

**RESOLUTION NO. 4854**

**A RESOLUTION STATING THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS  
LEGISLATIVE AND CAPITAL PRIORITIES FOR 2019**

**WHEREAS**, the City is grateful for the funding provided by the State of Alaska, which has added significantly to the City's ability to provide essential services; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the services the City provides are centered on protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Fairbanks; preparedness and infrastructure are key in that endeavor; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fairbanks has identified the following capital and legislative priorities; the public had the opportunity to speak to this Resolution at the Dec 3, 2018 City Council meeting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Fairbanks City Council that the 2019 legislative and capital priorities of the City of Fairbanks are stated in the attached list. In summary, the projects are ranked as follows:

2019 Legislative Priorities

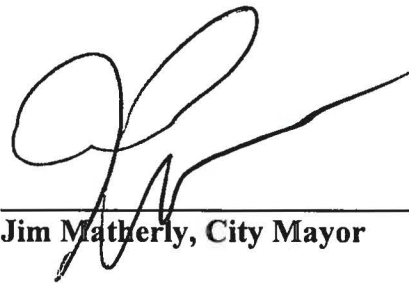
1. Maintain current PERS contribution rates
2. Maintain the funding for Community Assistance Program and rename to the Community Dividend Program
3. Provide state assistance for contaminated ground water
4. Assist with boiler conversions
5. Assist and coordinate on point source clean air requirements
6. Push to update the state-wide voting system and equipment

2019 Capital Priorities

1. Fund the Emergency Service Patrol
2. Fund the LNG Storage Tax Credits
3. Provide funding for construction of a Law Enforcement Firing Range and Training Facility
4. Provide funding for the replacement of the City Hall heating system

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Office of the Governor and the Interior Alaska Legislative Delegation.

**PASSED and APPROVED this 3rd day of December 2018.**



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**Jim Matherly, City Mayor**

AYES: PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
APPROVED: December 3, 2018

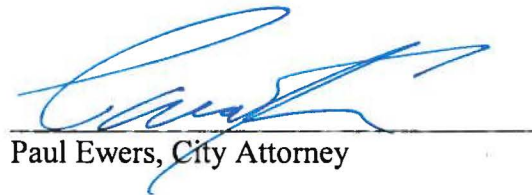
ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



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D. Danyielle Snider, CMC, City Clerk



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Paul Ewers, City Attorney



## CITY OF FAIRBANKS

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### City of Fairbanks Legislative and Capital Priorities 2019

- 1. PERS Contribution Rate:** The City of Fairbanks supports maintaining the 22% PERS contribution rate as was agreed to by PERS employers and the state in allocating the unfunded liability. The City also requests that the State provide certainty of set rates for all employers.
- 2. Community Dividend:** The City of Fairbanks is concerned with the reductions in the community assistance program. The City makes three requests: (1) in keeping with AML rename the community assistance program to the community dividend program (2) that community assistance be at least maintained at the current funding levels, and (3) that early and accurate funding notice be given to the municipalities on a schedule which aligns with a calendar-year budget to help them set and manage their budgets.
- 3. AFFF Contamination Fund:** The Fairbanks Fire Department and most other firefighting services in the State of Alaska (federal, state, and local) used Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) for suppression of petroleum-based fires. Unbeknownst to these agencies, chemicals in the AFFF are harmful to humans. AFFF was used in training exercises at the Fairbanks Regional Fire Training Center (FRFTC) by the Fairbanks Fire Department, State of Alaska agencies, i.e. Fairbanks International Airport, the University, and other firefighting agencies and has been found in the ground water in and around the FRFTC. The City of Fairbanks is actively assessing and remedying the AFFF contamination from the FRFTC. AFFF contamination is a state-wide problem and should be addressed on a state-wide basis. To date, the State's role has been limited to regulation and enforcement (through ADEC), but State agencies have contributed to the contamination and State lands have been affected.

Our legislative priorities are.

1) The City of Fairbanks requests financial assistance for the City and other Alaskan municipalities which are protecting their residents from the potential health effects of PFC groundwater contamination. To date, the City of Fairbanks has spent approximately \$4M on remediation – an amount which has been passed along to all property owners within the city limits, including elderly home owners on a fixed income and other lower earning households. These costs are only expected to grow as the groundwater plume continues to spread and ADEC begins regulating additional types of PFCs.

2) The City of Fairbanks recommends the establishment of a PFC Executive Task Force or Action Team to create and implement a scientifically sound, thoughtful, and proactive statewide approach to managing this emerging contaminant. The functions of this group would include: a) limiting or controlling the risks to Alaskans' drinking water and the environment from AFFF and other sources of PFCs; b) developing a public clearinghouse of information on PFCs; c) exploring avenues of funding for remediation; and d) engaging with academic institutions and scientific experts in fields such as public health and environmental protection. Members of the executive task force or action team would come from state executive departments, as well as affected communities and the public at large.

4. **Emergency Service Patrol:** The City of Fairbanks requests \$300,000 for the City's emergency service patrol (ESP). Title 47 (AS 47.37) mandates that persons who are incapacitated by alcohol or drugs must be taken into protective custody by a peace officer or member of an emergency service patrol. The city seeks to continue its ESP for city-wide transport of incapacitated persons. The ESP is the most efficient and cost-effective means of meeting the state-imposed mandates under Title 47.
5. **LNG Storage Tax Credits:** Background: This tax credit is available for a new LNG facility that commences commercial operation after Dec 31, 2010, and before Jan 1, 2020. The credit may not exceed the lesser of \$15M or 50% of the costs incurred to establish or expand the facility. The local gas utility company will have their new 5.2M gallon LNG storage facility completed by Dec 2019. This tax credit must be approved by the Alaska Legislative Body. Without this credit the costs of gas for residents of Fairbanks will climb, making conversions to gas boilers even more challenging than they are now. We request that our Interior Delegation advocate for this tax credit to the Interior Gas Utility once the utility qualifies.
6. **Conversion assistance:** With the completion of a 5.2M gallon LNG storage tank in Fairbanks, the local gas utility will be able to start connecting customers who already have a gas distribution system in front of their homes. The City is requesting assistance from the State in "Thinking out of the box" as it comes to financial assistance with residents converting their boilers from fuel oil to gas. Assistance can come in the form of tax credits, low interest loans, loan guarantees, etc. The push for these conversions should start winter of 2020, with conversions occurring summer of 2020. Also request that our Interior Delegation interact with our Congressional Delegation to elicit their assistance with the Feds, specifically EPA funding for clean air initiatives.
7. **Point source assistance with clean air requirements:** Background. Fairbanks is in the non-attainment area as it pertains to clean air. We expect the power plants (point sources) to be required to install new multi-million-dollar technology, which will not improve the air quality. These costs will have to be recovered in the rate base that the customer pays for their utilities.

The Aurora Plant within the City has less than 300 customers. The costs to recover the projected millions of dollars in clean air upgrades across such a small customer base will be devastating to these customers. Request our Interior Delegation work with the Congressional Delegation to address this issue.

8. **Construction of a Law Enforcement Firing Range and Training Facility:** The City of Fairbanks has joined a collaborative regional effort to obtain property and construct a law enforcement firing range and training facility. The only current law enforcement range is located on the Fairbanks International Airport property. Having a shooting range/training facility on airport property has been historically problematic. The current rules surrounding the range make basic training topics and drills difficult and sometimes outright prohibited. Current rules also prohibit law enforcement from bringing citizen groups (such as citizen police academies) to the range during these public training programs. During 2018, areawide law enforcement agencies were notified the firearms training range would be shut down within the next year. There is currently no other firearms training facility within interior Alaska that is capable of functioning as a training range.

A new range facility would be open to and serve every local, state, and federal law enforcement agency within interior Alaska. It would also serve as the primary training site for our interior Alaska police academy. At a time when law enforcement is under constant scrutiny and expected to perform at the highest level of professionalism, a high level of training and a professional training environment is essential.

9. **Replacement of the City Hall Heating System:** The current heating system for City Hall is the original steam heating system. This system is well beyond its life cycle and needs replacing. The magnitude of this effort, within a few short summer months, the asbestos and lead based paint that most certainly will be encountered, is projected to cost approximately \$4M. Request \$4M from the Capital program to replace the heating system.
10. **Update State Voting System and Equipment:** The City of Fairbanks requests that the State of Alaska make it a priority to update State voting systems and equipment. Many municipalities rely on the State's equipment to conduct regular municipal elections, and the equipment is failing. The City recognizes that the Lieutenant Governor has formed an ad hoc Election Policy Work Group (EPWG) to address policy issues and to seek cost-saving measures to implement state and federal mandates relating to voter registration and language assistance, recruitment and training of election workers, and replacement of election software and equipment. Based on the proposed recommendation of the EPWG, the City urges the State to move forward in developing a project plan, conducting a cost analysis with FY2019 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant funds, creating new voting procedures, and procuring modern, compliant, and secure voting software and equipment for future State and municipal elections.