



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 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 6:00 P.M. Work Session with Marc Marlow concerning the Polaris Building, 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
 Lloyd Hilling, Seat E
 Chris Anderson, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Ernie Misewicz, Assistant Fire Chief
 Paul Ewers, City Attorney
 Janey Hovenden, City Clerk
 Jim Williams, Chief of Staff
 Stephanie Johnson, Dispatch Center Manager
 Michael J. Schmetzer, City Engineer
 Pat Smith, Development Manager
 Laren Zager, Police Chief

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Janey Hovenden.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Eberhart led the Flag Salutation.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Gene Redden, 2395 Woodminster Court, Fairbanks – Mr. Redden stated that last summer the Behavioral Health Center announced that they were broke and closed their doors. He explained that the staff was reduced from 60 employees to about 20 and that mental health services were picked up by an agency based out of Anchorage. He stated that local vocational, social and housing services went away quickly causing much displacement for locals with mental illnesses. Mr. Redden stated that in October he began researching ways to open a drop-in center for the mentally ill that would provide a safe shelter and meals during the day. He explained that with the help of others in the community the Northern Door Clubhouse opened its doors on January 6, 2014 at the location of the old Behavioral Health Center. He stated that the clubhouse staff is

made up of 100% volunteers and that the program is run by those who come in. He stated that the initial operational costs are being covered by a small grant from the Mental Health Trust. He added that Access Alaska is serving as the fiscal agent for the operation and the Interior AIDS Association is carrying the organization on their liability policy. He stated that the Fairbanks Food Bank is supplying the program with food and the North Star Council on Aging is preparing soup three days a week for those in need. Mr. Redden commended the Fairbanks community for getting the program started. He informed the Council that the current lease will expire at the end of May, 2014 and that the program will likely run out of money around the same time. Mr. Redden stated that his dream is to continue operating the clubhouse as a volunteer program. He stated that in order to do so he will need a permanent location, a paid director/coordinator and a funding source for supplies. Mr. Redden invited Mayor Eberhart and the Council to visit the clubhouse on South Cushman Street.

Mr. Hilling asked Mr. Redden if he had a suggestion as to how the City may be able to help the clubhouse.

Mr. Redden indicated that he would like to see the City provide a small amount of funding to operate the program or a building in which to operate.

Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Redden to clarify Access Alaska's involvement.

Mr. Redden stated that Access Alaska is managing the grant funding on behalf of the program. He stated that they are overseeing the fiscal portion of the operation and that if government agencies such as the City or Borough chose to contribute, that funding would also be administered by Access Alaska.

Mr. Walley asked how big the current location of the clubhouse is.

Mr. Redden replied that the space is about 4,000 – 5,000 square feet including the commercial kitchen.

Mr. Walley asked Mr. Redden to speak to the grant that is covering operational costs.

Mr. Redden stated that the grant was for \$10,000. He explained that \$5,000 will be used for utilities, \$1,000 for insurance, and \$4,000 for supplies. He stated that he is unsure as to who owns the building but indicated that it is being sub-leased to him by the Behavioral Health Center that operates out of Anchorage.

Mayor Eberhart asked Mr. Redden to confirm that the dollar amount he is seeking from the City Council and the Borough Assembly is \$58,000.

Mr. Redden confirmed the amount.

Mayor Eberhart stated that he has requested that the Northern Door Clubhouse be added to the next Finance Committee Agenda. He added that if the Council chooses to give funding to the Northern Door Clubhouse it would take a budget amendment.

Bob Eley, 931 Fourth Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Eley stated that he is testifying on behalf of the Fairbanks Community Museum. He shared that the organization is still interested in Old City Hall and would like to remain in the space. He indicated, however, that the museum cannot come up with enough funds to pay current market value for the building. Mr. Eley stated that he would like to explore other options for purchasing the structure. He stated that the Fairbanks Community Museum would eventually like to renovate the building which may require grant funding. He pointed out that it is difficult to obtain grants without owning the building.

Mr. Hilling asked Mr. Eley to expound on his vision to renovate the entire building into one big museum.

Mr. Eley stated that plans have been drawn up to make most of the building space, including the upstairs, part of the museum. He indicated that grants would be needed to put in elevators.

Mr. Hilling asked Mr. Eley to email the Council a draft of the building plans.

Shelley Ebenal, 178 Crest Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Ebenal stated that she is the Executive Director for the Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation (GFCHF). She stated that Resolution No. 4614 is being introduced as a result of Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority's (AIDEA) requirement that local governments approve the location of the surgery project for Fairbanks Memorial Hospital (FMH). Ms. Ebenal clarified that Resolution No. 4614 in no way obligates the City of Fairbanks for bonds or any other liability.

Mr. Matherly asked why a new build-out is necessary.

Ms. Ebenal explained that the surgery unit is currently located in the north tower of FMH which is in the oldest part of the hospital. She stated that if there was a major disaster the current area would have to evacuate and the hospital could not continue normal operations. She indicated that rebuilding the entire section to meet seismic qualifications would be more fiscally responsible than upgrading the old section to meet standards.

Shirley Lee, 457 Cindy Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Lee stated that she is speaking to the Council on behalf of the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC). She commended Mayor Eberhart for introducing Ordinance No. 5939 to create a Fairbanks Diversity Council. Ms. Lee stated that she recently had her DNA tested and was shocked to learn that she is 33% Finnish. She stated that that made her think about what the "DNA of Fairbanks" would be. She spoke to the deep roots of Fairbanks and to the large Alaska Native heritage of the community. Ms. Lee stated that Fairbanks is a rich tapestry of varying cultures and backgrounds and expressed her belief that a Diversity Council would give a greater voice to the diverse population in the community. She stated that the reward of creating a Diversity Council would greatly outweigh the cost. Ms. Lee expressed her strong support for the adoption of Ordinance No. 5939.

Karen Parr, 949 McGown Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Parr spoke in support of Ordinance No. 5939. She stated that she has been in the Fairbanks area since 1961 and that shortly after moving here, her husband played a significant role in getting the City to create a Human Rights Council. She spoke to the improvements that society has made since that time and stated that a strong, forward-looking community is one that works together and gets along.

Rosalind Kan, 2568 Talkeetna Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Kan stated that she has lived in the Fairbanks community for more than 40 years and expressed her satisfaction with the introduction of Ordinance No. 5939. She spoke to the cultural diversity of the community and commented that there are 40 – 50 different languages being spoken in Fairbanks. Ms. Kan spoke to equal treatment of all citizens and stated that cultural diversity is an asset and a resource within the community. She recommended that Ordinance No. 5939 include language that speaks directly to the positive aspects of diversity and clarifies the foundation for creating a Diversity Action Plan.

Greg Allison, 436 Spence Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Allison stated that he is representing Explore Fairbanks as their Director of Tourism. He provided an update to the Council on the efforts of the Tourism Department, specifically the efforts targeting Japanese tourism. He shared that a celebration was held on February 10, 2014 recognizing the 10-year anniversary for Japan Airline charter services to Fairbanks. Mr. Allison commented that the tourism team at Explore Fairbanks continues its efforts to internationally promote Fairbanks as a year-round travel destination. He thanked the City for reinvesting bed tax dollars into destination marketing.

Dr. Michael Fitch, 1814 Carr Avenue, Fairbanks – Dr. Fitch stated that he is the founder of Concierge Medicine of Alaska and spoke in favor of the creation of a Fairbanks Diversity Council. He stated that Fairbanks is a liberal city but commented that sometimes the aspects of diversity are overlooked. Dr. Fitch stated that he also serves as the Vice President of the JP Jones Community Development Center and is the co-founder of Black Professional Advisor, an organization that was created to meet the needs of youth within the community. He spoke to how diversity within a community has a direct influence on its economics. Dr. Fitch encouraged Council Members to consider the many benefits to adopting Ordinance No. 5939. He suggested that the ordinance be amended to allow the Vice Chair of the Diversity Council to be elected from its membership.

Mr. Hilling asked Dr. Fitch to explain what he meant by his comment that Fairbanks is a liberal community.

Dr. Fitch stated that he believes the Fairbanks community is liberal in its ideals regarding personal freedom and expression. He stated that he grew up in North Carolina, a very conservative state. He commented that Fairbanks seems to have taken some unique and “new age” steps to becoming more liberal.

Ana Richards, 1244 Viewpointe Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Richards expressed her support for Ordinance No. 5939. She stated that she has lived in the community for more than 25 years and has watched the community grow both in numbers and in diversity throughout those years, partly due to the University of Fairbanks and the military. She indicated that some local residents may feel isolated or uninvolved in the public process and spoke to better integration and citizen involvement. Ms. Richards spoke to social capital and to how communities that work together prosper in many areas. She encouraged the City Council to adopt Ordinance No. 5939 on behalf of the Latinos Unidos del Norte organization.

Joe Blackburn, 3350 Liberty Court, North Pole – Mr. Blackburn thanked Mayor Eberhart for introducing Ordinance No. 5939 and strongly urged the Council to adopt it. He stated that he has

served in the military and has traveled many places but cannot think of a better place to live than Fairbanks, Alaska. He stated, however, that Fairbanks still has issues concerning equality and fairness. Mr. Blackburn indicated that a Diversity Council will enhance the balance of equality, will make people more aware of the concerns within the community, and may allow for consideration of new and fresh ideas.

Sean Reilly, 1507 21st Avenue, Apt. C, Fairbanks – Mr. Reilly wholeheartedly endorsed the adoption of Ordinance No. 5939 and echoed the comments of Dr. Fitch and others regarding inclusion, diversity and stabilization of the local economy. He stated that as an individual with a disability it can be challenging to get around in Fairbanks, especially during the winter months. Mr. Reilly asked the City Council to consider that point of view and to possibly appoint a representative of the disabled population to the Fairbanks Diversity Council. He spoke to Resolution No. 4613, as Amended, regarding the rights of sufferers to legally obtain marijuana. He stated that Mr. Hilling, the resolution’s sponsor, had asked him to do some research on the effects of marijuana to children and individuals with autism. Mr. Reilly pointed out that the resolution currently reads that all sufferers—regardless of age—should have the right to legally obtain the drug. He presented an argument from the National Association of School Nurses that opposes the use of marijuana to treat medical ailments and suggests that there is not enough evidence to support its usage. Mr. Reilly also stated that the American Medical Association links the use of marijuana by youth to a loss in IQ. He observed that the Council on Science and Public Health states that with the movement towards liberalization regarding marijuana laws there is an inadequate establishment of safeguards in place to protect individuals. He spoke to a variety of treatments for autism as cited on the National Autism Website and stated that there was no recommendation for marijuana treatment.

Floyd Terry, PO Box 73514, Fairbanks – Mr. Terry spoke to his efforts to bring the community together over the past 16 years by way of a skating rink. He read aloud an advertisement from 1907 inviting Fairbanks residents to the skating rink on Fourth Avenue. Mr. Terry stated that his latest endeavor is to drum up community interest to open a roller skating rink in Fairbanks. He stated that roller skating is not a thing of the past and invited interested citizens to contact him.

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.

Mr. Walley pulled Ordinance No. 5939 from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Gatewood pulled Resolution No. 4616 from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Hilling pulled Ordinance No. 5937 from the Consent Agenda.

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

Mayor Eberhart informed the Council that the City's Property Manager, Patrick Smith, came to him earlier in the day indicating that Ordinance No. 5937 may need more work before its introduction. He stated that Mr. Smith requested that the Council completely pull the ordinance from the agenda.

Mayor Eberhart called for objection to pulling Ordinance No. 5937 from the Agenda and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2013.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

SPECIAL ORDERS

a) The Fairbanks City Council, Sitting as a Committee of the Whole, heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Applications for renewal.

Lic #	Establishment Name	License Type	Premise Location	Owner Name
104	Red Lantern Steak & Spirits	Beverage Dispensary	820 Noble St	Westmark Hotels, Inc.
435	Garden Island Party Store	Package Store	246 Illinois	Market Basket Inc.
703	Gavora's Liquor #1	Package Store	250 Third Street Graehl	Market Basket Inc.
704	Gavora's Liquor #2	Package Store	1255 Airport Way	Market Basket Inc.
995	Safeway Store #2754	Package Store	3627 Airport Way	Safeway Inc.
999	Oaken Keg #3410	Package Store	30 College Road	Safeway Inc.
1134	Thrifty Liquors	Package Store	1410 Cushman Street	Market Basket Inc.
2424	Sophie Station Hotel	Beverage Dispensary-Tourism	1717 University Ave S	Fountainhead Development Inc.
2565	El Dorado Bar & Grill	Beverage Dispensary	530 Third Ave.	El Dorado Bar & Grill Inc.
3074	Wedgewood Resort	Beverage Dispensary-Tourism	212 Wedgewood Dr.	Fountainhead Development Inc.
3170	The Odom Corporation	Wholesale - General	3101 Peger Rd - Bay 1	The Odom Corporation
3381	Food Factory	Restaurant/Eating Place	44 College Road	CNR Enterprise LLC
3489	Arctic Bar	Beverage Dispensary	623 Old Steese Hwy. Fairbanks	Arctic Inuk Inc.
3616	Wedgewood Resort-Bear Lodge	Beverage Dispensary-Tourism Duplicate	212 Wedgewood Dr.	Fountainhead Development Inc.
4174	Big Daddy's Bar-B-Q & Banquet Hall	Beverage Dispensary	107 Wickersham St	RTG LLC
4344	Siam Dishes	Restaurant/Eating Place	338 Old Steese Hwy	Air Choummittaphanh & Southsakone Pheunmany

Lic #	Establishment Name	License Type	Premise Location	Owner Name
4530	Barracuda's Beach Bar	Beverage Dispensary	1288 Sadler Way	Xavier's Inc.
4720	Trappers Tavern	Beverage Dispensary	1446 S Cushman	Gallantino's Inc.
4816	Mayan Palace	Beverage Dispensary	3401 Airport Way	Taco Azteca Incorporated
4831	Wasabi Bay Restaurant	Restaurant/Eating Place	1448 S Cushman St	Soon Teack Park

Mr. Gatewood, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on all the Liquor License Applications for renewal except Barracuda's Beach Bar, License #4530.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON ALL THE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR RENWAL EXCEPT BARRACUDA'S BEACH BAR, LICENSE #4530, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Walley, Matherly, Gatewood, Hilling, Anderson, Staley

NAYS: None

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Gatewood, seconded by **Mr. Anderson**, moved to PROTEST Barracuda's Beach Bar due to the Fire Department's recommendation until such time as a physical inspection of the premises can be performed and it passes all the necessary requirements. The protest may be lifted administratively when all inspections are passed.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO PROTEST BARRACUDA'S BEACH BAR DUE TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF THE PREMISES CAN BE PERFORMED AND IT PASSES ALL NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Staley, Matherly, Gatewood, Hilling, Anderson, Walley

NAYS: None

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Eberhart thanked all those who spoke in favor of Ordinance No. 5939 to create a Fairbanks Diversity Council and expressed hope that it would be advanced to a second reading. He read aloud a Joint Proclamation by the Mayors of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the City of North Pole and the City of Fairbanks recognizing dispatch services, public works personnel and fire department workers within the community for their work in responding to the recent fire on Geraghty Avenue. **Mayor Eberhart** specifically recognized City Public Works heavy equipment operator Ben Siebels for his careful work in uncovering two victims from debris. He recognized Julie Ritchie, Martie Kappel and Brenda Geier from the City's Dispatch Center for rapidly coordinating medical, fire and police response from seven agencies to respond to the fire. **Mayor Eberhart** read aloud Joint Proclamations in recognition of University Battalion Chief Greg Coon and City Firefighter Sergey Streltsov for rescuing a family of five from the second

story of a burning apartment building. **Mayor Eberhart** read aloud a Joint Proclamation honoring the American Red Cross and its Director, Michell Daku, for their timely and compassionate assistance to victims of the Geraghty Avenue fire in January. **Mayor Eberhart** congratulated City Attorney, Paul Ewers, on his recent appointment to the Alaska Municipal League/Joint Insurance Association (AML/JIA) Board of Trustees. He provided a summary of the meetings he had attended since the last Council Meeting including his trip to Juneau to meet with legislators and interior delegates in regard to the City's legislative requests. He stated that with input from Chief of Staff Jim Williams, the administration chose to lower the request for the voice-over-internet protocol system from \$600,000 to \$350,000. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that he and Ms. Staley also met with many representatives while in Juneau. He spoke to the many other meetings he had attended, both within the City and throughout the community. He shared that the Borough has agreed to contribute \$25,000 to the Community Service Patrol (CSP) and stated that there is an upcoming meeting with the Downtown Association to discuss the expansion of the program. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that the City continues to work with the FNSB School District on a work-study program that would allow local students to work part time in City offices to learn about local government while earning credit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4613 – A Resolution Pleading with the Alaska Governor and Legislature to Restore the Rights of Sufferers to Obtain Medical Marijuana, with Prescription and without Prejudice. Introduced by Council Member Hilling. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2014.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4613.

Mr. Hilling, seconded by **Mr. Anderson**, moved to SUBSTITUTE Resolution No. 4613, as Amended, for Resolution No. 4613.

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

Mr. Matherly expressed concern with including language specifying that children should have the right to legally obtain marijuana. He suggested using a general term such as “patients.”

Mr. Hilling read aloud the final paragraph in Resolution No. 4613, as Amended. He acknowledged **Mr. Matherly's** concern regarding marijuana and children and agreed that an amendment should be introduced.

Mr. Hilling, seconded by **Mr. Anderson**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 4613, as Amended, by striking “adults (and children with the strictest rationale and supervision)” and replacing it with “patients.”

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4613, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Anderson, Matherly, Staley, Hilling
NAYS: Gatewood, Walley

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Gatewood stated that he is struggling with the resolution on marijuana. He acknowledged that marijuana has some medicinal qualities and may have a place in medicine but stated that there are still many unknowns. He stated that he has done his own research and spoke out against the use of the drug by children. **Mr. Gatewood** indicated that he would not support such legislation until a sufficient amount of research had been done to convince him otherwise.

Mr. Anderson stated that he somewhat agrees with Mr. Gatewood's comments but spoke to the State of Alaska's acknowledgement of an individual's right to have marijuana. He pointed out that state law is inconsistent in that it does not allow for individuals to obtain the drug. He stated that he will support Resolution No. 4613, as Amended.

Mr. Matherly stated that he is not a fan of marijuana but that he agrees with Mr. Anderson's comments regarding the inconsistency in state law. He stated that he agrees with Mr. Gatewood's comments as well.

Mr. Hilling expressed his appreciation for the discussion. He clarified that state law does not completely prohibit individuals from obtaining the drug for medicinal purposes but makes it so difficult to obtain that it drives many users to obtain it illegally. He agreed with Mr. Gatewood's comments which spoke out against children smoking marijuana. **Mr. Hilling** stated that the primary purpose of Resolution No. 4613, as Amended, is to address the supply of marijuana for those individuals who need it for medical purposes and to encourage consistency in state law.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4613, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Hilling, Anderson, Walley, Matherly

NAYS: Staley, Gatewood

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4613, as Amended, APPROVED.

- b) Ordinance No. 5936, as Amended – An Ordinance Amending FGC Sections 2-486 and 2-487 Regarding the Clay Street Cemetery Commission. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Ms. Staley**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 5936, as Amended.

Mr. Gatewood, seconded by **Ms. Staley**, moved to SUBSTITUTE an Amended version of Ordinance No. 5936, as Amended.

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

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

Mr. Gatewood expressed confusion regarding Section 2-487(a) of the ordinance. He stated that the makeup of the membership described in 2-487(a)(1)-(3) does not account for all seven members.

Mayor Eberhart stated that Section 2-487(a)(3) should read, "Five at-large public members or four at-large public members if a council member is appointed to the commission."

City Attorney Ewers confirmed that the math was incorrect and that Mayor Eberhart's suggested change would take care of the problem.

Mayor Eberhart called for objection to making the change to Section 2-487(a)(3) of Ordinance No. 5936, as Amended, and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 5936, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Matherly, Hilling, Walley, Staley, Gatewood, Anderson

NAYS: None

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 5936, as Amended, ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4614 – A Resolution Consenting to and Approving the Location of the Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation Incorporated's Expansion Project Funded through Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4615 – A Resolution Re-Designating Check Signing Authority for Banking and Investment Accounts of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 4616 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Gatewood, seconded by **Ms. Staley**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4616.

Mr. Gatewood recognized that the funding in Resolution No. 4616 does not require a match but asked what "public recognition of the award" is intended to mean.

Assistant Fire Chief, Ernie Misewicz, explained that the department typically recognizes the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company through a newspaper article for their support of the Fairbanks community.

Mr. Gatewood asked how many alarms could be purchased with the \$5,041 and how they would be distributed to residents within the City's fire service area.

Mr. Misewicz replied that Lakeview Terrace residents would be the first recipients of the alarms. He stated that the City would advertise the remaining alarms and install them in other households as needed. He indicated that the grant would cover the purchase of about 400 alarms.

Mr. Hilling asked Mr. Misewicz asked what type of organization the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is.

Mr. Misewicz explained that it is a private company that makes funds available for various projects related to fire safety.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4616 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Hilling, Anderson, Walley, Staley, Matherly, Gatewood

NAYS: None

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4616 APPROVED.

d) Ordinance No. 5937 – An Ordinance Authorizing Lease of City-Owned Property to the Fairbanks Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PULLED from AGENDA by Motion of the Council.

e) Ordinance No. 5938 – An Ordinance Amending FGC Section 2-332 Regarding the Membership of the Commission on Historic Preservation. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

f) Ordinance No. 5939 – An Ordinance Enacting FGC Sections 2-490 through 2-494 Creating a Fairbanks Diversity Council. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Ms. Staley**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 5939.

Mr. Walley pointed out that Section 2-491 of the Fairbanks General Code (FGC) is already being used for Officers, Employees, and Departments and suggested that Section 2-491 be moved within Ordinance No. 5939 to Section 2-490.

City Attorney Ewers stated that he will provide a renumbering scheme in an As Amended version prior to the second reading of Ordinance No. 5939.

Mr. Walley asked Mayor Eberhart to speak to the reasons behind the introduction of Ordinance No. 5939 and to what he would like to accomplish by creating a Fairbanks Diversity Council.

Mayor Eberhart explained that his goal for a City Diversity Council is to be inclusive of all citizens and to hear the concerns of all the diverse groups within the community. He indicated that the Diversity Council should not be limited to ethnic groups but might also include representation for the disabled, the senior citizens and the gay population in the Fairbanks area. **Mayor Eberhart** spoke to how the idea of forming a Diversity Council developed throughout his campaign for City Mayor. He stated that the Council may ask the Diversity Council to research and offer a recommendation on an array of issues pertaining to diversity. He stated that the City Council or the Borough Assembly may want to assign additional tasks to the Diversity Council. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that one of the significant duties of the Diversity Council will be to create a Diversity Action Plan as described in Ordinance No. 5939. He stated that the Diversity Council may be asked to look at ways to attract Native Alaskan applicants to the Fairbanks Police force.

Mr. Gatewood stated that he does not believe there needs to be a specific reason or incident to spur the formation of a Fairbanks Diversity Council. He stated that racism still exists in the Fairbanks community every day and that Mayor Eberhart was approached by citizens concerned with the issue during his campaign. **Mr. Gatewood** stated that diversity is about recognizing the differences in people, accepting one another, and getting along as a community. He stated that the Diversity Council would be a good step in addressing the discrimination throughout the Fairbanks community.

Ms. Staley expressed concern with the large membership of the proposed Council. She stated that it may be difficult to get people to show up for meetings and asked Mayor Eberhart how he arrived at fifteen members.

Mayor Eberhart stated that eight members would constitute a quorum and commented that he gathered input from members in the community on how large a Fairbanks Diversity Council should be. He listed a few of the diverse groups and cultures with the Fairbanks area and stated that the 15-member Council would be filled rather quickly when you take the wide array of representation into account. He indicated that there has been a large amount of interest from the community.

Ms. Staley asked Mayor Eberhart if he believes that future mayors will want to serve as the Diversity Council Chair.

Mayor Eberhart replied that his intent in naming the City Mayor as Chair is that he wanted to give the Diversity Council stature and significance. He stated that the City Council may want to amend Ordinance No. 5939 in order to allow for a designee of the City Mayor to serve as the non-voting Chair.

Mr. Matherly thanked citizens for their testimony and the City Council for the discussion regarding the Diversity Council. He stated that Fairbanks is quite a melting pot and that Ordinance No. 5939 is a good start in addressing diversity. He asked for clarification on Section

2-494(a)(3) in regard to what effect it would have on City union employees. **Mr. Matherly** also asked how members of the Diversity Council would be selected and appointed.

Mayor Eberhart explained that City employees serve the multi-cultural Fairbanks community. He stated that Section 2-494(a)(3) is there to help ensure that employees are sensitive to that diversity. He explained that while most City employees are union, the administration still has management rights to provide or require certain training as necessary. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that his hope is to reinforce to City employees through training that they are public servants to a diverse community.

Mr. Matherly asked if the unions could oppose or refuse such training.

Mayor Eberhart stated that he would argue that the City has a right to require diversity training under its management rights. He stated that if Ordinance No. 5939 is adopted he will ask the City Clerk's Office to advertise all vacancies in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner and on the City's website. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that he will try to draft some guidelines for selection and commented that he does not believe finding applicants will be a problem. He reminded the City Council that they will have the opportunity to confirm or reject all recommendations for City-appointed seats to the Diversity Council.

Mr. Anderson stated that he has seen a similar process in action at TCC. He spoke to his own native culture and to the varying customs and communications within different cultures and backgrounds. He suggested that a community needs motivation and inspiration in order to get along and stated that communication through understanding and tolerance is the key.

Mr. Hilling commented that Mr. Anderson and Mr. Gatewood's words were inspiring. He stated that he feels that America has come a long way in eradicating racism but admitted that he may overstate that progress in his own mind. He stated that his wife was born in Korea and spoke briefly to the differences in American and Korean culture. **Mr. Hilling** commented that learning about other cultures can provide new perspective and allow for compromise. He spoke to diversifying the makeup of City employees. He reminded the City Council of Ms. Kan's suggested amendments to Ordinance No. 5939 during Public Testimony. **Mr. Hilling** asked if there would be ordinances needed by the City and Borough to implement a Diversity Action Plan recommended by the Fairbanks Diversity Council.

Mayor Eberhart stated that there are already equal opportunity laws in place.

Mr. Hilling asked Mayor Eberhart to speak to the limitations regarding employee discipline and jurisdiction in Section 2-493(12).

Mayor Eberhart explained that it is not the place of the Diversity Council to deal with employee discipline issues. He stated that jurisdiction is a separate issue and indicated that the Diversity Council would not have any jurisdiction over issues of federal or state law.

Mr. Hilling stated that he believes the term "culturally competent" in Section 2-494(a) means to have mastered an understanding of the various minority groups within the community.

Mayor Eberhart commented that the term can also be interpreted to mean culturally aware or culturally sensitive. He shared with the City Council that much of Ordinance No. 5939 was drafted by the late Patrick Cole before his passing.

Ms. Staley asked if the administrative duties of the Diversity Council would have a significant impact on the City Clerk's Office.

Mayor Eberhart stated that in his mind the City Clerk's Office should perform those types of administrative tasks for City meetings. He added that if the Clerk's Office needs more resources, the issue can be addressed in the future.

Ms. Staley stated that her intent in asking such a question is only to ensure that the Clerk's Office has the manpower to administer the additional duties.

Mayor Eberhart indicated that Chief of Staff Jim Williams is exploring ways to automate some manual processes at City Hall.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 5939 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Anderson, Gatewood, Staley, Hilling, Matherly, Walley

NAYS: None

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Committee Reports

Golden Heart Parking Services (GHPS) Board – **Ms. Staley** stated that the Board met but did not have a quorum to conduct business. She stated that GHPS currently uses Cornerstone Collections to collect on delinquencies and added that they are no longer allowing for service fees to be charged. She stated that she plans to work with City Attorney Ewers to discuss options.

Tiger Team – **Ms. Staley** gave an overview of the proposed addition of F-35's to Eielson Air Force Base. She announced that there would be a noon presentation by the Chamber of Commerce at the Carlson Center on February 25, 2014 and invited everyone to attend. She stressed the importance of local support of the opportunity to boost the economy of the Fairbanks community.

Fairbanks Convention and Visitor's Bureau (FCVB) Board of Directors – **Mr. Matherly** stated that the Board recently met and discussed the new logo, the possibility of new board members and the annual review of FCVB President Deb Hickok.

FMATS Policy Committee – **Mr. Walley** stated that at their last meeting the Committee finalized layouts for the nine historic plaques in the green space on Illinois Street. He stated that installation of the plaques should be finished by the end of March. He shared that the Dennis

Road Extension Project scored very low at the FMATS Technical Committee and indicated that the state will close the project. **Mr. Walley** stated that the Policy Committee also approved a motion to submit an appropriations request to Senator Mark Begich for the Cushman Bridge Projects and for a study on the relocation of the railway yards in Fairbanks and North Pole. He stated that the Chena Small Tracts Project is set to move forward with the State of Alaska design although there was much controversy surrounding the project. **Mr. Walley** shared that the Technical Committee recommended postponing action on the College Road Rehabilitation Project funding until a decision is made in regard to scope. He stated that the Polaris sculpture for the green space on Illinois Street is currently being constructed and that they have estimated the amount of time to polish the final product at a remarkable 3,000 hours. He indicated that installation of the sculpture should take place in August or September of 2014. **Mr. Walley** stated that the South Cushman Project is gearing up and spoke to the design of the new street and sidewalks.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2013.

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2013.

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Matherly apologized for having to leave the last Regular City Council Meeting early. He stated that he along with many of his family members will be attending the funeral for Governor Mike Stepovich on February 28. He expressed appreciation for the Council's comments throughout the meeting, specifically in regard to the discussion on the creation of a Diversity Council. He applauded the public for coming to speak to the Council. **Mr. Matherly** stated that he was happy to hear the Proclamations read in recognition of the outstanding work done by responders to the Geraghty fire. He stated that after speaking with Marc Marlow about the Polaris Building he has a better understanding of the magnitude of work to be done and funding to be obtained in order to renovate the structure. He stated that he now feels more optimistic about the issue and believes that Mr. Marlow is making progress.

Mr. Hilling had no comments.

Mr. Anderson stated that he really appreciated the meeting. He congratulated City Attorney Ewers on becoming a member of the AML/JIA Board of Trustees and recognized City Clerk Hovenden for her Presidency in the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC). He stated that he recently attended a Women of Excellence dinner at the JP Jones Community Center with Lottie Fleeks who was honored along with six other women throughout the community for their extraordinary accomplishments. **Mr. Anderson** stated that he also attended orientation for the 2014 Arctic Winter Games over the weekend and commented on the incredible projected turnout and organization of the event.

Mr. Gatewood expressed appreciation for Council discussion and Public Testimony throughout the meeting. He congratulated City Attorney Ewers on his new membership to the AML/JIA Board of Trustees and commended City Clerk Hovenden for having recently obtained her Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). He expressed his pride in the City of Fairbanks employees. **Mr. Gatewood** stated that in regard to diversity, he would define cultural competency as understanding the reasons behind a culture's traditions and customs. He commented that this type of understanding is a lifelong learning process that everyone should strive for. He expressed appreciation for the advancement of Ordinance No. 5939 to create a Fairbanks Diversity Council. He commended those who were recognized for their response to the Geraghty fire and commented on the tragedy of the disaster. **Mr. Gatewood** stated that he looks forward to getting to know the new Chief of Staff.

Mr. Walley expressed his appreciation for the way the City Council communicates with one another. He indicated that he may be somewhat ignorant to the diversity issue because he does not notice an individual's color or race. He stated that Mr. Gatewood and Mr. Anderson's comments provided a different perspective for him to consider. **Mr. Walley** expressed appreciation for Mayor Eberhart's comments on the diversity issue as well.

Ms. Staley stated that she also appreciated the meeting discussion and commented that working with everyone at the City is fun. She thanked Mr. Anderson for covering for her at the last Borough Assembly meeting. **Ms. Staley** encouraged everyone to buy tickets for the upcoming 2014 Arctic Winter Games and stressed the importance of volunteering for and attending the events.

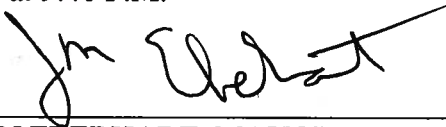
Mr. Walley requested that reminders be sent out to Council Members for the schedule to attend Borough Assembly meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gatewood moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

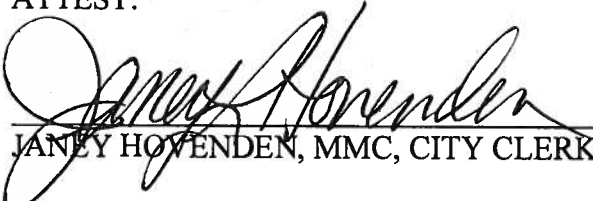
Mayor Eberhart called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Eberhart declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.



JOHN EBERHART, MAYOR

ATTEST:



JANEY HOVENDEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS