



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 22, 2026
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:45 p.m. Work Session for an Update on Housing with Fairbanks Neighborhood Housing Services, 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

Also Present: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Thomas Chard, City Attorney
 Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
 Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief
 Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
 Nathan Werner, Police Captain
 Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief
 Nick Clark, Fire Battalion Chief (remotely)
 Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager
 Teal Soden, Public Information Officer
 Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director
 Jennifer Payan, Grants Administrator (remotely)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the request of Mayor O'Neill, **Ms. Therrien** read the land acknowledgement.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor O'Neill led the flag salutation.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS (Proclamations, Introductions, Recognitions, Awards)

a) Swearing in Ceremony: New Fairbanks Police Department Officers

Police Chief Ron Dupee discussed staffing levels at the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). Deputy Chief Richard Sweet introduced Dylan Howard and Kincaid Crumley, two new officers with FPD. He welcomed both officers and administered their Oaths of Office.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Jomo Stewart, President/CEO of Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) – J. Stewart provided a quarterly report of FEDC programs and events. He shared an update about the recently formed Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) Committee.

Ms. Therrien asked for more details about the ARDOR Committee. J. Stewart reported that the group had met three times and has been focused on education and gathering information. He provided details about the committee makeup and grant opportunities that had been explored.

Ms. Tidwell referenced the materials provided and asked how one gets included in the Interior Agricultural Directory. J. Stewart described the networking that occurs and the steps taken when they learn of a new business entity or individual. **Ms. Tidwell** stated that she would follow up.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if vetting occurs. J. Stewart confirmed it does and explained the process.

Jo Woodward – J. Woodward expressed concern over excessively loud mufflers from motorcycles and cars which can be heard at all hours of the night. She discussed noise ordinances and requested that something be done to address the issue.

Victoria Dowling – V. Dowling addressed concerns over the activities at 109 5th Avenue and stated she had spoken with City staff to provide reports on the issues multiple times over the years. She explained that although the property is boarded up, the door remains wide open, with traffic coming in and out all through the night. She reported that water is hand-carried into the house in jugs and that people relieve themselves outside. She shared that during last winter someone from the building came to her rental property next door, asked her to call an ambulance, then passed out on her steps. She asserted that safety concerns persist despite being told that the City is addressing the issues. She asked what progress had been made, as conditions appear to be unchanged. She explained that she had heavily invested in the neighborhood and had done everything the City asks of responsible property owners. V. Dowling asked for accountability in return and to hear an explanation of either how what she has witnessed is in compliance with local laws or, if not, what enforcement actions remain available. She asserted that residents deserve to know why reported problems are allowed to continue and that she is looking for answers, not just promises.

Ms. Therrien requested that V. Dowling leave her contact information with the Chief of Staff.

Ms. Sprinkle asked how long the building had been boarded up. V. Dowling stated that she believes it was condemned and boarded up by the City in 2023, that the water had been shut off, then restored, and potentially shut off again. She reiterated that people regularly walk out of the building to urinate on the side of the street.

Mr. Marney asked if she believes drugs are being trafficked at the location. V. Dowling stated that she does and explained that there is 24-hour traffic with no respect for volume regardless of the hour. **Mr. Marney** asked if she has seen underage visitors at the property. V. Dowling admitted

that it is hard to tell if any visitors are minors but that she has seen many young women coming and going. **Mr. Marney** asked if she had experienced any property damage due to the activity at the property. V. Dowling confirmed that she had and gave examples. She shared that the property is at the end of 5th Avenue, which happens to be the start of a walking path that goes through the cemetery and connects with the riverwalk. She stated she would be terrified to go to the end of her own street and that she sees tourists, on the way to the path, turn around after seeing the house.

Gene Salzman, Sr. – G. Salzman, Sr. expressed frustration with the lack of maintenance at the Birch Hill Cemetery where he buried his wife two years ago. He described having to do his own groundskeeping at her grave and how it did not seem that any work had taken place so far this year. He spoke about his efforts to get in touch with someone and asked who was responsible for the cemetery's maintenance. **Mayor O'Neill** shared that the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) is responsible for the Birch Hill Cemetery. She added that the City Clerk may have some additional information and asked him to leave his contact information for a follow-up.

Nick Stepovich, Owner of Soapie Smith's Pioneer Restaurant – N. Stepovich shared that he has operated a business downtown for 30 years and that he recently stopped to say hello when he saw the Mayor and Chief of Police in the area. He reported that the Mayor pointed out the signs for his business, which were placed on the sidewalk as they had been for decades and informed him that they needed to be moved. He stated that he disagreed but was told that if he did not move them, she would. He acknowledged being agitated at the interaction and afterwards contacted some City Councilmembers, who called the City Attorney. He asserted that there was no law against his signs.

Ms. Therrien asked if he had spoken with the City Attorney. N. Stepovich clarified that he contacted Mr. Cleworth who spoke with the City Attorney, and that a review of the Fairbanks General Code (FGC) determined that he could place his signs as he had. He stated that he also confirmed that with the Chief of Police and that the whole situation felt vindictive and aggressive. He reported that the Mayor grabbed his signs and moved them to his business location herself and afterwards called him in what felt like an argumentative spirit. He asserted that the situation was irrational and came across as poor leadership. **Ms. Therrien** asked what the City Attorney had said in response to the inquiry. N. Stepovich clarified that he had not spoken with the City Attorney directly. **Mayor O'Neill** asked if the City Attorney could share the information he had provided. Attorney Chard confirmed that he and N. Stepovich did not speak directly.

Mr. Marney asked if other businesses have signs posted in the same location. N. Stepovich stated that they do and have done so for years. **Mr. Marney** asked if he felt targeted. N. Stepovich confirmed that he did and that it felt vindictive since he had advocated against the Mayor's recent effort to lease the log cabin on 1st Avenue to a new business that he would consider a competitor.

Ms. Tidwell asked N. Stepovich to confirm the location of his restaurant and whether the signs were located at his business. N. Stepovich shared that his business is located on 2nd Avenue and reiterated that he and others had placed signs on 1st Avenue for years. He added that new signs for other businesses had shown up since the incident. **Ms. Tidwell** asked the City Attorney if there were any regulations regarding signs on sidewalks. Attorney Chard explained that while the FGC does not specifically prohibit such signs there is language regarding the obstruction of sidewalks. **Ms. Tidwell** acknowledged that the topic would be prudent for further conversation in the future.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor O'Neill called for objection to motion to APPROVE the agenda and the consent agenda and, hearing none, declared the motion CARRIED.

Clerk Snider read the consent agenda into the record.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic.	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
104	The Happy Husky Bar & Grill	Beverage Dispensary	Westmark Hotels, Inc.	813 Noble Street
1059	Raven Landing Center	Beverage Dispensary	Retirement Community of Fairbanks	1222 Cowles Street
3997	BPO Elks Lodge #1551	Club	Fairbanks Lodge #1551 of the BPO of Elks	1003 Pioneer Road
3151	Fred Meyer #485	Package Store	Fred Meyer Stores, Inc.	3755 Airport Way
4819	The Antler Room	Beverage Dispensary	The Antler Room, Inc.	1003 Pioneer Road, A
4530	Blue Flame Bar & Grill	Beverage Dispensary	Midnight Sun Catering Services, LLC	95 10th Avenue
15582	Fairbanks Distilling Company	Distillery Retail	Patrick Wayne Levy	410 Cushman Street
5353	Fairbanks Distilling Company	Distillery Manufacturing	Patrick Wayne Levy	410 Cushman Street

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the alcohol license applications for renewal.

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

Ms. Sprinkle noted that while Westmark Hotel held license no. 104, another entity appears to manage the restaurant. She asked if the Westmark Hotel held a beverage dispensary license or beverage dispensary tourism license. Clerk Snider confirmed that it was not a tourism license.

Ms. Therrien shared that she is a member of the Elks Lodge and while she did not believe she had a conflict of interest regarding License No. 3997, she wanted to disclose the connection. **Mayor O'Neill** ruled that she did not have a conflict of interest in the matter.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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

Lic.	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
39378	Blaze, LLC	Retail Marijuana Store	Blaze, LLC	607 Old Steese Highway, Suite 106
22809	Airport Way Best Bud	Retail Marijuana Store	Airport Way Trade Center, LLC	3598 Airport Way

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

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

There was no discussion.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- c) The Fairbanks City Council held a public hearing and considered the following marijuana license application for transfer of controlling interest:

Type/License: Marijuana Retail Store, License #12325

DBA: GOOD Cannabis, LLC

Applicant: Good, LLC (transfer of controlling interest only)

Location: 356 Old Steese Highway, Fairbanks

Mayor O'Neill called for public testimony.

Greg Allison, co-owner of GOOD Cannabis – G. Allison thanked the Council for the trust shown in the business nine years prior when they had the opportunity to open for business. He spoke of their passion for the community and their goal to create something more than just another cannabis shop. He discussed their expansion efforts into new areas of Alaska as well as branching into the coffee and café industry. He expressed appreciation for the community and local government.

Ms. Sprinkle recounted approving a recent tasting room application for the business and asked how the venture was going. G. Allison confirmed that their non-combustion, onsite consumption license was a nice addition to their store but admitted it had not taken off as much as other projects.

Mr. Cleworth noted on the application the departure of an individual, Christian, and asked if she was no longer part of the business. G. Allison explained that she had shifted her focus to home life and that her partner was taking over her controlling interest role.

Mr. Marney asked about business tours. G. Allison shared that the cultivation facility was designed to be tour-friendly but that other expansion efforts had put tour options on the backburner.

Ms. Therrien thanked G. Allison for attending the meeting and availing himself for questions.

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

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the marijuana license application for transfer of controlling interest.

There was no discussion.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE MARIJUANA LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF CONTROLLING INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED.

REPORT FROM FAIRBANKS ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

Mayor O'Neill invited Marilyn Andon, Executive Director of Clinical Health Services at Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) to provide a report.

M. Andon shared that TCC Chief/Chairman Sharon Hildebrand was out of town on business but had provided a summary for her to share, including TCC's focus on organizational priorities, building relationships with tribal leaders and communities, strengthening communication through village visits, and supporting stronger government-to-government relationships. She spoke of Fairbanks as a key connection point for tribal members accessing services, regional meetings, and partnerships. She discussed advocacy priorities that benefit both rural members and those that live in town. M. Andon outlined various TCC programs such as housing, public safety, community wellness, and infrastructure planning. She asserted that continued communication with the City Council would strengthen awareness of these issues and provide opportunities for collaboration.

Mr. Ringstad recounted that senior housing has been a significant concern and asked if TCC is seeing similar challenges. M. Andon confirmed that housing is a major issue across the entire region and that many come to Fairbanks when housing in their own community is unavailable.

Mr. Cleworth asked if "Elder housing" had specific age requirements. M. Andon discussed TCC's flexible age considerations across tribal communities and stated that they often use lower thresholds than what Medicaid has in place. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if TCC has its own local housing options. M. Andon stated that TCC does not have Elder housing. She indicated that they search for available options and are open to opportunities for a sustainable program to run themselves.

Mr. Marney asked if TCC had held any serious conversations about what can be done about homelessness for its members during the winter months. M. Andon shared details about TCC's Housing First program and the sobering center, which is available to anyone in the community.

Ms. Therrien thanked M. Andon for attending. **Mayor O'Neill** also expressed appreciation for M. Andon's attendance and for the ongoing positive partnership with Chief/Chairman Hildebrand.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor O'Neill shared that June 30 would be Fairbanks Emergency Communication Center (FECC) Manager Kristi Merideth's last day with the City. She added that K. Merideth had been extremely helpful with the transition process. She reported that the position had been posted and that the City intends to fill it with someone who resides within the Fairbanks area. **Mayor O'Neill** discussed the various solstice events that occurred the previous weekend and thanked all those involved, including FPD and Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD), who staffed a first responder station during the Midnight Sun Festival. She shared details about the upcoming America 250 Block Party taking place at City Hall on July 8 as part of the United States Semiquincentennial celebration. **Mayor O'Neill** addressed the concerns of N. Stepovich, acknowledging that she did move his business signs after receiving a few complaints from downtown businesses. She explained that there are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility concerns when signage takes up sidewalk space and that it is unfair for a business to advertise in such a manner.

Ms. Therrien asked if the 356th Fighter Squadron was excited to participate with the planned flyover. Chief of Staff Sanders confirmed that they had been in frequent communication with the City and that they were on board, with a commitment to the flyover's target time.

a) Special Reports [*Clerk Note: This item occurred after "Councilmembers' Comments"*]

Mayor O'Neill invited FNSB Assemblymember Kristan Kelly to provide a report.

K. Kelly reported on noteworthy Assembly items, such as the breaking of ground on the animal shelter, an ordinance granting a developer a property tax exemption on improvements for up to three years, and the passing of a design contract for a 12-court pickleball facility. She recounted the 2025 bowling challenge from the City Council to the Borough Assembly and delivered a new challenge from the Assembly for a round of pickleball matches, hopefully to be held this summer.

Ms. Sprinkle asked K. Kelly if she would follow up regarding the Birch Hill Cemetery concerns raised by G. Salzman, Sr. K. Kelly confirmed that she would. **Mr. Sprinkle** asked K. Kelly to provide an update on a recent situation involving FNSB Animal Control that resulted in public outcry. K. Kelly acknowledged that it had been a complicated situation, given the absence of the property owner, and provided a summary of what occurred. She affirmed that discussion continues, with a goal to revise policies, procedures, and the code of ordinances to prevent a future situations.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ringstad shared that he recently watched an electric scooter going around 30 miles per hour down the road. He stated he had always been under the impression that unlicensed, unregistered vehicles such as that were not street legal and that it warranted further discussion.

Ms. Therrien thanked K. Merideth and initiated a round of applause in recognition of her service.

Ms. Sprinkle requested that the Council give attention to the 5th Avenue issue addressed earlier.

Mr. Marney volunteered to assist with the reading of the Declaration of Independence at the America 250 Block Party.

Mr. Cleworth spoke highly of K. Merideth's work at FECC over the years and stated that she would be missed. He asserted that the issues at 109 5th Avenue had only gotten worse and that the lengthy list of calls to the City regarding public safety concerns should surely trigger action from the City. He agreed that he would be upset if the property was in his neighborhood and recognized the risk taken by those who choose to speak up. **Mr. Cleworth** recounted that many years ago a new police officer had gone down 2nd Avenue and made all business owners remove their signs from the sidewalk, a tradition employed for years, and it resulted in complaints. He reported that it was determined that no law existed on the issue other than ADA considerations and ensuring that the signs did not obstruct the sidewalk. He suggested that if the City intends to get strict on the matter that there should be an ordinance to update the FGC.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6349 – An Ordinance Transferring Land to the State of Alaska and Creating a Temporary Easement for the Steese/Johansen Interchange Project. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neill. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

At the request of Mayor O'Neill, Attorney Chard provided a brief summary of the ordinance.

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

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6349.

There was no discussion.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6349 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6349 ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6350 – An Ordinance Enacting Fairbanks General Code Chapter 70, Article II, Section 70-63, Requiring a Request for Proposals and Certain Procedures to Aid in the Solicitation and Selection of Long-Term Lessees of City-Owned Property. Sponsored by Councilmembers Cleworth, Marney, Sprinkle, Therrien, and Ringstad. 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. 6350.

Mr. Cleworth recounted that during the May 11 meeting, when the Council considered an ordinance to award a lease of the 1st Avenue log cabin and in response to concerns expressed, the City Attorney cautioned that the FGC lacks specific procedures on awarding a lease. He explained that Ordinance No. 6350 was a result of that discussion and expressed hope that it would pass.

Mayor O'Neill referenced a memo which she had provided to the Council at the last work session. She stated that the administration views the potential change in process as cumbersome and that if the Council desires a more transparent, clear process with timely notification, there are other ways to go about it. She asserted that passing such an ordinance after a specific incident felt reactive and was bad practice. She expressed hope for continued conversation.

Ms. Tidwell suggested that the ordinance did not address the Council's stated intent to be involved with the process and stated that the administration had given many opportunities to be a part of the process ahead of time. She predicted that the ordinance would create more problems than it solves.

Ms. Therrien requested she be removed as sponsor to the ordinance.

Mr. Cleworth asserted that ordinances are typically written in response to a problem and that he considered the issue problematic. He recalled what occurred with a recent request for information (RFI) [*see the Regular Meetings Minutes of April 27, 2026 and May 11, 2026*]. He read aloud from the Mayor's memo and asserted that the two-step process of an RFI then a request for proposal (RFP) was unnecessary and adds more time to a project. **Mr. Cleworth** explained that the ordinance would allow the Council to have a say in the procedure and would prevent the Council's frustration. He added he did not see how it could be viewed as anything but positive.

Mayor O'Neill suggested that Mr. Cleworth may not understand what an RFI is and pointed out that the ordinance did not have anything to do with an RFI. She asserted that just because the Council was unfamiliar with or less inclined towards that particular process did not mean that it was the wrong approach. She discussed better ways they could approach projects and the direction they would like to go as a community. She defended the use of RFIs to gather information and reiterated that the ordinance was problematic.

Ms. Sprinkle noted that the Council dealt with four different projects involving City-owned properties recently and that each had employed a different process, which she thought was confusing to both the public and Councilmembers. She suggested that the ordinance was straightforward and ensured the Council would be involved with processes earlier than only the final step of voting yes or no. **Mayor O'Neill** pointed out that prior to voting on an ordinance the Council has at least two other meetings to discuss the specifics of a particular project, such as awarding a lease. She asserted that it was incorrect for Councilmembers to claim that they were caught unaware of a particular project. **Ms. Sprinkle** stated that she believes many would disagree.

Mayor O'Neill asked M. Sanders to review the leases and explain why the process for each differed. M. Sanders recounted that the Polaris site had been handled by a small committee with only two Councilmembers included but was shifted to the entire Council after desire had been expressed for all to be involved, which delayed the process by six to eight months. He noted that the RFP for childcare services in City Hall had included a lease that was secondary to the primary goal of providing a specific service. He explained that the log cabin lease was a result of a time crunch and the hope to have something open by summer but that the Council voted it down. He suggested that a year ago the administration's efforts would have been praised. He concluded with the example of a leased City Hall space to the Denali Commission, a process which had no public outreach and was happily approved by the Council. **Mayor O'Neill** stated that they could do better than the ordinance before them and reiterated that it was bad policy.

Mr. Cleworth recounted that the log cabin RFI had an addendum stating that proposals must be food related. He stated the Council had not discussed limiting the potential use of the building nor been made aware of the limitation. He asserted that had caused confusion, that the Mayor had used the RFI for more than gathering information, and that an RFP was never even issued. He pointed out that the Council spent three months on an RFP for the Polaris site, finished by December 2025, then waited for it to appear on an agenda—and it did not. He spoke of the Mayor's preference to go in a different direction with the project and clarified that the administration—not the Council—had dragged out the process. He recounted being told that the delay was influenced by the inability for any developer to commence real work in 2026 and that he took umbrage with that claim.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6350 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle

NAYS: Therrien, Tidwell

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6350 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5219 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Chalmers Ford, Inc. to Provide Three Police Vehicles in the Amount of \$266,840.19. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neill.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Ordinance No. 6351 – An Ordinance Amending the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Second Time. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neill.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Ordinance No. 6352 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 66 to Establish a Garbage Collection Discount for Residents Who Receive Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Amending the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services. Sponsored by Councilmember Therrien.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Board of Plumber Examiner Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2026

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Reappointment to the Board of Plumber Examiners

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cleworth discussed the draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) published by Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning, noting the 30-day public comment period. He shared that the North Pole Mayor had contacted him with concerns and that he too saw some concerning items. He stated that he would draft a resolution for the next work session. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern over the budget ordinance and the precarious position the City would be in with only a \$24,000 surplus. He suggested the Council agree to a targeted surplus to work towards as a way to guard against unexpected expenses such as the recent large energy increases. He discussed the increased traffic on Trainor Gate Road, noting the impact of upcoming construction projects in the area. He stated that he thought Fort Wainwright no longer wanted to use the road and preferred the Lazelle Road gate instead, which would reduce traffic by the schools. He asked if the Mayor had any further information on the matter. **Mayor O'Neill** reported that FAST Planning had implemented a temporary solution to increase visual awareness of the pedestrian crosswalks and that a permanent solution was in the works to create a tabled intersection to help with traffic calming. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that tabled intersections had some negative history in northern communities due to how snow affects them but acknowledged that other variations may be satisfactory to the City Engineer. He recommended a four-way stop be installed. **Mayor O'Neill** noted that the presence of two schools, a military base, and the railroad tracks running parallel to the road make for a very complicated intersection, especially given the overlap of three jurisdictions involved. She explained that the immediate goal is to get enough attention directed towards the problem so that permanent solutions could be considered. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed appreciation for receiving more information about e-bikes after the last meeting. He clarified that bicycles with pedals and a battery pack had been around for years without any major problems and that the concern is over newer, high-powered models without pedals, comparing them to low-powered motorcycles which require registration and a license to ride. He encouraged the administration to look into the issue and consider where the City should draw a line.

Ms. Therrien reported that she and June Rogers had been attending the change of command ceremonies at Fort Wainwright and that she did not understand why the City does not get invited. She noted that candidate filing would soon open and she hopes to see many candidates for office. She concurred with the concerns over the property on 5th Avenue. She shared that she and Mr. Cleworth had been discussing the start time of work sessions and the desire to return to a 7:00 a.m. start time. **Mayor O'Neill** confirmed that the issue would be addressed at the next work session.

Ms. Sprinkle thanked the public safety personnel who assisted with the downtown festival. She offered to help with the painting of pavement at the Trainor Gate intersection discussed earlier.

Mr. Marney also expressed concern about the budget and stated that having only \$24,000 left halfway through the year is not right. He asserted that the City is spending too freely, that he may have to vote no on some budget amendment items, and that the City needs to tighten its belt.

Ms. Tidwell agreed that the weekend's events had been better than ever. She thanked V. Dowling for sharing concerns regarding the 5th Avenue property. She recounted that a previous assessment determined that the property did not meet the threshold for an abatement processes but that the understanding at the time was that the water had been restored. She asserted that there are other properties that are just as bad or worse but also do not meet the criteria for action. She suggested a review of the FGC dealing with nuisance properties and that the City crack down on problems.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider shared that the upcoming candidate filing period is July 15 to 29. She shared that there would be an additional week between Council meetings. She stated that it had been her pleasure to work with K. Merideth over the years and wished her well.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard stated that he had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ENTER into Executive Session to discuss IBEW/COF Labor Negotiations: Guidance from Council and the Security Assessment Report.

Mayor O'Neill called for objection on the motion to ENTER into Executive Session and, hearing none, declared the motion CARRIED.

Mayor O'Neill called for a recess at 8:25 p.m., then the Council reconvened in Executive Session.

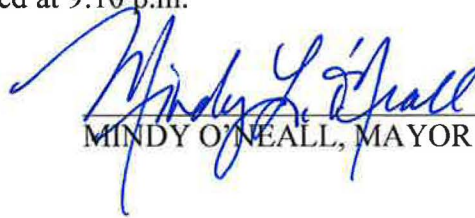
- a) IBEW/COF Labor Negotiations: Guidance from Council [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(1)]
- b) Security Assessment Report [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(1)]

The Executive Sessions began at 8:34 p.m. Those present were Mayor O'Neill; Councilmembers Cleworth, Therrien, Tidwell, Marney, Ringstad and Sprinkle; Clerk Snider, Attorney Chard, Chief of Staff Sanders, CFO Bell, and HR Director Merritt. The sessions concluded at 9:09 p.m.

Mayor O'Neill stated the Council met in Executive Sessions to discuss IBEW/COF Labor Negotiations: Guidance from Council and the Security Assessment Report. She affirmed that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor O'Neill declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.


MINDY O'NEALL, MAYOR

ATTEST:


D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC