



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MAY 13, 2024  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:30 p.m. Work Session for the City of Fairbanks Annual Audit Presentation, 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 David Pruhs presiding and with the following Councilmembers in attendance:

Councilmembers Present:        Jerry Cleworth, Seat A  
    June Rogers, Seat B  
    Sue Sprinkle, Seat C  
    Crystal Tidwell, Seat D  
    Lonny Marney, Seat E  
    John Ringstad, Seat F

Absent:                                None

Also Present:                        D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
    Thomas Chard, City Attorney  
    Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer  
    Ron Dupee, Police Chief (remotely)  
    Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief  
    Clem Clooten, Building Official  
    Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)  
    Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator  
    Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

**FLAG SALUTATION**

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, **Mr. Ringstad** led the flag salutation.

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS (Proclamations, Introductions, Recognition, Awards)**

Fire Chief Andrew Coccaro recognized the recent promotion of Andrew Fowler to the rank of Battalion Chief and a pinning ceremony was performed by A. Fowler's son. Chief Coccaro also recognized the promotion of three FFD Drivers: David DeCaro, Sarah Webb, and Erik Winkler. A pinning ceremony was performed for those who were present.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

*[Clerk Note: Names of citizens who provide comments may not be spelled correctly if their name was illegible on the physical sign-up sheet.]*

Scott McCrea, President and CEO of Explore Fairbanks – S. McCrea provided an update on the visitor industry, noting that the Midnight Sun tourism season had officially begun. He shared that alternative drop-off locations are being used downtown due to the Polaris Building demolition project. He reviewed changes to flight offerings by the airlines serving Fairbanks. S. McCrea reported that the winter season was record-breaking by virtually all measurements, citing traveler data from Fairbanks International Airport and Alaska Railroad's Anchorage-Fairbanks route, where March 2024 alone had more riders than all of winter 2011 combined. He predicted that the trends would continue and thanked the Council for its support of the visitor industry.

**Mr. Ringstad** asked if there was an expected drop in buses going downtown over the summer and questioned how such forecasts are made. S. McCrea shared how tour companies communicate plans, noting that one group had a change in its daily itinerary which will result in fewer buses downtown, while the other primary company has no changes to its schedules.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked if Explore Fairbanks had data on the origins of winter visitors to better understand how many are domestic versus international. S. McCrea indicated that visitors are primarily domestic, though they are seeing a return more visitors from eastern Asian countries.

**Mr. Marney** referenced the recent solar storm, which allowed individuals to see the Northern Lights in locations much further south than is typical, and asked whether that affects future winter tourism. S. McCrea discussed how the 11-year solar cycle being at its peak and how the increased interest in the aurora borealis across the world does indirectly connect people to Fairbanks.

Kellen Spillman and Melissa Kellner, Director and Deputy Director (respectively), of FNSB Community Planning Department – K. Spillman spoke in favor of Resolution No. 5119 and discussed the seven years of work that went into the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan. He stated that they are pleased with the product and proud of the efforts, noting that the two Councilmembers who served on the working group attended more meetings and participated in more of the work than anyone. He acknowledged the City and Borough's shared goals for downtown and discussed the decline in both population and number of buildings over the years. K. Spillman affirmed the desire to see those trends reverse and spoke highly of the ideas in the Plan which will provide the City and Borough with opportunities to work together. M. Kellner echoed K. Spillman's comments and thanked Councilmembers Cleworth and Sprinkle for their work on the Plan. She discussed the balanced approach and her excitement for implementation of the many ideas, with the goal of redevelopment. She shared further details on the remaining timeline for the Plan and the Planning Commission's continued deliberation and vote for recommendation. She stated it is expected that the Plan will go before the Borough Assembly in July.

**Mr. Cleworth** pointed out that even if the Council adopts Resolution No. 5119, the Plan could still change, adding that the Planning Commission is still in deliberations. K. Spillman acknowledged that that is a possibility and discussed the complex situation with many hands involved. He expressed hope that the Council's version of the Plan is close to what is adopted.

**Ms. Sprinkle** shared that the changes being considered by the Planning Commission are primarily related to adding more references about the history of Fairbanks. K. Spillman confirmed that the Commission had expressed a desire to update the introduction portion of the plan and provide

better context to its purpose. He shared that a draft statement will be presented to that group which touches on many items the Council has already discussed. He stated he does not believe any content changes that would go against the Council's recommendations are anticipated.

**Mr. Ringstad** asked that an updated copy of the Plan be sent to the City Clerk if any substantive changes occur at the Planning Commission's next meeting. K. Spillman agreed to the request and stated that the Commission had already received a copy of the Council's proposed edits.

**Mr. Marney** asked whether the Planning Commission's meeting is open to the public. K. Spillman confirmed that it is, and shared additional meeting details.

**Mayor Pruhs** thanked K. Spillman and M. Kellner for their work and wished them well.

Victor Buberger – V. Buberger discussed his displeasure with the GARS intersection and the money spent and talked about the unfavorable view held towards it by everyone with whom he has spoken. He encouraged the Council to do something about the problems with the intersection, while acknowledging that it was ultimately a State of Alaska matter.

Brynn Butler, City Housing Coordinator – B. Butler shared a letter she wrote for Chief of Staff Mike Sanders which expressed her gratitude for the professionalism, sensitivity, and respect that was demonstrated during the recent work to clear out and clean up a homeless encampment near the GARS intersection the previous week. She explained that the task and the displacement of people who had taken up residence in a place where residency was prohibited was neither easy nor enjoyable, but the City's approach was commendable. She also praised the compassion and gentleness shown by Public Works and FPD staff and expressed pride in being part of such a team.

**Ms. Sprinkle** thanked B. Butler for sharing and asked if she had been able to rehouse any of the individuals. B. Butler reported that she had made 15 separate trips to that encampment over the previous six months to share opportunities and information about available programs, but unfortunately no one had accepted her invitations to use the services.

**Mr. Ringstad** stated he has heard positive feedback from the community that the City stepped up to address the issue and expressed appreciation for B. Butler's report. B. Butler reminded the Council that it was State DOT property and, as such, it was a group effort. She stated she will remain vigilant over the summer to head off any attempts to create new encampments. She leaned into the notion that more individuals are choosing to live a transient life but acknowledged the City's no-camping ordinance and the need to ensure such an understanding within the community.

David van den Berg, Executive Director of the Downtown Association of Fairbanks – D. van den Berg spoke in support of Resolution No. 5119 and predicted that the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan would be judged in the future less by what is written in it today and more by what is implemented in the years to come. He asked if 730 Front Street, as well as other properties that the City owns, will be remarketed and made available for purchase at a future auction. He spoke of the issue of the former College Inn which recently had another structural fire and echoed the communal frustration of a lack of development at that location. He stated that although it was not within city limits, perhaps it could be annexed, or the City could simply lead the charge in making

something happen there. He concluded by addressing Resolution No. 5116, which will be on the next agenda, and asked what economic development possibilities exist that are not being explored.

**Mayor Pruhs** invited D. van den Berg to attend the Council work session the following morning.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to APPROVE the agenda and consent agenda.

**Ms. Sprinkle** pulled Resolution No. 5118, New Business item 12(a), from the consent agenda.

**Mr. Cleworth** pulled Resolution No. 5119, New Business item 12(b), from the consent agenda.

**Mayor Pruhs** called for objection to the APPROVAL of the agenda, as amended and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Clerk Snider read the consent agenda, as amended, into the record.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2024

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

a) The Fairbanks City Council held a public hearing and considered the following marijuana license applications for renewal:

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
20827	Good Titrations	Retail Marijuana Store	FSE, Inc.	506 Merhar Avenue
20829	Good Titrations	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	FSE, Inc.	506 Merhar Avenue

**Mr. Ringstad**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the marijuana license applications for renewal.

**Mayor Pruhs** called for public testimony.

Marcey Luther, CEO and COO of Good Titrations – M. Luther indicated that she was available to answer any questions from Councilmembers regarding the businesses and applications.

**Mr. Cleworth** pointed out that the retail store and cultivation facility are at the same location and noted that he does not recall any complaints about odor in that area. M. Luther confirmed that the cultivation operation is visible through windows in the retail store for individuals to see the process; she added that they have a great filtration system.

**Ms. Sprinkle** addressed past notices of violation (NOVs) and asked M. Luther if the business was current on all State taxes. M. Luther confirmed that it was.

**Mr. Ringstad** asked for additional information about the business ownership and property. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that the owners are local and described the improvements they made to the building. He noted that they have no issues with police calls or complaints of smell; he added that the business has set a good example within the industry. **Mr. Ringstad** asked if they are having challenges with the logistics of paying State taxes. M. Luther indicated that it is getting better and that there is a bill in the legislature that would shift the tax from cultivators to retailers.

**Mr. Marney** thanked M. Luther for attending the meeting and availing herself for questions.

**Ms. Sprinkle** informed M. Luther that the Council has advocated for the State to create a local payment option for marijuana businesses in Fairbanks. M. Luther stated she was aware of that and appreciates the effort, although they would still have to travel to Anchorage to make IRS payments.

**Ms. Rogers** expressed appreciation for business representatives being present at Council meetings.

**Mayor Pruhs** called for additional testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Ringstad, Cleworth, Sprinkle, Rogers, Tidwell

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

b) The Fairbanks City Council held a public hearing and considered the following Package Store Sampling Endorsement Application:

Type/Lic.: Package Store Sampling Endorsement, Lic. #4076

DBA: Brown Jug

Applicant: Liquor Stores USA North, Inc.

Location: 559 Harold Bentley Avenue, Fairbanks

**Mr. Ringstad**, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Package Store Sampling Endorsement Application.

**Mayor Pruhs** called for public testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE PACKAGE STORE SAMPLING ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Sprinkle, Ringstad, Marney, Rogers, Cleworth

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

## MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

**Mayor Pruhs** asked Building Official Clem Clooten to provide an update on abatements.

C. Clooten provided a report on abatements as of May 3, 2024, for the following properties:

647 11th Avenue	2126 Rickert Street	725 2nd Avenue	109 5th Avenue
113 2nd Avenue	649 11th Avenue	1306 3rd Avenue	305 Kellum Street
2319 Rickert Street	2628 Mercier Street	419 Fourth Avenue	394 Hamilton Avenue
719 Front Street	737 7th Avenue	431 Gaffney Street	1516 Eielson Street
311 Bonnifield Street	730 Front Street	124 2nd Avenue	307 12th Avenue
399 Helmericks Avenue			

Councilmembers thanked C. Clooten for his report and inquired about individual properties.

**Mr. Ringstad** noted that six properties have been updated to a “Completed” status, which is positive news. He asked about the excavated water line at 109 5th Avenue. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that it was done in order to get water turned on, but Golden Heart Utilities refused to do so due to an outstanding bill. **Mr. Ringstad** expressed gratitude in owners taking responsibility.

**Ms. Tidwell** asked if the City would un-board the property and allow occupancy if the contractor or owner was able to get the water turned back on. C. Clooten confirmed that running water would make the property habitable again, although the yard is still a mess. He stated that it is a touchy situation, and the City’s actions and abatement signage was not received well.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked if the old Coin King building (431 Gaffney Street) included the abandoned car wash structure. C. Clooten confirmed that it is all one property. **Ms. Sprinkle** addressed the slow progress at 1306 3rd Avenue and asked if the owner of 2628 Mercier Street had applied for any of the necessary permits for the work he says he intends to do. C. Clooten reported that the owner is out of state, makes occasional visits, and will require some nudging to ensure progress. **Ms. Sprinkle** stated she is thrilled at the news of the old creamery (124 2nd Avenue) and asked if any liens had been placed on the two now-demolished properties of 719 and 730 Front Street. C. Clooten indicated that he would begin working on that process with the City Clerk and Attorney.

**Mr. Marney** asked if the City would be reimbursed for the work involved with boarding up the structure at 109 5th Avenue, should the owner return it to a state of occupancy. He also asked if the City sets deadlines on the expectations it communicates to owners. C. Clooten confirmed that the City can place a lien on the property for the work and that there are established deadlines and consequences when working through the abatement process. He gave an example of how such deadlines are handled. **Mr. Marney** expressed his view that no extensions should be offered without considerable justification, given the City’s goal to see more resolutions on these properties.

**Mr. Cleworth** cited the City’s past efforts to sell properties to the general public once they had reached the appropriate stage in the process. He asked if 730 Front Street had reached that point. C. Clooten indicated that had not and that he would need someone with a little more expertise in that area to help with the process. **Mr. Cleworth** acknowledged that he was unfamiliar with the proper protocol. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that with so many abandoned and vacant structures

around town, every property has a different situation and must be looked at individually. He stated that they have a great group of individuals working on those issues and that he may propose a new position to focus on abatement matters. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he would love to see a list of potentially sellable properties, especially since those proceeds go to the City's Permanent Fund.

**Ms. Sprinkle** discussed the recurring fires at the College Inn property and stated that such problems are unwanted within the city. **Mayor Pruhs** spoke of the opportunities the City takes to have real connections and conversations with owners as they review their property issues, discuss how things came to be in their current state, and formulate solution-oriented plans.

**Mr. Ringstad** agreed with Ms. Sprinkle's comments in reference to the issues at the College Inn. He expressed hope that the Borough agrees and will work with the City to make that a reality. **Mayor Pruhs** indicated that Borough staff members such as K. Spillman and M. Kellner have extensive knowledge and input on these types of issues.

**Ms. Rogers** addressed 307 12th Avenue, where the owner had expressed a desire to donate the property to the City. She asked if the property was considered historic. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that he would not consider it historic. He described how homes owned by elderly residents who pass away are often inherited by a family member, usually elderly and not local, who prefer to relinquish the property; he added it is a nice sentiment but comes with its own challenges and hurdles.

**Mayor Pruhs** concluded with appreciation for C. Clooten's update and affirmed the City's commitment to moving forward in addressing the issue of derelict properties in the city.

### COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Mr. Cleworth** thanked B. Butler for her earlier comments and commitment to being firm but fair with the issues she is tasked to address.

**Ms. Rogers** echoed praise for B. Butler's efforts, compassion, and depth of understanding as she serves those in difficult circumstances within the community. She expressed her wish that the City could clone her and replicate her contribution on a larger scale.

**Ms. Sprinkle** commended the Lathrop High School Academic Decathlon team, who recently won its first-ever national competition. She noted that the team's coach is a Lathrop alumnus who now teaches at the school and that the entire experience is something for the community to celebrate. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that he had spoken to the coach earlier in the day and is working on a resolution for the next meeting to recognize the team's accomplishments.

**Mr. Ringstad** shared a recent experience where a stranger entered his home, mistaking the location for that of Helping Alaska. He described that the individual nonchalantly used his restroom and was escorted out, only to return and enter the home again minutes later, at which time he decided to give him a ride to his desired destination. **Mr. Ringstad** explained that the individual was incoherent, appearing to be under the influence of some substance, had no idea where he was nor what he was doing, and ended up jumping out of the vehicle at a random stoplight as he transported him across town. He shared that he later reviewed his home security cameras and saw that the individual had been looking around and inside his vehicles prior to walking into the house

uninvited. **Mr. Ringstad** expressed his concern with these kinds of situations, noting that it is not the first time he has dealt with similar problems. He acknowledged that these types of scenarios can easily turn violent and tragic, as individuals seek to protect their families and property.

**Mr. Marney** spoke highly of the Fire Department promotions, of B. Butler's efforts, and of C. Clouten's commitment to his position.

**Ms. Tidwell** added her appreciation for B. Butler and congratulations to the promoted firefighters.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Ordinance No. 6278 – An Ordinance Amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1547 by Addressing Non-Union Position Acting Pay. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6278.

**Mayor Pruhs** called for testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

**Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern with the language that specified a 12-hour timeframe as the parameters for when the "acting" provision is activated and stated that the term "physically respond" seems inappropriate. He acknowledged that the language had been in place already and that some changes would be better addressed in future negotiations.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6278 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Rogers, Marney, Sprinkle, Cleworth, Tidwell

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6278 ADOPTED.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 5118 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Johnson River Enterprises, LLC in the Amount of \$266,843.00 for the Childcare Restrooms Renovation at City Hall (ITB-24-02). Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

**Mr. Ringstad**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5118.

**Ms. Sprinkle** indicated that the project cost seemed high and asked for more information. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that most of the abatement of hazardous materials in that area of the building had already been completed via another contract. He noted that some abatement work remains, but the majority of the cost in the resolution is for a full remodel of the two large restrooms. **Ms. Sprinkle** stated that she is happy to see that it is a local company, but she wished the cost was less.



**Mr. Marney** asked about expected completion. **Mayor Pruhs** stated he believes it will be July.

**Mr. Ringstad** asked about the estimated opening date of the facility. **Mayor Pruhs** shared that the opening date is dependent on the Boys and Girls Club and that they recently lost the individual who was slated to be the director for the facility. He indicated that it is unlikely to be open by August.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5118 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5118 APPROVED.

- b) Resolution No. 5119 – A Resolution in Support of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Downtown Plan, Downtown Fairbanks 2040, Conditioned Upon Recommended Changes. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5119.

**Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern about the procedure should the Council pass the resolution and the Plan, with its proposed changes, and then see other changes made by the Planning Commission or Borough Assembly that impact the City. **Mayor Pruhs** confirmed that the resolution states that the Council will only support the Plan with its proposed changes. **Mr. Cleworth** acknowledged that individuals such as K. Spillman and M. Kellner would likely discourage further substantive changes but wanted to make sure the Council kept a close watch on the Plan's progress. He referenced an email from a citizen in the Slaterville neighborhood regarding concern over a potential walking bridge through the residential area, which he does not believe exists anywhere within the Plan. **Mayor Pruhs** shared that he has had similar communications where individuals are upset about rumors of things that might be part of a future plan. **Mr. Cleworth** thanked K. Spillman and M. Kellner for serving as great compromisers between the various entities involved.

**Mr. Ringstad** shared similar concerns and committed to keeping an eye on the Plan's progress.

**Ms. Sprinkle** stated that it would be good for the Council to have representation at the next Planning Commission meeting. **Mr. Marney** and **Mayor Pruhs** shared that they plan to attend.

**Ms. Tidwell** asked if the Council considered its proposed changes as suggestions or otherwise. **Mayor Pruhs** declared that the Council's changes should be seen as demands, not suggestions. **Ms. Tidwell** declared that the work done on the Plan is great, but she understands the Planning Commission still has its own list of changes and some final work to do and that the Plan will have further edits. **Mayor Pruhs** clarified that that is understood; he stated that the goal is to see all the Council's changes incorporated and to make sure any further updates do not detract from or otherwise negatively impact the City.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked if the Commission had been able to get through the entire document at its last meeting. **Ms. Tidwell** reported that it had not, which is why the next meeting was scheduled. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the inclusion of historical context was the only thing he was aware of as far as what was being considered by the Planning Commission as additional changes. **Ms. Tidwell** confirmed that Mr. Cleworth was correct but reiterated that the Commission had not made it to the end yet, so there may be other items. **Mayor Pruhs** restated that the primary concern is in regard to any new edits that create a cost or a burden upon the City.

**Ms. Sprinkle** asked if it would be prudent to postpone the resolution until after the Commission's meeting. **Mayor Pruhs** indicated that after the seven years of work on the Plan, he wanted to respect Borough staff's presence by moving the item forward to its next phase. **Mr. Cleworth** agreed and added that the Council would have grounds to take action if the Plan saw radical changes that impacted the City after the City resolution was passed.

**Mr. Marney** asked if any of the Council's proposed changes did not sit well with either of the Borough representatives. **K. Spillman** indicated that he does not believe so and explained that by passing Resolution No. 5118, the Councilmember representing the City at the Assembly meeting would have permission to take the floor and speak about the changes. He remarked that if there are any additional revisions that are objectionable to the City, those items could be worked out either in advance of or at the Assembly meeting.

**Mayor Pruhs** thanked **K. Spillman** for sharing wisdom and assurance about the upcoming process.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5118 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers, Tidwell

NAYS: None

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5119 APPROVED.

- c) Resolution No. 5120 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for the FY2024 Promoting Access to Crisis Teams (PACT) - Community Policing Development (CPD) Program. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Ordinance No. 6279 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 22-28(b) to Create Parity Between City and Borough Election Worker Pay. Introduced by Council Member Sprinkle.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Ordinance No. 6280 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 14, Article XIII, Business Licensing, to Allow for Youth Business Licenses and Amending the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- f) Ordinance No. 6281 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 50-289 Paid Funeral Leave. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

- a) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Reappointment to the Discretionary Fund Committee

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Ms. Tidwell** mentioned that Jomo Stewart from the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) was interested in the Council's discussion regarding the City-Borough joint economic development agreement. She stated that she was unsure if he would be able to attend the work session the following morning but shared that she would see him at the FEDC's next meeting.

**Mr. Marney** reported that he was unable to attend the last Explore Fairbanks meeting due to illness. He expressed his gratitude for the good work the Council accomplished during the evening.

**Mr. Ringstad** indicated he had no further reports or comments.

**Ms. Sprinkle** reported that the Chena Riverfront Commission (CRC) met and discussed the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan, stream clean-up efforts, and the upcoming storm drain art contest.

**Ms. Rogers** reported on attending the recent Crisis Now meeting and spoke in praise of the group members and the work they do. She discussed frustrations of the past where many organizations worked in silos, and opportunities for collaboration were not taken. She declared that the current fabric between those working to serve those with challenges in the community is strong and she added that she could not say enough good things about their efforts.

**Mr. Cleworth** shared that he often receives mementoes relating to the history of Fairbanks, which he typically delivers to the City Clerk. He presented a large metal meal tray, given to him by former Officer Doug Wooly who was in charge of the evidence room for many years at FPD. He explained that the tray was used when the police station would house prisoners. He donated the item to the Clerk's Office for use in the display case in the entryway of City Hall.

**Ms. Sprinkle** discussed a concern from the CRC. She explained that the path for the annual River Walk passes through a property, owned by the Alaska Railroad and rented by the City; she added that the arrangement has been in place for about 10 years. She stated that the Railroad is indicating that they may no longer allow it, which is problematic. **Mayor Pruhs** committed to working with City Engineer Bob Pristash and the Railroad leadership on the issue.

**Mayor Pruhs** gave a shoutout to Chief of Staff Mike Sanders who was absent at the meeting in order to attend his son's graduation. He added that M. Sanders' birthday was the following day, and he looks forward to seeing what City staff do to celebrate the day.

### CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider reminded everyone there would be a 7:00 a.m. work session the following morning.

### CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard reported that the 9th Circuit Court would be in Anchorage on Monday, May 20 to hear the *Eyre v. City of Fairbanks* case. He stated he plans to go to the hearing and will immediately drive back to Fairbanks in an attempt to be present for the Council meeting that evening.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ENTER Executive Session to discuss Fairbanks Firefighters Union Labor Negotiation Strategy and Legal Department Personnel Matter.

**Mayor Pruhs** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

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

- a) Fairbanks Firefighters Union Labor Negotiation Strategy (*entered at 8:29 p.m.*)
- b) Legal Department Personnel Matter (*entered at 10:02 p.m.*)

**Mr. Cleworth** brought the City Council out of the Executive Session, noting that the City Council met in Executive Session to discuss Fairbanks Firefighters Union Labor Negotiation Strategy and Legal Department Personnel Matter. He affirmed that no action was taken.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Ms. Sprinkle**, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

**Mayor Pruhs** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Mayor Pruhs** declared the meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANVIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC