

ORDINANCE NO. 6096

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE SECTIONS
2-87 AND 2-115 REGARDING COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENCES AND
TELEPHONIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, for many years the city has allowed council members to attend meetings through teleconferencing; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable for both the public and the city council to have elected officials physically present; and

WHEREAS, technological difficulties have become problematic, with dropped calls, static and distortion on the lines, background noises that are broadcast on the radio and in the council chambers, difficulties for the caller in hearing public testimony and other Council members during deliberation, and potential problems with executive sessions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, as follows:

Section 1. Fairbanks General Code Sec. 2-87 is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~strike~~through font]:

Sec. 2-87. - Vacancies.

(a) A vacancy **will** ~~may~~ be created by the removal of any councilmember from office by the court, a recall, a failure to attend at least two meetings within a 60-day period, and for any other reason provided by the Charter. **However, the council, by majority vote, can make exceptions to the “two meetings within a 60-day period” requirement in the case of illness or other extenuating circumstances.**

(b) As provided in this section, no 60-day period shall commence except upon and including a regularly scheduled city council meeting.

Section 2. Fairbanks General Code Sec. 2-115 is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~strike~~through font]:

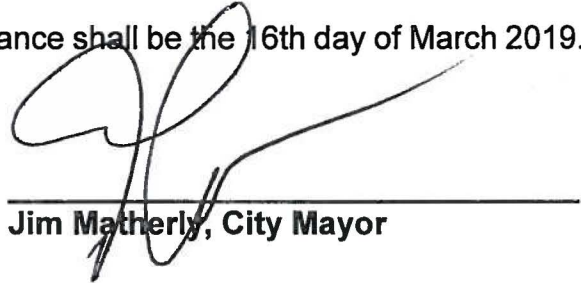
Sec. 2-115. - Absences; teleconferencing.

(a) *Absence.* No member shall absent himself from any regular meeting of the city council except for good and sufficient cause as determined by the council.

(b) *Teleconferencing/videoconferencing.* **A council member may only participate telephonically or by videoconference at any regularly**

scheduled or special city council meeting if their presence is required to establish a quorum. A member may participate at any meeting of the city council by teleconferencing/videoconferencing if the member, cannot physically attend the meeting; however, the member's physical absence shall not exceed 90 continuous days for medical circumstances and shall not exceed 30 continuous days for non-medical circumstances in any calendar year.

Section 3. That the effective date of this Ordinance shall be the 16th day of March 2019.

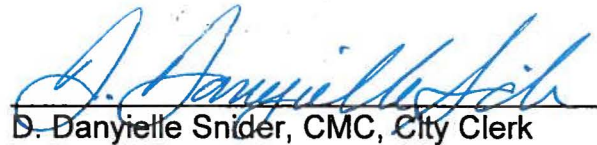


Jim Matherly, City Mayor

AYES: Cleworth, Pruhs, Rogers, Kun, Ottersten, Therrien
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ADOPTED: March 11, 2019

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



D. Danyielle Snider, CMC, City Clerk



Paul J. Ewers, City Attorney