



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA NO. 2026-02

REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 26, 2026

MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#) AND AT
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

WORK SESSION

5:30 p.m. – Permanent Fund Review Board Annual Report

REGULAR MEETING

6:30 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL
2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: We respectfully acknowledge the Dena people upon whose traditional lands we reside. We honor the Dena who have been the stewards of Interior lands and waters for centuries, the Elders who lived here before, the Dena people of today, and future generations to come. We also recognize that Alaskan Native people would traditionally gather here and harvest Native foods.
3. INVOCATION
4. FLAG SALUTATION
5. CEREMONIAL MATTERS (Proclamations, Introductions, Recognitions, Awards)
6. CITIZENS' COMMENTS (oral communications to the City Council on items pertaining to City business that are not up for public hearing). The total comment period is up to one hour, and testimony is limited to three minutes. Any person wishing to speak needs to sign up on the list located in the hallway or must have signed up in advance using the procedures for providing online testimony found at the City's website. Respectful standards of decorum and courtesy should be observed by all speakers. Remarks should be directed to the City Council as a body rather than to any particular Councilmember or member of the staff. In consideration of others, please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.
7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items are indicated by asterisks (*). Consent agenda items are considered together unless a councilmember requests that the item be returned to the general agenda. Ordinances on the approved consent agenda are automatically advanced to the next regular meeting for second reading and public hearing. All other items on the approved consent agenda are passed as final.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

*a) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2025

*b) Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2026

9. SPECIAL ORDERS

- a) The Fairbanks City Council will hear interested citizens concerned with the following alcohol license application for renewal. Public testimony will be taken and limited to three minutes.

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
4156	Circle K	Package Store	Holiday Alaska, LLC	2300 S. Cushman Street

10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- a) Special Reports

11. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6334 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 2-119(a), Order of Business, Adding a Set Time During the Second Council Meeting of Each Month for Receiving a Report from Leadership in Our Community, Including Denakkanaaga, Fairbanks Native Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon, or Other Designated Groups. Sponsored by Councilmembers Sprinkle, Cleworth, and Therrien. Postponed from the Regular Meeting of January 12; a public hearing was held at that time.
- b) Ordinance No. 6335 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 2-653, City Council Approval of Excess Expenditures. Sponsored by Councilmember Cleworth. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.
- c) Ordinance No. 6336 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 74-117, Room Rental Tax Purpose and Limitation, by Removing Term Limits for Discretionary Fund Committee Members. Sponsored by Councilmember Marney. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.
- d) Ordinance No. 6337 – An Ordinance Authorizing Public Works to Provide Services Outside the City Benefitting Tanana Valley State Fair Association in Exchange for a Snow Storage Site. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neill. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- *a) Resolution No. 5198 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to 911 Rapid Response to Provide a Brush Truck in the Amount of \$326,000. Sponsored by Mayor O’Neill.
- *b) Resolution No. 5199 – A Resolution Urging the Legislature to Approve a Supplemental Appropriation to Meet the State Match Commitment for Federal Transportation Funding for FY2026. Sponsored by Councilmembers Sprinkle and Tidwell and Mayor O’Neill.
- *c) Ordinance No. 6338 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Sec. 2-86 Setting Council Member Compensation. Sponsored by Mayor O’Neill.
- *d) Ordinance No. 6339 – An Ordinance Regarding the Mayor’s Compensation. Sponsored by Councilmember Tidwell.

14. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- *a) Memorandum Regarding Use of Council Travel Funds
- *b) Fourth Quarter Sole Source Purchasing Report

15. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS’ COMMENTS

16. CITY CLERK’S REPORT

17. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

19. ADJOURNMENT



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 15, 2025
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council via Zoom webinar and in the City Council Chambers at 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Mindy O'Neill presiding and the following Councilmembers in attendance:

Councilmembers Present:

Jerry Cleworth, Seat A
Valerie Therrien, 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
Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief
Ron Dupee, Police Chief
Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
Nathan Werner, Police Captain
Joseph Whitney, Police Officer
Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director
Robert Pristash, City Engineer
Christop Falke, Building Official
Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director (remotely)
Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor O'Neill, **Ms. Therrien** led the flag salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS (Proclamations, Introductions, Recognitions, Awards)

- a) Fairbanks Police Department Swearing In Ceremony

Police Chief Ron Dupee introduced Officer Joseph (JR) Whitney who had recently completed the Alaska Public Safety Training Academy. Deputy Police Chief Richard Sweet gave a brief summary of Officer Whitney's experience. He welcomed him to Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) and administered the Oath of Office. Officer Whitney expressed his excitement and appreciation to be joining the department.

b) Reading of the Bill of Rights

Mayor O'Neill explained that the annual reading of the Bill of Rights at the second meeting in December was a longstanding tradition of the City Council to recognize the anniversary of its adoption to the Constitution on December 15, 1791. She invited Councilmembers and staff to take turns reading each of the 10 Amendments that comprise the Bill of Rights.

Mayor O'Neill called for a brief recess at 6:41 p.m. to enjoy light refreshments. The Council reconvened for Citizens' Comments at 6:47 p.m.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mayor O'Neill called for comments and hearing none, declared Citizens' Comments closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor O'Neill requested that items 11(c), Ordinance No. 6331, and 11(d), Ordinance No. 6332, under Unfinished Business be reordered such that item 11(d) be addressed before 11(c).

Mayor O'Neill called for objection to the request to REORDER items 11(c) and 11(d) and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk Snider read the consent agenda into the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2025

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
10112	Great Alaskan Bud Company	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	SP&C Enterprises, LLC	1905 Livengood Avenue
10113	Great Alaskan Bud Company	Retail Marijuana Store	SP&C Enterprises, LLC	1905 Livengood Avenue
13479	North Star Fire	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	North Star Fire, LLC	3780 Leasure Street, Suite 3

Mayor O’Neall called for testimony and, hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

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

Ms. Tidwell asked for further details on a letter included in the application packet. City Attorney Chard explained that the City had received a written complaint a few months prior regarding Shawn Coyle, one of the individuals named in the renewal applications for License Nos. 10112 and 10113. He reported that much of the letter had been redacted as it pertained to matters currently under litigation between S. Coyle and the author of the letter which was not germane to the agenda item. He confirmed that the non-redacted portions were somewhat germane to the agenda item.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that she had never seen a letter like that for any past applications and asked how concerned the Council should be about it. Attorney Chard explained that Chapter 14 of the Fairbanks General Code (FGC) outlines what factors the Council might consider when reviewing a license application, such as whether the applicant is up to date with tax payments, other necessary licenses, building safety requirements, etc. He noted that there is also some FGC language regarding the character of the licensee. He noted that while the accusations in the letter were pointed and heavy, they had not yet been adjudicated or ruled on by a neutral third party. He advised the Council to acknowledge the complaint but not consider it with the same weight as it would consider issues that had been adjudicated. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked if S. Coyle was aware that the City Council had been sent the information contained in the complaint. Attorney Chard confirmed that the same information had been sent to numerous agencies and that the individual is undoubtedly aware of what is being shared regarding the matter.

Mr. Ringstad asked if the State’s Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) also takes into consideration matters of character for applicants. Attorney Chard stated that many considerations are left to the discretion of local governing bodies. He added that if the court sides with the plaintiff, it will likely trigger actions which would bring the license back before the Council.

Mr. Cleworth asked about S. Coyle’s role. Attorney Chard stated that he believes the individual is the 100% owner of SP&C Enterprises, LLC. Clerk Snider confirmed that was correct. **Mr. Cleworth** noted that item 3 in the letter contained an assertion that S. Coyle was, “no longer authorized to be in the building or to cultivate marijuana or operate a retail business on this

property.” He stated that this did not make any sense. Attorney Chard reiterated that although this section of text was not redacted, the content had not been adjudicated and given the ongoing litigation he would hesitate to take any statement from one party as complete truth.

Mr. Ringstad suggested that any condition the Council places on the license renewal because of litigation would be impractical as lawsuits could go on for years. Attorney Chard confirmed that was correct and suggested they view the complaint similar to someone providing public testimony against the applicant, using uncorroborated accusations. He clarified that if the result of the lawsuit is that S. Coyle is unable to hold this type of license, then he would be required to relinquish the license or transfer it, which would require approval of the City Council.

Mr. Marney asked if S. Coyle had been notified that his licensee would be up for consideration at the meeting. Clerk Snider confirmed that he had been notified.

Ms. Sprinkle asked what would happen if the Council voted against a license. Attorney Chard explained that if the Council fails to waive protest, the City Clerk would draft a notice to AMCO stating that the City Council is protesting the license, listing the specific reasoning for doing so, and a hearing would be held at the State level to adjudicate the issue, with both sides presenting their reasoning. He confirmed that if AMCO ruled against the applicant, they would be required to transfer the license or shut down the business.

Ms. Therrien asked if any eviction proceedings had taken place regarding the establishment. Attorney Chard reported that he had searched the Alaska CourtView system and had not come across anything suggesting an eviction case involving S. Coyle or the location.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to DIVIDE THE QUESTION by separating License Nos. 10112 and 10113 from License No. 14379.

Mayor O’Neill called for objection to the motion to DIVIDE THE QUESTION by separating License Nos. 10112 and 10113 from License No. 13479 and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor O’Neill directed that they would continue discussion for License Nos. 10112 and 10113 and would afterward consider License No. 13479.

Mr. Cleworth asked if they would have enough time to hear from S. Coyle prior to the City’s response deadline to AMCO. Clerk Snider reported that the response deadline is January 12, 2026, the same date as the next Council meeting. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern that the Council may be voting to approve someone’s license, and the person may not even be able to be at the licensed premises. Attorney Chard reiterated that the information had not been corroborated.

Ms. Tidwell suggested that, given the fact the complaints were currently being litigated, she would prefer to waive protest, allow AMCO to do its own due diligence, and trust that the matter would return to the Council if a ruling affected the applicant’s legal ability to operate or hold a license.

Mr. Marney pointed out that the Council has tried for years to encourage applicants to be present at the meeting where their application is considered and that perhaps this would be a wake-up call.

Mayor O’Neill expressed concern that if the Council protests the license based on the one-sided claims in the letter, it will trigger a hearing process with AMCO to justify the action. She noted that would insert the City into a two-party dispute in which the City has no part.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that she was frustrated that S. Coyle was not present. **Mayor O’Neill** pointed out that there were a variety of reasons why an owner may not be in attendance.

Ms. Therrien spoke in favor of protesting the license. **Mayor O’Neill** asked if the Council wanted the City to put time and money into the process that would be triggered by protesting. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the Council serves only in an advisory capacity for matters such as this and that the real time and effort to resolve the issue would fall to AMCO.

Mr. Ringstad agreed that he would prefer the State to do its due diligence rather than the City getting involved with something already being litigated. He noted that the City was not even included in the list of recipients of the letter and that the Council only had a copy because it was shared with the City Clerk by another entity.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL FOR LICENSE NOS. 10112 AND 10113 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Sprinkle, Tidwell, O’Neill

NAYS: Marney, Cleworth, Therrien

Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL FOR LICENSE NO. 13479 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) The Fairbanks City Council held a public hearing and considered the following Hotel or Motel Endorsement Application:

Type/ID: Hotel or Motel Endorsement, App. ID 1023

Primary Lic. #: Beverage Dispensary Tourism, #5927

DBA: Hyatt Place Fairbanks

Applicant: Fairbanks Hospitality, LLC

Location: 400 Merhar Avenue, Fairbanks

Mayor O’Neill called for testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Hotel/Motel Endorsement Application.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for more information about the endorsement. Clerk Snider explained that it is a type of endorsement available within the tourism industry allowing the licensee to offer a full bar service in banquet areas as well as sell alcohol in individual rooms.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE HOTEL/MOTEL ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Therrien
NAYS: None

Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor O’Neill shared that she attended the Alaska Municipal League (AML) annual conference, as had Ms. Sprinkle, Ms. Therrien, and some staff members. She discussed the networking opportunities and the various topics addressed at the conference and reported that she had been elected as the AML Vice President for 2026. She recognized City Clerk Snider for having received the prestigious “Clerk of the Year” award through the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) and for having just concluded service as the organization’s 2025 President. **Mayor O’Neill** shared details about the temporary pause in snow removal by the Public Works department, citing the risks of equipment failure and safety at the extreme cold temperatures. She stated that crews worked extra hours over the previous weekend in preparation of the pause and would be ready to handle the next large snowfall event. She congratulated the 2025 graduating class of new firefighters with the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD). She reported on the annual “Shop-with-a-Cop” event for local youth, which was coordinated through FPD and Volunteers in Policing.

COUNCILMEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Ringstad shared that his daughter had recently discovered an abandoned, still-smoking campfire in the wooded area in front of his home. He expressed frustration at the increasing occurrences of uninvited, sometimes hostile guests on his property and the need for frequent calls to law enforcement. He spoke of those in the community who live without any regard for the law or property owners’ rights. He discussed his concern for the safety of family members and himself, adding that some of them have discussed the need to arm themselves in the future.

Mr. Cleworth pointed out that only two City employees work directly for the City Council: the City Clerk and City Attorney. He suggested that having a group of seven bosses could not be easy and congratulated Clerk Snider for the well-deserved Clerk of the Year award. He praised the work done by Public Works crews the past weekend to prepare for the break in operations.

Ms. Therrien gave a land acknowledgment. She reported that a land acknowledgement was offered at many of the workshops that occurred during the AML conference.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6330 – An Ordinance Amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Fire Fighters Union (FFU) IAFF Local 1324. Sponsored by Mayor O’Neill.

[Note: Ordinance No. 6330 was introduced at the regular meeting of November 24, 2025, at which time a public hearing was held and a motion to ADOPT was made and seconded. The ordinance was POSTPONED to the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2025. The motion to ADOPT remained on the floor.]

Ms. Therrien asked whether there was any possibility for a resolution to the issue. Chief of Staff Sanders recounted that the FFU membership voted against the agreement and that while there were ongoing discussions to identify how the partnership could return, the matter could not be resolved immediately. He suggested that there was no reason to further consider the ordinance.

Mr. Cleworth asked how long the City had participated in the program. M. Sanders stated that the City had been involved since the program’s inception and that the Community Technical College (CTC) needed the City in order to make it work. **Mr. Cleworth** asked for clarification on the origin of one of the ordinance’s attachments. M. Sanders reported that FFU originally brought the draft to the administration but reiterated that the membership had shortly thereafter voted down the agreement. **Mr. Cleworth** noted that the document showed “paramedic students” as being crossed out under the list eligible ride-along participants. He asked if other groups were still able to participate. M. Sanders confirmed that there are still ride-alongs—just not open to paramedic students as part of the CTC program. **Mr. Cleworth** referenced the fiscal note and asked if costs were similar in past years. M. Sanders clarified that preceptor pay for trainers overseeing students was recently added in the new labor contract and was not unlike the field training officer (FTO) pay at FPD. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed frustration that a long-time partnership had ended. M. Sanders suggested that all parties desire to see the program revived.

Mr. Ringstad noted that there was still money allocated for preceptor pay and asked what that was for if they were no longer going to participate in the partnership with the CTC. M. Sanders explained that FFD still has its own in-house paramedic trainees which require precepting, and that compensation for that work was incorporated into the most recent union contract. **Mr. Ringstad** suggested that it was silly for FFU to have drawn the line in the sand as it had.

Ms. Therrien voiced disappointment for the CTC students who were counting on the opportunity. She expressed hope that the administration could do something for the affected students.

Mr. Marney concurred with the disappointment on behalf of the students. He acknowledged that the Ordinance was essentially dead on arrival after the FFU members had voted it down.

Mayor O’Neill discussed procedural options available for a “dead” ordinance other than simply voting against adoption. No alternative motion was made.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6330 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Sprinkle
NAYS: Marney, Ringstad, Therrien, Tidwell
Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION FAILED and Ordinance No. 6330 FAILED.

b) The City Council considered the following marijuana license applications for renewal:

Lic.	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
10958	Green Life Supply, LLC	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	Green Life Supply, LLC	511 30th Avenue
11924	Green Life Supply, LLC	Retail Marijuana Store	Green Life Supply, LLC	511 30th Avenue

[Note: The applications were first considered at the regular meeting of December 1, 2025, at which time a public hearing was held and a motion to WAIVE PROTEST was made and seconded. A motion was made and seconded to AMEND the motion to waive protest, by adding a condition that the backflow preventer issue be resolved by July 30, 2026. The item was then POSTPONED to the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2025. The motion to AMEND the motion to waive protest remained on the floor.]

Mayor O’Neill called for objection to reopening the public hearing in order to hear from any interested parties that may be present and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Dayton MacCallum – D. MacCallum stated that he represented Green Life Supply and was available to answer questions. He shared that a contractor had been at the facility earlier in the day and that they believe they can have the backflow issue resolved the following day.

Mr. Marney recounted that an industry expert had been hired by the company earlier in the year to deal with other ventilation problems. He asked if that individual was still working with them. D. MacCallum confirmed that the contractor assisted them with an odor compliance issue and that the issue was resolved, with a plan in place to prevent similar problems in the future.

Ms. Sprinkle asked D. MacCallum if he was an outside consultant. D. MacCallum stated that he is a local resident and is part of the business ownership and management. He stated that an updated contact list was available to share with the Council.

Mr. Marney extended an invitation for D. MacCallum to attend future Council meetings when the license applications are considered. D. MacCallum shared that he had only been in his position since March, was aware of the existing issues, and planned to attend future meetings.

Ms. Tidwell asked for clarification on the motion on the floor and on the appropriate procedure if the Council no longer wished to impose conditions. Clerk Snider clarified the pending motion and explained that a vote to fail the amendment would return them to the main motion to waive protest.

There being no more comments, **Mayor O’Neill** closed the public hearing.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST BY ADDING A CONDITION THAT THE BACKFLOW PREVENTER ISSUE BE RESOLVED BY JULY 30, 2026, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: None
NAYS: Ringstad, Tidwell, Therrien, Sprinkle, Marney, Cleworth
Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION FAILED.

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

YEAS: Sprinkle, Therrien, Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Tidwell
NAYS: None
Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- d) Ordinance No. 6332 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 2-119(a), Order of Business, Requiring a Land Acknowledgement at Every Regular Council Meeting. Sponsored by Councilmembers Therrien and Tidwell and Mayor O’Neill. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

[Note: Item 11(d) was addressed before 11(c). See “Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda.”]

Mayor O’Neill called for Public Testimony.

Brian Ridley – B. Ridley shared that he is from the Native Village of Eagle and has served as the Chief Chairman of Tanana Chiefs Conference for the last four years. He spoke of the strain that had existed between the City and Alaska Native community for many years and spoke in support of Ordinance No. 6332. He asserted that a land acknowledgement would help bridge the gap and would not assign blame or rewrite history. He suggested that it instead recognizes history and conveys respect for the original land stewards. B. Ridley discussed how organizations across the region, state, and country were shifting towards similar practices at the start of meetings or events. He pointed out that a land acknowledgement takes only about 20 seconds but carries great meaning and would demonstrate the City’s willingness to move forward in a positive direction.

Mr. Marney asked B. Ridley if he was aware that the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) does not have a requirement for a land acknowledgement recitation at the beginning of its meetings. B. Ridley stated that he was not. **Mr. Marney** shared that he had just learned that the FNSB Assembly’s reading of a land acknowledgement is up to the discretion of the presiding officer and that one had not been read at their meetings for over a year. He stated that he was unsure why there has been such pressure for the City Council to adopt the practice when the FNSB, with its much

larger geographical footprint, did not adopt the practice. B. Ridley indicated that he would direct efforts towards the same goal at the Borough and that he would like to see the practice in place with both governing bodies. He shared that at a recent local military event, Alaska Native tribes were recognized on the tails of various aircraft, which meant a lot to their people.

Sharon McConnell, Executive Director of Denakkanaaga – S. McConnell explained that “Denakkanaaga” is an Athabascan word for “our people speak” and that her organization’s mission is to be the Elder voice of the people. She noted that the Denakkanaaga, with input from their Elders, drafted the original text for the proposed land acknowledgement. She expressed hope that the effort is not seen as something being forced upon the City but rather a request for recognition and respect for the original inhabitants of the area. She asserted that a land acknowledgement is not frivolous nor are they applicable in every city, borough, or county across the United States. She spoke of the unique nature of Fairbanks’ history, its blend of cultures, and the opportunity to celebrate all aspects of the community. She thanked Mr. Cleworth for meeting with her regarding Ordinance No. 6334, an ordinance that would allow Alaska Native organizations to provide reports to the Council at regular meetings. She added that while some may think that other groups may also want acknowledgement statements on their behalf as a result of Ordinance No. 6332, no other group had the same considerations as her people in regard to the history of the Interior.

Melissa Charlie, Executive Director of Fairbanks Native Association – M. Charlie spoke of the value in having been raised in a traditional lifestyle by her grandparents, learning to live off and with the land. She spoke of the importance of a land acknowledgement and about the lack of recognition of the history and culture of Native peoples within City government. She expressed hope that the ordinance would be adopted. She added that while she also supports Ordinance No. 6334, it should not be considered a substitute for a sincere land acknowledgement.

Austin Head – A. Head stated there should not be a competition between the City and Borough for who could be the least respectful; rather, it should be about leading by example.

Ted Miller – T. Miller shared that he returned to live in Fairbanks after getting out of the Army and that one contributing factor to making that choice was the rich history and sense of community. He stated that a land acknowledgement is a good opportunity to show appreciation for local culture.

Alex Valez – A. Valez thanked the Native leadership for their words and echoed their thoughts. He spoke of growing up with an Athabascan mother and the lessons he learned through their culture. He suggested that a land acknowledgement is simply a factual statement about local history and that while Native culture is often viewed as something from the past, it is in fact still very present. He asserted that the ordinance strengthens the community and is a step in the right direction.

Elizabeth Miller – E. Miller stated that the diversity of Fairbanks is its strength and that pluralism is one of the most beautiful aspects of the country. She concurred that a land acknowledgement celebrates the local diversity, and therefore strength, of the community.

Jasmine St. Pierre – J. St. Pierre shared that she is from a Dena family and that the specialness of living in Fairbanks comes with the responsibility of acknowledging those who lived here before. She suggested that a land acknowledgement does not separate but rather joins members of the

community—it is not just symbolic. She stated that it represents a commitment and that it was time for them to speak the truth and honor the past.

Dorothy Shockley – D. Shockley shared that she is a member of the Upper Koyukon Dena and that she agrees with all the previous comments shared. She concurred that a land acknowledgement serves as a simple honor to those who lived in the area for thousands of years with a respect for the land and all living beings that called it home. She pointed out that Native people welcomed the newcomers who arrived in the area over 100 years ago and that a land acknowledgement is the right way to recognize that shared history, not dissimilar to the annual Golden Days celebrations.

Randy Griffin – R. Griffin expressed appreciation for the views expressed but shared that he was against the concept of a forced land acknowledgement. He asserted that no matter how respectful, it would still be mandated, thus carrying less meaning. He stated that a land acknowledgement is about one segment of society, whereas the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation are meant for all people. He suggested that it is great to hear sincere recognition during any meeting, be it through Citizens' Comments or Councilmember Comments, but reiterated that the mandate of Ordinance No. 6332 was inappropriate. He acknowledged and praised Bennie Benson, the Alaska Native youth known for designing the Alaska flag in 1927. He spoke of the many wonderful places and events in the community that celebrate Alaska Native arts and culture and encouraged others to visit them. He expressed concern over efforts across the country to criticize colonialism through means such as forced statements like the proposed land acknowledgement.

Paul Rasmussen – P. Rasmussen stated that he was honored by the voices and presence of those who had spoken before him in support of Ordinance No. 6332. He suggested that the effort is a way to build bridges, partnerships, and public trust. He asserted that not listening to those who had voiced similar support would be a missed opportunity. He spoke of the love for Fairbanks that exists across the community. P. Rasmussen declared that a land acknowledgement is not a political stunt, does not hurt anyone, would not cost anything, nor conveyed disrespect to any other group or individual. He stated that it would lead to a safer, stronger community.

There being no more comments, **Mayor O'Neill** closed the public hearing.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6332.

Ms. Therrien thanked those who had provided testimony and explained her intent in bringing forward the ordinance. She read a list of individuals who had written to the City Council in support of a land acknowledgement. She recognized the opposing viewpoint of R. Griffin but suggested that it was a matter of respect and expressed hope that all would support the effort. She read a support statement from Interior Democrats.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she had felt the pressure of the issue for a long time, seeking input from many voices, and wrestling with whether a land acknowledgement would be enough, if it would be performative, or if it was even worded correctly. She indicated that she was in support of the ordinance, had heard those who had spoken, and was not taking the issue lightly.

Mr. Ringstad spoke about his interactions with Alaska Native people throughout his entire life. He expressed a preference to handle matters through substantive work rather than symbolism and suggested that the ordinance would force a land acknowledgement. He asserted that the City had already made a firm recognition of the first inhabitants of the area through the land acknowledgement that hung on the wall near the entrance to Council Chambers. He stated that the Council's agenda should be for conducting City business. He stated that communications between the City and Native organizations happen whenever and wherever they are needed.

Mr. Marney read Psalm 24 from the Bible and discussed the relatively small speck of time that his existence, and that all of humans, accounts for across the history of the planet. He recounted that when the same issue was addressed in May 2025, the Council had extended an olive branch for collaboration and communication to address community challenges but nothing came from it. He concurred that more should be done to learn about each other to fix problems but suggested that the ordinance was just a bandage for a growing wound.

Ms. Tidwell asked to confirm that the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) had brought forward a resolution to ask the City Council to enact a land acknowledgement as part of regular Council agendas. **Mr. Marney** confirmed that was correct. **Ms. Tidwell** thanked those who spoke, and she voiced her support for the ordinance. She added that she also appreciated the effort behind Ordinance No. 6334 but would not want to consider it a replacement for a land acknowledgement. She expressed hope that this step would lead to positive relationship building in the community.

Ms. Sprinkle indicated that her sponsorship of Ordinance No. 6334 was intended to be in addition to the land acknowledgement. She stated that she hears the concerns of Mr. Ringstad and Mr. Marney but wondered what would be wrong with trying something new.

Mr. Cleworth stated that while he had heard about the strain between the City of Fairbanks and the Alaska Native community for most of his life, he could recall a great deal of good that had occurred over the decades. He recounted meeting with representatives from multiple organizations when he was Mayor and working to honor requests such as discontinuing sweeps in the downtown area and creating a dedicated position at FPD to work on cold cases, which saw much-welcomed success. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke of a City resolution that helped Federal representatives pressure the U.S. Mint to agree to circulate special coins bearing the image of Elizabeth Peratrovich, a Tlingit activist who championed equality on behalf of Alaska Natives. He explained that was done to ensure that the coins would be available in the community as a matter of pride and a way to raise awareness of E. Peratrovich's story. He expressed disappointment that no one voiced support for that effort at the time. **Mr. Cleworth** pointed out that a land acknowledgement had been recited at every meeting for the last year by Ms. Therrien and that if she was unable to do so and asked him to, he would be happily oblige. He noted that codifying the practice through an ordinance made it feel forced, recognizing that mandates often elicit a defensive response from him. He expressed hope that there would be supportive testimony in January for Ordinance No. 6334. He suggested that the relationship between the City and the Alaska Native community had improved greatly over the 34 years he had been involved with the Council. He asserted that he did not have a problem with the land acknowledgement language but noted that some do. He referenced a newspaper article published when the Council last considered a land acknowledgement ordinance where the author spoke of the ancient inhabitants of the region who preceded those typically spoken of as

part of the Alaska Native heritage. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that a land acknowledgement had been posted in all Palmer, Alaska schools and cited the opposition from one Andrew Shane, a Native leader in the region who also served on the school board. He read an excerpt from an article regarding A. Shane's comments at a June 2025 school board meeting, as follows:

"Such statements feel like continuing to try to tear open an old wound. I am a proud Unangax. My father was born and raised on the Pribilof Islands. From the first time I heard a land acknowledgment, I remember thinking to myself, 'What is the point of this? How does this help anyone? Should non-Alaska Natives feel guilty for being here? Should Alaska Natives feel shame for losing control of the land to the Russians, who later sold it to the U.S.?' As a community leader, I want to encourage our school district to encourage unity, not division. These kinds of statements, especially in a K12 education system, intentional or not, seek to bring guilt to those not responsible for past transgressions and a victim mentality to those who were not even born during such time. My hope is that all members of our community recognize that they are caretakers of the beautiful Mat-Su Valley we inhabit. While I believe knowing where you come from and celebrating cultures are important, it should never seek to divide us as a society."

Mr. Cleworth reported that in Palmer, they rewrote the statement, making it lengthier and more inclusive, and took down posted statements in buildings. He recounted that all Councilmembers had unanimously supported the land acknowledgement on the wall outside Council Chambers. He referenced the reading of the Bill of Rights and noted that the late Frank Turney had advocated for codification of such a practice at every Council meeting. He discussed the significance and story behind the many items hanging on the walls within and outside of the room and reiterated that the recitation of a land acknowledgement should not be mandated by Code.

Ms. Therrien expressed appreciation for the Fairbanks Diversity Council's resolution urging the Council to read a land acknowledgement as a regular part of Council meetings and pointed out that Denakkanaaga leaders had approved the proposed language.

Mayor O'Neill shared that when she considers the issue of a land acknowledgement, she reflects on what it means to acknowledge a culture that existed long before any of them. She stated that while it is understandable to feel uncomfortable with codifying something outside of one's own cultural experience, the proposed language had been created to show respect for the culture everyone participates in now, which is the land of Fairbanks. She noted that what is not being discussed are the problems of the community, which some believe should be on the Alaska Native community to bear. She stated that the problems are really for the community as a whole to tackle. She suggested that any discomfort one may feel is a reflection of one's own need to grow in understanding of the community. She asserted that adopting the ordinance was the right thing to do and was an example of showing that government exists for everyone. She concurred that there was a difference between a land acknowledgement and an invitation for reports, as proposed with Ordinance No. 6334, and that both were important. She expressed hope that the public testimony from the evening would weigh upon the vote of each Councilmember.

Mr. Cleworth clarified that Ordinance No. 6334 would create an opportunity for regular, open dialogue, not limited to three minutes. He suggested that approach had been missing for a long time. **Mayor O’Neill** indicated that she looked forward to discussing the ordinance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6332 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Therrien, Sprinkle, O’Neill

NAYS: Marney, Cleworth, Ringstad

Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6332 ADOPTED.

Mayor O’Neill called for a 15-minute recess at 8:34 p.m. The Council reconvened at 8:49 p.m.

- c) Ordinance No. 6331 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets. Sponsored by Mayor O’Neill. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor O’Neill called for Public Testimony.

Tulugak Fleagle – T. Fleagle shared that he is a case manager with Fairbanks Integrated Community Services (FICS), the City’s Emergency Service Patrol (ESP) contractor, and that he works closely with Community Paramedic (CP) Melody Smith. He spoke in support of M. Smith’s work and the wraparound services she provides to individuals, many of whom he interacts with. He asserted that additional funding for her program would have positive results for the community.

Skye Cook – S. Cook shared that she supervises and trains ESP staff and had previously worked in community outreach with both housed and unhoused people, specializing in stabilization of those struggling with complex issues involving substance abuse and/or mental health. She stated that she had done much of that work alone, which was incredibly difficult, and explained that when her company bid on the ESP contract, she did so with the intent of always having at least two people working at the same time. She declared that the City’s CP program was excellent but that it would not be sustainable as a solo operation.

Ms. Sprinkle noted that previous discussions implied that a potential second CP would augment the program, allowing for additional coverage through staffing on more days and hours than the current program. She asked if this was still the case or if those involved were now wanting to see two paramedics working together. S. Cook clarified that the intent was still to expand coverage but that some overlap would naturally occur for case conferencing and coordination of services.

There being no more comments, **Mayor O’Neill** closed the public hearing.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6331.

Mayor O’Neill asked the Council to approach its discussion by reviewing Attachment A – 2026 General Fund Supplemental Budget Requests, going through each department to explain her original proposals. She suggested that amendments for each category be made along the way.

Mayor O'Neill reviewed the supplemental requests for the Mayor's Department and explained her reasoning behind the proposals for a Community Response Coordinator, a Public Information Officer, a Temporary Administrative Assistant, and community promotions funding.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331 by adding \$68,650 to the Mayor's Department for a Community Response Coordinator.

Mr. Cleworth recounted that Chief of Staff Sanders had expressed confidence in the likelihood of receiving grant funding for a particular position and asked if that was still true. M. Sanders confirmed that it was the Community Response Coordinator position and that the grant was as sure as it could be. He explained the funding arrangements from the Alaska Mental Health Trust and how the current Crisis Now Coordinator would transition into the new role.

Mr. Ringstad asked for and received from M. Sanders further details regarding the proposal.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he had not been expecting to go through the budget in the suggested manner. He pointed out that the existing proposal includes a \$1MM reserve and that every added position or line item would reduce that surplus. He indicated that he was very nervous and would not vote for anything that would bring the reserve under \$1MM unless there was a funding source.

Mr. Ringstad suggested that going department-by-department could be a challenging approach. He concurred that the Council should be concerned about a dwindling surplus and that there may be decisions he could change his mind on after the impact of other amendments.

Mr. Marney shared that he had tried all afternoon to see how the Council could include as many requests as possible within the budget. **Mr. Ringstad** stated that if the Council wants to add to one area it should come from another.

Ms. Sprinkle pointed out that the nine firefighter positions added in 2025 should have an overtime-reducing effect and expressed hope that mid-year budget amendments would be lesser in 2026.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6331 BY ADDING \$68,650 TO THE MAYOR'S DEPARTMENT FOR A COMMUNITY RESPONSE COORDINATOR AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Sprinkle, Marney, Tidwell, Therrien

NAYS: Cleworth, Ringstad

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding \$27,570 to the Mayor's Department for an Administrative Assistant. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mayor O'Neill clarified that while they would go through each department's budget, no department would be considered closed so that the Council could go back and make additional amendments, as desired. She noted that the next three departments had no supplemental requests.

Mr. Ringstad asked for additional details on the training budget request for the Legal Department. City Attorney Chard explained that the funds were to allow the new Deputy City Attorney training opportunities and for attendance at the annual Alaska Bar Association meeting. **Mr. Ringstad** asked how rewards points for airline mileage were used at the City. **Mayor O’Neill** stated that airline miles are used to purchase tickets before any cash is spent. M. Sanders confirmed that it had been a longstanding policy to use miles before cash. He explained that Alaska Airlines’ rewards system had undergone a significant change in the last year causing the City to be unable to use miles for a time. He added that while there had been instances in the past when very few miles were available, the City currently has a high balance. **Mayor O’Neill** noted that since budgets for travel often include the full cost for airfare, the use of rewards points typically results in lower actual training costs.

Ms. Sprinkle suggested that it was frustrating that “training” budgets also included travel costs.

Ms. Therrien gave additional insight, from personal experience, about the necessity of continued education, along with the associated costs, for those in the legal profession.

Ms. Therrien asked for details on Information Technology (IT) Department requests. **Mayor O’Neill** explained that a new software had been initially requested but that an IT Director is a much higher priority.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding \$100,000 to the IT Department for an IT Director.

Ms. Therrien spoke in favor of creating adding an IT Director position. **Mayor O’Neill** added her justification for the new position and urged the Council to take the request seriously. **Ms. Therrien** asked if they could fund the position by taking the money out of another area of the IT budget. M. Sanders suggested that doing so would be very unwise and shared how difficult it already is to meet IT equipment needs for the entire year across the City.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if it would be feasible to budget for either a part-time IT Director or one that would start mid-year. M. Sanders stated that anything would be better than nothing.

Mr. Marney indicated that he also was struggling with reserve of less than \$1MM but recognized that the Council may need to dip slightly into that. He suggested that they first make a clear plan for IT matters for the following year rather than rush into something.

Ms. Tidwell stated that she did not believe \$100,000 would be sufficient for an IT Director and that while this was one of her top priorities, she would rather approach it with a firmer plan.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6331, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING \$100,000 TO THE IT DEPARTMENT FOR AN IT DIRECTOR AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien
NAYS: Tidwell, Cleworth, Ringstad, Marney, Sprinkle
Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION FAILED.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the proposed inventory management software would be a valuable tool and worthy of reconsideration later in the year if the City was in a good budgetary position.

Mayor O'Neill reviewed the request to add \$5,000 in contingency funds for the general account.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding \$5,000 to the contingency fund under the General Account.

Mr. Marney asked what the balance was for this line item in the current year's budget. Chief Financial Officer Margarita Bell reported that approximately \$2,100 remained from the initial 2025 budgeted amount of \$20,000.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6331, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING \$5,000 TO THE CONTINGENCY FUND UNDER THE GENERAL ACCOUNT AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien
NAYS: Tidwell, Ringstad, Marney, Sprinkle, Cleworth
Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION FAILED.

Mayor O'Neill reviewed the various supplemental budget requests for the FPD.

Mr. Ringstad recounted the explanation from Chief Dupee in support of additional training funds.

Ms. Therrien spoke in favor of the proposed partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) to review cold cases, which would be funded under the line item for investigative expenses.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding \$35,000 to FPD for investigative expenses.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarification on what the money would be used for. **Mayor O'Neill** explained that the funds would cover any lab work costs on cold cases, such as DNA testing.

Ms. Tidwell shared that she had communicated with UAF regarding the potential partnership and expressed her belief that it was well worth the value, noting that the expense would be a fraction of what it would cost the City to hire a single new employee for the same work.

Chief Dupee gave additional details on how the partnership would work. **Mr. Marney** asked if there was any grant money associated with the plan. Chief Dupee stated that there currently was none but that they would be keeping an eye out for grant opportunities.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if there would be no cost if the UAF program did not find any evidence needing to be tested. Chief Dupee confirmed that was correct.

Ms. Therrien compared the proposed amount to the same line item in the 2025 budget.

Mr. Cleworth asked Chief Dupee which of the supplemental requests was a higher priority. Chief Dupee stated that the training request would take priority as it related to costs for new officers.

Ms. Tidwell referenced the line item for medical and evidence, noting the actual costs for the last two years were lower than budgeted, and suggested a reduction to cover the UAF partnership cost.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND the amendment by reducing the amount for investigative expenses from \$35,000 to \$25,000 and funding the request by reducing the amount for medical and evidence from \$100,000 to \$75,000.

Mr. Cleworth expressed concern with reducing the medical and evidence line by such a large margin. **Ms. Sprinkle** indicated that she was flexible but wanted to give the program a chance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT BY REDUCING THE AMOUNT FOR INVESTIGATIVE EXPENSES FROM \$35,000 TO \$25,000 AND FUNDING THE REQUEST BY REDUCING THE AMOUNT FOR MEDICAL AND EVIDENCE FROM \$100,000 TO \$75,000 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Sprinkle, Tidwell, O'Neill

NAYS: Ringstad, Cleworth, Marney

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6331, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING \$25,000 TO FPD FOR INVESTIGATIVE EXPENSES AND FUNDING THE REQUEST BY REDUCING THE AMOUNT FOR MEDICAL AND EVIDENCE FROM \$100,000 TO \$75,000 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Sprinkle, Tidwell, Therrien, O'Neill

NAYS: Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth asked for a summary on the net effect of the amendment. CFO Bell explained that \$25,000 had been taken from medical and evidence and added to investigative expenses, with zero change to the bottom line of the budget.

Mr. Marney asked if any budget amendment later in 2026 were to include a request to increase either of the affected line items, that a note recounting the change that had just occurred be included. CFO Bell noted Mr. Marney's request.

Mayor O'Neill reviewed a request for an additional \$6,000 for supervisor training under the Fairbanks Emergency Communication Center's (FECC) budget.

Ms. Therrien moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding \$6,000 to FECC for Training. The motion died for lack of second.

Mr. Cleworth noted that there is an existing general training fund of \$125,000, which all City departments could use. He pointed out that the fund does not often get used. M. Sanders explained that the account Mr. Cleworth referenced was established with the stipulation that it was only for overlap situations when a new employee starts working before their predecessor leaves, to allow for training. **Mr. Cleworth** confirmed that he supported the approach of overlapped staffing for the purpose of training but stated that he believed the funds had been and could be used for other training purposes. He asked if there was a policy stating the stipulation. M. Sanders recounted that he and CFO Bell had proposed the idea a couple years ago specifically for FECC needs and that Mr. Cleworth had proposed a modification to make the funds available for other departments, but still only for the purpose of overlap training. **Mr. Cleworth** asserted that the parameters for the account should be changed. CFO Bell confirmed that the original proposal for the account was for FECC needs but that the Council had voted to have it moved to make the funds available for other departments, with the stipulation M. Sanders had outlined. **Mr. Cleworth** acknowledged that, if needed, the Council could make an adjustment in a future budget amendment.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding \$144,600 to the Fire Department for a Community Paramedic.

Mr. Cleworth shared that his primary concern with the narrative of the new Community Paramedic (CP) program are the claims that it had saved the City over \$700,000 through a reduction in ambulance calls, yet there was no willingness to make comparable budget cuts in the department. He pointed out that the claims about savings are inaccurate as the City still pays to staff the ambulance crews the exact same way it had before, whether calls are being dispatched or not. He acknowledged the success of the program but noted that nine other positions were added to FFD at the same time as the CP. He suggested that if the Council feels that a second CP is worth the cost, it should be paid for through a reduction of one of the other recently added firefighter positions, even if it had to be done through attrition. **Mr. Cleworth** reported that from 2023 to 2026, the Public Works Department had grown by 16% and FPD by 15%, while FFD had grown by 32%. He admitted favoring Public Works but suggested that if the Council wants to add another CP it should do so by rearranging human resources within the department. He discussed the number of paramedics and Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMTs) at FFD and noted the great depth that existed there. He asserted that it was disingenuous to claim that the current, solo CP was in such dire need of help when help was already available within the department.

Mr. Ringstad recounted that he had been a strong advocate for creating the CP program a year prior and acknowledged its success. He discussed how the City worked hard to return a managerial control to the Fire Chief and stated that he should be able to arrange resources accordingly to fill department. He noted that the Council already reduced the \$1MM surplus to less than \$800,000.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for and received confirmation that the CP is a FFU position. She acknowledged that meant that the Fire Chief has less flexibility with the position.

Mr. Marney stated that when he listened to CP Melody Smith testify at the last meeting, he felt a great sense of need to support the program. He acknowledged concerns regarding the shrinking budget surplus but indicated that he was in favor of adding a second CP.

Ms. Tidwell stated that of all the supplemental requests, she believed this was the most important. She spoke of the surprising, fast success of the program and the immense personal sacrifices M. Smith had been making to ensure clients were being served to the best of her ability.

Mr. Ringstad pointed out that a year prior, before the CP program was created, CP calls were being handled by FFD staff. He asked why FFD could not be used to fill the gaps when M. Smith is off work or needed additional support. Fire Chief Cocco stated that while the Council could indeed direct the department to get involved with the program, the type of paramedic work done by M. Smith is more clinical, focusing on long-term care needs, whereas regular paramedics are trained for emergency care and trauma response. He suggested that individuals whose paramedic training exists for first-responder needs would have significant dissatisfaction with being forced into a clinical CP role and ultimately leave the department. **Mr. Ringstad** clarified that he was asking if the overflow calls on M. Smith's days off could be handled the way they had been in the past. Chief Cocco asserted that FFD crews had not really "handled" those calls, given that emergency responses to non-emergency calls created a circular effect they were trying to break. **Mr. Ringstad** asked Chief Cocco if there was anywhere the FFD could shift funding to support another CP. Chief Cocco stated that FFD's primary mission is to respond to emergencies and that cutting elsewhere would have a negative outcome within the department, the local healthcare system, and the community. He suggested that a stronger CP program would fill current gaps and give greater opportunities to approach partners to pursue alternative funding sources in the future.

Ms. Therrien asked if Chief Cocco could provide an update on discussions with the hospital about providing financial support for the CP program. Chief Cocco reported that there was great interest and support for the program within the local healthcare system but that it is still viewed as a pilot program. He reiterated that the current approach is not sustainable and that the single CP is beyond her capacity, a situation which is evident to others who are reviewing the program. He confirmed that strengthening the program will increase the likelihood of outside financial support.

Mr. Cleworth noted that the CP program shifts focus from emergency to social services, which could be an endless road. He discussed call volumes and reiterated that if the CP needs support, it already exists among FFD personnel. He noted that there are three ambulances and that it is rare for all three to be in use at the same time. Chief Cocco explained that the gap is in long-term medical needs and continuity of care, which is not feasible with rotating ambulance crews. **Mr. Cleworth** suggested that a larger discussion would be prudent regarding whether the Council really wants long-term care to become a larger piece of the total mission at FFD.

Mayor O'Neill asked how many FFD employees have a job classification that is solely a "paramedic." Chief Cocco described the cross-training and certification that exists within the department and stated that M. Smith is the only person who was hired solely as a paramedic. **Mayor O'Neill** asked why other job titles did not include the term "paramedic" if such training was a requirement. Chief Cocco outlined the differentiation between the various positions' areas of focus and how they are classified, noting that some parameters are in place simply because they

had been that way for years. He confirmed that the work of firefighters and community paramedics are completely distinct in nature, referencing that comparison as “apples and potatoes.”

Mr. Ringstad recounted that a year ago, the Council had been told that 85% of FFD’s calls were medical in nature and asserted that the lack of “paramedic” notation in the organizational chart was misleading. **Mayor O’Neill** suggested that it is not difficult to understand that firefighters can and should be viewed as highly trained personnel.

Ms. Sprinkle concurred that they are veering into the realm of social services but suggested that they were doing so because it was a need in Fairbanks. **Mr. Cleworth** reiterated that potential help exists within the department. **Ms. Sprinkle** pointed out that the “apples and potatoes” comparison was apt and that such work was outside their scope.

Mr. Marney asked about the surplus after adding the CP. CFO Bell reported it would be \$851,772.

Mr. Cleworth discussed the \$400,000 budget for FFD overtime. He pointed out that they had not come close to that low of an amount and asked if it was a reasonable estimate. CFO Bell confirmed that it would likely be a challenge for the Fire Chief to keep overtime to \$400,000 in 2026. Chief Cocco indicated that it would be tight, but the additional nine positions added in 2025 would give operational flexibility they had never before experienced.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the FFD had lost or would be losing any individuals due to retirement or attrition. Chief Cocco reported that they had not and that they expect to see improved retention.

Mr. Marney shared that earlier in the day he had visited the Fire Chief to ask if they could consider lowering the overtime budget to \$300,000, to no avail.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the CP had any other involvement within FFD. Chief Cocco shared that M. Smith’s presence within the department had been immensely positive from an operational view.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6331, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING \$144,600 TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR A COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Sprinkle, Therrien, Tidwell
NAYS: Cleworth, Ringstad
Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor O’Neill discussed her proposal to reduce the budget for temporary workers at the Public Works (PW) Department.

Mr. Ringstad asked for clarification on the numbers shown in the budget document. Chief of Staff Sanders explained that the initial budget for temporary wages and benefits was \$1.4MM, and that the PW Director had submitted a request for an additional \$400,000 in that account, along with two new laborer positions. He clarified that the Mayor’s proposal is to support the request for the

two laborers but reduce temporary wages and benefits by \$200,000. CFO Bell added that the Mayor's proposal is essentially a wash for the PW budget.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding two laborer positions to the PW Department budget at \$106,050 each and reducing temporary wages and benefits by \$200,000.

Mr. Marney asked for input from PW Director Jeremiah Cotter. J. Cotter concurred that the two laborers would reduce temporary labor costs but that there is potential for greater needs if winter weather takes a bad turn. He explained that they have a strange situation where some temporary laborers are essentially permanent, given that the City could not let them go and still be able to provide necessary services. **Mr. Marney** asked J. Cotter if he planned to eventually shift other temporary workers to permanent positions. J. Cotter confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Cleworth asked about the current-year line item balance. CFO Bell reported that as of November 30 the City had spent \$1,053,200, with \$336,300 remaining for 2025.

Ms. Tidwell spoke against the amendment, citing the need for temporary labor for snow removal. J. Cotter recounted that in the previous year he asked for three new positions and was granted one, which is why he requested two in 2026. He added that the permanent laborers also assist with snow removal, so the two line items are connected.

Mr. Cleworth pointed out that in 2024, the City spent over \$1.7MM in temporary labor, which shows the potential volatility of the line item. He agreed that they could gamble and hope for a mild winter but they will have no choice but to pay for the temporary labor if it is a bad winter. He spoke against reducing the temporary wages and labor budget.

Mayor O'Neill asked the CFO to give a brief description of the emergency snow removal fund. CFO Bell explained that a standing balance sheet item of \$250,000 is reserved by the Council for emergency snow removal, which can only be used if there are no remaining funds for temporary labor and an emergency is declared by the Mayor. **Mr. Cleworth** noted that any used emergency funds must also be replaced within a certain timeframe. CFO Bell confirmed that was correct.

J. Cotter reiterated that the two laborers being considered were already treated as permanent employees in every way but their job title, that they are scheduled 365 days a year, and that the change would not have a significant impact on current operations. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if the union contract included a stipulation that the City must convert workers from a temporary to permanent status if a certain number of worked hours is reached. J. Cotter indicated that the provision had been removed some time ago but that temporary employees do receive benefits after six months of work, which is why some workers essentially cost the same as permanent employees.

Ms. Tidwell asked if he was in favor of the amendment. J. Cotter confirmed that it was prudent.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if temporary labor costs the City more per hour than employees in permanent positions. CFO Bell explained the difference in health care costs associated with the positions.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6331, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING TWO LABORER POSITIONS TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$106,050 EACH AND REDUCING TEMPORARY WAGES AND BENEFITS BY \$200,000 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Sprinkle, Ringstad, Marney

NAYS: Cleworth, Tidwell

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor O'Neill reviewed the Building Department's request to fund a professional services contract to review housing codes and come up with standardized designs that would allow pre-approved home construction permitting.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that it was an amazing idea worth revisiting; she asked if there was a way to mark certain things to come back to later in the year. **Mayor O'Neill** indicated that she had made notes and would remember to revisit them.

Mayor O'Neill asked the CFO to review the amendments that had passed thus far with associated costs. CFO Bell did so and noted that the remaining surplus was \$839,672.

Mr. Ringstad stated that he was nervous about the amount of reserve, citing areas that had been discussed which would likely pull from the balance through mid-year budget amendments.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding a provision that pay raises for any employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) be limited to a maximum of 8%.

Mr. Cleworth noted that 8% was still almost triple the current Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Mayor O'Neill spoke against the amendment, citing challenges with recruitment and retention. She noted that many director-level positions are not paid salaries competitive with industry.

Ms. Therrien asked what the impact would be on the proposed budget if the 8% limit was enacted. CFO Bell explained that the majority of employees not covered under a union contract fall within the Mayor Department, Legal Department, and Office of the City Clerk, and that she would need time to review if any other individuals might be affected.

Mr. Cleworth explained that he had identified three staff members with proposed raises not mandated by contracts: the Chief of Staff, the Human Resources Director, and the FECC Director. He noted that all other raises he had seen were well under 8%. He spoke of how the Council sometimes approves arbitrary amounts for raises that would be better implemented in stages.

Ms. Tidwell indicated there is value in a uniform approach to raises but that there are times when an exception is appropriate. She stated she does not have a problem with the current approach, which is done on a case-by-case basis. She agreed that some salaries were substandard.

Mayor O’Neill asked that the Clerk restate the motion and call the roll on the amendment. **Mr. Cleworth** asked that additional discussion be permitted to better understand the motion. **Mayor O’Neill** ruled Mr. Cleworth out of order and asked the Clerk to call the roll on the amendment.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6331, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING A PROVISION THAT PAY RAISES FOR ANY EMPLOYEES NOT COVERED BY A CBA BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 8% AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Cleworth
NAYS: Sprinkle, Marney, Therrien, Tidwell
Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION FAILED.

Hearing no requests for additional amendments to the General Fund budget, **Mayor O’Neill** moved to Attachment B – 2026 Capital Fund Supplemental Budget Requests. She reviewed the funding request for the roof membrane replacement Section B under property replacement.

Mr. Cleworth suggested that after they learn more about the status of the Island Homes project, they consider putting more resources into City Hall repairs, particularly the steam heat system.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding back \$1,517,041 for the City Hall steam heat system.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if this was intended to take funds away from another area, such as the Island Homes project. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that they would likely address that question next.

Mr. Marney asked how confident they were about the amount. City Engineer Bob Pristash confirmed the construction consultant’s estimate for the project was \$4.7MM and that \$3.2MM was already set aside. He noted that the amount of the estimate would increase each year.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6331, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING BACK \$1,517,041 FOR THE CITY HALL STEAM HEAT SYSTEM AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Tidwell, Sprinkle, Therrien
NAYS: Ringstad
Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Sprinkle asked what changes were made by the last amendment. CFO Bell described the action’s impact on total funds for the steam heat system and Island Homes projects. City Attorney Thomas Chard pointed out that the motion had only increased funds for the heating project and had not reduced anything for Island Homes. Clerk Snider confirmed that the recorded motion aligned with Attorney Chard’s recollection. Attorney Chard noted that the Council would need to make an additional adjustment if it wished to change Island Homes funding. CFO Bell confirmed that the unassigned Capital Fund projects balance was below the minimum \$4MM required.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by reducing the committed funds for the Island Homes City match by \$1,517,041.

Mayor O'Neill explained that the City applied for grant funding for the Island Homes project, which was received with positive feedback, although there had not been an award. She noted that the City's assertion of \$3.3MM in committed funds was an important component of the grant application. She asked the City Engineer if he had an idea of when the City would know whether it would receive the grant. B. Pristash reported that the City would have to reapply in 2026 for the grant, and he believes the application would be due by the end of February. He added that he was unsure when the City would learn of any potential award. He reported that Golden Heart Utilities (GHU) had again committed to participating in the grant application with the City. **Mayor O'Neill** asked when the last time the Island Homes neighborhood had received significant upgrades. B. Pristash stated the water systems are from the 1950s and the sidewalks are from the 1960s.

Ms. Tidwell stated that she wished the information had been disclosed prior to the vote on the amendment for the City Hall steam heat system and that, if so, she would have voted differently.

Ms. Sprinkle discussed the timing of the various projects and asked if the heating system could hold off for a few months until they knew about the Island Homes grant. **Mr. Cleworth** explained that the City still waiting for the results of the recent audit and would hopefully be able to supplement the remaining \$1.7MM in committed funds for Island Homes with 2025 surpluses. He suggested that it would be a small miracle if the City receives the grant.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6331, AS AMENDED, BY REDUCING THE COMMITTED FUNDS FOR THE ISLAND HOMES CITY MATCH BY \$1,517,041 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Ringstad, Cleworth, Sprinkle, Therrien

NAYS: Tidwell

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding \$23,000 to the Engineering Department's Capital Budget for surveying equipment.

Ms. Therrien noted that the City's surveying equipment was old and in need of replacement.

Mr. Marney reported that he had spoken to B. Pristash earlier and confirmed that the equipment was worn out and that the City has legal obligations that require adequate surveying equipment.

Mr. Cleworth asked if this was in fact a Capital item. CFO Bell confirmed that it was due to being over \$10,000 with an expected lifespan of more than two years. **Mr. Cleworth** asked for more details on the equipment. B. Pristash shared that it is the primary unit used when the City Surveyor performs topographical scanning to verify property corners, boundaries, elevation, descent grades, etc. and uses satellite data to help engineers create project surface models. He discussed other uses of the equipment and how vital it is for ensuring accuracy. **Mr. Cleworth** noted if the amendment passes, it would again drop the fund below the minimum balance. CFO Bell confirmed it would.

Ms. Therrien suggested reducing another area to offset the change. **Mr. Cleworth** indicated a preference to amend the General Fund to account for the purchase. **Mayor O’Neill** pointed out that doing so would further reduce 2026 reserves. CFO Bell explained that Mr. Cleworth’s suggestion was to make a \$23,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Engineering Capital Fund for the purchase. **Mayor O’Neill** spoke against the idea, citing concern for setting a precedent of using General Account funds to purchase things that should be bought through the Capital Fund.

Ms. Sprinkle suggested the Council consider reducing the City Hall roof work allocation with the hope that the project’s estimate comes back lower than \$680,000. B. Pristash indicated that Section B of the project is not as bad as other areas, so the estimate may be lower, although a reduction would remove any buffer for contingencies.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND the amendment by adding a reduction to the roof membrane replacement Section B from \$680,000 to \$650,000.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT BY ADDING A REDUCTION TO THE ROOF MEMBRANE REPLACEMENT SECTION B FROM \$680,000 TO \$650,000 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor O’Neill ruled that the motion to AMEND Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, by adding \$23,000 to the Engineering Department’s Capital Budget for surveying equipment and reducing the roof membrane replacement Section B from \$680,000 to \$650,000 was also CARRIED.

Mayor O’Neill called for any further discussion on the 2026 budget and heard none.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6331, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Marney, Sprinkle, Ringstad, Tidwell

NAYS: Cleworth

Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6331, as Amended, ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6333 – An Ordinance Partially Releasing a Restrictive Covenant for the Noel Wien Library Lot. Sponsored by Mayor O’Neill.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Ordinance No. 6334 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 2-119(a), Order of Business, Adding a Set Time During the Second Council Meeting of Each Month for Receiving a Report from Leadership in Our Community, Including Denakkanaaga, Fairbanks Native Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon, or Other Designated Groups. Sponsored by Councilmembers Sprinkle and Cleworth.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Reappointment to the Interior Gas Utility Board of Directors

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Appointment to the Joint City/FNSB Chena Riverfront Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Historic Preservation Commission Special Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2025

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2025

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Tidwell reported that on December 6, the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation had officially been declared as the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR).

Mr. Marney stated that it had been a good meeting and that he was glad the budget was over.

Mr. Ringstad indicated that he had no reports or comments.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that the Government Relations Committee for the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce would be meeting the following day and that she also had an upcoming meeting with a State-level commissioner regarding the newly established ARDOR.

Ms. Therrien asked to be added as a cosponsor of Ordinance No. 6334. She reported that she had taken copious notes at the recent AML conference and that one idea for revenue was special tourism sales tax zones, which had been implemented in other communities in Alaska. She thanked Gary Wilken for his continued service as a City rep to the Interior Gas Utility Board of Directors. She shared that she would be out of town until early February but would attend meetings remotely.

Mr. Cleworth referenced the memo regarding the appointment of Stacy Fritz to the Joint City/FNSB Chena Riverfront Commission. He pointed out that in her application packet she mentioned Westmark Hotel dumping warm water into the Chena River directly behind the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center and asked if it was true. City Engineer Pristash suggested that she may be referencing a stormwater discharge location, permitted by the City, which flows along Noble Street and into the river near Griffin Park. He offered to contact S. Fritz to address any concerns regarding the issue. **Mr. Cleworth** wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider thanked the Council and Mayor for their support of the Clerk's Office during the budgeting process and throughout the year as she fulfilled her obligations with the AAMC.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard congratulated Clerk Snider on receiving the Clerk of the Year award and congratulated the Council for adopting a budget for 2026. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, **Mayor O'Neill** declared the meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

MINDY O'NEALL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 12, 2026
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council via Zoom webinar and in the City Council Chambers at 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Mindy O'Neill presiding and the following Councilmembers in attendance:

Councilmembers Present:

Jerry Cleworth, Seat A
Valerie Therrien, Seat B (remotely)
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
Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief
Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director
Robert Pristash, City Engineer
Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director (remotely)
Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor O'Neill read the land acknowledgement.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor O'Neill, **Ms. Sprinkle** led the flag salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

David Lambert – D. Lambert shared that he was the creator of Lotto Alaska, a charitable gaming entity based in Fairbanks. He reported that they had raised funds for 160 nonprofits organizations in the last year and that many had reached out with concerns over the City's recent consideration of creating a municipal lottery program. He discussed the limitations for such an endeavor, including state laws, asserting that their concern was not about competition but rather feasibility.

Ms. Sprinkle asked D. Lambert if he was aware if any other city councils in Alaska had created lotteries. D. Lambert stated that one of the North Slope boroughs had run a split-the-pot (50/50) raffle with online sales but that the State had shut them down when they were found to be violating regulations that prohibited sales outside municipal boundaries. He spoke of the need for very careful budgeting and stated that lotteries are often less lucrative for operators than they seem.

Mr. Cleworth referenced the five full-time employees that D. Lambert had mentioned and asked what kind of work the employees performed. D. Lambert explained that they have significant paperwork duties in addition to advertising and communication work. He clarified that the employees do not sell tickets, as sales are primarily done online or by partners at physical locations.

June Rogers – J. Rogers spoke in favor of the City creating a municipal lottery and read a letter outlining her support and appreciation of the efforts of the City Council and administration regarding their attention to financial considerations of the City and the needs of the community.

Jomo Stewart, President/CEO of Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) – J. Stewart stated his that his comments, pertaining to Resolution No. 5196, were his own, as the FEDC Board of Directors had not yet given an official position on the matter. He indicated that he generally supported the resolution but asked for an adjustment to one of the proposed deadlines. He requested clarification on a few items such as the grant review committee, annual report, and whether failure to meet certain requirements would include a penalty or other impacts to FEDC's funding should they fall short. He acknowledged that what was being asked was reasonable.

Mr. Marney expressed support for FEDC and used a sports analogy to convey what he believes is the Council's sentiment. He suggested that with FEDC becoming the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) for the Fairbanks area, they have been given the football and the City now wants to see some first downs and ultimately more touchdowns in the near future.

David van den Berg, Executive Director of Downtown Association of Fairbanks (DTA) – D. van den Berg expressed appreciation for DTA being awarded funds through the Discretionary Fund Grant. He reported on a fall program concerning vacant properties in the downtown area and on the recent Winter Solstice Festival. He also expressed the DTA's support for Resolution No. 5196.

Ms. Sprinkle asked how many hours he worked during the Winter Solstice Festival. D. van den Berg stated that he put in 17.5 hours that day, all in winter gear, and that he felt like a kid again.

Mayor O'Neill, hearing no more requests for comment, declared Citizens' Comments closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Ringstad. pulled item 13(b), Resolution No. 5196, from the consent agenda.

Mayor O'Neill called for objection to the APPROVAL of the agenda and the consent 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 December 1, 2025

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor O'Neall shared that she had begun participating in ride-alongs with the Fire, Police, and Public Works (PW) Departments as well as the Emergency Services Patrol (ESP). She reported that she had attended her first "Alaska Native Table" meeting which included three local organizations and other community leaders and stated that they would meet again the following month to discuss strategic ways for the entities to work together. **Mayor O'Neall** shared the impacts of the recent extreme cold temperatures on PW snow removal operations and trash collection services, noting that they had since caught up to their regular schedule and were prepared for the upcoming winter storm. She expressed appreciation for the members of Lathrop High School football team and Golden Heart Waste Management for helping during the recent pause in garbage services. She stated that the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) was seeing an increase in vehicle thefts. She reported that three interested parties had attended the pre-bid walkthrough for the request for proposals (RFP) involving the vacant space in City Hall, formerly occupied by the Boys & Girls Club, and that they were looking forward to seeing proposals submitted.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the space would include the newly renovated childcare area that was not part of the Boys & Girls Club's former lease. Chief of Staff Michael Sanders stated that it would.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Marney shared that he had also attended the Winter Solstice festivities, albeit for a shorter timeframe than D. van den Berg, and noted the cold temperature during the event.

Mr. Ringstad spoke of the high number of prior arrests for some individuals in the community who continue to break the law and suggested it was time to come up with a better solution for addressing the real problems behind the staggering numbers.

Mr. Cleworth concurred that anytime he has an incident at his store downtown, the culprits already have lengthy rap sheets. He discussed the usage of the gymnasium at City Hall and asked if any of the local youth sports organizations were submitting proposals under the associated RFP. M. Sanders reported that the only organization of that type to show interest was the local Special Olympics group, who was partnering with another agency to possibly secure future use of the space for their program. **Mr. Cleworth** suggested that many organizations are desperate for gym space and could be a fallback option if other proposals fall through. He asked for an update on the RFP for the Starter Block on Lacey Street. **Mayor O'Neall** shared that the administration is still working on it with the hired consultant but did not have an updated timeline.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the edits proposed by Councilmembers were being incorporated into the RFP and would be part of the next draft for the Council to review. **Mayor O'Neall** stated that the

next step would be for the Council to approve a resolution regarding the project but that it would not include the actual RFP. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked why the RFP would not be included. **Mayor O'Neill** explained that the Fairbanks General Code (FGC) outlines procurement procedures and that including the RFP with the resolution was not part of that process. **Ms. Sprinkle** expressed surprise, given that a great deal of concern had been raised previously about transparency for the process. She added that while she was happy for forward movement, there seemed to be some discrepancy with past statements. She spoke of an increase in debris left behind from vehicle crashes around town and asked if tow truck companies were responsible to clean up areas after an accident. M. Sanders stated that they are.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6333 – An Ordinance Partially Releasing a Restrictive Covenant for the Noel Wien Library Lot. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neill. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

M. Sanders noted that there had been no changes since the Council last reviewed the ordinance. He explained that the impacted area was about 200 feet and that this was a minor matter to remove a restriction in place since the 1970s prior to upcoming road work by the State on Airport Way.

Mayor O'Neill called for testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6333. There was no discussion.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6333 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6333 ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6334 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 2-119(a), Order of Business, Adding a Set Time During the Second Council Meeting of Each Month for Receiving a Report from Leadership in Our Community, Including Denakkanaaga, Fairbanks Native Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon, or Other Designated Groups. Sponsored by Councilmembers Sprinkle, Cleworth, and Therrien. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor O'Neill called for testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6334.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he had been pondering whether quarterly or monthly reports would be more efficient. He indicated that his intent was to learn about the various organizations' roles and efforts in the community. He expressed that the coordination of a reporting schedule should be worked out between the various organizations and not result in additional work for the City Clerk.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6334 to the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2026.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the ordinance had come up at the “Alaska Native Table” meeting the mayor had attended. **Mayor O’Neill** stated it had not. **Ms. Sprinkle** voiced support for postponement.

Mr. Marney asked if the Council would get reports from future “Alaska Native Table” meetings. **Mayor O’Neill** stated that she would share a summary and also pass along anything the Council wished to convey. **Mr. Marney** asked if Councilmembers were invited to the meetings. **Mayor O’Neill** confirmed Councilmembers could attend, provided they comply with the Alaska Open Meetings Act (OMA).

Ms. Sprinkle suggested that participating in the meetings was similar to the goal of the ordinance.

Mayor O’Neill pointed out that there was already a place for Special Reports under the Mayor’s Comments and Report section of the agenda and that she would be happy to reach out and coordinate quarterly reports from the various organizations, as an alternative to the ordinance.

Ms. Therrien pointed out that reports from specific individuals or groups under the Mayor’s Comments and Report are typically not publicly noticed like other agenda items, thus she believes the ordinance has value. **Mayor O’Neill** asked if such reports could be listed on agendas. Clerk Snider confirmed that they could so long as she received details by the established deadlines.

Mayor O’Neill called for objection to the motion to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6334 to the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2026 and, hearing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5195 – A Resolution Allocating Discretionary Funds from the Room Rental Tax in the Amount of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00). Sponsored by Councilmember Marney.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Resolution No. 5196 – A Resolution Designating Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) Objectives. Sponsored by Councilmembers Sprinkle and Tidwell.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5196.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5196 by changing “June 2026” to “June 30” in Section 1(a).

Mayor O’Neill called for objection to the motion to AMEND Resolution No. 5196 by changing “June 2026” to “June 30” in Section 1(a) and, hearing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5196, as Amended, by adding a new subsection “d” at the end of Section 1, to read: *“Develop a private sector business growth strategy, identifying priority industries, key barriers, and actions to support business retention expansion, and attraction within the city, with a council report required by September 2026.”*

Ms. Tidwell expressed support for the amendment and stated that she believes a great role for FEDC would be to actively recruit businesses to come to Fairbanks.

Mayor O’Neill called for objection to the motion to AMEND Resolution No. 5196, as Amended, by adding a new subsection “d” at the end of Section 1, to read: *“Develop a private sector business growth strategy, identifying priority industries, key barriers, and actions to support business retention expansion, and attraction within the city, with a council report required by September 2026.”* and, hearing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth asked for further details on Section 1(b). **Mayor O’Neill** shared information on the Housing Action Plan that was being developed by a few organizations thanks to a recent grant. She discussed the Plan’s focus of identifying actionable initiatives, particularly with housing in downtown Fairbanks. **Mr. Cleworth** thanked the Mayor for the clarification and noted that financing was often a challenge for the construction already occurring in the private sector.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that the Plan was dense with information. She stated she had a copy of it and was happy to share. She suggested that the three objectives under Section 1 could be viewed as low-, mid-, and high-hanging fruit, and that the added Section 1(d) was a great idea. She asked for clarification on the report required by Section 2. Chief Financial Officer Margarita Bell explained that this was the same report FEDC typically presents to the Council each November, which had recently been changed to now be due in September. **Mr. Ringstad** recounted that the goal was to have the report prior to the annual budgeting process in November. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked if the earlier deadline was problematic for FEDC. **Ms. Tidwell** suggested that it would not be given the requirement for quarterly reports and noted that J. Stewart had been providing regular updates at Council meetings over the past couple years.

Mayor O’Neill asked for clarification on the requirement to “identify a grant review committee” in Section 1(c), noting that J. Stewart appeared to have a different interpretation than what she believes **Ms. Sprinkle** intended. **Ms. Sprinkle** explained her intent behind the language but expressed being open to its removal, to avoid any overstepping into FEDC’s internal operations.

Ms. Tidwell, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5196, as Amended, by removing “identify a grant review committee” from Section 1(c). There was no discussion.

Mayor O’Neill called for objection to the motion to AMEND Resolution No. 5196, as Amended, by removing “identify a grant review committee” from Section 1(c) and, hearing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further discussion, **Mayor O’Neill** called for objection to the motion to APPROVE Resolution No. 5196, as Amended, and, hearing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- c) Resolution No. 5197 – A Resolution Stating the Preference of the Council Against Remote Work and Telecommuting. Sponsored by Councilmembers Ringstad, Marney, and Tidwell.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5197.

Ms. Tidwell, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5197 by substituting the amended, proposed version.

Ms. Tidwell recounted concerns after the last work session when a review of current City policy seemed to suggest that remote work was encouraged in certain situations and stated that the Council should not adopt something in direct conflict. She acknowledged a need for greater transparency and accountability and to set future expectations while not invalidating any current arrangements. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked if this would be a stopgap until something else could be considered. **Ms. Tidwell** clarified that it would set the stage for something clearer in the future, noting the current resolution indicates the Council is opposed to remote work, while the policy suggests the City is not. She stated she has not always been satisfied with the answers she has received when asking questions surrounding remote work and that she was surprised at some of what she learned at the work session. She suggested that some policies were created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and that it is reasonable to review them now that time had passed.

Mayor O’Neill offered to review the policy one-on-one with any interested Councilmember but asserted that such a discussion was not appropriate for the Council as a whole.

Mr. Ringstad acknowledged that the resolution was in conflict with the policy and indicated that his intent was to convey to the administration that the Council did not want to encourage remote work, while asking for a way out of certain situations that had been established. He expressed hope that would result in an updated policy that aligns with the will of the Council. He reviewed the proposed amendments and expressed support for some changes but concern over others. **Ms. Tidwell** shared that she was attempting to propose several edits to increase support for the overall effort while supporting the intent of the original resolution.

Mr. Marney asked how management would know whether a completely remote employee is working and what is in place to ensure accountability. Human Resources (HR) Director Jake Merritt shared that in the case of remote dispatchers for the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC), employees are signed into a virtual meeting for their entire shift, with their camera on. He added that engaging with the staff member visible on a screen is not much different than doing so with one sitting nearby in person. **Mr. Marney** stated that the policy for remote work looked to be something generic, found online and copied over for implementation.

Mayor O’Neill reiterated that such policies are set by the administration, that the policy itself was not on the floor for the Council to debate, nor would it be appropriate to do so. She confirmed that it was within the purview of the Council to request that the administration take another look at a policy, noting that it had been adopted in 2022 and recently reviewed. **Mr. Marney** asked if the

Council in 2022 should have been made aware that the policy had been created. **Mayor O’Neill** indicated that such may not necessarily have been a matter for the Council to consider at that time either. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked for more clarity on what the Council’s role could or should be on such issues. **Mayor O’Neill** pointed out that the motion on the floor was whether to substitute the proposed version. She directed that the Council could discuss the sentiment of the resolution, which she understood to be that it did not support remote work, but that it was not appropriate for the Council to get into details of the policy itself.

Ms. Sprinkle suggested that having employees live and work locally is an economic engine when the money they earn stays in Fairbanks and their families are present in the community.

Mr. Cleworth recounted that many years ago a police chase had resulted in an internal tragedy when the vehicle being pursued struck another vehicle, killing a child whose parent happened to be a City employee. He explained that the Council at that time reviewed the policy regarding vehicular chases and found that, as unfortunate as the tragedy was, there was no reason to recommend a change to the policy. He asserted that in certain circumstances it is not inappropriate for the City Council to weigh in on a policy it finds to be problematic and provide direction to the administration. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he was not overly concerned with the remote work policy and acknowledged that the HR Director needs to have many tools available, especially when technology allows flexibility. He added that the City struggles to get local applicants for dispatch jobs. He discussed the FECC Manager’s hybrid work arrangement and declared that she is one of the sharpest department heads at the City, with detail-rich institutional knowledge. He suggested that there is not as much disagreement regarding the issue as it may seem, that everyone seems to agree that in-person workers are ideal. **Mr. Cleworth** pointed out that dispatchers are often the true first responders in emergency situations and, as such, the City needs to ensure qualified people are in place. He noted that while neither version of the resolution would ultimately change the policy, he did not have a problem with voting in favor of expressing the suggested sentiment.

Mr. Ringstad expressed his preference that taxpayer funds be used to employ people who live within the community and explained that the intent of the resolution was to direct the administration to move in that direction. He spoke against the practice of remote work except for emergency situations and suggested there were currently 10-15 remote workers at the City.

Mayor O’Neill asked the HR Director to share the current remote work data. J. Merritt reported that three employees live outside of Alaska and that one lives elsewhere within the state but had been in Fairbanks between four and five months continuously over the last year.

Ms. Therrien stated that she was in favor of the proposed substitute but that if the Council went with the original version, she would like to see the provision from Section 3 of the proposed version incorporated, which would require an annual report on remote work.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 5197 BY SUBSTITUTING THE AMENDED, PROPOSED VERSION, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Sprinkle, Cleworth, Therrien
NAYS: Ringstad, Marney, Tidwell, O’Neill
Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION FAILED.

Ms. Tidwell, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5197 by adding a new Section 3 to read: *“The Mayor shall provide an annual report to the City Council summarizing remote work arrangements City-wide, including:*

- 1. The number of employees approved for remote work;*
- 2. General duration categories of those arrangements; and*
- 3. The operational rationale for approving extended remote work.”*

Mayor O’Neill noted that, should the amendment be adopted, the current Section 3, which states the resolution’s effective date, would be renumbered as Section 4.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 5197 BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 3, TO READ: *“The Mayor shall provide an annual report to the City Council summarizing remote work arrangements city-wide, including:*

- 1. The number of employees approved for remote work;*
- 2. General duration categories of those arrangements; and*
- 3. The operational rationale for approving extended remote work.”*

AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5197, as Amended, by amending Section 1 to read: *“It is the general policy preference of the City Council to discourage out-of-state, long-term, remote work of its full-time, permanent employees.”*

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 5197, AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING SECTION 1 TO READ: *“It is the general policy preference of the City Council to discourage out-of-state, long-term, remote work of its full-time, permanent employees.”*, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

There was no additional discussion on the main motion.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5197, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O’Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5197, as Amended, APPROVED.

- d) Ordinance No. 6335 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 2-653, City Council Approval of Excess Expenditures. Sponsored by Councilmember Cleworth.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Ordinance No. 6336 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 74-117, Room Rental Tax Purpose and Limitation, by Removing Term Limits for Discretionary Fund Committee Members. Sponsored by Councilmember Marney.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Ordinance No. 6337 – An Ordinance Authorizing Public Works to Provide Services Outside the City Benefitting Tanana Valley State Fair Association in Exchange for a Snow Storage Site. Sponsored by Mayor O’Neill.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2025

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Board of Plumber Examiner Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2025

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2025

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Appointment to the Board of Plumber Examiners

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Reappointments to the Chena Riverfront Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- f) Recommendation for Reappointments to the FNSB Planning Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Marney asked if the Mayor would write a letter to recognize Golden Heart Waste Management and the Lathrop High School football team for helping out during the pause in garbage collection. **Mayor O’Neill** shared that she had called both the owner of the company and the coach of the team to convey gratitude, as well as posting about it on social media. She confirmed that she would also submit a letter to the newspaper if the Council wished.

Mr. Cleworth expressed appreciation for the detailed work of the Deputy City Clerk in the drafting of meeting minutes. He spoke of the RFP for the Starter Block on Lacey Street and indicated that he would like to see a copy of it before it is published.

Ms. Sprinkle concurred with Mr. Cleworth about the effort that goes into creating meeting minutes. She shared that there had been some important updates regarding the Chena River Bike Path and asked if the Council could discuss the project at the next work session, prior to Mr. Ringstad's first meeting with the Chena Riverfront Commission. **Mayor O'Neill** confirmed that the topic was on the agenda for the next work session.

Ms. Therrien gave a report on her participation at the first Legislative Committee meeting with the Alaska Municipal League (AML). She asked if she could plan to attend the AML Legislative Conference in February. **Mr. Ringstad** stated that he would communicate with Ms. Therrien in the near future. **Mayor O'Neill** stated she would be attending the AML Legislative Conference.

Ms. Tidwell shared that she would be attending a meeting for the Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning the following week.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider expressed appreciation for the Council's support in the past year as she fulfilled her duties as the President of the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) in 2025. She expressed pride in her Deputy Clerk Colt Chase.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard stated that he had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, **Mayor O'Neill** declared the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

MINDY O'NEALL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC



800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Telephone (907) 459-6702
Fax (907) 459-6710

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor O'Neill and City Council Members

FROM: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk



SUBJECT: Alcohol License Renewal Application

DATE: January 21, 2026

Notice has been received from the State Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) for the following alcohol license renewal application:

Lic. #	DBA	Type	Licensee	Address
4156	Circle K	Package Store	Holiday Alaska, LLC	2300 S. Cushman Street

Pursuant to FGC Sec. 14-178 the Council may determine whether to protest alcohol license renewal applications after holding a public hearing. As required by FGC Sec. 14-167(b), I have sent written notice of the public hearing to the above-listed licensee.

This renewal application will be considered by the ABC Board on February 3, 2026. The City's 60-day response deadline to AMCO is February 17, 2026.

The Deputy Fire Marshal noted that the building "has been torn down and is in the middle of construction of the new facility" and that he would reevaluate when the store opens. **There are no department-recommended protests** for this alcohol license renewal application.

From the Desk of Mayor O'Neill...

January 26, 2026



The City of Fairbanks was well represented at the 1st Annual Athena Awards Ceremony on Jan. 20, 2026. Staff and Councilmembers attended to support women in leadership within our community and engage with friends and partners. It was a wonderful to share lunch and catch up with the incredible women making the City great every day.

Top L to R: Councilwoman Crystal Tidwell, Kimberly Taylor, Clerk, FFD; Alayna Wesselius, Records Manager, Clerks Dept.; Councilwoman Sue Sprinkle; Jennifer Payan, Accounting Specialist (Payroll), Finance; Mayor Mindy O'Neill

Bottom L to R: Shannon Lam, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Kaylee Stickel, Deputy Attorney, Legal Dept.; Emily Worel, Laborer, Public Works

Public Works Garbage Collection

During the extreme cold snap, Public Works and GHWM worked collaboratively to manage delayed garbage collection. On Monday, January 5th, GHWM collected approximately 19,000 lbs (9.5 tons), primarily from Wednesday's trash routes, while Public Works collected 62,940 lbs (31.47 tons), completing the December 29th route that had been interrupted by the weather. On Tuesday, January 6th, GHWM collected 17,000 lbs (8.5 tons), again focusing on Wednesday's routes, and Public Works collected 93,740 lbs (46.87 tons), addressing the December 30th route missed during the shutdown, which included holiday trash. On Wednesday, January 7th, Public Works collected 60,020 lbs (30.01 tons) from the December 31st route, which had also been delayed. GHWM's assistance on January 5th and 6th significantly eased the workload for Public Works, helping ensure timely service recovery. Many thanks to the tough women and men who face extreme conditions on the job, and to community groups such as the Lathrop Football team for their interest in public service.

Fairbanks Fire Department



Congratulations to Captain Ian Longridge

At 4pm on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2025 FFD promoted one of their own. Ian Longridge was promoted to Captain after years of service with the department as a driver. Captain Rittel honored Longridge with a tribute to his bravery and dedication to the city, and for choosing to do the “hard things” even when less pay and more responsibility is on the line. Regardless, his colleagues still were thrilled to welcome him into this new role.

Promotion Ceremonies are a way to lift up achievements and growth within our departments and a public statement of confidence in the ability to do the job.

Congratulations, Captain Longridge and thank you for your hard work, perseverance and dedication to the citizens of Fairbanks.

1Chief Cocco swears in Ian Longridge as the newest Captain at FFD.

Extreme Cold Temperatures met with adequate staff, equipment

From December 31, 2025 to January 3, 2026, the FFD responded to five notable fire calls in extremely cold weather:

12/31/25 Working house fire (-45ish)

01/01/26 Working house fire (-50ish)

01/01/26 Working house fire (-50 or lower)

01/03/26 Working Commercial Fire (-40)

01/03/26 Working commercial fire (-50)

These conditions add extra layers of challenges to firefighter procedures that are already difficult on normal days. It was beyond cold during these fires: air packs froze and became unusable, water supply issues occurred, equipment froze, and working in extreme cold with wet gear meant frozen firefighters. The teams did a great job adapting to the extreme cold and saved many lives and a lot of property during those fires. The most publicly notable was the Fred Myers fire, where the store was able to reopen due to the quick action of our fire department. Success stories like these

highlight why proper staffing, equipment, and service levels matter. There was no delay in deploying a large number of firefighters and equipment to the scene since we now have staffing that allows us to accomplish many tasks quickly.

FFD's return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) rates are some of the best in the nation, and we all should be very proud of this. ROSC is when we get a pulse back in the field when working a cardiac arrest. The first step to a person surviving a cardiac arrest is our team getting ROSC. Our current ROSC rate is 71%, and of that group, 30% were discharged with little to no long-term effects from their cardiac arrest. It's amazing that in our area, we are able to revive many people from death, and seeing so many of them go home without serious side effects is something to be proud of.

Housing

The City issued a Request for Proposal for a team that will focus on housing, engagement, and treatment connections for individuals experiencing homelessness. The funding source for the HEART team is the Opioid Settlement funds.

Fairbanks Neighborhood Housing Services was one of five grantees in the state to be awarded \$100,000 of Basic Homeless Assistance Program funding from Alaska Housing. The City's Community Response Coordinator gathered agencies to write a joint application for those funds.

MASST

The City will be participating in the Department of Labor's Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training (MASST) program. This is an exciting opportunity for community members who are 55 years old and older to intern at the City for up to 25 hours per week while receiving a training stipend of \$15 per hour from the State of Alaska. The MASST participant may train at a site for no more than 6.5 hours per day and cannot be used to displace current employees. We are anticipating hosting one or possibly two MASST participants. The first MASST position in the City will be focused on the digitization of paper records. The participant will receive computer and records management training from City staff and will assist in records digitization. There is no limit to the number of years a site may host a MASST position, but MASST participants may stay at a site for up to four years. There are no cost to the City other than staff time for training and supervision.

Storefront Improvement Program

The City of Fairbanks is pleased to announce the expansion of the Storefront Improvement Program (SIP). The SIP is aimed at revitalizing and enhancing the downtown area between 1st Avenue to 10th Avenue and Cowles Street to Noble Street. This program is designed to support business owners in improving the exterior appearance of their buildings, thereby contributing to the overall aesthetic appeal and economic vibrancy of the downtown area. This program meets the code requirements

of Sec. 74-117 Room Rental Tax Purpose and Limitation and will use \$250,000 of the room rental special projects funding.

1st Ave. Log Cabin

The log cabin on 1st Ave. is owned by the City of Fairbanks and has been an iconic downtown asset. The Yukon Quest has occupied the space for many years, but will be vacating by May 1. This space will be available for a small business or organization to occupy, with the intention of activating the location for higher foot traffic that would attract locals and tourists alike and welcome them to enjoy the lovely riverfront view and the many activities downtown.

Starter Block RFP

The RFP is currently on hold while I develop an outreach plan to engage the community, stakeholders and partners in the upcoming months. We will create a timeline that will be advertised to the community. This input will be used to guide the direction of the RFP project.

ORDINANCE NO. 6334

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE SECTION 2-119(a),
ORDER OF BUSINESS, ADDING A SET TIME DURING THE SECOND COUNCIL
MEETING OF EACH MONTH FOR RECEIVING A REPORT FROM LEADERSHIP
IN OUR COMMUNITY INCLUDING DENAKKANAAGA, FAIRBANKS NATIVE
ASSOCIATION, TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, DOYON, OR OTHER
DESIGNATED GROUPS**

WHEREAS, it would be extremely beneficial for both the City of Fairbanks and leadership from the local Native community to have an ongoing dialogue covering issues that impact both entities; and

WHEREAS, a set meeting time each month at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting established for presentations, reports, and identifying potential problems and successes would be desirable.

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

Section 1. Fairbanks General Code at Section 2-119(a) is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~striketrough~~ font]:

Sec. 2-119. - Order of business; citizens addressing city council.

- (a) At every regular meeting of the city council, the order of business shall be as follows:
 - (1) Roll call.
 - (2) Land Acknowledgment: We respectfully acknowledge the Dena people upon whose traditional lands we reside. We honor the Dena who have been the stewards of Interior lands and waters for centuries, the Elders who lived here before, the Dena people of today, and future generations to come. We also recognize that Alaskan Native people would traditionally gather here and harvest Native foods.
 - (3) Invocation.
 - (4) Flag salutation.
 - (5) Ceremonial matters (proclamations, introductions, recognitions, and awards).

- (6) Citizens' comments (oral communications to the city council on items not up for public hearing). The comment period will not exceed a total of one hour unless extended by a council vote.
- (7) Approval of agenda and consent agenda. Consent agenda items are indicated by asterisks (*). Consent agenda items are considered together unless a council member requests that the item be returned to the general agenda. Ordinances on the approved consent agenda are automatically advanced to the next regular meeting for second reading and public hearing. All other items on the approved consent agenda are passed as final.
- (8) Approval of minutes of previous meetings.
- (9) Special orders.

(10) Report from Fairbanks Native organizations (second meeting of each month only)

- ~~(40~~**11**) Mayor's comments and report.
- ~~(44~~**12**) Council members' comments.
- ~~(42~~**13**) Unfinished business.
- ~~(43~~**14**) New business.
- ~~(44~~**15**) Written communication to the city council.
- ~~(45~~**16**) Committee reports and council members' comments.
- ~~(46~~**17**) City clerk's report.
- ~~(47~~**18**) City attorney's report.
- ~~(48~~**19**) Executive session (if necessary).
- ~~(49~~**20**) Adjournment.

* * * * *

Section 2. The effective date of this ordinance is six days after adoption.

Mindy O'Neill, City Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 6335

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE SECTION 2-653,
CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF EXCESS EXPENDITURES**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council develop an annual budget that provides for general and capital expenses with available revenue; and

WHEREAS, the City's budget is approved by an ordinance that requires at least two readings and must provide an opportunity for public testimony; and

WHEREAS, any amendments to the City's budget must also be by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Fairbanks General Code currently allows for an appropriation by resolution under Sec. 2-149; and

WHEREAS, unlike an ordinance that requires two readings, a resolution can be adopted after only one reading per Fairbanks General Code Sec. 2-147(b) and does not require an opportunity for public testimony; and

WHEREAS, there are specific circumstances that may call for an appropriation by resolution, however it is generally preferable to appropriate funds using an ordinance so the public has more notice and better opportunity for public testimony.

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

Section 1. Fairbanks General Code Sec. 2-653 is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~striketrough~~ font]:

Sec. 2-653. - City council approval of excess expenditures.

(a) ~~The director of finance~~ **chief financial officer** shall not permit without city council approval **by ordinance**, ~~during any budget year, unless expressly provided for in Charter or Code~~ **otherwise**, any expenditure or contract or incurring of any liability, ~~in excess of the amount appropriated for each department, except that~~

(b) ~~The director of finance~~ **chief financial officer** is authorized to accept grants of restricted funds from asset forfeiture programs without city council preapproval so long as there is no financial obligation placed upon the city. ~~Examples of such grants are asset forfeiture proceeds under state, federal or local law. The proceeds of such grants shall~~ **must** be held in a trust account and not be included in the general fund. The mayor is authorized to expend such grant funds in accord with the restrictions placed upon the grant without an appropriating

ordinance. An annual report of all such receipts and expenditures shall be made by the ~~director of finance~~ **chief financial officer** to the mayor and city council in January of each subsequent year.

Section 2. The effective date of this ordinance is six days after adoption.

Mindy O'Neall, City Mayor

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 6336

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE SEC. 74-117,
ROOM RENTAL TAX PURPOSE AND LIMITATION, BY REMOVING TERM
LIMITS FOR DISCRETIONARY FUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, Fairbanks General Code Sec. 74-117(g)(2) provides for the make up of the Discretionary Fund Committee, including terms and term limits; and

WHEREAS, term limits do not exist for other City boards or commissions.

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

SECTION 1. Fairbanks General Code Sec. 774-117(g) is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underlined** font; deleted text in ~~striketrough~~ font]:

Sec. 74-117. Room rental tax purpose and limitation.

* * * * *

(g) The city council establishes the following criteria and process for discretionary grants.

(1) The primary purpose of discretionary grants is the promotion of the tourism industry and other economic development in the City of Fairbanks. Discretionary grants cannot support the following:

- a. Loans, deficits, or debt reduction.
- b. Endowments.
- c. Scholarships.
- d. Health and social services activities.

(2) A discretionary fund committee will be composed of five community members and a council person, who will function as the chair, all appointed by the mayor. The members of the committee will serve three-year terms ~~with a limit of two consecutive full terms~~. Unless appointed to fill a vacancy, terms begin July 1 and expire June 30.

* * * * *

SECTION 2. The effective date of this ordinance is six days after adoption.

Mindy O'Neall, Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 6337

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PUBLIC WORKS TO PROVIDE
SERVICES OUTSIDE THE CITY BENEFITTING TANANA VALLEY STATE
FAIR ASSOCIATION IN EXCHANGE FOR A SNOW STORAGE SITE**

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in expeditiously removing snow in the most cost-efficient manner from city streets in or about the Aurora and Johnson housing subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the Tanana Valley State Fair Association (TVSFA) has available space at its nearby fairground property on which the City may store snow; and

WHEREAS, the City and TVSFA have determined it is in the best interests of each to provide mutual assistance to the other for snow storage on fairground property by the City in exchange for the City performing related snow removal, providing certain improvement services, and removing any trash caused by and remaining after the City's snow removal activities upon TVSFA's fairground property; and

WHEREAS, the City owns and maintains equipment and retains personnel able to store snow and provide various levels of improvement services; and

WHEREAS, FGC 2-656 requires the Council's express approval by ordinance for any city service provided to any entity outside the political boundaries of the city; and

WHEREAS, TVSFA's fairground, where the envisioned activities will be conducted, is located on College Road, outside the city's boundaries.

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

Section 1. The Mayor is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Tanana Valley State Fair Association for certain services, to be identified by the Mayor and Director of Public Works, in exchange for the City's use of the fairground property for snow storage.

Section 2. This ordinance expressly provides the authority to the Mayor necessary to satisfy FGC 2-656 to enter into like agreements on an annual basis at the Mayor's discretion until such time that the authority is revoked by resolution of the City Council.

Section 3. The cost of the services, along with any proceeds, called for in the agreement will be included in Public Works' annual operating budget.

Section 4. The effective date of this ordinance is six days after adoption.

Mindy O'Neill, Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

CITY OF FAIRBANKS
FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST:

Ordinance or Resolution No: 6337

Abbreviated Title: ORD ATHORIZING PUBLIC WORKS TO PROVIDE SERVICE FOR SNOW SITE

Department(s): PUBLIC WORKS

Does the adoption of this ordinance or resolution authorize:

1) additional costs beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No X

2) additional support or maintenance costs? Yes _____ No X

If yes, what is the estimate? see below

3) additional positions beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No X

If yes, how many positions? _____

If yes, type of positions? _____ (F - Full Time, P - Part Time, T - Temporary)

II. FINANCIAL DETAIL:

EXPENDITURES:	2026	TOTAL
PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -

FUNDING SOURCE:	2026	TOTAL
GENERAL FUND [PUBLIC WORKS]	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -

Public Works will provide services to Tanana Valley State Fair Association in exchange for snow storage. The operations and maintenance costs associated with this agreement will be performed by Public Works with annual general fund budget, and the estimated cost is \$12,000.

Reviewed by Finance Department:

Initial mb

Date 1/6/2026

RESOLUTION NO. 5198

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO 911 RAPID RESPONSE
TO PROVIDE A BRUSH TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$326,000**

WHEREAS, in accordance with FGC Chapter 54, Article VI, Section 54-242, the purchasing agent may participate in a cooperative purchasing agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City identified 911 Rapid Response through a cooperative purchasing agreement that can provide a brush truck in the amount of \$326,000 that meets the specifications required by Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to contract with 911 Rapid Response in the amount of three hundred twenty-six thousand dollars and zero cents (\$326,000.00); and

WHEREAS, funding was approved in the Capital Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the Mayor is authorized to execute a contract to purchase a brush truck from 911 Rapid Response in the amount of \$326,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is effective six days after adoption.

Mindy L. O'Neill, Mayor

YEAS:
NAYS:
ABSENT
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A Chard II, City Attorney

CITY OF FAIRBANKS
FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST:

Ordinance or Resolution No: 5198

Abbreviated Title: AWARDING CONTRACT TO 911 RAPID RESPONSE FOR A BRUSH TRUCK

Department(s): FIRE

Does the adoption of this ordinance or resolution authorize:

1) additional costs beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No x

2) additional support or maintenance costs? Yes _____ No x

If yes, what is the estimate? see below

3) additional positions beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No x

If yes, how many positions? _____

If yes, type of positions? _____ (F - Full Time, P - Part Time, T - Temporary)

II. FINANCIAL DETAIL:

PROJECTS:	PURCHASE COST
BRUSH TRUCK	\$326,000
TOTAL	\$326,000

FUNDING SOURCE:	TOTAL
CAPITAL FUND (FIRE)	\$326,000
TOTAL	\$326,000

The operations and maintenance costs associated with this equipment will be performed by Public Works and incorporated in the annual General Fund budget.

Prepared by Finance Department:

Initial mb

Date 1/14/2026

Sponsored by: Councilmember Sprinkle
Councilmember Tidwell
Mayor O'Neall
Introduced: January 26, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 5199

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE A
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO MEET THE STATE MATCH COMMITMENT
FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR FFY2026**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is annually apportioned federal transportation funding by Congress for highway, transit, rail, aviation, and maritime projects and programs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is required to contribute a 9.03% match to access these appropriated federal transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska currently has a shortfall of \$70 million in matching funds for FFY2026, which puts at risk losing \$700 million in federal funding for shovel-ready construction projects this coming summer; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence to approve these funds in the State budget, program the funds in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), federally obligate the funds, and advertise the projects to award contracts for construction this spring; and

WHEREAS, our local economy of contractors, suppliers, workers, and families rely on seasonal construction funding to continue to operate, live, and work in Fairbanks and North Pole; and

WHEREAS, our transportation system is dependent on this construction funding to keep our roads and bridges in a state of good repair, enhancing transportation safety throughout the state.

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

SECTION 1. The Fairbanks City Council urges the Alaska State Legislature to 'Meet the Match' for federal transportation funding for FFY2026 through a supplemental appropriation as early as possible at the beginning of this legislative session.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk is directed to provide Alaska legislators and Governor Dunleavy with an executed copy of this resolution.

SECTION 3. The effective date of this resolution is six days after adoption.

Mindy O’Neall, Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 6338

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE
SEC. 2-86 SETTING COUNCIL MEMBER COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, the following chart shows the history of the stipend received by City Council members; and

Ordinance	Year	Action
Ordinance No. 1113	1961	Councilmember salary of \$15/meeting enacted
Ordinance No. 1260	1964	Councilmember salary increased to \$150/month
Ordinance No. 3366	1975	Councilmember salary increased to \$350/month, with an expense allowance of \$150/month
Ordinance No. 3618	1977	Councilmember salary decreased to \$200/month; the expense allowance of \$150/month remained
Ordinance No. 4003	1981	Councilmember salary increased to \$500/month, and the \$150/month expense allowance was removed
Ordinance No. 4464	1985	Councilmember salary decreased to \$400/month (effective February 1, 1986)
Ordinance No. 5721	2007	Councilmember salary increased to \$500/month through a budget ordinance , effective in the 2008 City budget (codified April 2, 2022)

WHEREAS, stipends provided to councilmembers and assemblymembers with similar duties in other municipalities are significantly higher.

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

Section 1. Fairbanks General Code Sec. 2-86, Term; salary, subsection (b), is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~strike through~~ font]:

Sec. 2-86. Term; salary.

* * * * *

(b) The salary of councilmembers ~~will~~**shall** be **\$1,000.00** ~~\$500.00~~ per month.

Section 2. The effective date of this ordinance is six days after adoption; however, pursuant to Charter Sec. 2.3, the increase to the council stipend will not take effect until one year after the adoption of this ordinance.

Mindy L. O'Neill, Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

CITY OF FAIRBANKS
FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST:

Ordinance or Resolution No: 6338

Abbreviated Title: ORDINANCE AMENDING FGC COUNCIL MEMBER COMPENSATION

Department(s): CLERKS

Does the adoption of this ordinance or resolution authorize:

1) additional costs beyond the current adopted budget? Yes x No

2) additional support or maintenance costs? Yes No x

If yes, what is the estimate? see below

3) additional positions beyond the current adopted budget? Yes No x

If yes, how many positions?

If yes, type of positions? (F - Full Time, P - Part Time, T - Temporary)

II. FINANCIAL DETAIL:

PROJECTS:	TOTAL
COUNCIL	\$ 36,000
COUNCIL (FICA)	\$ 2,750
TOTAL	\$ 38,750

FUNDING SOURCE:	TOTAL
GENERAL FUND (OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK)	\$ 38,750
TOTAL	\$ 38,750

Effective February 2027, Council members will receive \$1,000 per month, an increase of \$500 per month. This fiscal note reflects the annual increase in the budget.

Prepared by Finance Department: Initial mb Date 1/14/2026

Council/Assembly Member

A council or assembly member is an elected official who represents local residents, makes decisions on municipal policies, budgets, and services, and helps shape the development and governance of the community.

Municipality Population	Specific Job Title	Number of Employees	Lowest Compensation	Highest Compensation
City of Chignik 56	Council Member	7	\$0	\$0
City of Port Alexander 63	Councilmember	6	\$0	\$0
City of Craig 67	Council Member	6	salary- \$4 per meeting for council member	salary- \$4 per meeting for council member
City of Pelican 98	Council Member	6	\$0	\$0
City of Adak 100	Council Member	7	\$0	\$0
City of Holy Cross 165	Council Member	7	\$100 per regular meeting	\$120 per special meeting
City of Anderson 200	council member	5	\$0	\$0
City of Upper Kalskag 204	Council Member	7	\$50	\$100
City of Seldovia 254	Council Member	6	\$0	\$0
City of Whittier 272	Assembly Member		\$0	\$0
City of McGrath 290	Council Member	6	\$0	\$0
City of Huslia 323	council member	7	\$0	\$20
Koyuk 324	Council Member	6	\$250.00 Sp. Mtg	\$300.00 RMM
City of Eek 333	Council Member	6	100 per meeting	
City of Elim 341	Council member		\$100	\$200
City of Aniak 426	City Council Member	7	\$50	\$100

Council/Assembly Member

A council or assembly member is an elected official who represents local residents, makes decisions on municipal policies, budgets, and services, and helps shape the development and governance of the community.

Municipality Population	Specific Job Title	Number of Employees	Lowest Compensation	Highest Compensation
City of Russian Mission 430	City Council Member	7	\$100.00/Month.	\$200.00/Annual Meeting.
City of Saint Michael 471	Vice-Mayor	1		\$23
City and Borough of Yakutat 605	Assembly Member		\$0	\$0
City of Gustavus 655	Council Member	7	\$0	\$0
City of Kachemak 674	Council Member	7	\$0	\$0
City of Quinhagak 800	City Council	7	\$27	\$162
City of New Stuyahok 900	council members	7	187.00 salary	187.00 salary
City Of Chevak 919	City of Chevak Councilmembers	7	\$300	\$150
City of Hooper Bay 1,298	council member	7	\$100	\$200
Denali Borough 1,619	Assembly Member	7	\$200/Month	\$250/Month
Haines Borough 1,781	Assembly Member	6	\$0	\$175
City of Houston 2,214	Council Member	7	\$25.00 Special Meeting	\$75.00 Regular meeting and Special Meeting held contiguously.
City of Dillingham 2,249	Council Member	6	\$0	\$0
City of Cordova 2,316	Council Members	7	\$0	\$0
City of Dillingham 2,500	Council Member	6	\$0	\$0
City of North Pole 2,500	Council Member	6	\$500/Monthly	

Council/Assembly Member

A council or assembly member is an elected official who represents local residents, makes decisions on municipal policies, budgets, and services, and helps shape the development and governance of the community.

Municipality Population	Specific Job Title	Number of Employees	Lowest Compensation	Highest Compensation
City of Seward 2,800	Council Member	6	4,800/year	
Petersburg Borough 3,200	Assembly Member	6	150/regular meeting	\$150
Aleutians East Borough 3,538	Assembly Member	8	\$300 per meeting attended	
City of Nome 3,699	Council Member	6		\$50.00/month
City of Valdez 3,793	City Council Members	6	50 per meeting	50 per meeting
City of Utqiagvik 4,927	Council Member	6	\$50	\$50
City of Palmer 5,908	Council Member	6	\$50.00 Special Meeting	\$100.00 Regular Meeting (twice month)
City of Bethel 6,270	Council Member	7	\$0	\$0
City of Homer 6,300	Council Member	6	\$0	\$0
City of Kenai 7,746	Council Member		\$0	\$0
City of Ketchikan 8,079	City Council Member	7	\$15/hr	\$15/hr
City and Borough of Sitka 8,387	Assembly Member	6	\$250.00 per meeting	
City of Wasilla 10,501	Council Member	6	\$0	\$0
Kodiak Island Borough 13,000	Assembly Member	7	stipend	stipend
Ketchikan Gateway Borough 13,430	Assembly Member	7	\$350/mo + \$150/mtg	
City and Borough of Juneau 31,572	Assembly Member	8	\$9,000 annually	

Council/Assembly Member

A council or assembly member is an elected official who represents local residents, makes decisions on municipal policies, budgets, and services, and helps shape the development and governance of the community.

Municipality Population	Specific Job Title	Number of Employees	Lowest Compensation	Highest Compensation
Kenai Peninsula Borough 61,350	Assembly Member	9	\$400/mo - Member	\$500/mo - President
Fairbanks North Star Borough 95,655	Assembly Members	9	13,200/yr	13,200/yr
Matanuska Susitna Borough 116,313	Assembly Member	7	511.54/Bi-Weekly	
Municipality of Anchorage 290,761	Assembly Member	11	\$29	\$29

ORDINANCE NO. 6339

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE MAYOR'S COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, the following chart shows the history of the compensation received by City Mayor; and

Ordinance	Year	Action
Ordinance No. 5708	2007	Changed effective date of Mayor's term to coincide with the certification of election results (was previously the first Monday following the election)
Ordinance No. 5990	2015	Clarified that additional benefits and perquisites for the Mayor be established in the budget; clarified that the Mayor will not accrue compensatory time
Ordinance No. 5993	2015	Increased Mayor's salary from \$79,950/year to \$86,500/year and eliminated accrual of leave of any type for the Mayor; clarified that the Mayor is eligible for pension and healthcare benefits to the same extent as non-bargained employees (effective date for receipt of increase and elimination of leave was December 1, 2016)
Ordinance No. 6145	2021	Increased Mayor's salary from \$86,500/year to \$87,800/year through a budget ordinance, effective in the 2022 City budget.

WHEREAS, Fairbanks Charter Sec 2.3 states that no increase in the mayor's compensation can take effect for a period of one year following the adoption of an ordinance fixing the compensation amount; and

WHEREAS, the mayor's salary ranked 75th on the list of highest compensated city employees in 2024, but the mayor's compensation should be at least comparable to the lowest paid city department head; and

WHEREAS, salaries provided to mayors with similar duties in other municipalities are significantly higher.

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

Section 1. The mayor's annual salary will be \$136,000, starting one year from the adoption of this ordinance.

Section 2. The effective date of this ordinance is six days after adoption.

Mindy L. O'Neill, Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

CITY OF FAIRBANKS

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST:

Ordinance or Resolution No: 6339

Abbreviated Title: ORDINANCE AMENDING FGC MAYOR COMPENSATION

Department(s): MAYOR

Does the adoption of this ordinance or resolution authorize:

- 1) additional costs beyond the current adopted budget? Yes x No _____
- 2) additional support or maintenance costs? Yes _____ No x
- If yes, what is the estimate? see below
- 3) additional positions beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No x
- If yes, how many positions? _____
- If yes, type of positions? _____ (F - Full Time, P - Part Time, T - Temporary)

II. FINANCIAL DETAIL:

PROJECTS:	TOTAL
SALARIES	\$ 48,200
BENEFITS (FICA)	\$ 700
TOTAL	\$ 48,900

FUNDING SOURCE:	TOTAL
GENERAL FUND (MAYOR)	\$ 48,900
TOTAL	\$ 48,900

Effective February 2027, City Mayor annual compensation will be \$136,000, an annual increase of \$48,200. This fiscal note reflects the annual increase in the budget.

Prepared by Finance Department: Initial mb Date 1/14/2026

Mayor

A mayor is the elected head of a local government, sometimes responsible for providing leadership, implementing policies, overseeing municipal operations, and representing the community in official matters.

Municipality Population	Specific Job Title	Manager form of Government	Lowest Compensation	Highest Compensation	Hours per week
City of Chignik 56	City Manager/Mayor	No	\$0	\$500 Monthly Stipend	
City of Port Alexander 63	Mayor	No	\$0	\$0	
City of Craig 67	City Mayor	Yes	Salary- \$6 per meeting for the city mayor	salary- \$6 per meeting for the city mayor	0
City of Pelican 98	Mayor	No	\$0	\$0	Varies
City of Adak 100	Mayor	Yes	No compensation	No compensation	3
City of Holy Cross 165	Mayor	No	\$100 per regular meeting	\$120 per special meeting	
City of Anderson 200	mayor	No	\$0	\$0	35
City of Upper Kalskag 204	Mayor	Yes	\$50	\$100	0
City of Seldovia 254	Mayor	Yes	\$0	\$0	varies
City of Whittier 272	Mayor	Yes	\$0	\$0	2
City of McGrath 290	Mayor	No	\$0	\$0	3.428571429
City of Huslia 323	Mayor	No	\$0	\$0	0
Koyuk 324	Mayor	No	\$18.00 hr	\$300.00 RMM	12+
City of Eek 333	seasonal Mayor	Yes	150 per meeting		
City of Elim 341	Mayor	No	\$100	\$200	monthly meeting or special meeting

Mayor

A mayor is the elected head of a local government, sometimes responsible for providing leadership, implementing policies, overseeing municipal operations, and representing the community in official matters.

Municipality Population	Specific Job Title	Manager form of Government	Lowest Compensation	Highest Compensation	Hours per week
City of Napakiak 356	City Mayor	No	Special Meeting stipend \$50.00	Regular Meeting \$70.00	
City of Aniak 426	Mayor	Yes	\$50	\$100	varies
City of Russian Mission 430	Mayor	No	\$100.00/ Monthly Meeting	\$200.00/Annual Meeting	0
City of Saint Michael 471	Mayor	No		\$23	20
City and Borough of Yakutat 605	Borough Mayor	Yes	\$0	\$0	2
City of Gustavus 655	Mayor	No	\$0	\$0	Varies
City of Kachemak 674	Mayor/Council Member	No	600 per month - stipend	600 per month - stipend	40
City of Quinhagak 800	Mayor	No	\$27	\$162	3
City of New Stuyahok 900	mayor	No	15.00/ hour		20
City Of Chevak 919	Mayor	No	\$150	\$1,000	
City of Hooper Bay 1,298	mayor	No	\$100	\$200	
Denali Borough 1,619	Mayor	No	\$100,050/ Annually	\$108,214/Annually	32-40
Haines Borough 1,781	Mayor	Yes		\$625	15
City of Houston 2,214	Mayor	No		\$1,500	37.5
City of Dillingham 2,249	Mayor	Yes	\$0	\$0	Volunteer as needed
City of Cordova 2,316	Mayor	Yes	\$0	\$0	0

Mayor

A mayor is the elected head of a local government, sometimes responsible for providing leadership, implementing policies, overseeing municipal operations, and representing the community in official matters.

Municipality Population	Specific Job Title	Manager form of Government	Lowest Compensation	Highest Compensation	Hours per week
City of North Pole 2,500	Mayor	No	\$35	\$39	40
City of Seward 2,800	Mayor	No	7,200/year		
Petersburg Borough 3,200	Mayor	Yes	\$225/regular meeting	\$225	
Aleutians East Borough 3,538	Mayor	No		\$46	40
City of Nome 3,699	Mayor	Yes	\$1	\$75/month	
City of Valdez 3,793	Mayor	No	\$100 per meeting	\$100 per meeting	
City of Soldotna 4,553		Yes		\$400/month	
City of Utqiagvik 4,927	Mayor	No	\$52		37.5
City of Palmer 5,908	Mayor	Yes		\$24,000/Annual	Part-time mayor
City of Bethel 6,270	Same	Yes	\$0	\$0	Not Tracked
City of Ketchikan 8,079	Mayor	Yes	\$16.50/hr	\$16.50/hr	10+
City and Borough of Sitka 8,387	Mayor	Yes	\$40 per meeting		5
City of Wasilla 10,501	Mayor	No	\$138,190	\$183,835	40+
Kodiak Island Borough 13,000	Mayor	Yes	stipend	stipend	
Ketchikan Gateway Borough 13,430	Borough Mayor	Yes	\$1,000/mo +\$75/mtg		
City of Fairbanks 31,492	Mayor	No	\$42	\$42	40

Mayor

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Municipality Population	Specific Job Title	Manager form of Government	Lowest Compensation	Highest Compensation	Hours per week
City and Borough of Juneau 31,572	Mayor	Yes	\$42,000 annually		
Kenai Peninsula Borough 61,350	Borough Mayor	No		\$130,000	40
Fairbanks North Star Borough 95,655	Borough Mayor	No	\$133,370/yr	\$133,370/yr	
Matanuska Susitna Borough 116,313	Mayor	Yes	\$2500/Bi-Weekly		Varies
Municipality of Anchorage 290,761	Mayor	No	\$70	\$70	40



800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Telephone (907)459-6788
Fax (907)459-6722

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 20, 2026

TO: Council Members

THROUGH: Mayor O'Neall *myo*

FROM: Margarita Bell *Margarita Bell*

SUBJECT: Council Travel

Council Travel line item of the budget provides for City Council member travel to the Alaska State Legislature and the AML "Newly Elected Officials" training.

Councilmember Therrien is a member of the AML Legislative Committee and would like to attend the AML Winter Legislative Conference in Juneau in February.

By accepting this memorandum, the Council approves using funds for one Councilmember to attend the AML Winter Legislative Conference in Juneau.




City of Fairbanks

Risk Management/Purchasing

800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Phone (907) 459-6780
Fax (907) 459-6731

TO: Council Members
THROUGH: Mindy O'Neill, Mayor *MSO*
FROM:  Christina Rowlett, Risk Manager/Purchasing Agent
SUBJECT: Q4 2025 Sole Source Procurement Notification
DATE: January 15, 2026

This memo is in accordance with Ordinance No. 6304 updating City Code Sec. 54-241(d) notification to the city council of contract award through sole source purchasing in amounts up to \$250,000. Additional information available upon request.

Vendor Name/Address	Description	Justification	Amount
Fairbanks Integrated Community Services PO Box 70541 Fairbanks, AK 99707	Housing coordination and case management services (fill in for vacant housing coordinator)	Only provider to meet minimum requirements – utilize remaining funds available through grant.	\$45297.00
Grail, Inc. 1525 Obrien Drive Menlo Park, CA 94025	Cancer Screening Bloodwork	Medical Service authorized by CBA	\$38291.00
Staccato 2011, LLC 1251 County Road Florence, TX 76527	Staccato P4.5 9mm handguns, annual inspections and armorer course	Direct agency sales can only be done by this company.	\$21509.50
Twins Electric, LLC 1685 Pennyweight Drive Fairbanks, AK 99712	Fairbanks Parking Garage – New directional signs power install and lighting control system upgrade	Available for use/comprehensive knowledge of needs.	\$37570.00
Central Environmental, Inc. 1301 Well Street Fairbanks, AK 99701	City Hall restroom renovation, collect samples and provide lab analysis for asbestos, lead and PCB.	Only local company that will test and remove any contaminants.	\$7554.00
Kendall 1950 Gambell Street Anchorage, AK 99501	FPD Wheels and Sensor's for 17 patrol vehicles	Kendall has police vehicle specific wheels that 3 rd party vendors don't.	\$31866.88