FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA NO. 2026-15
REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 10, 2026
MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM WEBINAR AND AT
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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 July 13, 2026

*b) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2026

9. SPECIAL ORDERS

10. REPORT FROM FAIRBANKS ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS
(second meeting of every other month)

11. MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports

12. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Ordinance No. 6353 – An Ordinance Amending the Local Amendments to the 2018 International Fire Code Adopted by Reference at Fairbanks General Code Section 30-32, Creating Appeal Procedures. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neall. Second reading and public hearing.

14. NEW BUSINESS

*a) Resolution No. 5226 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Braun Northwest Inc. to Remount an Ambulance in the Amount of $275,014. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neall.

*b) Resolution No. 5227 – A Resolution Establishing the City of Fairbanks Risk Appetite Statement. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neall.

15. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

*a) 2026 Quarter 2 Sole Source Procurement Report

*b) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2026 *c) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2026

*d) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2026

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

17. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

18. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

20. ADJOURNMENT

FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JULY 13, 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'Neall 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 (remotely) Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director Timothy Zinza, City Engineer Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director (remotely) Brenda Geier, FECC Operations Manager (remotely) Jennifer Payan, Grants Administrator (remotely)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the request of Mayor O'Neall, **Ms. Tidwell** read the land acknowledgement.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor O'Neall, **Mr. Ringstad** led the flag salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Jo Woodward – J. Woodward stated that she agreed with Mr. Cleworth's recent opinion piece in the newspaper opposing the conversion of certain downtown one-way streets to two-way. She advocated for the increased implementation of wind turbines for energy generation, particularly through local nonprofit organizations that may have access opportunities to the equipment. She discussed having been injured during the previous winter due to negligence by the Fairbanks Rescue Mission. She reported that medical bills were not being paid despite having been told by the Mission that they would cover the expenses. She suggested that other homeless individuals were likely dealing with similar issues.

<u>*Nita Desmond-Layral*</u> – N. Desmond-Layral stated that she had been disheartened after hearing the negative discussion during the last City Council meeting over "e-motos." She provided technical specifications and clarified the differences between an e-moto and e-bicycle. She expressed disappointment in hearing of local law enforcement's misunderstanding of the distinction between the two and reviewed the parameters for what constitutes a street-legal vehicle as well as the requirements for operating such. N. Desmond-Layral referenced state law regarding self-propelled, all-purpose vehicles and encouraged the Council to take action. She suggested either amending Fairbanks General Code (FGC) to include a definition and appropriate restrictions for e-motos or clearly define what an e-bicycle is and state that anything outside of that definition is considered the same as a motorcycle. She asserted that would allow the police to better enforce the law and urged action to occur quickly before someone is injured or worse.

Ms. Sprinkle requested a copy of N. Desmond-Layral's testimony.

Ms. Therrien asked N. Desmond-Layral if she had spoken with legislators about updating State law. N. Desmond-Layral stated that she agreed on the need for changes and that a bill, sponsored by Representative Ashley Carrick, had been passed but subsequently vetoed by the governor. She reported having spoken to local legislators, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Assembly, the City Council, and Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning.

<u>*Jerry Evans, Public Relations Manager for Explore Fairbanks*</u> – J. Evans provided a report on his work to promote Fairbanks as a visitor destination with travel journalists from all across the world. He discussed several recent engagements, television shows, and publications, noting that they host an average of 30 media tours a year to highlight what Fairbanks has to offer. He thanked the City Council for its reinvestment of bed tax dollars into supporting Explore Fairbanks' mission.

Ms. Sprinkle asked J. Evans if he was aware that the boardwalk at Creamer's Field was reopened. J. Evans stated that he was not but that he would certainly highlight that with upcoming journalists.

<u>*Victoria Dowling*</u> – V. Dowling recounted testifying at the last meeting regarding serious concerns over the property located at 109 Fifth Avenue *[see the Regular Meetings Minutes of June 22, 2026]*. She reported that since then, no one had reached out, nothing had changed, and that things were actually worse. She shared that she had renewed hoped after hearing that the ordinance on blighted properties would be revisited, only to be disheartened as she listened to an explanation that the property did not meet the associated criteria. V. Dowling asserted that this was even more concerning as the City was acknowledging that people were living in the building and thus, by its inaction, was indicating that it is safe to occupy. She discussed the dozen or more police calls to the location in the last year and asked whether that met the criteria of a nuisance property for excessive law enforcement responses. She reiterated that these were important questions for the future of her neighborhood and that she would like to know the plan to address concerns.

Ms. Therrien asked for the matter to be added to the next work session agenda.

Mr. Marney apologized for not following up in a more productive manner. V. Dowling clarified that both Mr. Marney and Mr. Cleworth had mentioned the issue to her in passing since the last meeting but that nothing had occurred beyond those two interactions.

<u>*Nick Stepovich, Owner of Soapie Smith's Pioneer Restaurant*</u> – N. Stepovich shared that he had worked downtown for decades, so Second Avenue is very special to him. He recounted his prior testimony regarding his interactions with the Mayor when she removed his business signs from the sidewalk on First Avenue *[see the Regular Meetings Minutes of June 22, 2026]*. He noted that later in the meeting the Mayor addressed his complaints with an explanation that her actions were due to accessibility concerns and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He pointed out that those concerns were never raised during their interactions, suggested that it was an excuse she used only after speaking with the City Attorney, and reasserted that her actions were vindictive. He spoke against the idea of seeing Second Avenue, and other one-way streets downtown, converted to two-way streets. He provided a copy of a petition he had circulated, showing a lengthy list of business owners and other individuals who shared his opposition to a two-way street conversion.

Ms. Therrien asked if a majority of the business owners on Second Avenue had signed the petition. N. Stepovich confirmed that they had and spoke further against the concept of two-way streets downtown. He asserted that the change would do nothing to bring more people to the area.

Mr. Marney asked about the outcome of his petition. N. Stepovich explained that essentially every business is against the idea and that the issue had been brought up multiple times in the past, always resulting in the same conclusion to leave things as they are.

<u>*Dereck Dickinson*</u> – D. Dickinson shared that he and his partner moved to Fairbanks a few years prior, bought a home on Fourth Avenue, then purchased and cleared the adjoining lot. He explained that they are hesitant to make further enhancements due to the abundance of blighted properties in the area, including 109 Fifth Avenue. He described the problematic activities and conditions of several properties in the neighborhood, noting that everywhere else he had lived had ordinances addressing such issues. He asked what is being done by the City.

Ms. Sprinkle asked D. Dickinson if he could provide an example of his concerns. D. Dickinson shared that he had needed to call law enforcement multiple times over the same individual he previously had trespassed. He shared that a chainsaw was stolen from his front yard when it was left unattended for only a moment. He reported that despite having plenty of cameras to record illegal activity, not much else is happening to resolve their issues. He added that they are reluctant to continue putting down roots in Fairbanks and are considering relocating.

<u>*David van den Berg, Executive Director of Downtown Association of Fairbanks (DTA)*</u> – D. van den Berg spoke on Resolution No. 5223 and suggested that there was wisdom in retaining "Task 300(e)" in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) by FAST Planning. He pointed out that the resolution suggests that it is an attempt to have effective coordination between the City and FAST Planning and that 300(e) is a tool that should not be removed. He asserted that two-way circulation in the downtown area is a worthwhile idea to explore, that the only one-way network in the community was the downtown area, and that several streets had already been converted over the years. He noted that despite projects on various streets, private investment and development was stagnant and that the one-way design may be a contributing factor. He stated that while the resolution's author suggests such a change would bring challenges, there were also opportunities.

Ms. Therrien asked D. van den Berg to confirm that he felt differently than those who signed N. Stepovich's petition. D. van den Berg clarified that he was testifying on behalf of DTA's Board of Directors and while they had not drafted an official position, his comments were aligned with the board's sentiments. He acknowledged that while there are different views on the issue, there is a strong case that the conversion could enhance downtown and is at least worth investigating.

Amber Vinegar (via Zoom) – A. Vinegar spoke of the redevelopment of 123 Lacey Street and how infrastructure choices can directly impact safety and public health. She acknowledged the project's cost constraints but urged the Council to prioritize proposals that diversify the area's economic base to avoid over-reliance on a single industry. She suggested that established Alaskan companies that may or may not already do business in Fairbanks could have a local office and advocated for a multi-level, vertical approach to allow for a variety of businesses.

Ms. Therrien asked A. Vinegar if this was a personal perspective or if she was speaking on behalf of a company or other organization. A. Vinegar stated that she had recently moved back to Fairbanks after working for many years at a consulting company in Arizona.

Ms. Sprinkle asked A. Vinegar if that meant she was not directly associated with any developer. A. Vinegar confirmed that she was not and that it was her perspective.

Monty Rostad – M. Rostad stated that he was speaking on behalf of Big Ray's and CMR Properties. He expressed great satisfaction with the positive state of downtown, where he has worked for over 40 years. He discussed the beautiful flowers, the buildings being painted, the diversity of people walking around, and the new businesses opening. He spoke of his longstanding involvement with downtown planning and how the challenges of operating a business come with a need to exercise caution in making big changes.

Ms. Sprinkle asked M. Rostad if he was referring to any specific issues. M. Rostad explained that, in his and other business owners' opinions, it does not hurt to have a handful of one-way streets in the downtown area. He added that it works for local businesses.

Ms. Therrien asked M. Rostad if he preferred keeping one-way streets, including Second Avenue which is much wider than other streets. M. Rostad confirmed that he did and that the parking on Second Avenue was very important to the overall system, particularly for deliveries. He added that many of the challenges had been worked out over the years and that a change would be concerning.

Mr. Cleworth asked M. Rostad to confirm that he was involved with DTA when the last street configuration had been studied. M. Rostad confirmed that he was and added that he chaired the committee that oversaw the creation of the parking garage.

Ms. Sprinkle asked M. Rostad if he was aware that he could testify at FAST Planning meetings. M. Rostad confirmed that he was and would follow that process as well.

Mr. Marney asked M. Rostad if there was anything he would like to see changed in the downtown core. M. Rostad stated that he supports some of the Mayor's recent efforts and has enjoyed seeing the temporary chalets for small businesses at the old Polaris Building site. He suggested that lighting is a concern, particularly in the winter. He discussed challenges in accessing his business and how that affects local competition. He reiterated his support for a one-way Second Avenue.

Richard Croteau – R. Croteau shared that his wife owns and operates the Arctic Travelers Gift Shop on the corner of Cushman Street and Second Avenue. He spoke against converting to two-way streets downtown, citing the challenges of product deliveries and tour bus navigation. He asserted that every business within the area would be directly and negatively impacted.

Mayor O'Neall asked R. Croteau if he would be open to the idea if there was even a slight chance that business would increase. R. Croteau shared that winter tourism now surpasses that of summer and that keeping the current system is important. He stated that they would not be open to the idea.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Therrien pulled item 14(d), Resolution No. 5223, from the consent agenda.

> **Mayor O'Neall** called for objection to the motion to APPROVE the agenda and the consent agenda, as amended, and hearing none, declared the motion CARRIED.

Clerk Snider read the consent agenda, as amended, 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
4247	This and That Grill, LLC	Beverage Dispensary	This and That Grill, LLC	3578 Airport Way
3489	Soba Authentic Moldovan Restaurant	Beverage Dispensary	Soba, LLC	535 2nd Avenue, Suite 106
4941	Seoul Gate Restaurant	Restaurant/ Eating Place	Seoul Gate, Inc.	958 Cowles Street

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

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

There was no discussion.

> **Mayor O'Neall** called for objection to the motion to WAIVE PROTEST on the alcohol license applications for renewal, and hearing none, declared the motion CARRIED.

b) The Fairbanks City Council held a public hearing and considered the following application for a new manufacturer direct shipment license:

Primary License #:	Marijuana Retail Store, License #12325
DBA:	Hoarfrost Distilling, LLC
Application Type:	Manufacturer Direct Shipment License
Licensee/Applicant:	Dark Lamb Industries, LLC
Physical Location:	3501 Lathrop Street, Unit F

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

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the application for a new manufacturer direct shipment license.

Ms. Therrien asked for an explanation on the type of license. Clerk Snider recounted that one or two have come before the Council previously. She explained that a distillery license must already be in place, serving as a parent license, and that the sublicense would allow the business to respond to an order to ship products within the state. She added that the sublicense could not be transferred.

Ms. Sprinkle asked what types of orders are covered. Clerk Snider clarified that it was only for personal use.

> **Mayor O'Neall** called for objection to the motion to WAIVE PROTEST on the application for a new manufacturer direct shipment license, and hearing none, declared the motion CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor O'Neall thanked the Chief of Staff and all employees who helped host the recent America 250 block party. She declared it a resounding success and added that she had heard accolades throughout the community. She reported having received numerous requests for the City to host an annual block party. She shared the sad news of 19-year Public Works employee Dan Flaherty passing away from cancer. She asked everyone to keep his family and coworkers in their thoughts.

Ms. Therrien asked if they had received any submissions for the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 123 Lacey Street project. **Mayor O'Neall** explained that the Procurement Officer manages that process and that she was not privy to any information until after the RFP submittal deadline.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Therrien expressed concern that the City had not responded to multiple attempts by a citizen to resolve problems relating to a potentially blighted and/or nuisance property. She reiterated that she would like it to be discussed at the next work session and that she would support amending the FGC if it was tying the Council's hands. She asked if the administration had any response in the works. **Mayor O'Neall** stated that she was not aware of any action other than the recent ordinance addressing blighted properties. She confirmed that she and staff can look further into the matter.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that the America 250 block party was indeed fun and that she was proud of all who had helped make it happen. She noted that Victor Buberge, who regularly attended and spoke at Council meetings, had not attended for a long time. She asked about his well-being.

Mr. Ringstad agreed that it was unacceptable for problem properties to go unaddressed. He asserted that finding an answer to the problem needed to be a priority.

Mr. Marney concurred and pointed out that the previous week an Alaska State Trooper shot someone on the same street. He stated that there is a problem and that not addressing it looks bad.

Ms. Tidwell echoed the praise for the block party and stated she hopes it becomes an annual event.

Ms. Therrien asked if the City Attorney could review the FGC and help guide the Council with what could be done to address the issues at 109 Fifth Avenue. **Mayor O'Neall** requested that Ms. Therrien first consider what she might like to see happen, then confer with the City Attorney.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Ordinance No. 6351 – An Ordinance Amending the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Second Time. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neall. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor O'Neall called for public testimony.

Nick Clark, Fire Department Battalion Chief – N. Clark spoke in support of the ordinance, noting the positive impact to the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD). He discussed changes implemented to allow for acting roles and cross-training to fill temporary absences of key positions. He pointed out that overtime at the firefighter level was almost nonexistent after the new positions were added in 2026. He spoke of historical overtime budgets and noted that this year's was well below what it probably should have been. He added that the ordinance would amend it to a reasonable level.

Mr. Ringstad asked N. Clark how many newly added positions had been filled. N. Clark stated he believes the only vacancy is the training officer position, with interviews already taking place.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she had heard that some newer employees at FFD are unhappy not to be getting a share of the overtime opportunities and asked N. Clark if he had also heard that. N. Clark indicated that he does not believe so and that the overall pulse at the department is much better than it was even just two years prior. He acknowledged that there is more work to do but reiterated that the major reduction in forced overtime was a big step in the right direction.

Timothy Zinza, City Engineer – T. Zinza spoke in support of the ordinance, noting its importance to the Engineering Department. He shared that the department had gone from 13 employees in 2015 to only eight currently—a bare minimum level to get things done. He reported that many of his staff are immensely overworked during the busy summer construction season.

Ms. Tidwell recalled a discussion at the last work session that the change would be cost-neutral, and she asked T. Zinza if that was correct. T. Zinza confirmed that it was. He explained the differences between the work and qualifications of positions in the department and how one highly qualified applicant would fit into the plan.

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

Mayor O'Neall asked Chief Financial Officer Margarita Bell to review the budget amendments.

CFO Bell provided details on the various changes in General Fund revenue and expenses contained within the ordinance. She noted that the Engineering budget included many projects which are reimbursable through the Alaska Department of Transportation (AKDOT). She noted that the end result, if the ordinance were adopted as it is written, would be a $24,000 budget surplus for the year, with an unassigned fund balance of approximately $11.8MM. CFO Bell reviewed the changes to the Capital Fund and reported that the estimated fund balance would be $7.9MM with around $4.26MM uncommitted, meeting the minimum requirement of $4MM.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6351.

Ms. Therrien asked why the $490,000 for State of Alaska municipal assistance figure had not been included in the original budget. CFO Bell explained that additional funds were committed by the State, that they had originally budgeted to only receive $85,000, and that this would bring the total line item to $575,000. **Mr. Ringstad** asked if the recent vetoes by the Governor would impact the amount. CFO Bell clarified that the vetoes were associated with energy assistance funding and should not affect the municipal assistance line item.

Mr. Cleworth asked CFO Bell to confirm that the Fire Chief has the ability, without requiring approval, to move salary savings from vacancies to cover overtime costs. CFO Bell confirmed that was correct. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if the proposed $600,000 increase in FFD overtime was her best guess to get the City through the end of 2026. CFO Bell indicated that it was. She clarified that the $600,000 was the additional amount necessary to get through December 31, while factoring in the use of salary savings. She stated the total overtime line item would be $1.2MM.

Mr. Ringstad recounted that the FFD's overtime had been ~$2.2MM in 2025 and asked for a breakdown of the 2026 FFD overtime. CFO Bell explained that the $1.2MM was a result of the original $400,000 budget, the additional $600,000 in the proposed ordinance, and about $200,000 in anticipated salary savings. **Mayor O'Neall** noted the substantial reduction from the prior year.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that she was under the impression that overtime would be significantly less after new positions were added. Fire Chief Andrew Coccaro stated that, as N. Clark had pointed out, there is very little overtime associated with the firefighter rank, which is the level at which the nine new positions were added. He added that FFD has also made positive changes to minimum staffing levels, as discussed heavily in the last couple years. He shared that the unforeseen circumstances leading to most of the overtime were due to significant adjustments to staff schedules, as three captains sustained serious injuries and another was on temporary leave for personal issues. He reported that recent efforts within the labor contract and collaboration between the Union and Mayor's Office had allowed for "acting captain" assignments to help reduce the budgetary impacts of the current captain shortage.

Mr. Ringstad asked Chief Coccaro if workers' compensation was being used. Chief Coccaro explained that not all of the injuries had occurred on duty and thus workers' compensation did not apply in each situation. CFO Bell added that those not eligible were using available leave.

Mr. Marney asked Chief Coccaro what involvement the Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) has when there is a serious injury. Chief Coccaro explained that the Union's collective bargaining agreement (CBA) allows members to donate leave to each other, although the injured personnel were long-time staff with significant leave hours accumulated. **Mr. Marney** asked Chief Coccaro if FFD could manage with only $300,000 in additional overtime funding. Chief Coccaro recalled the Council's desire to keep budget amendments to a minimum and stated that the lesser amount would likely result in having the same conversation again in a few months. He asserted that FFD would likely not make it to the end of the year with only an additional $300,000.

Ms. Sprinkle asked Chief Coccaro if, as a trade-off, the department could hold off on another large expense related to an ambulance. Chief Coccaro explained that capital equipment is budgeted through a different fund but that he was open to the discussion.

Ms. Therrien asked for details about the injuries and workers' compensation. Chief Coccaro stated that there had been a mix of on- and off-duty injuries and that some employees were on light duty. Chief of Staff (COS) Sanders cautioned about discussions pertaining to protected personnel matters.

Mr. Cleworth asked Chief Coccaro how many of the 12 captains were out of commission and how many were required per shift. Chief Coccaro stated that there were four out with injuries and that three captains were required per shift. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if the CBA allowed latitude for experienced staff to fill those roles in the interim. Chief Coccaro shared that the CBA did not include that provision at the start of 2026 and that after a rough few months, he, the Mayor, and Union representatives met to draft an update that would allow members with training to serve in an acting captain role. He reported that more people than ever were ready for such assignments.

Mayor O'Neall asked Chief Coccaro if the original adopted overtime budget included the full funding he had requested. Chief Coccaro recounted that he and the CFO had worked hard to come up with a realistic number to propose, which was eventually whittled down to $400,000 by the Council, a number which he declared would be difficult, if not impossible, to meet. He reiterated that the nine new firefighter positions had been huge, keeping them well below 2025 overtime levels, but that progress would be incremental, especially due to unforeseen injuries. He asserted that $400,000 had left very little room for life to happen.

Mr. Cleworth noted that $400,000 had traditionally been a solid number for FFD overtime, which ballooned to ~$2MM in recent years. He discussed his continued frustration with the issue as well as his concerns over the City's robust budget surplus disappearing way too quickly. He commented that having only a $24,000 surplus in July was very troubling. He pointed out that the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) has serious staffing shortages, yet they have been okay with their $100,000 overtime budget. **Mr. Cleworth** suggested that it would be prudent to postpone the ordinance to allow staff to identify adjustments so there would be a bottom line of at least $250,000. He expressed concern with covering another difficult winter for Public Works crews.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6351 to the Regular Meeting of July 27, 2026.

Ms. Therrien stated that she believes the administration had cut as much as they could and that she could not vote for postponement. She noted the importance of the change for the Engineering

Department, which would be reimbursed through grants, and stated that she supports the approach for acting captain assignments that had been worked out between the City and the Union.

Ms. Sprinkle asked CFO Bell if the City had ever made it through the second half of a year with only $24,000. CFO Bell stated that she had not experienced such a thing during her time as CFO. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked CFO Bell if that scared her. CFO Bell indicated that it did not, as she had already accounted for expected expenditures through the end of the year as well as additional incoming revenue. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked CFO Bell if she thought the Council would see another budget amendment. CFO Bell stated that she is hoping to have only one more amendment to true up the numbers, usually in November.

Mr. Ringstad suggested that if the CFO had confidence based on expectations for additional revenue for the year, it would be best if the Council had that same information. He stated that he would like more information on a variety of items as he does not know whether the requested numbers are the right amounts. He recalled that the Council had raised the mill rate a few weeks prior and increased property taxes under the auspice that the City would not have enough funds to cover its bills and that it might not sit well with some people to see a budget increase by over $1MM. He reiterated that he did not like making decisions with limited data.

Chief of Staff Sanders asserted that there were no new requests for expenses under the General Fund and that the administration had rejected any proposals. He discussed the requests for Information Technology (IT), noting that his biggest concern was the security maintenance agreement contract increase, which he desperately needed to get finalized.

Mr. Marney asked if was possible for the Council to cherry-pick some requests to approve presently while postponing others. **Mayor O'Neall** explained that the Council could make amendments to the proposed ordinance and introduce another ordinance later for any items not approved. She noted that the motion on the floor was for postponement.

Ms. Tidwell indicated a preference to approach the Council's concerns via amendments, to ensure the immediate needs were met rather than stall the entire ordinance.

Mr. Cleworth, with concurrence of the second, withdrew the motion to postpone.

Ms. Therrien stated that it was ironic that the Council had previously expressed a desire to not entertain budget amendments each quarter, yet that was likely what it would end up doing. She expressed a preference to amend the ordinance to include expected revenue increases if the CFO had information to back that. **Mayor O'Neall** confirmed that the ordinance had been held off for some time, partly to support the request for fewer budget amendments throughout the year.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6351 by only approving the following proposals:

- General Fund Revenue, all
- General Fund Expenditures, No. 2
- General Fund Expenditures, No. 3, first bullet point only
- General Fund Expenditures, No. 7
- Capital Fund Expenditures, all

Ms. Tidwell acknowledged that not approving the $200,000 increase to Public Works temporary salaries and benefits may be feasible for the present. She asked Chief Coccaro what would happen if the Council did not approve the $600,000 increase in FFD overtime. Chief Coccaro stated that FFD is already over budget by more than $200,000, that the number would only increase, and that the current request was what he and the CFO had determined would get them through the year. He explained that if no increase was approved, he would highly expect the Union to file a claim of an unfunded contract and take away many of the recently agreed-upon provisions, such as the allowance for acting captains, worsening the situation.

Ms. Sprinkle asked Chief Coccaro if FFD could manage a lesser increase of only $300,000. Chief Coccaro indicated that would not be sufficient.

Mayor O'Neall suggested that while a $24,000 surplus was uncomfortable, the City's bank account would not be that low. She asked what amount the Council would be comfortable with. **Ms. Sprinkle** indicated that $1MM would be her dream number. She reiterated that if the CFO had further information about expected revenue, that may change the conversation significantly. CFO Bell clarified that the City is $1.48MM over its required General Fund balance. COS Sanders added that there was indeed more than just $24,000 available, should any issues arise.

Ms. Therrien asked what would happen to City buildings if the Council did not approve the $200,000 increase for heating fuel, listed under General Fund – Expenditures No. 4. CFO Bell explained that a transfer of funds from elsewhere would be necessary to cover the heating costs, resulting in another plea to the City Council for enough funds to finish the year. She pointed out that the General Fund balance would be $11.8MM.

Ms. Sprinkle stated the overall situation brings her heartache, to see the City spending more than it is bringing in. She took comfort in knowing that the City has some cushion remaining beyond the $24,000. She expressed trust in the CFO's work.

Ms. Tidwell asked if the $11.8MM fund balance would be the General Fund balance if the proposed budget amendments were adopted. CFO Bell confirmed that it would be.

Mr. Ringstad stated that he is a firm believer in balanced budgets and understands the action of taking out savings to cover expenses. He reiterated his concern over the mill rate being increased based on claims that the City needed to cover its bills, only to now be increasing its bills. He expressed apprehension over counting on additional revenue without more details.

Ms. Therrien asked COS Sanders if he would have money to cover the IT line item for computer fiber services. COS Sanders stated that he could cover it until the next budget amendment.

Mayor O'Neall asked what the public would think if no one showed up when their house was on fire and other similar hypothetical scenarios. She suggested that it would be reasonable for the public to ask where taxpayer dollars are going. She added that she believes the budget issues relate back to an originally underfunded budget.

Ms. Sprinkle asked how soon the Council could consider another ordinance if they piecemealed the current proposals without approving everything. CFO Bell discussed the timeframe of additional budget amendments later in the year, noting the requirement for two readings. She also noted that the Council's hands may be further tied depending on how long they wait. She noted that other than the $2,000 request for contingency funds for the Diversity Council, every proposed item would be back before them before the end of the year.

Mr. Cleworth disagreed with the approach of Mr. Ringstad's amendment and stated he does not buy into the grim picture painted by the Mayor. He clarified his concern is that spending beyond the $24,000 surplus puts the City into the red and, to a degree, contradicts the City Charter. He acknowledged that the Council has the authority to dip into savings but that it would be the first time he had seen it done in his time with the City. He suggested that the amendment be withdrawn and the Council consider a few adjustments that would allow departments to proceed with their work while leaving a ~$250,000 surplus. He stated that a single change, reducing the FFD overtime to $326,000, would accomplish the goal. He spoke of the unpredictable nature of emergencies.

Mr. Ringstad, with concurrence of the second, withdrew the motion to amend.

Mayor O'Neall asserted that the ordinance was a response to the emergencies of the last six months, which had been unpredictable and unusual. She stated that the changes will stabilize the City's workforce through the end of the year. She commented that she has a hard time following the logic of waiting to address issues the Council knows will need to be dealt with in a few months.

Ms. Sprinkle supported allowing some flexibility, acknowledging that the Council recognizes there are necessary items that can be addressed later. **Mayor O'Neall** explained that the administration had already denied many other requests for non-essential matters and that the ordinance reflected what the CFO was comfortable with committing to.

Ms. Tidwell stated that it does not make sense to accomplish the desired surplus by cutting a single line item significantly. She pointed out that FFD overtime is tied to current operations, which they have little power to alter at this point, whereas needs for temporary snow removal labor is not a guaranteed need at this point. She suggested taking $100,000 away from both FFD overtime and Public Works temporary salaries and benefits for the winter season.

Ms. Therrien asked if salary savings could be used to cover some of the expenses. CFO Bell reviewed the limited salary savings. She explained why it would not be feasible within the current ordinance, as it would involve moving money from one department to another.

Ms. Tidwell, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6351 by reducing the increases for the Fire and Public Works Departments by $100,000 each.

Ms. Tidwell acknowledged the possibility that the City may not have early heavy snowfall. She stated that FFD could potentially trim overtime matters a little more. She asserted that if the desire was for a somewhat healthier bottom line, the adjustment would be a safer route.

Ms. Sprinkle expressed support for the amendment.

Mr. Cleworth suggested that gambling on Mother Nature is almost always futile and that Public Works will end up needing the funds. He stated it did not make sense to cut $100,000 from each line-item increase when one was three times the size of the other.

Mr. Marney recounted the safety net of $250,000 for snow removal that may be activated if the Mayor declares an emergency. COS Sanders commented that declaring an emergency is a significant matter. **Mr. Cleworth** noted that if the money is spent, FGC requires it to be replenished.

Ms. Therrien moved to SPLIT THE QUESTION, so that the reduction for each department could be considered individually. The motion died for lack of a second.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6351 BY REDUCING THE INCREASES FOR THE FIRE AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS BY $100,000 EACH AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mr. Cleworth discussed the Capital Fund request to increase the bathroom remodel project at City Hall. He acknowledged some work was needed in the women's restroom but was unsure of what was wrong with the men's restroom, and why almost half a million dollars would be needed to remodel the two spaces. COS Sanders explained that the urinal design in the men's restroom was long ago prohibited and that any work in City Hall, involving cutting into the concrete, must include the cost of materials being shipped away for proper disposal. He reported that they had been laughed at over the original project budget of $150,000. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if the City would be doing the work. COS Sanders stated the work would have to be contracted out.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6351, as Amended, by removing the $125,000 increase to City Hall upgrades for bathrooms under the Capital Fund.

Mr. Cleworth indicated a preference to put off the increase to the following year.

Mr. Ringstad asked if the money was slated to come out of uncommitted Capital funds. CFO Bell confirmed that was correct. **Mr. Ringstad** expressed frustration at how many projects were seeing significant increases over what was originally budgeted.

Ms. Therrien asked Councilmembers if they thought the cost would go down the following year. COS Sanders advised that as much as everyone loves the building, renovation work will always be expensive. He indicated that the cost for the bathroom remodel would only increase with time.

Mayor O'Neall discussed the importance of bathroom upgrades and suggested that if the Council was looking for some savings, the $400,000 increase to the heating system would be more feasible.

Mr. Ringstad asked what would happen if the published RFP revealed the project needed more funding. City Attorney Chard said the RFP is already out, there are no commitments yet, and the project depends on securing additional funds. COS Sanders added that the RFP is published and the challenge is that the project requires two contractors: one for the remodel and one for environmental remediation.

Ms. Sprinkle stated the bathrooms pose a safety concern for both the public and City Hall staff, and she suggested that others examine the women's restroom.

Ms. Tidwell noted that COS Sanders had mentioned that some materials were already purchased.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6351, AS AMENDED, BY REMOVING THE $125,000 INCREASE TO CITY HALL UPGRADES FOR BATHROOMS UNDER THE CAPITAL FUND AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mayor O'Neall spoke of the City Hall steam heat system project and indicated that even if the $400,000 increase is approved, the total project cost of over $5MM was more than the City could afford at present. CFO Bell confirmed that she does not believe the City is prepared to undertake the project at this time. She recommended that the Council commit but not spend the funds.

Mr. Ringstad asked if $5MM was already committed. CFO Bell confirmed that it was.

Ms. Therrien spoke in favor of committing the additional $400,000 for the project.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6351, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Sprinkle, Therrien, O'Neall
NAYS: Ringstad, Marney, Cleworth
Mayor O'Neall declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6351, as Amended, ADOPTED.

b) 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. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6352.

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

Ms. Sprinkle acknowledged that while the change would be helpful for some, the true number is unknown. She spoke of the tight budget and stated that she may not vote for reductions in revenue.

Ms. Therrien spoke in favor of the ordinance and the challenges facing those on SSI. She asserted that it would not have a big impact on the City but would mean a lot to those eligible. She suggested the Council could do away with it next year if the impact on the budget turned out to be too high.

Mr. Ringstad asked if the Borough had relevant data. CFO Bell stated she was provided data for the overall Borough but not specifically for city limits. **Mr. Ringstad** spoke against the ordinance.

Mr. Cleworth agreed with Ms. Sprinkle and Mr. Ringstad and spoke against the ordinance. He pointed out that making the change should actually require a budget amendment. He urged the Council to do everything it can to protect the bottom line given the current situation.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6352 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NEW BUSINESS

a) Resolution No. 5220 – A Resolution Authorizing Payment to Alaska Public Risk Alliance (APRA) for Municipal Insurance Coverage. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neall.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

b) Resolution No. 5221 – A Resolution in Support of the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Proposal to Divide the Fairbanks North Star Borough PM2.5 Nonattainment Area Into Two Zones: Fairbanks–Goldstream Valley and North Pole. Sponsored by Councilmember Cleworth.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

c) Resolution No. 5222 – A Resolution Approving the City of Fairbanks Police Department to Be the Fiduciary for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program for the Fairbanks Region. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neall.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

d) Resolution No. 5223 – A Resolution Responding to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Submitted for Public Comment to the Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning Policy Board, and Sharing Observations, Ideas, and Suggestions Pertaining to City of Fairbanks Projects and Planning Parameters. Sponsored by Councilmember Cleworth.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5223.

Mr. Cleworth shared a handout to review logistics and challenges in the downtown core. **Mayor O'Neall** requested that the Council try to keep its discussion limited to the scope of the resolution, which is whether to support the broader UPWP and the comments included in the resolution.

Mr. Cleworth explained that the wider one-way street design of Second Avenue allows for efficient garbage (dumpster) servicing as well as loading and unloading space for larger vehicles. He reported that problems have been nonexistent since the design change many years prior. He discussed how converting both Third and Fourth Avenue to two-way streets would result in significant parking loss and be a large economic hit to businesses in the area. He cited the unique challenges of Fifth Avenue, with the school district's administrative building, and how the current setup has worked well. He asserted that the focus downtown should be on improving sidewalks and referenced photos in the handout. He reported that Engineering provided an estimate of $1MM to convert an intersection to two-way and noted that there would be five intersections.

Mayor O'Neall interjected that information was not in the handout. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed frustration at having his presentation interrupted. **Mayor O'Neall** indicated that Mr. Cleworth's comments were off topic. **Mr. Cleworth** reiterated that the cost of the proposed changes was staggering and was relevant to the topic at hand. **Mayor O'Neall** asserted that the opinions and details he was sharing were beyond the scope of what had been publicly noticed and that she appreciates respect for the Chair. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that, in this case, he does not have respect for the Chair and recounted that over the past year there had been numerous instances of him being shut down when trying to speak. **Mayor O'Neall** noted that Robert's Rules of Order provides the Chair oversight on such decisions. **Mr. Cleworth** reiterated that the subject of the UPWP and resolution included a study of converting one-way streets to two-way and that everything he was sharing was to highlight how that would be a waste of time. **Mayor O'Neall** asked Mr. Cleworth to limit his comments to the plan and why he is opposed to it rather than making assumptions based on history. **Mr. Cleworth** noted that the last time such a study was done was 15 years ago, and the result was that the changes would cost $10MM. **Mayor O'Neall** indicated that she would challenge that assertion. **Mr. Cleworth** referenced the last page of his handout which was a letter to the City Mayor in September 2020 from Patty Mongold, President and CEO of Mt. McKinley Bank, addressing concerns about considerations to change street planning without engaging businesses and other stakeholders. He suggested that any potential changes involve stakeholders.

Ms. Tidwell stated that she respects Mr. Cleworth's opinion but noted that FAST Planning's job is to explore ideas for the benefit of the community and that a downtown traffic study is absolutely within their scope. She stated that it was fascinating that so many people showed up to speak against two-way streets when no such project is being proposed. **Ms. Tidwell** explained that she speaks on behalf of the City in her role as a member of the FAST Planning Policy Board while keeping her own opinions out of the conversation. She pointed out that those meetings are publicly noticed and often include opportunities for public testimony. She suggested that the resolution was inappropriate, that it was important for FAST Planning to be free to do their job, and that many items in the UPWP were a result of public input. She added that if a traffic study comes back with a recommendation for something like a two-way street conversion, at that time she would consider it appropriate for the Council to take up a resolution expressing support or opposition to the plan.

Ms. Sprinkle expressed concern that the resolution was more personal than it should be. She discussed her own involvement with FAST Planning over the years and how plans can evolve significantly as projects progress. She spoke against publicly funded projects changing on a whim. She acknowledged that she also has personal opinions on how certain streets should be set up downtown but agreed with Ms. Tidwell that FAST Planning's job is to perform planning studies such as this. She stated she would like to see the city come into the 21st century.

Mr. Cleworth reiterated that his concern is that this is not a new idea. He recounted that the subject of two-way streets downtown had been brought up during the Vision Fairbanks plan, which ultimately fell apart. He reported that the Borough Community Planning Director had also been opposed to including the idea in the plan at that time. **Ms. Sprinkle** suggested that there may be a difference in the context of how they view things but that she is curious to see what a study would provide. **Mr. Cleworth** repeated that there is no logistical way to implement the changes without losing a lot of parking. **Ms. Sprinkle** offered that FAST Planning may come to that same conclusion but that they cannot know until the study is done. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the same thing had been said before and he is tired of revisiting the issue.

Mr. Marney asked who would pay for a traffic study. **Mayor O'Neall** replied that it is covered through federal and state funding. She explained that the City's commitment only comes when a particular project is proposed and the Council considers whether it will provide matching funds. **Mr. Marney** expressed concern over the commitments the City has to other projects. **Mayor O'Neall** stated there are different pots of money and not all projects are funded by the same source.

Ms. Sprinkle pointed out that FAST Planning contributes a significant amount of money to the Engineering Department's budget, that they do a lot for the City, and that the City has multiple representatives serving on the organization's various boards and committees.

Ms. Tidwell explained that if a project was proposed, the Council would determine whether to support or oppose it. She reiterated the need to allow FAST Planning to do its job.

Mr. Cleworth recounted that many years ago a confrontational meeting occurred between the Engineering Department and FAST Planning staff over bike paths. He suggested that having the City Engineer and Public Works Director involved, with the opportunity to weigh in on which ideas are feasible and which are not, helps curtail potential animosity.

Ms. Therrien opposed the resolution and recommended that Mr. Cleworth express his thoughts directly to FAST Planning when there is opportunity for public comment. She stated that she does not have the expertise to weigh on such matters and trusted that those who do are the ones involved in FAST Planning. She shared that she found it interesting that the Downtown Association had expressed interest in two-way streets while many businesses had opposed the idea.

Ms. Sprinkle noted that the Engineering Department is represented on both the Policy Board and on Technical Committees at FAST Planning.

Mayor O'Neall spoke of effective, clear communication across the board at FAST Planning and their commitment to avoid problems through robust partnerships.

Mr. Ringstad shared that he very much supported keeping the street designs as they are downtown and that he supported the resolution. He explained that because he could not support some of what was being suggested, he would not want to see money spent on such a study. He acknowledged that the Council would likely support other things that come out of the work, but if the Council knew it may oppose something in the end, it should go ahead and say no up front.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5223 AS FOLLOWS:

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

a) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2026

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

b) Special Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2026

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

c) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2026

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

d) Special Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2026 (Reconvened on March 3, 2026)

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

e) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2026

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

f) Appointment to the Fairbanks Parking Authority Board of Directors

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

g) Appointment to the Clay Street Cemetery Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

h) Reappointment to the Clay Street Cemetery Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

i) Appointment to the Fairbanks Diversity Council

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Sprinkle shared photos of the recent painting project at the intersection of Trainor Gate Road near Tanana Middle School. She explained that pylons were also installed to slow down vehicles in the busy intersection that many children cross. She explained that it was a temporary measure.

Ms. Therrien discussed the upcoming Summer Legislative Conference of the Alaska Municipal League. She spoke highly of the block party at City Hall. She expressed concern about people sleeping in public areas after recently seeing someone passed out with an open alcohol bottle.

Mr. Marney acknowledged the short time he had left in his term on the Council and stated that he would be putting focus on 109 Fifth Avenue to ensure something is done.

Mr. Cleworth thanked Public Works for making the streets downtown spotless. He admitted that he did not expect his resolution to pass but was grateful that the information was being discussed. He confirmed that he and other concerned business owners would testify to FAST Planning at the appropriate time. He mentioned that one shared goal for downtown is to maintain parking options. He expressed appreciation for the Trainor Gate Road work and noted that a major part of the traffic would be eliminated when Fort Wainwright eventually closes that gate.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider shared that the candidate filing period for the regular election would open on July 15.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard stated that he had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ENTER into Executive Session to discuss IBEW/COF Labor Negotiations: Guidance from Council and *Chapman v. COF*: Guidance from Council.

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

Mayor O'Neall called for a recess at 9:39 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 9:47 p.m. Those present were Mayor O'Neall; Councilmembers Cleworth, Therrien, Tidwell, Marney, Ringstad, and Sprinkle; Clerk Snider; Attorney Chard; Chief of Staff Sanders; and CFO Bell. The sessions concluded at 10:42 p.m.

Mr. Cleworth stated the Council met in Executive Session to provide guidance on IBEW/COF Labor Negotiations and *Chapman v. COF*. He affirmed that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor O’Neall declared the meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

____
MINDY O’NEALL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

____
D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC

FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JULY 27, 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'Neall 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 (remotely) Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director Timothy Zinza, City Engineer Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director Brenda Geier, FECC Operations Manager Brenda McFarlane, Community Response Coordinator Shannon Lam, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Shane Wooley, 2026 Summer Fellow (Mayor's Office)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

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

CEREMONIAL MATTERS (Proclamations, Introductions, Recognitions, Awards)

a) Reading of a Proclamation in Honor of Dan Flaherty

Mayor O'Neall read a proclamation honoring Dan Flaherty, a longtime Public Works employee who had recently lost a battle with cancer. She declared August 8, 2026 as "Dan Flaherty Day" and presented a framed copy of the proclamation to members of D. Flaherty's family.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Brandy Husband – B. Husband asked that the City review traffic control plans for the Golden Days Parade as access to her street had been completely blocked off, with no notice provided. She reported that a recent outdoor concert at The Spur was so loud it was heard and felt in her home. She suggested the Council consider establishing decibel limits for events as other cities have done.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that she had not heard about loud concerts from The Spur before and asked if it was a new thing. B. Husband confirmed it was new, with one other instance recently.

Gary Jenkins – G. Jenkins spoke favorably of the City's recent America 250 Block Party which he and his family had enjoyed. He discussed the significance of the country's founding values and read a portion of the beginning of the Declaration of Independence.

Ms. Therrien noted that similar events had been held throughout the United States at the same time and asked if he enjoyed the Air Force flyover. G. Jenkins stated that he did.

Mr. Cleworth shared that the Council has an annual tradition of reading the Bill of Rights at the last meeting in December and invited him to attend.

Dereck Dickinson (via Zoom) – D. Dickinson reported continued concerning activities at 109 Fifth Avenue since he and a neighbor, Victoria Dowling, last addressed the Council on the matter *[see the Regular Meetings Minutes of July 13, 2026]*. He shared that an altercation between individuals had occurred, with a hatchet being used to smash various objects. He asked what is being done about the numerous instances of criminal activity and blighted properties in the area. He asserted that the quality of life in his neighborhood had declined significantly.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Cleworth pulled item 14(c), Ordinance No. 6353, from the consent agenda.

> **Mayor O'Neall** called for objection to the motion to APPROVE the agenda and the consent agenda, as amended, and hearing none, declared the motion CARRIED.

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

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic.	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
3467	Lin's Asian Bistro	Restaurant/Eating Place	Lin's Panda Garden, Inc.	1900 Airport Way

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

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

There was no discussion.

> **Mayor O'Neall** called for objection to the motion to WAIVE PROTEST on the alcohol license application for renewal, and hearing none, declared the motion CARRIED.

b) The Fairbanks City Council held a public hearing and considered the following alcohol license application for transfer of location and ownership:

Type/License:	Beverage Dispensary, License 727
To DBA:	8 Star Events Center
To Owner:	8 Star Events Center, LLC
To Location:	1485 30th Avenue
From DBA:	Lavelle's Bistro (license surrendered)
From Owner:	Café de Paris Catering Company
From Location:	575 1st Avenue

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

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the alcohol license application for transfer of location and ownership.

There was no discussion.

> **Mayor O'Neall** called for objection to the motion to WAIVE PROTEST on the alcohol license application for transfer of location and ownership, and hearing none, declared the motion CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor O'Neall shared that Owen Ackerman has been serving as a Community Response and Reentry Coordination Intern for the summer, working with the warming center. She invited him and Community Response Coordinator Brenda McFarlane to provide a report.

O. Ackerman shared an update on the City Ambassador program, noting that 26 volunteers had contributed a combined 150 hours so far over the summer. He discussed the positive feedback and a high average rating, through their post-shift surveys, of feeling safe. He added that various local nonprofit organizations had also been involved and that businesses owners had reported a perceived slight improvement on the common problems within the downtown area. O. Ackerman also provided an update on the Golden Heart Step Up Challenge.

Ms. Sprinkle asked about the program's footprint. O. Ackerman explained that volunteers keep to the downtown area and that some also attend downtown events as a City Ambassador.

Mr. Marney asked what hours the program runs. O. Ackerman stated that they leave it open to volunteers to choose their schedules, with a requested minimum shift length of two hours. He reported that most serve in the afternoon on weekdays. B. McFarlane shared that any time between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. is available for sign-up. She praised O. Ackerman for his consistent 20 hours of internship each week, noting that the City would not have been able to facilitate the programs in place without his contributions.

B. McFarlane provided an update on the progress to offer a warming shelter for the coming winter. She explained that the Northern Hope Center (NHC) was offering its new location on Twelfth Avenue and shared details about the supportive landlord as well as plans for security. She discussed the various organizations committed to providing services and added that Pete Pinney at the North Star Community Foundation (NSCF) had offered to take the lead on applying for funds for any involved organizations. She reviewed a handout that outlined additional details.

Ms. Tidwell asked where NHC had been located previously. B. McFarlane shared that the organization had been across the street from City Hall.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for more details on the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) grant. B. McFarlane shared that the application made it past the first round of the process and their chances are good, given that mobile, integrated health is the primary focus of the program.

Mr. Cleworth asked about the protocol for grant requests with the Rasmuson Foundation. B. McFarlane described the typical process but noted that the Foundation had dedicated money set aside for housing and homelessness initiatives, making certain funding decisions available through an expedited procedure. She reiterated that NSCF would be the main applicant.

Ms. Therrien, referencing the handout, asked what was being asked of the Council. B. McFarlane clarified that she was seeking the Council's understanding that certain programs may not be able to start as soon as they like without direct funding, as several of the grants would not be disbursed until later in 2026 or even 2027. **Ms. Therrien** acknowledged that NHC was referenced as a viable location for the coming year but asked if there was any update on plans for a permanent solution. B. McFarlane shared that a group had been formed to pursue a long-term location but that there were no current proposals as the focus was on the coming winter.

Mr. Ringstad asked if the plan would require additional Community Paramedic (CP) staffing. B. McFarlane confirmed that the grant application included funding to provide 24/7 CP coverage, as their plan would require more than the two existing positions. **Mr. Ringstad** acknowledged that the CP program had been working well and asked if this would increase the cost to the City. B. McFarlane explained that it would not and clarified that any assistance provided by certain City staff at the facility would be treated as an in-kind contribution.

Mr. Marney asked what the capacity would be for NHC's new location. B. McFarlane reported that the occupancy limit is listed as 120 but that they plan to tour the space with the Fire Department to determine a more accurate number.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the building was equipped with a fire suppression system. B. McFarlane confirmed that she had seen overhead sprinkler heads.

Ms. Tidwell thanked B. McFarlane for her work, noting the incredible progress with so many invested entities collaborating. She recounted that homelessness was one of the Council's top priorities and stated that she would be happy to sponsor a resolution in support of the project.

Mayor O'Neall thanked O. Ackerman and B. McFarlane for their continued dedication.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Therrien spoke highly of the Golden Days Parade and the newspaper's coverage of the recent World Eskimo-Indian Olympics.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she had received a text from someone involved with the sound setup for the concert at The Spur, which explained that they had made a change to the acoustics layout from the previous show. She stated that she could follow up on the matter.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Resolution No. 5224 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Great Northwest, Inc. for the Moore Street Senior Apartment Parking Lot Improvements in the Amount of $416,741.00. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neall.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

b) Resolution No. 5225 – A Resolution of the Fairbanks City Council to Counter Challenge the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly to a Friendly Miniature Golf Match. Sponsored by Councilmember Sprinkle.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

c) Ordinance No. 6353 – An Ordinance Amending the Local Amendments to the 2018 International Fire Code Adopted by Reference at Fairbanks General Code Section 30-32, Creating Appeal Procedures. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neall.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6353.

Mr. Cleworth noted that the ordinance would establish a system where an order related to a fire inspection by the Deputy Fire Marshal could be appealed to the Fire Chief, and an order by the Fire Chief could be appealed to the State Fire Marshal. He suggested another route, where an impartial audience, outside of the system, could hear the matter. He suggested that this could be the existing Building Code & Landscape Review & Appeals Commission, with its great expertise, or even the Mayor or City Council. He clarified he was not seeking amendments presently but would like to consider the idea at the next work session.

City Attorney Chard acknowledged the desire for an outside, neutral arbiter. He advised that the other proposed language in Section 109.1 could also benefit from additional clarification if the Council chose to add an additional process as had been suggested.

Ms. Sprinkle pointed out that if the Council was added as a part of the appeal process, its meeting schedule may not work within appeal timelines.

Ms. Therrien asked if the State Fire Marshal's Office was aware of the ordinance. Attorney Chard confirmed that they were and that they had agreed to the proposed process.

Mr. Ringstad asked if the Council had the authority to tell a State employee what to do. Attorney Chard reiterated that the State Fire Marshal's Office had been asked and had agreed to review appeals as a courtesy. He explained that the Fire Chief conducts very few inspections, thus the number of potential appeals to the State would be limited. He noted that there is an existing relationship and oversight as the Fairbanks Fire Department operates under the delegated authority of the State Fire Marshal's Office. **Mr. Ringstad** asked if the agreement should be referenced within the ordinance. Attorney Chard stated that he would defer to the Fire Chief on the matter.

> **Mayor O'Neall** called for objection to the motion to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6353 and, hearing none, declared the motion CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Therrien spoke of the continued Special Sessions by the Alaska Legislature over the proposed liquid natural gas line as well as upcoming meetings with the Alaska Municipal League.

Mr. Cleworth recounted that Fairbanks last hosted the Arctic Winter Games in 2014 and shared that the North Pole Mayor was sponsoring a resolution to request hosting consideration again in the future. He suggested the administration reach out and potentially draft a similar resolution.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce had also been discussing a desire to host the Arctic Winter Games again and that she could follow up with them for an update.

Mr. Marney noted that the Council had not heard from the Building Official in some time and asked if he could provide a report on his department's progress at an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Tidwell stated that the Golden Days events of the past weekend were fantastic for the community, especially seeing the large turnout for the parade.

Mayor O'Neall acknowledged the significant work by multiple departments that goes into preparing for and cleaning up after such large community events and thanked everyone involved.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider noted that the candidate filing period for the regular election would close on July 29.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard shared having read that the Golden Days parade was the largest parade in Alaska and provided a brief history.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ENTER into Executive Session for:

a) Legal Guidance to Council: 109 5th Avenue [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(3)]

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

Mayor O'Neall called for a recess at 7:23 p.m., then the Council reconvened in Executive Session.

The Executive Sessions began at 7:35 p.m. Those present were Mayor O'Neall; Councilmembers Cleworth, Therrien, Tidwell, Marney, Ringstad and Sprinkle; Clerk Snider; Attorney Chard; Chief of Staff Sanders; CFO Bell; Code Compliance Officer Jarrod Zerbe; Fire Chief Coccaro; Police Chief Dupee; Human Resources Director Merritt; Public Works Director Cotter; and Building Official Falke. The session concluded at 8:51 p.m.

Mr. Cleworth stated the Council met in Executive Sessions for Legal Guidance to Council: 109 5th Avenue. He affirmed that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

> **Mayor O'Neall** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor O'Neall declared the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

____
MINDY O'NEALL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

____
D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC

Sponsored by: Mayor O'Neall
Date: July 27, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 6353

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE ADOPTED BY REFERENCE AT FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE SECTION 30-32, CREATING APPEAL PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks Fire Department operates under the authority of the State Fire Marshal as a deferred jurisdiction per AS 18.70.090 and 13 AAC 50.075; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska partially adopted the International Fire Code (IFC) by reference under the authority of AS 18.70.080 at 13 AAC 50.025; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks City Council adopted the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC) and local amendments by reference at FGC Sec. 30-31 and Sec. 30-32, respectively, through Ordinance No. 6158 (effective April 17, 2021); and

WHEREAS, Section 102.11 of the IFC allows for local amendments; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska prescribes procedures at 13 AAC 50.070(e) for appealing a decision of the State Fire Marshal's authorized representative; and

WHEREAS, the definition of State Fire Marshal's representative at 13 AAC 55.150(c) includes the fire chief of a deferred jurisdiction.

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

Section 1. The City of Fairbanks Local Amendments to the 2018 International Fire Code, adopted by reference in Fairbanks General Code at Section 30-32, is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~ font]:

SECTION 109
~~BOARD OF~~ APPEALS

109.1 ~~Board~~ **Procedures** ~~of~~ **for** appeals established.

~~In order~~ **The following procedures are established** to hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the **deputy** fire ~~code official~~ **marshal** **and fire chief** relative to the application and interpretation of this code**.**~~, there shall be and is hereby created a board of appeals. The board of appeals shall be appointed by the governing body and shall hold office at its pleasure. The fire code official shall be an ex officio member of said board but shall not have a vote on any matter before the board. The board shall adopt rules of procedure for conducting its business, and shall render all~~

~~decisions and findings in writing to the appellant with a duplicate copy to the fire code official.~~

<u>If an order is made by the deputy fire marshal, the owner or occupant may, within seven days after receiving the order, file a written appeal to the fire chief who will, within 10 days after receiving the appeal, review the order, and issue a written decision. The appeal must be postmarked within seven days following the date of receipt of the order. The order must be complied with within the time specified in the order unless the deputy fire marshal revokes the order. The fire chief's decision on an appeal under this provision is a final order for purposes of AS 18.70.100(b).</u>

<u>If an order is made by the fire chief, the owner or occupant may, within seven days after receiving the order, file a written appeal to the state fire marshal who will, within 10 days after receiving the appeal, review the order, and issue a written decision. The appeal must be postmarked within seven days following the date of receipt of the order. The order must be complied with within the time specified in the order unless the fire chief revokes the order. The state fire marshal's decision on an appeal under this provision is a final order for purposes of AS 18.70.100(b).</u>

109.2 Limitations on ~~authority~~ **<u>appeal</u>**.

An application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the intent of this code or the rules legally adopted hereunder have been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of this code do not fully apply, or an equivalent method of protection or safety is proposed. ~~The board shall not have authority to waive requirements of this code.~~

~~109.3 Qualifications.~~

~~The board of appeals shall consist of members who are qualified by experience and training to pass on matters pertaining to hazards of fire, explosions, hazardous conditions or fire protection systems, and are not employees of the jurisdiction.~~

<u>Section 2</u>. The effective date of this ordinance is six days after adoption.

<u>Section 3</u>. Upon adoption, the City Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this ordinance to the State Fire Marshal's Office with our sincere gratitude for his continued dedication to fire protection and support for the City of Fairbanks.

____
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

Sponsored by: Mayor O'Neall
Date: August 10, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 5226

A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO BRAUN NORTHWEST INC TO REMOUNT AN AMBULANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF $275,014

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 Braun Northwest Inc through a cooperative purchasing agreement to remount an ambulance in the amount of $275,014.00 that meets the specifications required by the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to contract with Braun Northwest Inc in the amount of two hundred seventy-five thousand fourteen dollars and zero cents ($275,014.00); and

WHEREAS, funding was approved in the Capital Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the Mayor or her designee is authorized to execute a contract to remount an ambulance by Braun Northwest Inc in the amount of $275,014.00.

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

____
Mindy L. O'Neall, Mayor

YEAS:
NAYS:
ABSENT
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

____
D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

____
Thomas A Chard II, City Attorney

CITY OF FAIRBANKS
FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST:

Ordinance or Resolution No: 5226

Abbreviated Title: AWARDING CONTRACT TO BRAUN NORTHWEST FOR AN AMBULANCE

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
AMBULANCE (REMOUNT)	$275,014
TOTAL	**$275,014**

FUNDING SOURCE:	TOTAL
CAPITAL FUND (FIRE)	$275,014
TOTAL	**$275,014**

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 7/31/2026

Sponsored by: Mayor O'Neall
Date: August 10, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 5227

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS RISK APPETITE STATEMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Fairbanks is committed to protecting its employees, residents, assets, systems, and reputation through a structured, proactive approach to risk management; and

WHEREAS, risk is an inherent part of providing public services and achieving strategic objectives; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to understand, manage, and accept appropriate levels of risk while protecting public resources, maintaining public trust, and ensuring the delivery of essential services; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of aligning risk acceptance decisions with its mission, values, and fiduciary responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Fairbanks as follows:

__Section 1.__ The City of Fairbanks adopts the following Risk Appetite Statement:

- The City maintains a **low-risk appetite** for activities that could result in:
  - Injury or loss of life to employees, residents, or visitors
  - Violations of federal, state, or local laws or regulations
  - Fraud, unethical conduct, or misuse of public funds
  - Significant cybersecurity incidents, data breaches, or loss of critical information
  - Material disruption of essential municipal services
  - Damage to the City's reputation or public confidence

- The City maintains a **moderate-risk appetite** for activities that:
  - Improve operational efficiency and effectiveness
  - Modernize technology and business processes
  - Enhance service delivery to residents
  - Support workforce development and organizational improvement
  - Advance long-term strategic goals and community priorities

- The City maintains a **higher-risk appetite** for carefully evaluated opportunities that:
  - Promote economic development and community growth
  - Encourage innovation and pilot programs
  - Pursue grant funding, partnerships, or new service models
  - Create long-term value for residents with appropriate safeguards

- All significant risks shall be evaluated based on potential impacts to:
  - Public safety
  - Legal compliance
  - Financial stability
  - Operational continuity
  - Cybersecurity
  - Public trust

Risk acceptance decisions must be proportional to the anticipated benefits and consistent with the City's mission, values, and fiduciary responsibilities.

Section 2. This resolution is effective six days after adoption.

____
Mindy O’Neall, Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

____
D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

____
Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

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'Neall, Mayor
FROM: Christina Rowlett, Risk Manager/Purchasing Agent
SUBJECT: Q2 2026 Sole Source Procurement Notification
DATE: July 24, 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
Yukon Equipment 3511 International Street Fairbanks, AK 99701 www.yukoneq.com	Boom Flail Mower attachment, ZB457-1	Must match existing piece of equipment, available only from same source of original equipment.	$61192.08
Kinney Engineering, LLC 100 Cushman Street, Suite 311 Fairbanks, AK 99701 www.kinneyeng.com	Left-Turn warrant analysis for the intersection of Trainor Gate Rd. and F Street.	Specialized traffic engineering experience needed to perform this warrant analysis.	$23730.00
Deep Forest Security/ Alaska Communication Systems https://deepforestsecurity.com	Aide in the development of a Cyber Risk Strategy and Security Management plan	Deep Forest Security conducted a full cybersecurity assessment and have the knowledge and skills to follow-up	$49916.67
Freedom Outfitting 4660 S. 33rd Street Phoenix, AZ 85040 www.freedomoutfitting.com	Purchase of 2024 Ford Silver Police Interceptor SUV, fully police road ready demo vehicle.	Sale demo vehicle already in Alaska significantly less than new and never used in service, only demo.	$51000.00
Colaska, Inc. dba Exclusive Paving PO Box 60750 Fairbanks, AK 99701 https://colaska.com	Emergency repair of sinkhole located in the ravel lane of Cushman St and 4th Avenue.	Exclusive was currently under contract for Shannon Drive Utility Improvement project (ITB-26-04)	*

City of Fairbanks *Risk Management/Purchasing*

800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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

Vendor Name/Address	Description	Justification	Amount
Colaska, Inc. dba Exclusive Paving PO Box 60750 Fairbanks, AK 99701 https://colaska.com	Aurora Energy is repairing steam and condensate mains on Kennicott Ave between Bluebell and Ash Streets. During the project they identified a corrugated steel pipe storm drain that was damaged prior to these repairs.	Exclusive was currently mobilized and performing work at the project site for Aurora Energy.	**
Securitas Security Services USA, Inc. 4060 B Street Anchorage, AK 99503	Provide on-site night security to the Golden Heart Plaza	Securitas has prior experience providing downtown nighttime security and has maintained reasonable rates without significant increases.	$65000.00

* Currently waiting on invoice for the costs associated with this repair.
** Estimated at around $10K, repairs expected to be completed by 7/24/26.

City of Fairbanks
Permanent Fund Review Board
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2026

The Permanent Fund Review Board (PFRB) convened at 1:31 p.m. in the Meeks Conference Room to conduct a quarterly meeting with Alaska Permanent Capital Management (APCM).

Board Member Present: Chair Patty Mongold
Vice Chair Bernard Gatewood
Board Member Dave Owen
Board Member Kimberly McGinnis
Council Member Valerie Therrien (online)

Board Member Absent: None

Also Present: Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
Blake Phillips, Director of Institutional Solutions - APCM
Brandy Niclai, Chief Investment Officer – APCM

Bernard Gatewood moved, and Dave Owen seconded to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2026, meeting. The PFRB unanimously agreed.

Margarita Bell reviewed the portfolio's performance as of March 31, 2026:

- $ 167,308,252 - Balance including accrued income
- $ 620,668 - Dividends and interest earnings
- $ 1,149,577 - Realized gain
- $ (521,184) – Unrealized loss
- $ (26,120) - Management and custodial fees
- $ 1,222,941 - Earnings, net of expenses

Margarita Bell reported that the 2026 annual draw will be made in December 2026 in the amount of $6,713,453 to the general fund ($5,967,514) and capital fund ($745,939).

Blake Phillips reported that the balance of the fund was $173.5 million as of April 13, 2026.

Blake Phillips presented an account summary as of March 31, 2026. He stated that APCM inception annualized account return is 5.99% and that the annualized account return as of March 2017 since the diversification beyond traditional stocks and bonds is 7.33%. Since APCM inception, the portfolio received contributions of $110.8 million, had withdrawals of $136.3 million, and had $192.5 million in earnings.

Brandy Niclai reported that market performance was largely driven by the energy shock tied to the Iran conflict. She stated that United States equities lagged during the period while commodities and energy sensitive assets performed the strongest.

Brandy Niclai presented a portfolio review for the first quarter. The allocation effect was positive by a slight overweight in commodities which developed as oil prices moved higher. The selection effect benefited from allocations to semiconductor chips and outperformed Alternative Beta.

The first quarter portfolio summary is as follows:

Portfolio Summary											
1st Quarter			Year to Date			Prior Year			Inception to Date		
Account	Benchmark		Account	Benchmark		Account	Benchmark		Account	Benchmark	
0.60%	0.40%		-4.10%	-4.20%		13.90%	13.40%		6.00%	5.80%	
	0.13%	1		0.13%	2		0.50%	3			
0.60%	0.53%		-4.10%	-4.08%		13.90%	13.90%		6.00%	5.80%	

1 - 12.5 bps - per quarter rounded
2 - 50 bps hurdle -annual (YTD = 12.5 basis pts X # quarters)
3 - 50 bps hurdle codified in March 2009. Inception performance begins January 31, 1998.

Brandy Niclai reported that credit markets remain stable and are not signaling a meaningful increase in recession risk. Equity markets are reacting to uncertainty around inflation, policy, and earnings. She also reported that geopolitical events tend to cause short-term volatility but have not resulted in sustained market declines and that the broader economic backdrop remains more resilient than in typical pre-recession environments.

PFRB reviewed the memorandum summarizing council special work session on February 23, 2026, requesting targeted returns of 8.0% to 9.0%. Brandy Niclai reported that to achieve 8.0% to 9.0% returns the city would need to add private markets to the current investment policy and that the city needs to consider that there is a level when risk does not produce the returns.

Brandy Niclai presented the annual strategic plan that considers the goal of asset preservation and budgetary stability as stated within city code. She reported that the current portfolio allocation is performing better than other portfolios. Valerie Therrien requested that a comparison report be provided at the next meeting. Brandy Niclai stated that she will prepare a new portfolio allocation with the highest risk with no private market exposure that is within the threshold level for review at the next meeting.

The compliance report was presented to the PFRB with no compliance issues.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled to be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, in the Meeks Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Chena Riverfront Commission
April 22, 2026
12:00 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Chena Riverfront Commission was held Wednesday, April 22, 2026, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

B. ROLL CALL

There were present:

Stacey Fritz	Christy Everett
Josephine Morgan	Tracy Vanairsdale
Annette Freiburger	Robert Henszey, Vice-Chair
Wade Binkley, Chair	

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

John Roder, Alaska Railroad Corporation Representative, Ex Officio Member
Kimberly Diamond, Parks Project Coordinator, Ex Officio Member
John Netardus, AK DOT&PF Representative, Ex Officio Member
Kellen Spillman, Community Planning Director, Ex Officio Member
Anduin K. McElroy, Planner III
Donald Galligan, Transportation Planner IV
Aurora Marhenke, Assistant Clerk I

Members Excused

Julie Jones	Buki Wright

C. MESSAGES

C.1. Chair's Comments

Chair Binkley praised the substance of the meeting agenda and thanked staff for all their preparations.

C.2. Citizens' Comments - limited to three (3) minutes

MESSAGES – continued

C.2.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

NONE

C.2.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

NONE

C.3. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (*) on the agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such a request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

FREIBURGER, Seconded by HENSZEY	moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda, as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA, AS READ.

Yeses:	Vanairsdale, Morgan, Freiburger, Everett, Fritz, Henszey, Binkley
Noes:	None
MOTION CARRIED	7 Yeses, 0 Noes

E. MINUTES

E.1. *Chena Riverfront Commission meeting minutes from January 28, 2026.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

F. REPORTS

F.1. Communications to the Chena Riverfront Commission.

REPORTS – continued

Kellen Spillman, Community Planning Director, and Anduin McElroy, Planner III, communicated upcoming agenda items.

F.2. Update on the Chena Riverfront Commission project list.

Anduin McElroy, Planner III, reported on the status of the Chena Riverfront Commission project list and gathered feedback from the commissioners.

F.3. Updates from John Ringstad, City of Fairbanks Representative, on City of Fairbanks riverfront projects.

John Ringstad, City of Fairbanks Representative, was not present to provide a report.

F.4. Updates from John Netardus, AK DOT&PF Representative, on Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AK DOT&PF) riverfront projects.

John Netardus, AK DOT&PF Representative, provided updates on the following:

- Chena River Walk, Stage III.
- Cowles Street Reconstruction.
- Fairbanks Airport Area Non-Motorized Path Wayfinding Signage.
- FAST Area Surface Upgrades FFY2025 – Stage 2.
- Pioneer Park Boat Launch/Parking/Plug-ins & Peger Road Path (P6) Project.
- FAST ADA improvements: Shared-Use Path Resurfacing.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1. Discussion with Community Planning staff and approval of a letter of support to either the FAST Planning Policy Board, City of Fairbanks, FNSB Assembly, or FNSB Mayor, on the location and design of the Chena Riverwalk – Phase III Project.

Kellen Spillman, Community Planning Director; Anduin McElroy, Planner III; Donald Galligan, Transportation Planner IV; and Olivia Lunsford, FAST Transportation Planner, presented a staff report and recommended approval of the letter of support.

HENSZEY,
Seconded by FREIBURGER

moved to approve a letter of support on the location and design of the Chena Riverwalk – Phase III Project.

Discussion ensued on supporting the general content of the letter of support and alternative location and design possibilities.

NEW BUSINESS - continued

HENSZEY,
Seconded by FRITZ

moved to amend to address the letter of support to Mayor Hopkins, Mayor O'Neall, Borough Assemblymembers, City Council members, FAST Planning Policy Board members, and copy to Kellen Spillman, Director of Community Planning, Anduin K. McElroy, Planner III, and Festival Fairbanks, Inc.

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND TO ADDRESS THE LETTER OF SUPPORT TO MAYOR HOPKINS, MAYOR O'NEALL, BOROUGH ASSEMBLYMEMBERS, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, FAST PLANNING POLICY BOARD MEMBERS, AND COPY TO KELLEN SPILLMAN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PLANNING, ANDUIN K. MCELROY, PLANNER III, AND FESTIVAL FAIRBANKS, INC.

Yeses: Freiburger, Vanairsdale, Fritz, Everett, Morgan, Henszey, Binkley

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 7 Yeses, 0 Noes

The commission discussed and drafted a substitute letter.

HENSZEY,
Seconded by MORGAN

moved to substitute a letter of support on the location and design of the Chena Riverwalk – Phase III Project.

VOTE ON MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE A LETTER OF SUPPORT ON THE LOCATION AND DESIGN OF THE CHENA RIVERWALK – PHASE III PROJECT.

Yeses: Vanairsdale, Freiburger, Everett, Fritz, Morgan, Henszey, Binkley

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 7 Yeses, 0 Noes

NEW BUSINESS – continued

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE A LETTER OF SUPPORT, AS SUBSTITUTED.

Yeses:	Vanairsdale, Everett, Freiburger, Fritz, Morgan, Henszey, Binkley
Noes:	None
MOTION CARRIED	7 Yeses, 0 Noes

G.2. An update from Community Planning staff and the Chena Riverfront Plan Subcommittee on the status of the Chena Riverfront Plan. This will include feedback from the Commission on the following:

- Summary of public comments (FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Fairbanks Plan, previous Chena Riverfront Plan).
- Draft vision statement.
- What has changed since the last update.
- Draft chapter subject matter.
- Process timeline.

Anduin McElroy, Planner III, presented an update and lead a discussion with the commission.

G.3. Appointment of additional commissioners to the Chena Riverfront Plan Subcommittee for the purpose of developing draft revisions of the Chena Riverfront Plan to include collecting public input and coordinating with Community Planning staff.

Discussion ensued on quorum considerations for a subcommittee and current concerns for time commitments preventing more commissioners from joining the Chena Riverfront Plan Subcommittee at this time.

H. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

None.

I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Everett praised the Commission for how quickly they got through substantial agenda items and wished everyone a happy Earth Day.

Commissioner Vanairsdale thanked everyone for welcoming her onto the Commission, said she was very excited to participate and explained why the Chena River is very important to her. Ms. Vanairsdale felt the area under consideration for the Chena Riverwalk - Phase III would make a perfect park and access point to the river.

Commissioner Morgan welcomed new commissioners and asked if other areas along the river had been considered for building a walkway.

Vice-Chair Henszey shared the history of areas that had been reviewed for walkways.

Commissioner Freiburger expressed extreme appreciation to the Subcommittee and thanked staff efforts that support the Commission.

Commissioner Fritz asked details regarding quorum for a subcommittee, appreciated Tracy Vanairsdale joining the Commission and expressed gratitude that Commissioner Freiburger and Diana Campbell had volunteered to provide historical native perspectives for the Chena Riverfront Plan. Ms. Fritz praised Mayor O'Neall's address to the Chambers with focus on the river's importance.

Vice-Chair Henszey welcomed new commissioners and expressed appreciation for Director Spillman's continuous efforts to keep the Chena Riverwalk Project moving forward.

Chair Binkley thanked staff for all the work that goes into preparing the meetings and guiding the Commission. Mr. Binkley welcomed new commissioners and commented on the changing seasons bringing new opportunities for recreational activities and community participation.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Chena Riverfront Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

APPROVED: July 22, 2026

CLAY STREET CEMETERY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – July 1, 2026
HELD VIA ZOOM WEBINAR AND
IN FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The Clay Street Cemetery Commission convened at 5:00 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting in the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, and via teleconference, with Chair Kilbourn presiding. The following Commission members were in attendance:

Members Present:	Jessica Desmond, Seat B Aldean Kilbourn, Seat C & Chair (remotely) Janet Richardson, Seat D & Vice Chair Julie Jones, Seat E Karen Erickson, Seat F Amy Stratman, Seat G
Absent:	George Dalton, Seat A
Also Present:	Colt Chase, Deputy City Clerk Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director (remotely)

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2026

J. Jones, seconded by **J. Desmond,** moved to APPROVE the June 3, 2026 minutes.

> **Chair Kilbourn** took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the June 3, 2026 minutes and all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

K. Erickson, seconded by **J. Richardson**, moved to APPROVE the agenda.

> **Chair Kilbourn** took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the agenda and all members voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION

C. Chase shared that there had been multiple instances recently of individuals expressing frustration over the conditions of the grounds at Birch Hill Cemetery. He acknowledged that this property was not their responsibility, but that it had been recognized, by comparison, how nice Clay Street Cemetery (CSC) was maintained every year.

J. Richardson shared that someone in Finland, whose grandfather is buried at CSC, had contacted her to share additional details as well as some photos, including his funeral procession from 1930.

C. Chase reported that on their recent Facebook post to recognize the volunteer group from Eielson Air Force Base someone had commented to point out that their own group from the Fairbanks Moose Lodge had also participated in the annual clean-up event. He offered to make additional posts in the future if there are specific groups they would like to recognize. **J. Richardson** offered to go around in future events to get details on any particular groups that might be present. **Chair Kilbourn** added that people often come out for clean-up day without them knowing who they are or any affiliations they may have. **C. Chase** confirmed that he had responded to the individual to express appreciation for their contribution. **A. Stratman** suggested that they conclude future posts with a statement of gratitude for all who help.

A. Stratman shared that she had received an email from the Wilcox family, who were planning to come up for a ceremony for their ancestor Frank Anderson, to let her know that they would be unable to come in 2026. She suggested that this was not terrible news given that F. Anderson's marker had not yet arrived.

J. Richardson reported that the husband of Betsy Sharp, for whom they are also waiting on a marker, was recently at the cemetery with his son and had commented that CSC looked the best it ever had.

EVENTS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

a) June 25, 2026 Recap – Workday w/ Volunteer Group from Eielson AFB

J. Richardson shared that the main task of the day was to lift sunken markers in the Pioneers of Alaska section of CSC, add gravel underneath, and ensure they were level again. She reported that the volunteers from Eielson, plus J. Jones and one of her workers, completed 90 markers in three hours. **C. Chase** displayed sample before and after photos that had been provided to highlight the work completed. **J. Richardson** stated that the volunteers had also used some of the extra dirt next to the shed to fill in other sunken areas.

b) J. Richardson Speak at Sunrise Rotary – July 31, 2026 @ 7:00 a.m.

Chair Kilbourn reported that she is working on a slide presentation, that she is unsure if she will be able to attend, but that she is grateful for J. Richardson being willing to speak at the event.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Chair Kilbourn referenced the financial report, noting recent reimbursements for materials purchased, and confirmed that their current account balance is $10,301.68, with $7,671.79 remaining to be spent from the 2026 Discretionary Fund Grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Quiring Monuments Orders.

J. Jones stated that she is still unsure of an estimated arrival date of their current order and described challenges with getting clear answers from the company. She confirmed that she will continue to follow up and express the urgency given their short summer and work season. She reported that Quiring had agreed to start keeping 35 to 50 pieces of granite on hand so that stone would be immediately available for future orders. She recounted that J. Richardson had asked her to check prices with domestic suppliers since it had been several years since they last got quotes. She discussed the work being done to prepare for their next order.

b) Update on Water Services at Cemetery

J. Cotter confirmed that the repair had been completed and that they are just waiting on Golden Heart Utilities to turn the water back on. **J. Richardson** shared that the water had been turned back on about two weeks prior so everything was good to go again.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Reimbursements for Purchases

C. Chase reviewed the current process for approving and issuing reimbursements. He suggested that it was not the most efficient nor timely method and asked if the Commission would like to provide direction on how to handle them in the future. **J. Jones** recounted that they had employed different methods in the past and that she supported a simpler approach that would not require formal motions for each reimbursement. **C. Chase** suggested that if the Commission was in favor of the idea, members could submit receipts which he would forward to the Chair and Vice Chair for approval and that the items would be included on the financial report for the next meeting's agenda.

J. Jones, seconded by **K. Erickson**, moved to establish a policy that reimbursement requests be submitted to the Chair for approval rather than requiring a formal motion at the meeting following a purchase.

A. Stratman asked if there would be a dollar limit to what the Chair could approve. **J. Jones** suggested that her intent would be that it would be the Chair's discretion and that they would bring it before the entire Commission for approval if they felt that the amount was too high or there were any other concerns regarding the reimbursement. **C. Chase** affirmed that an additional system of checks and balances would be that the Commission would hold the prerogative to override the Chair, through a motion at the meeting where the reimbursement is reported and require any member to reimburse the Commission for something that the body deemed unapproved. **J. Jones** noted that the financial report detail is sometimes minimal and requested each item be listed on the agenda so it is clear what the reimbursement was for.

> **Chair Kilbourn** took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the agenda and all members voted in favor.

b) Request for Public Works to Resurface Walk/Bike Pathways Inside Cemetery

J. Richardson stated that the weeds had taken over the pathways inside the cemetery and asked what options existed for resurfacing. **J. Cotter** stated that he would speak with the Facilities Manager and that adding a layer of Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) may be the easiest solution. **Chair Kilbourn** asked if pouring vinegar on the weeds would work. **J. Richardson** suggested that the amount needed would be immense. **J. Cotter** explained that the oil in RAP would eventually kill all of the weeds underneath the path which is why he believes it would be the best option. **J. Richardson** noted that this is what was done near the entry to the property many years ago and had proven successful.

c) Vole Maintenance Challenges

J. Richardson reported that the voles had been horrendous that year, with hundreds of holes present around graves across the entire cemetery. She shared photos to highlight the concern and the efforts she had taken thus far to manage it. **J. Jones** recounted that during the recent workday some gravesites collapsed due to their tunnels. She concurred that they are prolific and causing issues at City Hall as well.

d) Appointments/Reappointments

C. Chase affirmed they had received applications from both Allysa Westman, to replace G. Dalton on the Commission, as well as from K. Erickson to renew for another term. He stated that they had been approved by the mayor and would be on the agenda of the July 13 City Council meeting for confirmation. **Chair Kilbourn** welcomed A. Westman, who was present, and shared details about their monthly meetings.

OPEN AGENDA

C. Chase shared that a local youth group had expressed interested in coming out for a volunteer service project. He asked to confirm that he could extend the invitation to come at any time they wanted and for direction on what kind of work they should perform. **J. Richardson** confirmed that he could and suggested that edging around markers was a great task for volunteer youth groups and always needed.

NEXT MEETING DATES – August 5, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kilbourn declared the meeting ADJOURNED at 5:38 p.m.

Aldean Kilbourn, Chair	Colt Chase, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Transcribed by: CC