that the Bread Line, Inc. is requesting that the City forgive the remaining \$35,000 of the loan so that they can expand and launch a new food service training model in the community called "Catalyst Kitchens." She stated that the Bread Line, Inc. plans to partner with Tanana Chiefs Conference, Housing First, the Department of Labor, Access Alaska, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Department of Corrections to train those in need of work and prepare them for employment in the food service industry.

Kathy Mayo, 1618 Kassi Court, Fairbanks – Ms. Mayo, a Co-chair of the Stone Soup Café, spoke in support of Ordinance No. 5950. She stated that she became a member of the board over

three years ago when the organization was behind in payments and in jeopardy of closing its doors. She stated that at that time, the newly-elected board of nine did some strategic planning to figure out how to renovate the building and strengthen the finances of the organization. Ms. Mayo shared that with the help of the community and a state grant, the entire structure was renovated within 18 months. She spoke to the successes of Catalyst Kitchens in other U.S. states and to the large amount of support for the program within the community.

Sarah Stanley, 228 Peregrine Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Stanley stated that she is also a Co-chair of the Stone Soup Café and has served in the role since November. She spoke to Ms. Jolis' vision and long-term volunteer work in the organization. Ms. Stanley talked about a restaurant she visited in Seattle called Fairstart that is an operating success story of the Catalyst Kitchen program. She indicated that local support of the program would be an investment in the Fairbanks community.

Hearing no more requests for public comment, **Mayor pro tem Gatewood** declared Public Testimony closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Hilling pulled Resolution Nos. 4634, 4635, 4636, 4637 and Ordinance Nos. 5950 and 5951 from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood pulled Resolution No. 4638 from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor pro tem Gatewood shared that Police Chief Zager plans to retire on July 1. He stated that Chief Zager was not able to make it to the meeting and asked Chief of Staff Jim Williams to present a gold pan to Chief Zager in recognition of his service to the City of Fairbanks.

Mr. Williams spoke with respect and admiration of Chief Zager's work for the City of Fairbanks over the past five years. He read aloud the inscription on the gold pan.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood stated that Chief Zager will be greatly missed. He asked Mr. David Hale from Hale and Associates to come forward to provide the Council with information and answer questions pertaining to Resolution No. 4638.

Dave Hale, PO Box 73840, Fairbanks – Mr. Hale stated that the handout to the Council summarizes the City's insurance premiums with the Alaska Municipal League (AML) for

2013/2014 and 2014/2015. He stated that AML has provided the City with good insurance services for about the past five years. He spoke to the City's large amount of workers' comp claims and pointed out that the claims are not decreasing. Mr. Hale explained the line items on the summary and offered to answer questions from the Council. He stated that AML will offer a significant discount if the City agrees to a three-year program with them. He commented that in the past, he has advised against the three-year agreement because it would take away his ability to shop for better rates on behalf of the City. Mr. Hale stated that because AML has been doing such a great job and because they are familiar with City staff, he would recommend consideration of the three-year agreement. He stated that it may take three years to get a good loss control program together and solve the City's workers' comp problem.

Mr. Walley asked if the discounted rate gets locked in for the term of the agreement.

Mr. Hale replied that the discounted rate is locked in with a guarantee that rates will not increase more than 10% during the life of the agreement.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood asked if the full three-year balance would have to be paid up-front if the City chose to sign the agreement or if there is an additional discount for paying it all up-front.

Mr. Hale replied that the City would still be billed annually even if they agreed to the three-year program and that there would be no additional discount granted if the City paid the full balance initially.

Mr. Anderson asked about the City's ability to opt out during the three-year agreement.

Mr. Hale replied that the only way to opt out of the program would be if the rates increased by more than 10% during that three-year period.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 5949 – An Ordinance Authorizing Public Sale of Surplus City-Owned Property. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 5949.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood requested a staff report from Chief of Staff Jim Williams and City Attorney Paul Ewers in the absence of Pat Smith, City Property Manager.

Mr. Williams stated that he met with Mr. Smith recently who indicated that there have been no significant changes since Ordinance No. 5949 was introduced.

Mr. Ewers clarified that the properties listed in Ordinance No. 5949 were foreclosed upon about ten years ago. He spoke to the waiver in Section 2 which pertains to a specific property where the City's lien exceeds the fair market value.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood called for Public Testimony and, hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 5949 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Matherly, Hilling, Walley, Gatewood, Anderson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 5949 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4634 – A Resolution Re-Designating Check Signing Authority for Banking and Investment Accounts of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Hilling**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4634.

Mr. Hilling asked who on the check signing authority list has been dropped and who has been added.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood stated that former Purchasing Manager Tony Shumate was removed and Building Official Clem Clooten was added.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4634 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Walley, Matherly, Gatewood, Hilling, Anderson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4634 APPROVED.

- b) Resolution No. 4635 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2014 Homeland Security Grant Program. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4635.

Mr. Hilling stated that he pulled Resolution No. 4635 because he believes that it is irresponsible to saddle future generations with more federal debt. He stated that he will vote against the resolution.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4635 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Matherly, Gatewood, Anderson, Walley

NAYS: Hilling

ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4635 APPROVED.

- c) Resolution No. 4636 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2014 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood pointed out that there is an error in the third whereas of Resolution No. 4636. He stated that the dollar amount of \$1,940,340 should be \$575,340 to match the attached fiscal note.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4636.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Hilling**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 4636 by reducing the dollar amount in the third whereas from \$1,940,340 to \$575,340.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4636 BY REDUCING THE DOLLAR AMOUNT IN THE THIRD WHEREAS FROM \$1,940,340 to \$575,340 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Anderson, Gatewood, Hilling, Matherly, Walley

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Hilling spoke to the term “risk” and to the challenges in mitigating risk in governmental agencies. He expressed his belief that the City should seek insurance coverage in line with what citizens believe to be adequate and that if an insurance company will not cover to that extent, the risk should not become the federal government’s problem. **Mr. Hilling** stated that he is opposed to asking others to pay for his choice to live in a location with certain risks. He suggested that the approval of Resolution No. 4636 would lead to increased federal restrictions and authority.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood pointed out that all the projects the Hazard Mitigation Grant would fund are listed in the fiscal note attached to the ordinance. He stated that there are certain buildings needing seismic upgrades and that this is the City’s opportunity to get those projects completed.

Mr. Hilling expressed his belief that the City of Fairbanks should take care of its own needs and problems.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4636, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Anderson, Walley, Matherly, Gatewood

NAYS: Hilling

ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4636, as Amended, APPROVED.

- d) Resolution No. 4637 – A Resolution Adopting the Fairbanks North Star Borough Multi-Hazard, Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4637.

Mr. Hilling spoke to the fourth whereas of Resolution No. 4637 stating that the title of the Mitigation Plan should be more explicit.

Mr. Hilling, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 4637 by changing the title of the Multi-Hazard, Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Multi-Hazard, Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4637 BY CHANGING THE TITLE OF THE MULTI-HAZARD, MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL MITIGATION PLAN TO THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH MULTI-HAZARD, MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL MITIGATION PLAN AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Matherly, Hilling, Walley, Gatewood, Anderson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Hilling requested a staff report on the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Environmental Manager Jackson Fox stated that the original draft of the plan was brought before the Council in January for informational purposes. He stated the plan was primarily drafted by the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) with help from some City of Fairbanks and City of North Pole employees. He explained that the plan details the Fairbanks community's vulnerability to natural hazards and inventories the critical facilities owned by stakeholders in the event of a disaster. Mr. Fox stated that the plan identifies actions that can be taken dependent on the type of disaster that might occur. He stated that the plan has gone through state and federal reviews. He clarified that since the plan is a technical document versus a policy document, it does not mandate any action on the part of the Cities or the Borough or impose new requirements on businesses or residents. Mr. Fox noted that the plan needs to be adopted by the Council in order for the City to apply for grant funding for projects under the Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. He stated that the City of North Pole and the FNSB will consider similar resolutions to approve the plan for their municipalities.

Mr. Matherly asked Mr. Fox if the City would still be able to apply for grant funding in the event that the other municipalities do not approve the plan.

Mr. Fox replied that if the City of Fairbanks approves the plan, its ability to apply for grant funding is not contingent upon the other municipalities' adoption of the plan.

Mr. Hilling asked what seismic level would put a City facility in jeopardy and asked Mr. Fox to speak to the obligations of the City upon adoption of the plan.

Mr. Fox replied that the numbers are laid out in the plan but stated that he does not know them off-hand. He clarified that the list of projects in the plan in no way obligates the City of Fairbanks; rather, it allows the City to seek funding for hazard mitigation projects if the Council so chooses.

City Attorney Ewers explained that the City Council would have to consider a resolution to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant funding and a budget amendment ordinance before any hazard mitigation projects could be done.

Mr. Hilling asked what significance the plan carries.

Mr. Ewers stated that the plan identifies possible hazards and is a good resource for the City. He stated that without approval of the plan, the City will not have access to certain types of grant funding.

Mr. Hilling asked if any of the Hazard Mitigation Grants come from the State of Alaska.

Mr. Fox stated that the City is currently targeting federal grants but that there are grants that come from the Alaska Department of Homeland Security.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4637, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gatewood, Walley, Anderson, Matherly, Hilling

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4637, as Amended, APPROVED.

- e) Resolution No. 4638 – A Resolution to Renew the City’s Participant Membership Agreement with the Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association, Inc., for Municipal Insurance Coverage. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4638.

Mr. Walley asked Mr. Williams what the City’s premium increases have been in the past.

Mr. Williams replied that last year the increase was 1.33%. He stated that with the consistently high number of reported incidents he believes the three-year agreement will be a good deal for the City of Fairbanks.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4638 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Walley, Matherly, Gatewood, Hilling, Anderson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4638 APPROVED.

- f) 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.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 5950.

Mr. Hilling questioned whether the approval of Ordinance No. 5950 would fit into the City's mission statement. He sympathized with the less fortunate in the community and spoke highly of the Bread Line organization but discussed the issue of remaining fair amongst all non-profits within the community. **Mr. Hilling** stated that he will vote to advance Ordinance No. 5950 but expressed interest in ensuring that the public be given a chance to weigh in with requests of equal dollar amount.

Mr. Matherly stated that he does not view the forgiveness of the loan as a grant. He stated that he has a soft spot for those who are needy throughout the community and commented that the new program will benefit the community as a whole. He expressed his intent to support Ordinance No. 5950.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood stated that he is not necessarily sympathetic to the Bread Line because he has not seen them come before the Council and ask for handouts. He stated that the organization is in a position to pay off the loan, but is requesting that the City partner with them to help launch the Catalyst Kitchen program. **Mayor pro tem Gatewood** indicated that he is swayed to support Ordinance No. 5950 because the Bread Line is looking for help to do something good in the community. He added that he views the issue as a partnership opportunity.

Mr. Hilling stated that Mr. Gatewood's statements moved him. He commented that he does not see anything in the ordinance that holds the Bread Line, Inc. accountable to use the forgiven loan dollars for the Catalyst Kitchen program. He suggested that binding language be added and stated that he may address the issue at the next meeting.

Mr. Walley acknowledged Mr. Hilling's concerns and agreed that the ordinance may need tweaking prior to adoption. He spoke in favor of the investment in the Catalyst Kitchen and spoke to the positive impacts the program would have on the community. He stated that he will support the advancement of Ordinance No. 5950

Mr. Matherly stated that he sees the forgiveness of the loan as an investment in the community.

Mr. Anderson stated that there is a possibility of an amendment to Ordinance No. 5950 to rectify some concern about the accountability issue. He stated that it is the City's responsibility

to address the problem with the hungry and homeless in the community. He spoke highly of the Catalyst Kitchen program.

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

YEAS: Matherly, Gatewood, Hilling, Anderson, Walley

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 5950 ADVANCED.

- g) Ordinance No. 5951 – An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Chapter 22, Elections, to Allow for Declarations of Candidacy by Electronic Transmission and for Procedures to Allow for Poll Watchers at City Precincts. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Mr. Anderson**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 5951.

Mr. Hilling asked if it is standard procedure to have two different topics in the same ordinance.

City Clerk Hovenden replied that the two items are in the same ordinance because they are addressed in the same section of City Code.

Mr. Hilling stated that he has a problem with allowing for electronic transmission of Declarations of Candidacy because it may create a lack of transparency in the filing process. He spoke to maintaining the integrity of the City Clerk's Office and the election process and suggested that electronic filing may somehow encourage dishonesty or discourage full public disclosure. **Mr. Hilling** requested that Ms. Hovenden give her thoughts on the issue.

Ms. Hovenden stated that the proposed change came about due to recent and similar changes in the candidacy filing process at the Borough. She stated that the municipalities make an effort to keep election processes as close as possible for the sake of the public. She indicated that she supports the idea of electronic filing partly because it could allow for individuals who are traveling or who are experiencing unforeseen circumstances to file without physically coming to City Hall.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood asked how someone could file by fax or email without submitting the \$25 filing fee.

Ms. Hovenden replied that individuals would have to pay over the phone with a credit card by the deadline in order for the filing to be valid.

Mr. Matherly acknowledged **Mr. Hilling's** concern but stated that he supports electronic filing.

Mr. Walley stated that by filing electronically, the filer would take the risk of submitting incomplete or incorrect information.

Ms. Hovenden stated that in order to file, individuals must not only pay the fee and submit the Declaration of Candidacy, but must also submit a completed City Financial Disclosure Statement. She commented that should the change be adopted, she does not anticipate many electronic filings.

Mr. Anderson asked if electronic filing is becoming more common throughout the U.S.

Ms. Hovenden replied affirmatively.

Mr. Hilling asked Ms. Hovenden to address the potential for corruption and the possibility of the City Clerk's Office being compromised. He explained a scenario to illustrate his belief that the electronic process may lack transparency. He stated that he is terrified of the prospect of electronic voting.

Ms. Hovenden expressed confusion as to how the electronic filing process would differ from in-person filing. She commented that tampering with the process would not be worth losing her job.

Mr. Walley recalled when his father ran for public office and stated that he has fond memories of coming to City Hall at the last minute to see who had filed. He stated that electronic filing would eliminate that element. He stated that if someone is committing to run for public office they should certainly be able to commit to turning in their filing paperwork at City Hall. **Mr. Walley** suggested that the ordinance be amended to require an earlier due date for electronic filings.

Mr. Matherly expressed his belief that all filings should have the same deadline, regardless if they are paper or electronic.

City Attorney Ewers stated that the law would likely be in line with Mr. Matherly's position. He added that it may be possible to allow for varying deadlines if there is a compelling reason to do so.

Mr. Hilling expressed his frustration with the idea of electronic filing. He reiterated his belief that the filing process should remain consistent and transparent.

Mr. Matherly stated that he supports allowing individuals the option to file for candidacy electronically. He expressed his trust in the process and in individuals to do the right thing.

Mr. Hilling stated that the issue is not about the personal preference of each Council Member. He remarked that it is his duty as a Councilman not to trust but to hold people accountable. **Mr. Hilling** read aloud the addition of subsection (h) to Section 22-17 of Ordinance No. 5951. He asked Mr. Ewers why it is necessary to amend City Code if the Borough and State already allow for poll watchers.

Mr. Ewers explained that a request to poll watch during the 2013 Municipal Election spurred the consideration and research of the issue. He stated that since poll watching was not specifically allowed for in Borough Code, the Borough did not allow it. Mr. Ewers stated his opinion that

poll watching should be allowed for the City since it is permitted under State law and since there is guidance for poll watching under State regulations. He explained that as a result of the request, the Borough amended its Code to allow for poll watching in the future. He stated that by amending the City Code, it would remove any question as to whether poll watching is permitted at City precincts.

Mr. Hilling spoke in support of poll watching but expressed confusion in how to go about amending the ordinance to divide the issues of poll watching and electronic filing.

Mr. Ewers, in response to Mr. Hilling's concern, suggested that he move to amend Ordinance No. 5951 to eliminate the language pertaining to electronic filing.

Mr. Hilling moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 5951 by striking the language regarding voting procedures at the polls.

The MOTION FAILED for lack of a second.

Ms. Hovenden clarified that in order to keep the language pertaining to poll watchers, the motion should be to strike all language regarding electronic candidate filing so that the only issue to be considered at the next meeting would be poll watching.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Mr. Hilling**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 5951 by eliminating all language pertaining to electronic candidate filing.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 5951 BY ELIMINATING ALL LANGUAGE PERTAINING TO ELECTRONIC CANDIDATE FILING AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gatewood, Hilling, Matherly, Walley

NAYS: Anderson

ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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

YEAS: Hilling, Anderson, Walley, Matherly, Gatewood

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Staley

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 5951, as Amended, ADVANCED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Committee Reports

FMATS Policy Committee – **Mr. Walley** stated that the Committee approved all the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) task priorities and recommendations from the FMATS Technical Committee for the fiscal year 2015/2016. He explained that the UPWP must be updated every two years according to the National Surface Transportation law. He stated that the UPWP identifies the nature, timelines, staffing needs, costs, and funding sources of all FMATS planning and programming activities. **Mr. Walley** reported that the Committee approved the recommendations of the Technical Committee to adopt option number two for the distribution of planning and research funds, which will increase the funding of the metropolitan planning office (MPO).

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2014.

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2014.

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Appointment to the Clay Street Cemetery Commission.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Matherly stated that he had no comments.

Mr. Hilling requested that City Engineer Mike Schmetzer come forward to speak to the legality of diagonal signage for speed humps.

Mr. Schmetzer reminded everyone that the City of Fairbanks did not support the placement of speed humps and that no taxpayer dollars were spent to build them. He explained that the community put forth the effort to get funding from the state to put speed humps in. Mr. Schmetzer stated that the humps were thoroughly researched and tested before they were built in the neighborhoods. He commented that he has received requests for speed humps in every neighborhood within the City, but indicated that the City places the responsibility on the citizens to gather support and seek the funding for speed humps. Mr. Schmetzer stated that federal guidelines recommend that speed humps be marked with triangular signs reading "Speed Hump" but that they do not require them. He stated that property owners in the neighborhood did not want the big signs in their yards so he chose the smaller, black and yellow striped sign to mark the humps instead. Mr. Schmetzer stated that there are other communities who use the same type of signage and confirmed that the City of Fairbanks has complied with all federal guidelines in regard to the speed humps.

Mr. Hilling asked if there are any City, Borough or State requirements for speed hump signage.

Mr. Schmetzer replied that there are none.

Mr. Hilling asked Mr. Schmetzer to speak to the current pothole situation in the City.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that most of the roads being patched in Fairbanks are 36 years old. He boasted that the Engineering Department has been pushing projects out at an incredibly rapid pace. He stated that he would love to expand his pothole repair crew and add new equipment.

Mr. Hilling asked if the increase in road construction in recent years has caused less funding to be allocated to pothole repair.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that he is unsure and would have to research Mr. Hilling's question.

Mr. Walley asked Mr. Schmetzer if there are any marking requirements at all for speed humps.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that the guidelines provide for many marking options and that he has the liberty to use his engineering judgment to determine what is best. He commented that he is not aware of any reported accidents involving a speed hump in Fairbanks.

Mr. Walley asked if citizens may paint the speed humps in their neighborhood.

Mr. Schmetzer stated that he plans to have the speed humps repainted.

Mr. Anderson stated that the State of Alaska Department of Commerce is pulling the funding for the single position in Fairbanks that deals with mining and is moving the position to Anchorage. He commented that the change is a slap in the face to the local mining industry. **Mr. Anderson** stated that he has been enjoying the strategic planning meetings with City staff and spoke to his faith in the process. In regard to the death of Johnny Wallis, **Mr. Anderson** stated that the information is not yet available to the public due to the ongoing investigation.

Mr. Walley commended Mr. Schmetzer for his work and spoke to the large scale of the Cushman Street project.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood thanked everyone for making it easy for him to serve as Mayor pro tem in Mayor Eberhart's absence. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Turney and Mr. Buberger for regularly attending City Council meetings and for bringing issues to the attention of the Council.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT


City Attorney Ewers shared that the Deferred Compensation Committee put out an RFP for a 457 Plan, a retirement plan option for employees that places pre-tax dollars into savings. He stated that the Committee has gone through the entire process and has interviewed the top candidates and that they hope to make a decision by the end of the week. He stated that there would be a resolution on the matter in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

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


Mayor pro tem Gatewood called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor pro tem Gatewood declared the Meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.



JOHN EBERHART, MAYOR

ATTEST:

for 
JANEY HOVENDEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS