



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 7, 2016  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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The City Council convened at 7:00 p.m. on the above date 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: Joy Huntington, Seat A  
Perry Walley, Seat B  
Bernard Gatewood, Seat C  
Jim Matherly, Seat D  
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E  
David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Ben Barrio, IT Director  
Jim Styers, Fire Chief  
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
Jackson Fox, Environmental Manager  
Clem Clooten, Building Official  
Pat Smith, Development Manager  
Verg Scott, Public Works General Foreman  
Eric Jewkes, Deputy Police Chief  
Brad Johnson, Deputy Police Chief  
Randall Aragon, Police Chief  
JB Brainerd, Deputy City Attorney  
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
Paul Ewers, City Attorney  
Carmen Randle, Chief Financial Officer  
Bob Pristash, City Engineer IV

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

### **FLAG SALUTATION**

Mayor Eberhart led the Flag Salutation.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney apologized to City Clerk Danyielle Snider for the crude language he used earlier in the evening when he could not get in the front door. He thanked Mr. Gatewood for introducing Resolution No. 4722 relating to the industrial hemp industry and spoke to the upcoming meeting regarding the Fairbanks Four/John Hartman

murder case. Mr. Turney requested that the Mayor keep the public up-to-date on the independent review of the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). He shared his hope that nobody from FPD is part of the review because it may result in a dishonest assessment. He expressed his condolences for the family of Michael Dresser; he stated that he and Mr. Dresser often had different viewpoints but that they were good friends.

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger stated that Mr. Turney brought up the fact that citizens cannot direct questions to any one Councilmember or the Mayor. He stated that citizens have a right to know what is going on behind closed doors and that he did not approve of the “no questions” policy; he suggested that Councilmembers have to pay to play behind closed doors and recommended that Executive Sessions be broadcast on the radio. Mr. Buberger stated that if Council members are supposed to work for the residents they should allow the public to be included in closed door meetings. He stated that he has spoken with a number of people in the community and that they would all like to know what goes on behind closed doors. He stated that the City should drop property taxes rather than give police officers bonuses. He recommended that the City require new police officers to speak Spanish.

Darlene Herbert, 906 Woodlawn Road, Fairbanks – Ms. Herbert stated that she has nothing against the cops but that they will not return her impounded vehicle to her. She stated that she does not want to experience retaliation for speaking out against Ordinance No. 6005. She stated that if the City gave her \$5,000 she would go and find a good cop. Ms. Herbert stated the City should use Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO’s) because they are already trained. She stated that she is confused about the number of current and upcoming vacancies at FPD and that she opposes Ordinance No. 6005.

Michael Salzman, 908 D Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Salzman stated that he is disappointed that the City has proposed traffic circles in South Fairbanks. He stated that the traffic circles are a waste of money because similar road improvements have not slowed traffic in the Hamilton Acres area. He stated that the traffic circles are a complete waste because people drive straight through the middle of the circles. He stated that his neighbor has lost part of his lawn because people drive on his lawn. Mr. Salzman stated that police officers need to enforce traffic laws. He stated that he maintains the traffic circle in front of his house and that nobody else in the neighborhood maintains them. He suggested that if the City is going to insist on using traffic circles they should put something in the center that requires no maintenance.

Ben Durham, 410 Glacier Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Durham stated that he would like to recognize the passing of Nancy Reagan and thanked the Mayor for having the flag fly at half-staff. He stated that thirty years ago he signed up for the Marine Corps and that he is now retired and living in Fairbanks. He stated that a \$5000 bonus only equates to \$.80 per hour over a 2080-hour work year. Mr. Durham stated he did not think it was a big enough incentive for someone to sign up as a police officer. He stated that coming home to Fairbanks after being in the service for thirty years was eye opening. He suggested a relocation incentive for qualified law enforcement officers because Fairbanks is unique. Mr. Durham spoke to housing incentives in other states and stated that the City should consider the same. He stated that during his time in the service he handled a firearm and that there is intensive training involved with weapons. He stated that Fairbanks has a major drug problem and that the City needs to build the infrastructure in order to make Fairbanks safe again.

Lee Despain, 352 Driveway Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Despain stated that the incentive bonus ordinance violates the basic rule of society, the golden rule. He asked if the City would like to lose officers to other police departments who are recruiting by offering a signing bonus. He stated the bonus program is a bribe and that bribery is illegal. He stated that FPD should publish their wages in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner (FDNM) because the public would be up in arms about a signing bonus. Mr. Despain stated that Fairbanks has had its fair share of bad cops and that he is a victim of the City's hiring of bad cops. He stated that hiring trained officers from other organizations and offering them a signing bonus to work at the City is theft on the City's part. He stated that he did not take a bribe in order to work for the City and that he was a City employee for 23 years. He reiterated that the bonus program is a bribe and that Ordinance No. 6005 is foolery.

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

**Mr. Gatewood** pulled Resolution No. 4721 and Resolution No. 4722 from the Consent Agenda.

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

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

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2015.

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 Application for Transfer (stock only) and Restaurant Designation Permit:

Type: Beverage Dispensary, License #4174  
To: Big Daddy's Bar-B-Q & Banquet Hall / RTG, LLC  
107 Wickersham Street, Fairbanks, Alaska  
From: Big Daddy's Bar-B-Q & Banquet Hall / RTG, LLC  
107 Wickersham Street, Fairbanks, Alaska

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Application for Transfer and Restaurant Designation Permit.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that he has a conflict of interest and that he would abstain from voting on the issue.

**Mayor Eberhart** stated that if there is no direct financial interest that Mr. Pruhs could still vote on the liquor license. **Mayor Eberhart** asked City Attorney Paul Ewers share his opinion on whether Mr. Pruhs could vote on the issue. Mr. Ewers stated that as long as Mr. Pruhs has no financial interest, he could vote. **Mr. Pruhs** confirmed that he has no direct financial interest in regard to the issue.

**Mayor Eberhart** called for objection to Mr. Pruhs voting on the Liquor License transfer, and, hearing none, stated that Mr. Pruhs could vote on the liquor license transfer.

**Mr. Gatewood** stated that he has no issue with Mr. Pruhs voting but that he would like Mr. Pruhs to be comfortable; he stated that if abstaining would make him feel more comfortable then he should be allowed to abstain.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that he would abstain from voting on the liquor license transfer since he had represented both parties in real estate transactions within the past six months.

**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 THE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER AND RESTAURANT DESIGNATION PERMIT AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gatewood, Huntington, Cleworth, Matherly, Walley  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: Pruhs

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) The Fairbanks City Council convened as a Board of Adjustment to consider whether to appoint a hearing officer for the appeal in the matter of the following decision of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Planning Commission:

A request by Annie Dougherty on behalf of the Chugach School District for conditional use approval of a school administrative office and classroom facility with related guest facilities for short-term stays (FOCUS Homeschool) in the Two-Family Residential (TF) zone on Lots 1, 3, W5, & E5, Block 05, Charles Slater Subdivision and Lots 20 & 21, Block 01, Charles Slater Subdivision (located at 200 & 210 Well Street at the east end).

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved that the City Council HEAR THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPEAL.

**Mayor Eberhart** clarified that the Council could choose to appoint a hearing officer to hear the appeal.

**Ms. Huntington** asked what the role of a hearing officer is.

Mr. Ewers stated that a hearing officer has generally been appointed in-house and that he took on the role of a hearing officer when he was the Deputy City Attorney. Mr. Ewers stated in the more recent past the Council has been hearing the appeals, and the attorney takes notes and drafts the findings of fact after hearing the appeal.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that he has seen both scenarios that he would like the Council to hear the appeal.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that he would like to be able to go through the appeal process.

**Mr. Gatewood** stated he was impartial to hearing the appeal or allowing the city attorney to be the hearing officer. He requested that if the Council chose to hear the appeal, that the date be set for a time when all Council Members would be present.

**Mr. Walley** asked Mr. Ewers to share his opinion on the Council hearing the appeal versus appointing the City Attorney as the hearing officer.

Mr. Ewers stated that if the Council would like, he could read the 1,000-page appeal packet and create a guide for the Council.

City Clerk Danyielle Snider asked for clarification on the proposed appeal date.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that 1,000 pages of reading may require a couple of weeks for review.

**Ms. Huntington** requested that the hearing be held during the second Regular Meeting in April to allow for thorough review of the appeal packet.

**Mayor Eberhart** asked if there was any objection to clarifying that the appeal would be heard on April 25, 2016, and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HEAR THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPEAL AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2016, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gatewood, Walley, Pruhs, Matherly, Huntington, Cleworth

NAYS: None

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

**Mayor Eberhart** congratulated the Police Department and Detective Peyton Merideth for the indictment and arrest of the suspect in the homicide of Loraine Nathaniel; he stated that the murder was a cold case that originated in 2008. He spoke to the benefits of funding a cold case officer in the 2016 City Budget. He spoke to Borough Ordinance 2016-16 regarding a 6% marijuana sales tax and asked Council Members to speak to it during their comments. **Mayor**

**Eberhart** spoke to the many activities the Mayor's Office has been involved with since the last Regular Council Meeting. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that there will be an influx of new residents in and around Fairbanks due to the F-35s coming to Eielson. He spoke to the press release of Environmental Manager Jackson Fox regarding water contamination near the City's Fire Training Center. He stated that the City will have to deal with the results of the contamination even though the residents were supposed to be hooked up to City water and some did not comply. **Mayor Eberhart** spoke to the importance of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) at FPD. He stated that there were two interviews for potential officers earlier that day.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6005 – An Ordinance Establishing an Incentive Bonus Program with Fairbanks Police Department for Recruitment, Hiring and Retention. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2016.

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6005.

**Mayor Eberhart** asked for a motion to SUBSTITUTE the "as Amended" version.

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to SUBSTITUTE Ordinance No. 6005, as Amended, for Ordinance No. 6005.

**Mayor Eberhart** called for Public Testimony.

Victor Buberger – Mr. Buberger stated that he has never seen an Alaska Native employed by the FPD. He stated he has seen several Alaska State Troopers (AST) that were Alaska Natives and insinuated FPD is racist. He asked why there was no diversity on the police force and stated that there are only a few Black individuals and women on the force. He stated that Fairbanks has a lot of Alaska Natives and asked why none are employed by the City. Mr. Buberger stated that he has seen the racist attitude of cops all over the country. He stated that the City complains about being broke all the time and asked why the City would give a bonus to a new recruit or to an existing officer for recruiting someone. He stated that if the City wanted to give a bonus to someone it should come out of their own pocket not the tax payers' pockets. Mr. Buberger stated that if the City wanted to do something for the tax payers, they should lower property taxes. He stated that FPD and the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) are the City's two pet puffs and that they are constantly inflating their wages. He stated that the City is offering a bribe by giving incentive bonuses. He stated that the City needs to do the public a favor and hire an Alaska Native and not give anyone an extra nickel for anything.

Frank Turney – Mr. Turney stated that he has been in Fairbanks since 1982 and that he has never heard of the City giving out bonuses for recruiting police officers. He stated he was amazed that over twenty applicants had been denied positions and that he is happy to know there is strict criteria for becoming an officer. Mr. Turney stated that it would be interesting to find out whether the vacancies at the police department are resulting in an increase in crime.

**Mr. Matherly** asked Mr. Turney if he read the community perspective that was published in the Daily News Miner relating to Ordinance No. 6005.

Mr. Turney replied affirmatively and stated that he does not support officers receiving bonuses.

Darlene Herbert – Ms. Herbert stated that when an officer pulls over a drunk driver, she sees three cop cars and six officers dealing with the situation. She suggested that the cops spend their time more wisely. She stated that she was at the movies with her granddaughter and she saw four police officers and two cop cars there to deal with one small drunk man. She stated that Chief Aragon should tell his officers to spread out more.

Ben Durham – Mr. Durham stated that the cost of training is so expensive that the bonus program is actually a cost savings. He stated that the military gives enlistment bonuses with stipulations on how long they must stay in the service. Mr. Durham stated it would be fiscally prudent to give a signing bonus to a trained law enforcement officer. He stated that if there are fewer officers on the streets, there will be more crime.

**Mr. Gatewood** asked if the Army would target the Air Force and try to recruit soldiers with a signing bonus.

Mr. Durham replied that he is not qualified to answer Mr. Gatewood's question.

Jules Miller, 49 Anna Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Miller stated that he takes no issue with the signing bonus because he understands the department is having a hard time recruiting officers. He stated that his nephew who is half Alaska Native declined a job at FPD because he did not think the job would be enough fun. Mr. Miller stated that 90% of the work that police officers do is cleaning up after the alcohol industry. He stated that the City has hired 15 officers since 2012 and stated that the City is getting ten cents on the dollar for what the alcohol industry costs the city. He stated that he supports Ordinance No. 6005.

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

**Mayor Eberhart** called for a Staff Report on Ordinance No. 6005.

Police Chief Randall Aragon stated that he understands the differing opinions on the signing bonus issue. He stated that the FBI has become more lenient in their hiring policy relating to drug use because they are having a difficult time recruiting agents. He stated that bonuses will be paid from budgeted, unused wages resulting from vacancies. Chief Aragon stated that FPD is not the only department having problems recruiting officers; he stated that it is a nationwide issue. He stated that FPD is doing everything they can to create diversity on the police force; he spoke to the many functions he and his officers have attended to attempt to recruit new officers.

**Mr. Matherly** asked if incentivizing is working across the country or if there is a measured success rate of a bonus program.

Chief Aragon stated that places in Texas are giving bonuses of \$7,000 because they are so desperate to hire officers. He stated that if a bonus gives a person a reason to apply then the program is working.

**Ms. Huntington** apologized for missing the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2016. She asked Human Resources (HR) Director Angela Foster-Snow if she stands behind Ordinance No. 6005 as a reasonable approach in regard to general practices.

Ms. Foster-Snow stated that it is important to try the signing bonus program. She stated the program is not just about staffing but is also about morale and integrity. She stated that FPD may not be the only department that needs to be creative with recruitment because there is a position in Engineering that has been advertised with no applicants. Ms. Foster-Snow stated that she believes Ordinance No. 6005 is a positive thing for the City because it may attract qualified applicants.

**Mr. Gatewood** asked if he heard correctly that 20 applicants had failed a pre-employment exam.

Deputy Chief Eric Jewkes stated that 20 people had applied to FPD but that at each stage of the application process, fewer and fewer people qualified. He stated that none of the people who applied passed all the levels of qualification and, in the end, none were hired.

**Mr. Gatewood** stated that while the City is looking outside the box for hiring incentives they should also look at tweaking the application process.

Chief Aragon stated that FPD has cut back on some of the physical standards of the application process within the past year. He stated that the department cannot scale back on background checks and polygraph tests.

Deputy Chief Jewkes stated that FPD has to comply with the State of Alaska's standards for testing potential officers.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked if the Anchorage Police Department (APD) or AST have bonus programs.

Deputy Chief Jewkes replied that he is not aware of a bonus program, but that AST pays for relocation costs for lateral hires. He stated that APD is putting financial incentives in place to attract lateral hires.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked what kind of retirement program APD has.

Deputy Chief Jewkes stated that APD is on the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

**Mr. Walley** asked what the starting wage for a new recruit is.

Chief Aragon replied the starting wage for a new hire police officer is \$24.12.

**Mr. Walley** stated that APD is offering \$32.00 as a starting wage for a new recruit.

**Mr. Matherly** stated he read the article in the FDNM relating to the incentive program and commented that the public needs to know about the program. He stated that there should be a time limit to the incentive program so the Council can review the available budget each year. **Mr. Matherly** suggested a sunset on Ordinance No. 6005 of December 31, 2016, unless it is extended by Council approval.



A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE NO. 6005, AS AMENDED, FOR ORDINANCE NO. 6005 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Walley, Huntington, Matherly, Gatewood

NAYS: None

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6005, as Amended, by adding the sentence, "This program will sunset on December 31, 2016 unless extended by Resolution of the City Council" at the end of SECTION 3.

**Ms. Huntington** spoke in favor of the sunset clause.

**Mr. Gatewood** stated that he thought paying the bonus out over a three year period makes it less of an incentive.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that he is in favor of the sunset clause and that it is logical to look into the program one year at a time.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6005, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING THE SENTENCE, "THIS PROGRAM WILL SUNSET ON DECEMBER 31, 2016 UNLESS EXTENDED BY RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL" AT THE END OF SECTION 3 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Matherly, Cleworth, Walley, Huntington, Gatewood, Pruhs

NAYS: None

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6005, as Amended, by striking the word "retention" from the ordinance title.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6005, AS AMENDED, BY STRIKING THE WORD "RETENTION" FROM THE ORDINANCE TITLE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Walley, Matherly, Gatewood, Pruhs, Cleworth, Huntington

NAYS: None

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6005, as Amended, by striking section seven from the ordinance.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that he did not think it would be appropriate to require that another City department pay back a prorated bonus amount to FPD if an FPD employee transfers to another department during the three-year period.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood**, moved to AMEND the attachment to Ordinance No. 6005, as Amended, by striking term #7 of the contract.

**Mr. Gatewood** stated that Mr. Cleworth makes a great point because it would affect another department's budget.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6005 BY STRIKING SECTION SEVEN FROM THE ORDINANCE, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Pruhs, Gatewood, Huntington, Cleworth, Matherly, Walley

NAYS: None

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mr. Cleworth** thanked the public for coming out to testify on Ordinance No. 6005, as Amended, and for sharing their thoughts and concerns. He stated that the ordinance may cause other departments to want to add a bonus program for hiring. He commended Mr. Matherly for adding the sunset clause to the ordinance. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the national news media is setting a tone that detours people from wanting a career in law enforcement and that has an effect on FPD applicants. He stated that the citizen who spoke to the problems with alcohol was spot on and that the majority of emergency call outs involve alcohol. He stated that he struggles with the ordinance but that he is willing to give it a try to see if it attracts successful applicants.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that he believes in Ordinance No. 6005, as Amended, and that it is the Council's job to give FPD the proper tools for success. He stated that FPD is in a recruitment war. He stated that if the program is successful there will be a savings, and if it is not a success there is a net zero effect.

**Mr. Walley** echoed Mr. Cleworth's and Mr. Pruhs' comments on Ordinance No. 6005, as Amended. He stated that the ordinance is an experiment and that he hopes it will be successful. He stated that he agrees that standards should not be relaxed because it would diminish the safety of the City. **Mr. Walley** suggested other incentives that the Council may consider in the future, such as a housing incentive.

**Ms. Huntington** stated that she will vote in favor of Ordinance No. 6005, as Amended. She stated that there are significant hiring problems within FPD and that there are lots of factors creating those issues. She stated that the ordinance will not solve all of the problems and encouraged everyone to continue to work together to bring FPD to full staff. **Ms. Huntington** stated that recruiting in the villages may help create diversity in FPD. She stated that no matter what the outcome of the vote on the ordinance, the motives of the Council will be questioned. She stated she did not want the Council and the City to quit being creative when it comes to hiring City staff.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that municipalities nationwide are running into retirement funding issues and sooner or later it will be a problem for the City as well. He stated that we are in interesting times and the mismanagement of funds has lead the City of Detroit and the State of California to major financial problems.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6005, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:           Huntington, Matherly, Gatewood, Pruhs, Cleworth, Walley  
NAYS:           None  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6005, as Amended, ADOPTED.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 4721 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to [CONTRACTOR] for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Generators Procurement Project ITB 16-03 in the Amount of \$XXX,XXX.XX. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

**Mr. Gatewood**, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4721.

**Mr. Gatewood**, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to SUBSTITUTE Resolution No. 4721, as Amended, for Resolution No. 4721.

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

**Mr. Gatewood** asked if Resolution No. 4721, as Amended, was a grant-funded project.

**Mayor Eberhart** asked Development Manager Pat Smith for a Staff Report.

Mr. Smith stated that it is a joint project between the City and Golden Heart Utilities (GHU) and that it is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He reported the total project cost is \$1,365,000 and the grant-funded portion is \$1,037,000. He explained that the match for the difference is being provided by GHU. Mr. Smith explained how the project will be being piecemealed together.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4721, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS.

YEAS:           Gatewood, Walley, Pruhs, Matherly, Huntington, Cleworth  
NAYS:           None  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4721, as Amended, APPROVED.

- b) Resolution No. 4722 – A Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 8 An Act Relating to the Regulation and Production of Industrial Hemp. Introduced by Council Member Gatewood.

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4722.

**Mr. Gatewood** stated that he hears a lot of talk about industrial hemp and the possibility of it thriving in Alaska. He spoke to the differences between industrial hemp and marijuana and

commented that industrial hemp gets a bad rap because it is related to cannabis. He stated industrial hemp has been around for years and that the Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper and that the first United States flag was made out of hemp material. **Mr. Gatewood** stated that industrial hemp could become a very lucrative business for Alaskan farmers and businesspeople. He stated that industrial hemp is a win-win for everyone involved.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated that the City Council has passed resolutions in support of retaining marijuana board members at the state; he stated that industrial hemp has no hallucinogenic effects. He thanked **Mr. Gatewood** for introducing Resolution No. 4722.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKE ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4722 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Walley, Huntington, Matherly, Gatewood

NAYS: None

**Mayor Eberhart** declared Resolution No. 4722 APPROVED.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Committee Reports

Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors – **Mr. Matherly** stated that he attended the Explore Fairbanks meeting and reported that they have strong financials. He stated that at the meeting there was a lot of interest relating to the Polaris Building and the ability to develop the area. He stated that it was an informative meeting; he stated that he relayed to the Board that the City is also interested in the Polaris Building.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Mr. Gatewood** stated that he had no comments.

**Mr. Walley** stated that he had no comments.

**Ms. Huntington** commended Detective Merideth for solving the Nathaniel cold case. She requested to be excused from the Regular City Council Meeting of March 21, 2016.

**Mayor Eberhart** called for objection to **Ms. Huntington's** request to be excused on March 21, 2016 and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Mr. Matherly** spoke to the passing of Michael Dresser and stated that he would be missed. He spoke to **Ms. Randle's** memo on marijuana sales tax and stated that he agrees with her proposal. **Mr. Matherly** stated that he appreciates when all the Council Members are present at the Council meetings. He stated that public safety is an important objective and that the bonus program should not be considered for other City departments. He stated that he is honored to serve with the Council and the Mayor.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that he is the representative on the calendar for attendance at the next Borough Assembly meeting. He stated that he would like to ask the Borough to allow the City to collect its own marijuana sales tax. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that when the traffic circles were built in Shannon Park he did not know about it; he stated if he had known ahead of time, he would have spoken out against them. He stated that he agrees with Mr. Salzman that the middle of the circle needs to be more thought out and requested that the improvements on the South Side be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke to Mr. Buberger's request to include the public in Executive Sessions; he clarified the three types of issues that may be discussed in Executive Sessions: labor negotiations, litigation strategies, personnel issues. He stated that the Council cannot take any action during Executive Sessions. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that regular negotiations between the City and the Unions are open to the public.

**Mr. Pruhs** thanked the Mayor for keeping the health care cost issue alive. In response to Mr. Buberger's comments, he stated that he did not believe Fairbanks was a sanctuary city, but that he would report back at the next meeting on the issue. He commended Mr. Jacobson for attending the Arctic Winter Games in Greenland and thanked Deputy Chief Jewkes for his submission to the FDNM. **Mr. Pruhs** spoke to the Borough's marijuana ordinance and stated that the City should rigorously oppose it if it will cause the City to lose revenue. He stated that teachers and nurses are given incentives and that police officers deserve the same benefit.

**Mr. Pruhs** requested to be excused from the Regular City Council Meeting of June 6, 2016.

**Mayor Eberhart** called for objection to **Mr. Pruhs'** request to be excused on June 6, 2016 and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

### CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk Snider reminded the Council that annual Financial Disclosure Statements are due by March 15, 2016.

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) Labor Negotiations.

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

**Mayor Eberhart** called for a five minute recess.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) Labor Negotiations

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss FFU Labor Negotiations. Direction was given to staff and no action was taken.

### ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.



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JOHN EBERHART, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB