



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:30 p.m. Work Session to discuss Ordinance No. 6178, as Amended, regarding vehicle impoundment and forfeiture, to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council via Zoom webinar and at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Jim Matherly presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Shoshana Kun, Seat A
 June Rogers, Seat B
 Valerie Therrien, Seat C
 Aaron Gibson, Seat D (remotely)
 Lonny Marney, Seat E
 Jim Clark, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer (remotely)
 Paul Ewers, City Attorney
 D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
 Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager
 Jeff Jacobson, PW Director
 Robert Pristash, City Engineer
 Tyler Wilbur, QC/Impounds
 Teal Soden, Communication Director
 Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director (remotely)
 Rick Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
 Tod Chambers, Fire Chief

City Clerk Danyielle Snider read the Mission Statement of the City of Fairbanks.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Matherly lead the Flag Salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Matherly gave a remembrance for the events and lives lost during the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, adding his respect for and admiration of the men and women who serve the City in the Fire, Police, and Dispatch departments. **Mayor Matherly** recognized Fairbanks Fire

Department employees Nick Clark and John Wagner for their promotions to Captain as well as Dalton Gregg and Kevin Johnson for their promotions to Driver/Engineer. Fire Chief Tod Chambers administered the Oaths of Office, and the employees' loved ones pinned their badges.

Mayor Matherly welcomed new Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) Officers, Tyler Hanson, Shawn Lai, and Todd Bluhm. Deputy Chief Rick Sweet administered the Oaths of Office, and the officers' loved ones pinned their badges.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Robert Shields, Fairbanks – Mr. Shields gave an update regarding his interest in the Polaris Building, stating that he had been unable to be added to the working group's agenda. He stated that he had interest in becoming the Chair of the working group if Mr. Pruhs were to retire and gave some information regarding available grants. He also stated that he may have discovered a potential buyer for the building. Mr. Shields expressed his willingness to coordinate efforts while speaking to the upcoming application deadlines. He shared his desire to make the Polaris Building a symbol of hope to the Fairbanks community and an example to others.

Ms. Kun thanked Mr. Shields and asked him to elaborate on the potential buyer he mentioned. Mr. Shields stated that he would like to have that conversation outside of the public forum.

Ms. Therrien stated that it would be beneficial for Mr. McCrea to have Mr. Shields' information so that it could be discussed at the next working group meeting. Mr. Shields confirmed that Mr. McCrea had been provided the same information that was given to the Council.

Mr. Marney asked if the potential buyers were aware of the condition of the Polaris Building. Mr. Shields stated that the condition is well known, and destruction will be necessary; he clarified that he hoped there may be better methods of doing so.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

Ms. Kun pulled Ordinance Nos. 6179 and 6180 from the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Therrien pulled the Memo Approving the Appointment of the 2021 Election Officials from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Matherly called for objection to the APPROVAL of the Agenda, as Amended, and hearing none, so ORDERED.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

SPECIAL ORDERS

- a) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Application for Transfer of Ownership and Location and DBA Change:

Type/License: Beverage Dispensary/License #3489
DBA: Tuffy's
Applicant: Tuffy's, LLC
Location: 3550 Airport Way, Unit 6, Fairbanks
From Owner: Arctic Fox Bar, LLC
From DBA: Arctic Fox Bar
From Location: 623 Old Steese Highway, Fairbanks

Mr. Clark, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the liquor license application for transfer of ownership and location and DBA change contingent upon the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

Mayor Matherly called for Public Testimony.

William St. Pierre, Anchorage – Mr. St. Pierre shared that the bar, named after one his great-grandfather opened in Rhode Island, will be a family-friendly tap house. He added that it will be open most days of the year and will close around midnight each evening; he stated that they plan to serve only beer and wine. He stated that he felt the neighborhood would benefit from having that type of establishment.

Ms. Rogers shared her appreciation for individuals who seek to build relationships with the City Council by involving them in their business. Mr. St. Pierre clarified that he will not be residing in the area, but he has a great deal of trust in his business partner and management team.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP AND LOCATION AND DBA CHANGE CONTINGENT UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Gibson, Kun, Marney, Clark
NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Application for Transfer of Ownership and DBA Change:

Type/License: Beverage Dispensary/License #252
DBA: The Cabin
Applicant: AVO Hospitality, LLC
Location: 901 Old Steese Highway, Fairbanks
From Owner: Jerwater, Inc.
From DBA: Club Alaskan
From Location: 901 Old Steese Highway, Fairbanks

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the liquor license application for transfer of ownership and DBA change.

Mayor Matherly called for Public Testimony.

William St. Pierre, Anchorage – Mr. St. Pierre shared the concept for the establishment as a higher-end dive bar where people can capitalize on the outdoor space. He clarified that the bar would be finished with higher-end fixtures and furnishings but would have a limited drinks menu. He added that a portion of the building is reserved for his sister’s marijuana retail shop, Pipe and Leaf, dependent upon that license approval process.

Ms. Kun asked about traffic flow and parking, adding that those nearby intersections are already quite busy. Mr. St. Pierre stated that he was not the property owner and could not speak to traffic flow concerns; he stated, however, that he was aware of plans to expand the current parking area.

Ms. Rogers asked if Mr. St. Pierre was aware of the history of the Club Alaskan and encouraged him to seek more information through the Pioneers of Alaska. Mr. St. Pierre stated that he was not fully aware of the history but that he would look into it.

Mr. Gibson expressed his appreciation for the efforts to clean up two properties that have fallen into disrepair; he added that the progress has been very noticeable on the Old Steese Highway. Mr. St. Pierre stated that they were very excited for the opportunities.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP AND DBA CHANGE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Clark, Therrien, Gibson, Rogers, Kun
NAYS: None
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly touched on the remembrance of 9/11. He read into the record a Proclamation recognizing Community Health Aide Appreciation Day on September 10, as requested by Taryn Hughes of Guardian Flight. He thanked Mr. Shields for his interest in the Polaris Building, adding that he would prefer that the building be demolished, and the land sold to a private party. He went on to clarify that the Polaris Work Group is not an official City Committee and that it was brought about by David Pruhs and other volunteers. **Mayor Matherly** shared that he had been contacted by many people seeking to receive COVID-19 testing and directed people to the online portal where one can search for testing facilities by zip code. He added that he had spoken with the operators of the Capstone clinic regarding the traffic issues. **Mayor Matherly** passed his congratulations on to Ryan Anderson for his promotion to DOT Commissioner for the State of Alaska, adding that he had worked with Mr. Anderson on the FAST Planning Board; he applauded Mr. Anderson's public relations skills and his assistance in communicating with the State. He added that he and Mr. Gibson would be helping facilitate the next FAST Planning meetings until Mr. Anderson's position as Chair could be filled. **Mayor Matherly** added his concerns regarding the legislative issues in Juneau and commended the Alaska Municipal League (AML) for its plan to hold the annual conference in Anchorage in November.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Gibson congratulated the new lateral police officers and reminded the Council of the authorized \$20,000 signing bonus for lateral transfers who complete their training. He noted that the incentive program may need to be readdressed prior to the sunset date. He added his congratulations to the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) employees who received promotions.

Mr. Marney echoed Mr. Gibson's sentiments.

Mr. Clark stated he had no comments.

Ms. Kun welcomed the new FPD Officers and congratulated the firefighters on their promotions. She thanked the Mayor for the Community Health Aide Appreciation Proclamation.

Ms. Rogers welcomed and congratulated the new officers and firefighters and thanked the Mayor for adding the special ceremonies to the meeting agenda. She added her appreciation for the ability of Council Members to discuss items thoroughly and respectfully.

Ms. Therrien gave her appreciation for Mr. Shields' update, adding that perhaps the City should aid in obtaining a grant for economic development. She asked the Mayor how he planned to address the most recent mandate given by President Biden regarding vaccinations.

Mayor Matherly stated that talks had begun on that matter, but he did not have an answer yet.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4982 – A Resolution Authorizing the CFO to Open a Certificate of Deposit Account at Mt. McKinley Bank. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Ordinance No. 6179 – An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Sec. 46-81 Curfew for Minors. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Mr. Gibson**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6179.

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved AMEND by substituting Ordinance No. 6179, as Amended, for Ordinance No. 6179.

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

Ms. Kun explained that the original language regarding curfew was confusing for the youth and problematic for law enforcement. She added that through a conversation with DC Sweet it became evident that the new, concise language could serve as an asset to the FPD.

Ms. Rogers asked for input from DC Sweet. DC Sweet stated that the original language is outdated. He added that while it is not an issue they deal with frequently, the youth that do offend the curfew are often involved in other mischief and the simplification of the language would make enforcement easier.

Ms. Rogers asked if DC Sweet found the curfew to be an asset to the community. DC Sweet stated that the curfew is not necessary, as it is not often an issue. He stated there are other resources for the FPD to use for the same purpose, but the change in the language makes it more current and applicable.

Ms. Rogers expressed concern that many citizens are not aware of the curfew and encouraged the City to find a way to publicize it.

Mr. Marney expressed appreciation for the attempt to standardize the language, but he stated that he felt 1:00 a.m. was possibly too late.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6179, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Therrien, Clark, Kun, Marney, Gibson

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6180 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 50, Article XIII, to Add American Flag Standard. Introduced by Council Member Clark.

Mr. Clark, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6180.

Mr. Clark, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved AMEND by substituting Ordinance No. 6180, as Amended, for Ordinance No. 6180.

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

Mr. Clark spoke about national division. He stated that he felt that by eliminating the commercialization of the American Flag, it could help deter local division.

Ms. Therrien asked whether the ordinance may violate an individual's right to free speech.

City Attorney Ewers stated that it would not as it only affects workplace conduct and while employees are in uniform and on City property, all of which are City-controlled and regulated.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6180, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Marney, Clark, Therrien, Rogers, Gibson

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

a) Memo to Approve the Appointment of 2021 Election Officials

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Clark**, moved to ACCEPT the Memo to Approve the Appointment of 2021 Election Officials.

Ms. Therrien asked for a correction to the workers at Fairbanks #4, substituting Sharon Soucy for Julie Conover, who is unable to work.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MEMO TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF 2021 ELECTION OFFICIALS, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Kun, Marney, Clark, Gibson

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

b) Memo from Purchasing Agent Regarding City Fire Equipment Donations

ACCEPTED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

c) Memo Regarding the Temporary Addition of an Admin Assistant in the Fire Department

ACCEPTED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

d) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2021

ACCEPTED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Kun gave a land acknowledgement. She shared that she had met with the Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors who were preparing to work on their 2022 budget. She added that Scott McCrea would be stepping into the role as representative for the Travel Industry Association, where they are projecting good numbers for the Aurora Season, which has begun. **Ms. Kun** provided the CareLine and thanked the election volunteers.

Ms. Rogers shared that she had attended the Reentry Coalition, Opioid Work Group, and Suicide Prevention Work Group meetings, adding that September is Suicide Awareness and National Recovery month. She went on to share that Mike Sanders and his team are doing great work through the Crisis Now organization to help create a safe, secure, and healthy community. **Ms. Rogers** added that the Stars of Gold Readers have also been meeting and noted that the Legislative Committee would begin meeting more frequently.

Ms. Therrien shared that she had attended the AML Board Meeting on September 10 where they discussed various State issues, including the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD); she added that there may be a special session scheduled for November. She noted that the AML was unsure of its official stance regarding the 75/25 split of the PFD. **Ms. Therrien** announced that the AML conference would be happening in Anchorage in November, and the Newly Elected Officials training would be offered online at no cost. She shared some highlights from the Polaris Working Group meeting and recognized the 20-year anniversary of 9/11. She encouraged everyone to get their flu shots and commended the League of Women Voters' Right-To-Vote display. She concluded by asking interested individuals to volunteer to help in the local election.

Mr. Gibson stated that he would be meeting with the FAST Planning Board in the next week and passed along his congratulations to the former Chair Ryan Anderson on his promotion to DOT Commissioner.

Mr. Marney stated he did not have any committee reports. He mentioned Suicide Prevention Month and asked that people remember veterans.

Mr. Clark shared his excitement to get back into the Legislative Committee meetings. He recognized the difficulty in continually contacting the State representatives but expressed the importance in doing so. He congratulated the FPD administration for recruiting the new officers and expressed his desire to see the Polaris Building project completed. He went on to thank Ms. Kun for introducing Ordinance No. 6179 and stated that he felt that there was more the Council could do to streamline processes for the better.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Snider reminded everyone that early and absentee voting would begin on September 20, 2021, and she encouraged anyone with questions to contact the City Clerk's Office.

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ENTER Executive Session to discuss Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) Labor Negotiation Strategy.

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

Mayor Matherly called for a brief recess. The Council reconvened in Executive Session following the brief recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Fairbanks Firefighters Union Labor Negotiation Strategy

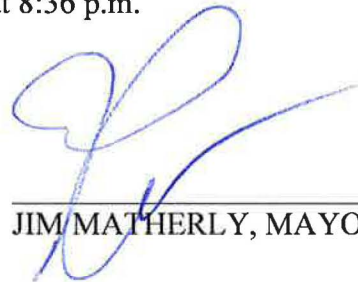
The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss the FFU Labor Negotiation Strategy. Direction was given to the negotiating team, and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Kun, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: RR