



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA NO. 2026-17
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 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 August 10, 2026
- *b) Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2026

9. SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
15800	Baked Alaska, LLC	Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility	Baked Alaska, LLC	2745 Hanson Road, Unit B
20287	Good Titrations	Retail Marijuana Store	FSE, Inc.	506 Merhar Avenue
20829	Good Titrations	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	FSE, Inc.	506 Merhar Avenue

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

14. NEW BUSINESS

- *a) Resolution No. 5233 – A Resolution Honoring the Life, Service, and Contributions of Long-Time City Employee William “Bill” Rogers. Sponsored by Councilmembers Therrien, Cleworth, Sprinkle, Tidwell, Marney, Ringstad, and Mayor O’Neill.
- *b) Resolution No. 5234 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply For Funds from the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety Division of Administrative Services Grants Office for the FFY 2022 – FFY 2025 Edward Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP). Sponsored by Mayor O’Neill.

- *c) Ordinance No. 6354 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 46, Article IV, Division 5 - Illegal Activity Nuisance. Sponsored by Councilmember Cleworth.
- *d) Ordinance No. 6355 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 78, Traffic and Vehicles, Adding Definitions Including Electric-Assisted Bicycle and Motorized Bicycle and Providing for Impoundment. Sponsored by Mayor O’Neill.

15. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- *a) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2026
- *b) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2026
- *c) Memorandum to Approve the Appointment of 2026 Election Officials
- *d) Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation Grant Analysis & Timeline Report
- *e) Explore Fairbanks Draft Financial Statements (2024 & 2025)
- *f) Community Response Report
- *g) Appointment to the Discretionary Fund Committee

16. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS’ COMMENTS

- a) Discussion on Mayor’s Memorandum to Department Heads (August 19) Regarding Procedure for Councilmember Requests [item added by Councilmember Cleworth]

17. CITY CLERK’S REPORT

18. CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Negotiation of 123 Lacey Street Agreement [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(1)]

20. ADJOURNMENT



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 10, 2026
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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

Councilmembers Present: Jerry Cleworth, Seat A
 Valerie Therrien, Seat B
 Sue Sprinkle, Seat C
 Crystal Tidwell, Seat D (remotely)
 Lonny Marney, Seat E
 John Ringstad, Seat F

Also Present: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Thomas Chard, City Attorney
 Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
 Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief
 Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
 Andrew Cocco, Fire Chief
 Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director
 Brenda Geier, FECC Operations Manager
 Jennifer Payan, Grants Administrator (remotely)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor O'Neill read the land acknowledgement.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor O'Neill, **Mr. Cleworth** led the flag salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Olivia Rodriguez – O. Rodriguez stated that she had dedicated her career to projects related to improving downtown Fairbanks and that she loves the community. She discussed growing up downtown, participating in all the fun that one would expect from an urban childhood; she stated she and her friends always felt safe. She asserted that things had changed over the last 10 years, with safety long gone and neighbors being constantly harassed by a small but significant group of bad actors. She added that they were now called “brave” for choosing to live there and that defending that choice was becoming more difficult. O. Rodriguez shared that she now lives on the opposite side of downtown but visits her parents multiple times a week, and that the difference

between the two areas is remarkable. She stated that her childhood neighborhood now experiences persistent crime, indecent exposure, public intoxication, and open drug and alcohol abuse. She reported that she questions whether her dream of raising children next to her parents is even possible. O. Rodriguez stated that her neighborhood is among Fairbanks' oldest, most established, and most significant, and that it is highly visible to visitors. She asked whether the future the City Council envisions for the area involves continued investment or allowing a small group of individuals to treat the end of the street as a base for criminal activity at the expense of everyone else. She predicted that what happens in the neighborhood would not be contained there and that the vision they all have for a positive downtown is directly impacted by these concerns.

Ms. Therrien asked where the childhood home she had referred to was located. O. Rodriguez shared that it was 124 Fifth Avenue, at the end of the dead-end street next to Clay Street Cemetery.

James Rodriguez – J. Rodriguez shared his experience of witnessing a SWAT-like law enforcement response in the neighborhood of his future wife five years earlier on their first date. He stated he was surprised to learn that was not a one-time occurrence, and he indicated that the area had gone downhill over the last decade. He stated that he could not believe how much criminal activity could occur so regularly in a neighborhood near City Hall and that he eventually convinced his wife to move from the area she loved out of fear for their safety. J. Rodriguez reported that instead of giving up, they invested by buying properties nearby with the hopes of preserving the vibrancy of the area. He explained that with greater investment came greater problems. He declared that conditions were getting even worse despite countless efforts from homeowners to document problems and communicate with the City. He suggested that continued inaction is failing the community and that while they want to continue to invest, build, and raise a family in the area, the City must do its part with a clear plan for enforcement with measurable accountability. He stated if that could not be provided, the City Council owes residents an explanation as to why. He added that they cannot accept another decade of deteriorating conditions and that they must act before more people realize that investing in downtown Fairbanks is not worth the risk.

Ms. Therrien asked J. Rodriguez if he had interacted with the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) on any of the issues and, if so, what the response had been. J. Rodriguez reported that he had experienced a mixed bag of responses, noting that perpetrators with previous criminal charges or convictions, sometimes with active probation or upcoming court dates, are given just a slap on the wrist. He shared that people have passed out, drunk, on his property multiple times and that many reported issues get no response at all. **Ms. Therrien** asked how far he is from the problem property. J. Rodriguez stated that both of his properties are only three houses away from that property.

Dana Smoke – D. Smoke expressed concerns for her neighborhood and shared that she and her four children live next door to 109 5th Avenue, which challenges the sanity and safety of her family due to 24/7 traffic and violent behavior. She reported multiple instances of family or friends visiting but leaving early out of fear when the house next door erupted in fighting. She stated that she is afraid to enjoy her own backyard out of worries that firearms will eventually be brought out next door. D. Smoke shared that they have called police many times and that it was not okay for her son to grow up thinking the situation was normal or acceptable. She cited problems such as public urination, loud music, violence, drama, and loud vehicles, occurring at all times of day. She reiterated that there is no peace in the neighborhood and that it had gone on far too long. She asserted that she only wants to feel safe and asked for the City's help.

Ms. Sprinkle asked D. Smoke if she knew of other neighbors who may be fearful to speak to the City Council or call the police about similar issues. D. Smoke stated that she believes others do not like what they see but have been hesitant to speak up. She explained that she also has been afraid to come forward and risk being labeled as a cop-caller by those at 109 5th Avenue. She added that she decided to do what she had to for her children's safety. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked if there was also a concern about a dog running free in the neighborhood. D. Smoke confirmed that a scary dog runs freely and had injured someone so severely they needed to be medevacked out and receive plastic surgery. She added that the dog also tried to attack her tenant's three-year old and that the owner continues to assert that the animal is dead. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked D. Smoke to confirm that she knew the person living in the house in question. D. Smoke stated that she knows the name of the owner and has known of them for many years but has no relationship with them.

Mr. Marney asked D. Smoke if she has a video security system on her property. D. Smoke stated she does and that footage is deleted after 30 days unless it is saved. She stated she has not shared recordings with others. She explained that speaking to the Council was her first step.

Ms. Therrien asked D. Smoke if anyone had called Animal Control about the loose dog and, if so, what the response had been. D. Smoke confirmed that Animal Control had responded, asked for evidence, which was provided, and determined that it was past the point for them to take action.

Mr. Cleworth asked D. Smoke if the owner was living at the property in question. D. Smoke stated that he was, along with a lot of other people.

Ms. Sprinkle asked D. Smoke if she had witnessed people living in tents or RVs on the property. D. Smoke shared more details about the overall party atmosphere at the property, due to individuals who have no respect or concept of appropriate behavior towards others—especially children.

Lyle Ludwig – L. Ludwig shared that while recently housesitting for his daughter, D. Smoke, he witnessed a disturbance outside the house referenced by others, which is owned by Kevin Pease. He reported that a woman was screaming, and George Frese came out and began to smash the woman's vehicle windows with a hammer. He stated the same man was shortly thereafter seen standing in the middle of the street, naked from the waist down. L. Ludwig confirmed that he had called the police but was still concerned about retaliation and for the safety of his daughter and grandchildren. He added that he would like G. Frese trespassed from the property. He shared that their neighbor, Victoria Dowling, had reached out to him regarding her concerns over how the City was handling complaints. He suggested that the City was either blind or not doing its job, predicted that something bad was bound to happen if the situation was not resolved soon, and recommended that a police car be parked on the street to deter criminal activity. He stated that it was intimidating to come forward in a public setting out of fear for his name being added to a hit list, but he acknowledged that the problems had persisted for far too long.

Mr. Ringstad asked L. Ludwig how many people he sees at the house daily. L. Ludwig reported that people come and go at all hours, at least six to eight people at any given time. He suggested using available security cameras to confirm complaints.

Ms. Sprinkle asked L. Ludwig if anyone had ever knocked on the door of his daughter's home or tried to enter. L. Ludwig reported that when his daughter was moving in, he was doing some plumbing work when a man just walked into the house. He added that people have come in,

uninvited, on multiple occasions and that, just the week prior, his daughter opened the door to find several unknown individuals right outside her entrance. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked L. Ludwig if he considered G. Frese a danger to the children. L. Ludwig indicated that he did.

Ms. Therrien asked L. Ludwig if he would be willing to pursue the matter via the court system if the City was unable to issue a trespass. L. Ludwig shared that the owner, K. Pease, was recently in the hospital, and problems continued while he was gone. He confirmed that he would probably take the matter to court for relief.

Phillip Dowling – P. Dowling shared that he lives on 5th Avenue and that problems had been tearing at his family for at least 15 years, causing considerable stress and constant fear. He stated that he carries bear spray while mowing his lawn in case the aforementioned dog, which still lives at 109 5th Avenue, attacks again. He described the various weapons he has seen individuals carry and the dozens of bicycles—clearly stolen—that disappear at the property. He stated he had been told there were not enough reports for the concerns to be addressed, which means either the system is failing or the records are incomplete, as he is personally aware of an incredible number of reports provided by his family and other neighbors. P. Dowling asserted that they have done everything the City has asked of them in terms of documentation and reporting, yet nothing has changed. He noted that the City installed a new privacy fence on the side of the property that faces the Clay Street Cemetery, and diverted positive pedestrian traffic away from the street, both of which had actually made the situation worse. He discussed the stress of having visitors, never knowing when another violent episode, drug overdose, or other dangerous situation may occur. He stated that guests did not deserve that kind of exposure. P. Dowling declared that this was not what downtown living should be like, that it is not what visitors should expect, and that families should not be left to tolerate such issues year after year. He asked that the City Council take accountability and seek real results, stating that they need help and action after many years of waiting for answers.

Mr. Ringstad asked P. Dowling how long he had lived in the area. P. Dowling shared that he had lived in the Fairbanks area for about 20 years and gave a brief history of ownership and occupancy of the problem property.

Mayor O'Neill, 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.

Mr. Cleworth pulled item 14(a), Resolution No. 5226, from the consent agenda.

Mayor O'Neill 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2026

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2026

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor O'Neill invited Scott McCrea, President and CEO of Explore Fairbanks to present.

S. McCrea gave a presentation on year-to-date visitor industry considerations, such as airport traffic, hotel occupancy rates, short-term rental occupancy rates, Alaska Railroad ticket sales, visitors to the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center, crossings at the Canadian border, visitor profile trends, bed tax revenue, and visitor feedback. He shared that there had been a significant increase in recent months, more than they had ever seen, of concerns regarding the behavior of homeless individuals in the Golden Heart Plaza and the overall safety of visitors and locals alike. He discussed current happenings and upcoming projects at Explore Fairbanks and thanked the City for its support of the visitor industry.

Ms. Sprinkle referenced the increase in bed tax revenue and asked S. McCrea if it was a result of higher hotel prices. S. McCrea confirmed that was a contributing factor but pointed out that the average daily rates were not much higher than those of past years. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked S. McCrea if he had any updates on businesses. S. McCrea shared that the owner of SpringHill Suites is planning to open a new restaurant in early 2027 and that the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum had reopened in its new, expanded location.

Ms. Therrien asked S. McCrea if Explore Fairbanks had discussed financial support for the new warming center. S. McCrea stated that his board of directors had not discussed the matter. **Ms. Therrien** requested that he bring the matter to his board's attention.

Mayor O'Neill asked S. McCrea how many of Explore Fairbanks' members are within city limits. S. McCrea stated that he was unsure but would follow up within with the information. He provided details about their membership levels.

Mayor O'Neill shared that the Co-op Market Grocery & Deli had formally declined to move forward with the lease of the log cabin on First Avenue, and because they were the only responder to the request for proposals (RFP), the City was back at square one. **Ms. Therrien** asked if a reason was provided. **Mayor O'Neill** stated that the Co-op leadership sent out a communication to its members explaining that the financial analysis ended up not working out for them.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she had walked downtown with a local group from the American Institute of Architects, where they discussed the success of the Storefront Improvement Program.

Ms. Therrien spoke of the many testimonies about neighborhood concerns and expressed hope that the Mayor and staff could come up with a proposal for what could be done.

Mr. Cleworth thanked those who testified. He suggested that the Fairbanks General Code (FGC) has deficiencies as to how it addresses nuisance and blighted properties. He shared that he had spoken with the City Attorney and that he and other Councilmembers have some ideas that could be discussed in upcoming meetings. He asserted that the City needs more tools for enforcement.

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’Neill. Second reading and public hearing.

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

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6353.

Mayor O’Neill asked City Attorney Thomas Chard to provide a staff report on the ordinance.

Attorney Chard reviewed the proposed appeal process, noting that instances involving the State Fire Marshal (SFM) would be rare. He discussed the importance of having clear appellate procedures written in Code and asserted that the ordinance would improve due process for citizens.

Mr. Ringstad expressed appreciation for Attorney Chard’s clarifications and asked if Fire Chief Andrew Coccaro was happy with the ordinance. Chief Coccaro indicated that he was.

Mr. Cleworth stated that while he liked the first part of the ordinance, he was not comfortable with the SFM being used for appeals of inspections performed by the Fire Chief. He expressed support for the appeal process already in place through the Building Department and the Building Code & Landscape Review & Appeals Commission, as well as appeals to the Borough Planning Commission. He suggested using a similar approach with fire inspections and explained that if he was an appellant, he would prefer to appeal to someone outside the system. He recounted that in the past when they had issues at the Fire Department, there was an internal review process. He acknowledged that while the reviews seemed to go well, people could have doubts about an entirely internal system.

Mr. Cleworth moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6353 by replacing the second paragraph on page two with the following: “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 request a hearing to the City Mayor or City Council, but not both.” The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Ringstad asked where the SFM is located, physically and organizationally. Chief Coccaro explained that the office falls under the Department of Public safety and works out of Anchorage and Juneau, with a local office of two deputies located in the State Troopers facility on Peger Road.

Mr. Marney expressed confidence that appeals would be satisfactorily handled internally, as outlined in the first paragraph. Chief Cocco confirmed that they are striving for compliance while working with the community to avoid being heavy-handed. He expressed appreciation for the City Attorney's assistance in drafting a process that mirrors that of the State.

Attorney Chard clarified that the process for appeals would only go to the SFM if the initial order was issued by the Fire Chief. He added that an individual would always have the option to take their appeal to the Superior Court and have a judge make a ruling.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that she could not support the earlier amendment as she did not have the technical expertise to make a judgement on such matters. She stated she would rather leave it to the professionals. Chief Cocco expressed agreement that the extensive experience of those within the system was the best resource for resolving issues. He pointed out that the ordinance was primarily to fill in a gap in the Code and tidy up language in the unlikely event of an appeal.

Mr. Cleworth asked why the same approach was not used in the Building Department if it was considered a better process for appeals, citing again the Building Code & Landscape Review & Appeals Commission. **Mayor O'Neill** noted that various seats on the referenced Commission do have requirements for professional experience and expertise.

Mr. Ringstad asked how many appeals the City gets each year that would employ the proposed appeal processes. Chief Cocco stated that they have had none in his time at the Department and reiterated their commitment to working with individuals to find solutions and reach compliance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6353 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Ringstad, Tidwell, Therrien, Sprinkle

NAYS: Cleworth

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6353 ADOPTED.

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'Neill.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5226.

Mr. Cleworth pointed out that the fiscal note cited the Capital Fund as the funding source but that the narrative referenced the General Fund. Chief Financial Officer Bell indicated that this was an error and that the source was indeed the Capital Fund.

Mr. Marney asked to confirm that the funding had been included in the budget. CFO Bell confirmed that it was and that they had overestimated at \$290,000.

Mr. Ringstad noted that the reference to the General Fund in the fiscal note narrative was for the operation and maintenance costs of the equipment—not the purchase. CFO Bell acknowledged

that she misspoke earlier and that the fiscal note was correct as written. **Mr. Ringstad** asked how many ambulances the City has. Chief Cocco stated that there are six units in the fleet, with another decommissioned one sitting at Public Works. **Mr. Ringstad** asked if that meant the City would be adding an eighth ambulance. Chief Cocco clarified that an existing unit scheduled for replacement in 2027 had been involved in an accident. He pointed out that the funding was for a remounting of that unit rather than purchasing a new one, which would save the City up to \$100,000 and bring the total available units back up to six. He explained that the department staffs three ambulances at all times, keeping a fourth unit completely stocked and ready for immediate use. He stated the two units in cold storage only require restocking.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5226 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5226 APPROVED.

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

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) 2026 Quarter 2 Sole Source Procurement Report

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2026

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2026

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

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

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cleworth stated that the submission deadline had passed for the 123 Lacey Street RFP and that he had heard the City received only one proposal. He asked when the Council would hear more about the matter. **Mayor O'Neill** confirmed that only one proposal had been submitted and that evaluations should be back from the review committee by the end of the week.

Ms. Therrien asked who had submitted the proposal. **Mayor O’Neill** asked Chief of Staff Mike Sanders to share any details that were disclosable. M. Sanders reported that it was a joint proposal from the Urban Coalition, Fairbanks Neighborhood Housing Services (FNHS), and Bettisworth North, that it is currently with the evaluation committee, and that the administration will share details once the review is complete. **Ms. Therrien** discussed her involvement with the Alaska Municipal League (AML) Legislative Committee and the upcoming local AML conference. She asked Mr. Ringstad to consider attending as well. She expressed condolences for the family of recently passed local attorney, David Call, who had worked in Fairbanks for several decades. She shared that Chance Dooley, who works for the Alaska Railroad, helped her with a flat tire on the highway the previous weekend. She thanked him and stated that he had refused compensation.

Ms. Sprinkle stated she appreciated all those who had shared concerns about their neighborhood, and she recognized the difficulty in speaking up about such things. She expressed her intent to be involved in efforts to seek resolutions to the issues. She expressed disappointment that the log cabin proposal had been withdrawn and encouraged everyone to vote in the State Primary Election.

Mr. Ringstad expressed appreciation for those who had spoken earlier. He recounted the progress that had been made over the last few years but acknowledged the public safety concerns that remain in certain neighborhoods, such as the one around the cemetery. He spoke of the proposal for 123 Lacey Street and disclosed that he is on the board of directors for FNHS. He stated he was not aware that FNHS would be involved with a submission as a local housing partner for the project. He indicated that he is unsure what his role would be in either side of the matter but that he would potentially need to declare a conflict of interest as things move forward.

Mr. Marney stated that he found the public testimony about the problem property shocking and that he did not realize the extent of the problems. He asserted that he had a passion to see things resolved and that he would like help from the Council and administration to organize an event to gather affected parties and discuss solutions for this neighborhood and others.

Ms. Tidwell stated that she would like to be involved also and that she has shared concerns with the neighborhood as a nearby property owner. She shared that she will be traveling during the Regular Meeting of August 24, 2026 and asked to be excused.

Mayor O’Neill called for objection to excusing Ms. Tidwell’s absence for the next Regular Meeting and heard none.

Ms. Tidwell shared that the Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning Policy Committee would meet soon and that she would provide a report to the Council soon.

Ms. Therrien spoke of the numerous complaints about the lack of maintenance of Birch Hill Cemetery by its new owners, Legacy Funeral Homes. She commented that she is not sure what the City can do. She noted that Legacy had not been keeping up the grounds and that she believes the City should do something to help out since the City already maintains the Clay Street Cemetery. **Mayor O’Neill** shared that she was aware of Legacy’s staffing challenges and that there was a community effort to hold workdays to tidy it up. She confirmed that the City owned Birch Hill Cemetery long ago but that it is no longer City property.

Mr. Marney asked to hold a Council discussion about the future of the downtown log cabin.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider stated that her office would communicate with Mr. Ringstad if he was interested in attending the AML conference reference by Ms. Therrien.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard stated that he had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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

Mayor O'Neill called for a recess at 8:05 p.m., then the Council reconvened in Executive Session.

The Executive Session began at 8:15 p.m. Those present were Mayor O'Neill; Councilmembers Cleworth, Therrien, Tidwell (remotely), Marney, Ringstad, and Sprinkle; Clerk Snider; Attorney Chard; Chief of Staff Sanders; CFO Bell; and Human Resources Director Merritt. The session concluded at 8:25 p.m.

Mayor O'Neill stated the Council met in an Executive Session for IBEW/COF Labor Negotiations: Guidance from Council. She affirmed that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor O'Neill declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

MINDY O'NEALL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 24, 2026
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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

Councilmembers Present:

Jerry Cleworth, Seat A
Valerie Therrien, Seat B
Sue Sprinkle, Seat C
Lonny Marney, Seat E
John Ringstad, Seat F

Absent:

Crystal Tidwell, Seat D (excused)

Also Present:

D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Thomas Chard, City Attorney
Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief
Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director
Timothy Zinza, City Engineer
Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director
Brenda Geier, FECC Operations Manager (remotely)
Alayna Wesselius, Records 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'Neill, **Ms. Therrien** read the land acknowledgement.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor O'Neill, **Mr. Marney** led the flag salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Corey DiRutigliano – C. DiRutigliano asked the Council to not approve Resolution No. 5230 and to allow the pilot program of the Starter Block on Lacey Street to run its full course before deciding what happens next. He recounted that the street was initially closed to support the installation of

the Starter Block as well as renovations to the adjacent building, and that the mayor had subsequently announced that it would remain closed for one year to test different uses and learn from the experience. He reviewed the various activities that had occurred in the associated space over the last several months and affirmed that their goal was not to keep a street closed but to gain insight on what could potentially be implemented in other areas downtown. C. DiRutigliano asserted that streets are one of the City's most valuable and underutilizes assets and that they need to answer the question of how they can use these spaces to create more activity, safety, and value downtown, particularly in the winter months. He reiterated that the desired outcome was not a closed street but rather important insight, which would be lost if they end the experiment before it was complete. He urged the Council to vote "no" on the resolution.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for more details about the human foosball events that she had heard about. C. DiRutigliano shared details about the "Foosday Nights" taking place that month and other activities they hope to host before the start of the winter season.

Charity Gadapee, Director of Visitor and Community Engagement for Explore Fairbanks – C. Gadapee reported on various items pertaining to Explore Fairbanks, such as visitation data for the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor Center, the work of their new Community Engagement Manager, as well as various events and programs in which they are involved. She thanked the City for reinvesting bed tax dollars into destination marketing to support the Fairbanks visitor industry.

Naomi Hutchquist – N. Hutchquist spoke against Resolution No. 5230. She thanked the organizers of the Starter Block and shared that her family had enjoyed the venue many times over the summer. She highlighted the multi-generational use of the skate park and noted the incredibly limited options for structured play spaces downtown. She stated that she was interested to see how the area could be used during winter months and affirmed that the current setup brings more activity and visitation to the downtown region.

Arlette Berry – A. Berry asked the Council to vote "no" on Resolution No. 5230. She explained that she had held a front-row seat to the creation of the Starter Block after three long years of demolition work on the former Polaris Building. She stated that it was beautiful to see community members gather as friends and family to engage in a variety of activities and events, and that she hopes the City would want to see downtown flourish in this way. A. Berry acknowledged that the Starter Block was never meant to be a long-term plan but pointed out that it was just getting started and was a breath of fresh air. She asserted that it would be discouraging to see what is lost simply for the sake of opening one block of one street.

David van den Berg, Executive Director of Downtown Association of Fairbanks (DTA) – D. van den Berg shared that the DTA Board of Directors had overwhelmingly expressed a desire to see Lacey Street open for "possibilities", which meant maintaining its current state for the coming winter. He suggested that keeping things as they are validates the effort to test what has been and could be done. He noted that while DTA has a favorable view of the creativity of the Starter Block in the interim, they also support the eventual return of the property to the City's tax rolls.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if he could share what he knew about how the project's lead organizer felt. D. van den Berg noted that Julie Jones, Executive Director of Explore Fairbanks, was in attendance and would be best suited to share her own thoughts. He stated that he understands she is in favor

of continuing to see the Starter Block flourish but was neutral about the matter of whether Lacey Street reopens or remains closed and would proceed accordingly in either scenario.

Scott Crass, Presiding Officer of Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly – S. Crass shared that the Borough Assembly had humbly recognized their defeat in the previous year's bowling match with the City Council and had commissioned a trophy to be used for continued competitions of a similar nature. He pointed out the marker for the 2025 event winner and that plenty of space was available for future events. He stated that the Assembly was open to the Council's invitation for a rematch in the form of mini-golf and suggested they do so at the recently opened Pole-in-One facility in North Pole. With the blessing of the mayor and other Councilmembers, he presented the trophy to Mr. Cleworth on their behalf.

Ms. Therrien suggested that if they are unable to do the North Pole location, they could do instead consider the mini-golf course at Alaskaland. S. Crass confirmed that this would be feasible and emphasized the need to hold the event before the weather turned too cold.

Richard Croteau – R. Croteau recounted that he had previously testified before the Council about the need to keep Second Avenue a one-way street, citing factors that impact every business in the area. He referenced photos he had provided showing messy conditions downtown where tourists are dropped off and asserted that this is typical of what they see every day. He discussed other problems in the area such as individuals consuming alcohol in public and sleeping out in open, which is the first thing tourists see when they get off the bus downtown. R. Croteau shared that the closure of Lacey Street had resulted in busses having to go through four intersections instead of two in order to drop visitors off for downtown shopping experiences. He suggested turning the retail chalets at the Starter Block around to face the center of the property.

Ms. Therrien asked for more information on the last photo he had shared. R. Croteau explained that there had been a stage placed in the center of the Starter Block but that musical performances had been held throughout the summer in the Golden Heart Plaza across the street. He suggested they remove the stage to create more open space in the middle of the Block and thus making the rotation of the retail chalets even more feasible. **Ms. Therrien** shared that she had been downtown recently and had not seen anyone sleeping out in the open. R. Croteau asserted that his photos were recent and that he had many others on his phone which he could share to highlight the problems he had referenced. He noted that because of Explore Fairbanks' efforts, they have year-round visitors and that the impression of their town is impacted by the issues he was highlighting. He advocated for year-round police presence in the downtown area.

Paige Poston – P. Poston urged the Council to reconsider opening Lacey Street for traffic. She shared having attended a recent event at the Starter Block, meeting several new people, participating in a variety of activities, and watching others of all ages do the same. She stated that her extended family had a great time and had talked about coming back. She noted that the project had been a long time coming and gave credit to J. Jones and Festival Fairbanks. P. Poston reported seeing lots of people using the venue all summer long and when it opened late last winter for ice skating and sledding. She stated that she had heard the stretch of road in question was one of the least driven streets in Fairbanks and that she had not heard any complaints about its closure in all her time downtown that year. She asserted that the Starter Block deserved a chance to run its course and that Fairbanks deserved the Starter Block.

Julie Jones, Executive Director of Festival Fairbanks – J. Jones indicated that she would discuss matters pertaining to Golden Heart Plaza (GHP) and confirmed that she was neutral on the subject of Lacey Street. She stated that she had been dealing with more and more instances of public intoxication and people sleeping in the Plaza and reported that she takes time to speak with them, asking those laying down sleeping to sit up. She shared that most are responsive but that she calls 9-1-1 whenever someone cannot or will not get up. J. Jones explained that she recently emailed the City Attorney information about a case that went all the way to the Supreme Court pertaining to camping in public parks, noting the precedent set where sleeping could constitute camping. She stated that she always makes sure to let them know they are welcome to stay in the park but that they must remain upright and conscious. J. Jones discussed recently engaging with City service providers, such as Community Response Coordinator B. McFarlane, the Crisis Now program, and the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD), in response to an unhoused woman with severe mobility issues and in need of aid. She pointed out that despite the positive responses such as this, people often return and problems persist, including significant residue from human waste. J. Jones recounted discussions with FPD and that she understands how arresting people is rarely an effective solution given the lack of follow-through from the District Attorney's Officer. She spoke of the need for conversations about Title 47 and combating the trend of people being arrested and released just days later, only to return and resume disturbing the peace. She expressed appreciation for the support from City service providers but asserted that if individuals continually violate the law, there had to be consequences.

Mr. Marney noted that they had endured a fairly rough last winter and asked how they would handle the volume of snow in GHP should it happen again. J. Jones discussed snow removal considerations at GHP and stated that they had a new plan which they were excited about and just needed to visit with the mayor and Chief of Staff to ensure they are all on the same page.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Therrien pulled item 14(c), Resolution No. 5230, from the consent agenda.

Mr. Cleworth pulled items 14(d), Resolution No. 5231, and 14(e), Resolution No. 5232, from the consent agenda.

Mayor O'Neill 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
6069	Hari Om Cuisine of India	Restaurant/ Place Eating	A Paul, LLC	1528 S. Cushman Street
5927	Hyatt Place Fairbanks	Beverage Dispensary – Tourism	Fairbanks Hospitality, LLC	400 Merhar Avenue

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

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

There was no discussion.

Mayor O’Neill called for objection to the motion to WAIVE PROTEST on the alcohol license applications for renewal and, hearing none, declared the motion CARRIED.

REPORT FROM FAIRBANKS ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

a) Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA), Eugene Paul

Eugene Paul, CEO of IRHA – E. Paul discussed the origin, mission, and organizational structure of IRHA, as well as the Payment in Lieu of Taxes cooperating agreement they have with the City. He shared details about six key programs that IRHA provides to those in the Interior, including:

- Home Ownership Program (HOP)
- Home Ownership Program for Elderly (HOPE)
- Tribal Equity Advantage Mortgage (TEAM)
- Rehabilitation of Existing Homes
- Housing Based Assistance
- Meda Lord Senior Center

He noted that their Chief Financial Officer was also in attendance and shared information about IRHA’s acquisition of a lot close to Effie Kokrine Charter School, donated by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. He explained that their hope is to use the property to build around 20 duplexes for Elders to rent, with someone else living next door to look out for them. He spoke passionately about caring for Elders being one of IRHA, as well as his own, primary focuses.

Ms. Therrien asked if he could share details about IRHA’s total annual budget. E Paul shared that the previous year’s budget had been around \$21MM but that the current year was scaled back to \$15MM. He discussed their current organizational goals, such as building 17 homes within the region. **Ms. Therrien** asked how many employees they have. E. Paul stated that they have close to 60 employees, with 21 being year-round, full-time equivalent, and the rest being seasonal.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if he works with Nadine Winters [Executive Director of Fairbanks Neighborhood Housing Services]. E. Paul confirmed that he does. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked if he works with the City’s Emergency Service Patrol (ESP) or Housing, Engagement and Recovery Transitions (HEART) Services program. E. Paul stated that they had not yet but planned to do so in the near future, noting that one particular funding source had a requirement for a minimum percentage of services to those who would be served by ESP and HEART.

Mr. Cleworth asked if IRHA was autonomous or existed under another entity. E. Paul explained that they are a standalone nonprofit organization but that their Board elections occur during the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) convention in March. He added that IRHA was initially created through TCC but split off to be its own entity. **Mr. Cleworth** asked about their primary sources of funding. E. Paul shared that the primary source was the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and discussed other channels such as grants and private funding. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that he had done a lot of business with one Leonard Savage, from E. Paul's home village of Holy Cross, Alaska, and thanked him for speaking with the Council.

Mr. Marney asked if he was aware of the need for a warming shelter in the city. E. Paul stated that he was aware of the topic from the roundtable discussions that have occurred between the leaders of the local Alaska Native organizations, as well as the three mayors, but that IRHA had not been part of the conversation about a warming shelter, at this time. He added that he believes the issue is slated for discussion at their next meeting.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor O'Neill shared that the 2028 Arctic Winter Games would be held in Fairbanks. She provided a status update on progress made towards the warming shelter including grant applications submitted through the Rasmussen Foundation, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Fund, and private funding. She recounted that the City Council had allocated \$24,000 for the effort which had not yet been spent and that they have a goal to raise \$100,000 from the community. She noted that because the Northern Hope Center (NHC) had agreed to operate the center out of its existing facility, to provide overnight warming options, the City would maintain its position as a convener, bringing stakeholders together to achieve their common goal of opening by October 1. She reported that the estimated cost of operation for the six- to seven-month season would be between \$600,000 and \$700,000.

Mayor O'Neill shared that the City had experienced an unfortunate loss with the passing of long-time employee Bill Rogers from the Engineering Department. She discussed his service to the City as well as that of his wife, former Councilmember June Rogers, and asked that everyone keep the Bill's family and coworkers in mind. She reported that Chief of Staff Michael Sanders would be leaving his position with the City at the end of October.

M. Sanders expressed appreciation for the mayor accepting his resignation and confirmed that he was not leaving on any bad note. He explained that he is at a time in his life where if he is to do something different, he should do it now. He shared that there are other things he would like to try after 10 years at the City and 20 in the military. He affirmed that he would work closely with the mayor to help select a great replacement and ensure that nothing would be dropped. M. Sanders spoke of the positive work over the last few years and thanked the City Council for their role in that progress. He affirmed that he would give his all until the last day on the job and that he would not be leaving the community. **Mayor O'Neill** thanked M. Sanders for his dedication and asked if any Councilmembers had questions for her at that time.

Ms. Therrien asked if she was considering committing more funds to the warming shelter in the 2027 budget. **Mayor O'Neill** noted that the coming year's budget would be very tight and that such an allotment would be unlikely.

a) Special Reports

i) Downtown Summer Update from Shane Woolley, Just Cities Mayoral Fellowship

Mayor O’Neill recounted that she had participated in Harvard’s “Just Cities Mayoral Fellowship” earlier in the year and that the program included sending a senior student, Shane Woolley, to work with them over the summer on various programs focused on the downtown area. She invited him to provide a report on his efforts.

S. Woolley spoke of his positive experience of being welcomed into the community and outlined three areas of focus for his work that summer:

- Create a downtown land inventory database to assess how existing building and parcels are being used, record each property’s current condition, and develop a public-facing resource that could be used by elected officials, City administration, and developers, to identify valuable development opportunity and attract investment.
- Compile community design guidelines using examples of urban design principles that help lead to more vital downtowns in cities with parameters similar to Fairbanks, to highlight the potential and opportunities of what downtown Fairbanks could look like.
- Continue to build relationships between the City and the many groups that make up the community, such as local Alaska Native organizations, business owners, service providers, and individuals experiencing homelessness.

S. Woolley discussed each item in detail, sharing examples of the various tools, reports, and more. He shared having spoken directly with unhoused individuals as a way to better understand perspectives, with a goal of pursuing an alternative location to downtown where people can continue to have access to the services they regularly use while also being in a place they enjoy. He expressed appreciation for the support he had received and shared condolences over the loss of B. Rogers who, along with J. Rogers, had welcomed him from his initial arrival.

Ms. Sprinkle asked where the projects would reside and if they would have access. S. Woolley confirmed that he had discussed with the administration where they could store his work products to make them available to everyone and how the information could be maintained going forward.

Mayor O’Neill asserted that S. Woolley had been an incredible member of their team during his time at the City, thanked him for his willingness to dive into the Fairbanks community, and invited him to return anytime.

ii) H.E.A.R.T. Program Report from Brenda McFarlane

Mayor O’Neill invited Community Response Coordinator Brenda McFarlane and Anthony Mosinski, Director of Fairbanks Integrated Community Services (FICS), to discuss the Housing, Engagement, and Recovery Transitions (HEART) program.

B. McFarlane distributed a handout outlining HEART program data since its launch in May 2026 and noted that the team was funded through the Statewide Opioid Settlement grant. She shared that one of her goals was to dispel the rumor that people living on the street typically refuse services, which she knew to be untrue. She explained that there are many who want help but can be refused shelter or other services.

A. Mosinski recounted that they hear over and over about the need for mental health support and case management. He shared that FICS now had a clinician and master's-level mental health professional on staff and outlined the types of referrals they receive through law enforcement and the public reporting tool. He discussed visiting dozens of homeless encampments and seeing the growing trust between those groups and their program. He referenced the relocation and expansion of NHC, which provides crucial services and would be the home of the new overnight warming shelter. A. Mosinski described the high levels of client engagement and direct interaction that the HEART team experiences and reviewed what is working and what is not. He noted that there are only two shelters in Fairbanks, each with their own admission criteria, and that many people are getting turned away. He explained how NHC was stepping up to fill that gap and that many of their referrals are for medical or practical needs such as food or clothing. A. Mosinski spoke of recent challenges with grant cycle disruptions but noted that while other places are having to scale back programs, they were weathering the storm thanks to the City taking a leadership role to inspire support across the community. He reported meeting with Fairbanks Memorial Hospital management and acknowledged that Fairbanks is seeing real change and improvement. He provided details about a partnership with Fairbanks Neighborhood Housing Services and shared recent data for the Emergency Service Patrol.

Mayor O'Neill thanked B. McFarlane and A. Mosinski for the incredible work they and their team had performed and concurred that things seem to be gelling much better than before.

Ms. Therrien recounted that the Fairbanks Rescue Mission (FRM) requires individuals to be sober as part of their admission criteria and asked if that was a barrier for many individuals. A. Mosinski confirmed that FRM will occasionally administer a breathalyzer test as well as an 11-panel urinalysis. He discussed this and other barriers that prevent some individuals from being admitted, noting that assisted living or nursing home type settings is what is really needed for many of the elderly individuals HEART encounters. **Ms. Therrien** asked if the other shelter, the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (IACNVL), had similar barriers. A. Mosinski explained that IACNVL performs an admission assessment to determine if there is an immediate risk of death or serious harm but that he is unaware of how those assessments are handled. He gave the example that they sometimes receive referrals from the police department for individuals who had filed domestic violence charges against someone but were still denied admission to IACNVL.

B. McFarlane noted that while their reports had primarily discussed services for adults, there were two youth-focused entities deserving recognition. She highlighted Fairbanks Youth Advocates' significant work, including a new program, Evolve, for those ages 18 to 24 and the Street Outreach Advocacy Program (SOAP) administered by the Fairbanks Native Association.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cleworth spoke fondly of Bill and June Rogers, noting their decades-long relationship. He highlighted their music involvement and stated that Bill would be missed.

Ms. Therrien shared that she had spent a lot of time shedding tears with J. Rogers recently and that she would work to get a resolution drafted honoring Bill.

Mr. Ringstad expressed frustration at learning that someone camping in Ringstad Park had been asked to vacate but ended up just moving further into the woods, within 100 yards of a school. He asked that someone look into the matter further.

Mr. Marney thanked those who had come to speak to the Council or give special reports. He acknowledged that the issue of wanting to open Lacey Street back up while also supporting the Starter Block was difficult for him. He spoke highly of J. Jones' work across the downtown area.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5228 – A Resolution Adopting City of Fairbanks Records Retention Schedule Version 2.0. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neill.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Resolution No. 5229 – A Resolution Adopting the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as the Official Mitigation Plan of the City of Fairbanks, Pending FEMA Approval. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neill.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Resolution No. 5230 – A Resolution to Reopen Lacey Street Between First Avenue and Second Avenue by September 30. Sponsored by Councilmember Cleworth.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5230.

Mr. Cleworth noted that they had all supported the Starter Block effort and agreed that the work of J. Jones and C. DiRutigliano had been incredible. He asserted that they had all known the experiment would come to an end sooner or later and now that they have a proposal for development, it was time to discuss next steps. He shared that he is downtown nine hours each day and speaks with lots of people, many of whom had asked when Lacey Street would open back up, to which he has had no answer. He stated that he was under the impression that the closure had been primarily to allow for renovation and repairs of the Lacey Street Theater, which never occurred. He acknowledged that the closure was also to support the Starter Block but that he never thought it would remain closed until he brought it up at the last Work Session and heard the mayor's intention to keep it as such for a full year. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern over emergency response access to the courthouse and other nearby locations as well as liability for some of the activities occurring in the associated space, such as the skate park components. He discussed the liability that the City has when someone falls on a damaged sidewalk as well as other instances where they do not carry liability. He shared that Anchorage has five different skate parks, each with posted signage that outlines rules and regulations, which also serves to limit the municipality's liability. He stated that he was unsure if the City had done the same for the Starter Block and that he would like more information on a court case, *Barton v. City of Valdez*, which may be relevant to his concerns over liability.

City Attorney Thomas Chard explained that the 2022 case involved a tire swing on city property which the City of Valdez was aware of based on the well-trodden path leading to the swing. He reported that someone being pushed on the swing had fallen off over a steep embankment, was

badly injured, and that the family sued on the basis that the city had not posted any warning notices for safety concerns, despite being aware of the swing's existence. He noted that while the lower court had ruled that the city was immune from responsibility in the matter, a higher court found them somewhat liable. Attorney Chard explained how the case illustrated that although they cannot stop people from suing the City of Fairbanks, there are protections they can take such as posting signage at a skate park, and that he would always advocate for mitigating risks and reducing the likelihood of litigation. He added that the court case was an eye-opening reminder of the need to be vigilant, especially since tax-paying property owners ultimately foot the bill of such lawsuits.

Mr. Cleworth reiterated that his primary concern was the mobility of emergency response vehicles but that if the Council did not vote in favor of the resolution, they needed to assume some liability for the associated activities. He clarified that he hopes nothing ever happens but recognized that things like a skate park leave room for exposure. He stated that he has other, big picture concerns about the potential closure of other sections of Lacey Street, which would inhibit travel through the downtown core and further restrict first responders.

Mr. Ringstad stated that he had understood the plan for a temporary setup of activities at the Lacey Street block while they awaited a long-term plan for development, which they now had. He expressed a concern that the Starter Block was widely viewed as a type of park yet the City of Fairbanks did not have Parks and Recreation powers like the Borough does. He acknowledged that they had contracted out management of the space to a third party but was cautious of any perception that the City was trying to circumvent state law and wondered if such was legal.

Ms. Sprinkle suggested that they could always expect the possibility of the occasional fickle lawsuit but noted that J. Jones had already had conversations with the Borough Parks and Recreation Department regarding the Starter Block and had taken out an insurance policy over the area. She stated that she appreciates the call for caution but suggested that J. Jones had indeed been careful thus far. She indicated that she supports keeping the street closed to see what kind of energy could be brought to the area over the coming winter. **Ms. Sprinkle** shared that she had not heard any complaints about the one block of Lacey Street being closed that summer and that she could walk her dog down the rest of that road during the day without seeing a single vehicle. She stated that she would not have any heartache with allowing the experiment to run its course for the winter.

Mr. Marney recounted that the primary reason for the closure was for the work being done by the theater and asked for an update on that project. M. Sanders explained that when the business had been awarded funds through the Storefront Improvement Program in 2025 but had immediately asked for an extension for completion of the work, citing their lack of access to the area due to the Polaris Building demolition taking place at the time. He shared that he had granted the extension, which he believes expires in February, and that he needed to reach out to them for a status update.

Mayor O'Neill clarified that the intention of the Starter Block and the associated closure of that section of Lacey Street had always been for a one year period, which had been communicated to the Council in writing from the onset. She explained that they wanted to collect data on how the space could be used through all seasons. She added that she had spoken with both the Fire Chief and Chief of Police who had both conveyed that they had no concerns over emergency response access to the courthouse area. She shared that the Borough had also confirmed it had no issues with the closure as far as transit system operations were concerned. She reported that there had been little to no complaints received by her office over the closure of the street.

Ms. Therrien recounted that she always sees fire trucks going down Cushman Street, never Lacey, and that access to the courthouse via First Avenue was unhindered. She noted that public input via email had been mixed regarding preferences for opening or closing the street. She stated that she also supports allowing the Starter Block to continue and would not support the resolution. She asked if there was signage posted at the skate park to warn that usage is at one's own risk? **Mayor O'Neill** confirmed that such signs are in place.

Mr. Cleworth pointed out that the City had recently paid out records amount of money for past lawsuits and settlements which should make them want to mitigate any new risks as much as possible. He stated that he never envisioned the Starter Block taking over a street as well. He refuted the claim that drivers do not use the area, noting that the parking garage exits into the intersection of Lacey Street and Third Avenue, where there are only three choices, two of which involve turning onto Lacey. He added that the most efficient route to the Cushman Street bridge was currently unavailable due to the closure and reiterated his concerns about liability to the City.

Ms. Sprinkle suggested that if there are concerns about limited navigation options downtown, the current system of one-way streets could be noted as a contributing factor.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5230 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth

NAYS: Sprinkle, Marney, Therrien, Ringstad

ABSENT: Tidwell

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION FAILED and Resolution No. 5230 FAILED.

- d) Resolution No. 5231 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) for the FFY2026 Local Law Enforcement Grants for Enforcement of Cybercrimes Program. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neill.

Mayor O'Neill asked Chief Financial Officer Margarita Bell to provide a staff report on the associated grant. CFO Bell reported that the request from FPD was to use funds from the 3-year federal grant to purchase software which would aide in investigations. She explained that the cost of the software was over \$400,000 with an annual subscription of \$142,000.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5231.

Mr. Cleworth spoke of the staggering cost of the various software that the City utilizes and pointed out the large annual renewal price. M. Sanders clarified that while the software would have ongoing costs, it would actually replace multiple existing programs that they currently pay for and thus the annual impact would be far less than \$140,000. **Mr. Cleworth** indicated that this clarification made a big difference for him.

Ms. Sprinkle expressed confusion over the title of the resolution and asked for additional details on how the software related to violence against women or cybercrimes. M. Sanders clarified that

the software pertained mostly to digital forensics work. CFO Bell added that the federal agency was in fact the OVW but that the program was for cybercrimes and was not necessarily gender specific. **Mayor O'Neill** noted that statistics indicate that the majority of cybercrime occurs against women which is why the program was run through this particular federal agency.

Mr. Ringstad indicated that the resolution seemed a little vague to him and asked if usage of the software would be limited to only cybercrimes against women. Deputy Police Chief Richard Sweet explained that while they do currently have software for digital forensics, this would allow for a system upgrade to access a broader area. He confirmed that the program seeks to address online stalking, harassment, and crimes against women but can be used for many other purposes. He added that other law enforcement agencies in the area would benefit from the software purchase as FPD is the hub for digital forensic work. He discussed the capabilities of the software, applicable constitutional limits, and how it improves access to allowable data after a warrant is issued. **Mr. Ringstad** expressed concern about the cost and asked how much the City would be committing to. M. Sanders reiterated that there would be no cost to the City for the first three years and that beyond that, the \$142,000 subscription would be effectively reduced by the elimination of existing software, currently estimated to be between \$70,000 and \$80,000. DC Sweet discussed the challenges of digital forensics and suggested that as technology continues to advance, the cost for capable software will increase and the City would have to catch up at some point regardless.

Ms. Sprinkle recounted the mention of other law enforcement entities benefiting from the software and asked if they could recover some of the cost from those they share it with. DC Sweet stated that while they could, there are many shared resources across local law enforcement agencies and gave examples of things FPD did not have but could utilize through those entities.

Mr. Cleworth asked if the Alaska State Troopers had any comparable software. DC Sweet reported that they do not, and that if the Troopers need to unlock a cell phone as part of a case, they already come to FPD to use their existing system. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if they could charge for that service. DC Sweet indicated that they could try but reiterated the many resources that the Troopers share freely which could potentially become an expense if they went that route. He noted that this was a federal grant and that the City would otherwise continue to pay for existing software.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5231 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Therrien

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tidwell

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5231 APPROVED.

- e) Resolution No. 5232 – A Resolution Authorizing the Negotiation of Redevelopment at 123 Lacey Street. Sponsored by Mayor O'Neill.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5232.

Mr. Cleworth indicated that he was supportive of moving forward with the process but expressed the desire for the City Council and mayor to meet and further discuss what the Council would like to see, review parameters for the negotiations, and build consensus to avoid any second guessing

later on. He asked if they could hold an Executive Session at the next Regular Meeting to discuss the matter. Attorney Chard stated that such would be permissible provided the discussion was narrowly focused on fiscal matters pertaining to the project's negotiation. **Mr. Cleworth** confirmed that the financial piece was his primary interest.

Mayor O'Neill noted that the project would be on the agenda for their next Work Session as well and thus public discussion could also occur prior to the next Regular Meeting.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that she loved the Fairbanks Children's Museum's presentation to the Council at the start of their negotiations with the administration to secure the long-term lease for the back portion of City Hall and expressed the desire for a similar approach with this project. M. Sanders confirmed that the proposer was planning to present at the September 8 Work Session and was up against a tight deadline to apply for certain low-income tax credits, which could be impacted if the process with the Council is delayed. He clarified that the resolution was to seek Council approval to begin initial negotiations and that an Executive Session would not be a problem. **Mayor O'Neill** pointed out that the resolution also included constraints that would require further Council approval for things like any sale or transfer of property.

Mr. Ringstad asserted that this was an incredibly important negotiation and not unlike the various union labor contract negotiations they experience. He recounted that M. Sanders had, for many years, maintained a highly effective process of using Executive Sessions to keep the Council updated and receive direction for further discussions with union representatives. He suggested that this process had served them well and should be a template for how they proceed.

Ms. Sprinkle asked to confirm that approving the resolution would not stop them from discussing the project further in public settings. M. Sanders confirmed that this was correct, that the resolution would just begin the conversation and ensured that the Council was in the loop from the start.

Mr. Cleworth requested they hold an Executive Session at the Regular Meeting of September 14, 2026 to discuss the redevelopment of 123 Lacey Street. **Mayor O'Neill** confirmed the request.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5232 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Ringstad, Cleworth, Sprinkle, Therrien

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tidwell

Mayor O'Neill declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5232 APPROVED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Marney stated that he was looking forward to the negotiations over 123 Lacey Street.

Mr. Cleworth thanked the Public Works Department for resolving an issue on Third Avenue.

Ms. Therrien discussed the upcoming Alaska Municipal League conference which she would be attending later that week. She asked that the City Attorney forward the legal opinion that J. Jones had mentioned earlier in the meeting regarding sleeping in public parks.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she had been involved with recent painting at the intersection on Trainor Gate Road near Tanana Middle School and discussed the positive changes which had occurred, including a newly reduced speed limit, in an effort to enhance safety measure for children crossing the street. She reported on a similar effort being considered near the two schools on Danby Street in the Aurora subdivision. She spoke highly of S. Woolley's work over the summer and shared that through him she had a chance to see the interior of the Northward Building for the first time.

Mayor O'Neill thanked DC Sweet and other FPD personnel, as well as those from the Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning, who helped contribute to the slower, safer conditions along Trainor Gate Road.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider thanked all Department Heads for their input on the updated Records Retention Schedule that had been adopted via the consent agenda. She expressed appreciation for the work of Records Manager Alayna Wesselius in helping move the project forward. She thanked the Council for supporting the resolution and noted that this was a big step for the City.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard stated that he had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ENTER into Executive Session for the following two items:

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

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

Mayor O'Neill called for a recess at 8:46 p.m. after which the Council reconvened in Executive Session.

The Executive Sessions began at 8:55 p.m. Those present were Mayor O'Neill; Councilmembers Cleworth, Therrien, Marney, Ringstad, and Sprinkle; Clerk Snider; Attorney Chard; Chief of Staff Sanders; CFO Bell; Human Resources Director Merritt. The session concluded at 8:25 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor O'Neill declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

MINDY O'NEALL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC

DRAFT



800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor O'Neill and City Council Members

FROM: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk 

SUBJECT: Marijuana License Renewal Applications

DATE: September 2, 2026

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
15800	Baked Alaska, LLC	Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility	Baked Alaska, LLC	2745 Hanson Road, Unit B
20287	Good Titrations	Retail Marijuana Store	FSE, Inc.	506 Merhar Avenue
20829	Good Titrations	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	FSE, Inc.	506 Merhar Avenue

Pursuant to FGC Sec. 14-214 and 3 AAC 306.060, the Council may determine whether to protest a marijuana license renewal application after holding a public hearing. As required by FGC Sec. 14-214(b), I have sent written notice of the public hearing to the above-listed licensees. The 60-day response deadline to AMCO for these renewal applications is October 2, 2026.

Pursuant to FGC Sec. 14-215(b)(12), I have inquired about complaints filed within the past 12 months with the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and AMCO in regard to these marijuana establishments; neither entity reported complaints.

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is recommending protest of license no. 20287 a history of late tax filings and payments. Please find attached a detailed report from the CFO.

The Building Official has conveyed that after eight unanswered calls to licensee FSE, Inc. over a two-week period, he visited the business on September 8, 2026 and discovered a sign on their front door indicating that they were permanently closed as of August 28, 2026.

There are no other department-recommended protests for these license renewal applications.

Good Titrations - 106708-12226

Sales Tax					
Year	Sales Tax Filing Month		Due Date	Payment	Late
2026	July		08/31/26	Not Filed	
	June		07/31/26	Not Filed	X
	May		06/30/26	Not Filed	X
	April		05/31/26	6/30/2026	X
	March		04/30/26	5/1/2026	X
	February		03/31/26	3/31/2026	
	January		02/28/26	2/27/2026	
2025	December		01/31/26	1/30/2025	
	November		12/31/25	12/31/2025	
	October		11/30/25	11/26/2025	
	September		10/31/25	10/31/2025	
	August		09/30/25	9/30/2025	
	July		08/31/25	8/28/2025	
	June		07/31/25	7/28/2025	
	May		06/30/25	7/28/2025	X
	April		05/31/25	7/28/2025	X
	March		04/30/25	7/28/2025	X
	February		03/31/25	6/30/2025	X
	January		02/28/25	5/23/2025	X
2024	December		01/31/25	2/27/2025	X
	November		12/31/24	1/17/2025	X
	October		11/30/24	12/30/2024	X
	September		10/31/24	11/29/2024	X
	August		09/30/24	11/8/2024	X
	July		08/31/24	9/30/2024	X
	June		07/31/24	8/30/2024	X
	May		06/30/24	7/31/2024	X
	April		05/31/24	6/17/2024	X
	March		04/30/24	5/6/2024	X
	February		03/31/24	4/1/2024	X
	January		02/28/24	3/14/2024	X

*Filing forms are due by the 15th of the following month and delinquent after the last business day of the month.

General Billing			
BL Renewal Year	Due Date	Payment	Late
2026	2/28/2026	2/27/2026	
2025	2/28/2025	2/27/2025	
2024	2/28/2024	2/27/2024	

Alarm Billing	Due Date	Payment	Late
2026	1/15/2026	5/1/2026	X
2025	1/15/2025	8/28/2025	X
2024	1/15/2024	11/8/2024	X

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Therrien
Councilmember Cleworth
Councilmember Sprinkle
Councilmember Tidwell
Councilmember Marney
Councilmember Ringstad
Mayor O'Neill
Date: September 14, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 5233

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LONG-TIME CITY EMPLOYEE WILLIAM “BILL” ROGERS

WHEREAS, William “Bill” Rogers began his employment with the City of Fairbanks in May 2009, bringing with him decades of experience and a deep commitment to excellence in drafting and design work; and

WHEREAS, Bill faithfully served the City of Fairbanks as an Engineer Assistant II and was regarded by colleagues as the City’s primary draftsman, diligently keeping the City up to date with AutoCAD Civil 3D standards; and

WHEREAS, prior to his service with the City, Bill worked from 1983 to 2009 at Stutzmann Engineering, where he served as the primary draftsman and successfully transitioned from manual drafting to digital drafting; and

WHEREAS, Bill’s knowledge and expertise were further demonstrated through his work helping instruct the Civil Drafting Technology college course beginning in 2009, sharing his skills with future professionals in the field; and

WHEREAS, Bill had a gentle and kind spirit and was known for his good-natured humor at work, often lightening the mood with a blend of wit and sincerity that was appreciated by colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Bill was known among coworkers for his dedication to accuracy and high-quality standards, famously sending “Bill’s Rant” emails to remind others of proper drafting practices when things began “getting sloppy” in the office; and

WHEREAS, beyond his service to the City, Bill and his wife June, contributed to the community as downtown business owners of McCafferty’s, A Coffee House, Etc., and as musicians with their band Sand Castle; they met in 1981, bonded through their music, and were married on May 15, 1982, sharing many wonderful years performing, often on Friday evenings at McCafferty’s; and

WHEREAS, Bill was very proud to be a grandfather to five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, was actively involved in their lives, and was deeply loved by all of them; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Valerie Therrien and June Rogers became close friends through their service on the City Council, and Bill’s warm demeanor—always greeting Councilmember Therrien with a hug—left a lasting personal impact; and

WHEREAS, Bill was also an active participant in the Fairbanks arts community, acting in and contributing to several local independent and university-produced films, where he shared his creativity, talent, and support for local storytelling; and

WHEREAS, although Bill's official job title was "Engineer Assistant", he was the best member of the Engineering Department for matters pertaining to surface drainage.

WHEREAS, with very little direction, Bill could take concepts requiring the mending of many complicated parts and produce a biddable and buildable design on time.

WHEREAS, Bill Rogers passed away suddenly on August 11, 2026, and his many years of devoted service, his humble and steady presence, and the profound impact of his loss on City staff and the broader community are deeply felt; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to honor Bill's memory and extend heartfelt condolences to his family, including his wife and former City Councilmember June Rogers, and to the many friends, coworkers, and loved ones who mourn Bill's loss; and

WHEREAS, a memorial for Bill will be held on October 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Chapel of Chimes.

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

Section 1. The Fairbanks City Council formally honors William "Bill" Rogers for his many years of service, professional excellence, and meaningful contributions to the City of Fairbanks and its residents..

Section 2. A copy of this resolution is to be presented to Bill's family with sincere appreciation for his life, service, and legacy.

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

Mindy O'Neill, Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 5234

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS TO APPLY FOR FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES GRANTS OFFICE FOR THE FFY 2022 – FFY 2025 EDWARD BYRNE STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Fairbanks has been notified by the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety Division of Administrative Services Grants Office that the City is eligible to apply for the FFY 2022 – FFY 2025 Edward Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) to assist units of local government with their criminal justice needs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fairbanks Police Department will use funds to consult with a licensed clinician for the CIT Program (\$14,742) and send two officers to training for a less-lethal certification course (\$13,000) and host a verbal Judo de-escalation course (\$20,000); and

WHEREAS, the City of Fairbanks plans to request \$47,742 and no match is required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the Mayor or their designee is authorized to execute any and all documents required for requesting funds on behalf of the City for this grant.

PASSED and APPROVED this 14th Day of September 2026.

Mindy O'Neill, City Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

CITY OF FAIRBANKS
FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST:

Ordinance or Resolution No: 5234

Abbreviated Title: FFY 2022 - FFY 2025 Edward Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP)

Department(s): FPD

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:	Training	Equipment	Contract	Total
Licensed Clinician			\$14,742	\$14,742
Less-lethal certification course	\$13,000			\$13,000
Verbal Judo de-escalation training	\$20,000			\$20,000
				\$0
				\$0
TOTAL	\$33,000	\$0	\$14,742	\$47,742

FUNDING SOURCE:	Training	Equipment	Contract	Total
Grant Fund (Federal)	\$33,000		\$14,742	\$47,742
				\$0
				\$0
TOTAL	\$33,000	\$0	\$14,742	\$47,742

The City of Fairbanks will apply for funds from the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety Division of Administrative Services Grants Office to provide the Police Department with a licensed clinician for the CIT Program (\$14,742) and send two officers to training for a less-lethal certification course (\$13,000) and host a verbal Judo de-escalation course (\$20,000).

Reviewed by Finance Department:

Initial jp

Date 9/9/2026

ORDINANCE NO. 6354

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE CHAPTER 46,
ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 5 - ILLEGAL ACTIVITY NUISANCE**

WHEREAS, the City has received numerous complaints recently from citizens about nuisance activities in their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City has a responsibility to promote the health and well-being of its community and to help safeguard its residents' peaceful and quiet enjoyment of their property.

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

SECTION 1. Fairbanks General Code Chapter 46, Article IV, Division 5 is hereby amended, as follows [new text in **bold/underlined** font; deleted text in ~~striketrough~~ font]:

Sec. 46-211. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Chronic nuisance property means:

(1) Property on which three or more nuisance activities have occurred during any 60-day period;

(2) Property on which or within ~~200~~ **250** feet of which any person associated with the property has engaged in three or more nuisance activity during any 60-day period;
or

(3) Property which, upon request for execution of a search warrant, has been the subject of a determination by a court that probable cause that possession, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance or related offenses as defined in AS 11.71.010—11.71.060 have occurred within the previous 30 days.

Control means the ability to regulate, restrain, dominate, counteract or govern conduct that occurs on a property.

~~*Deputy director of public safety* includes the deputy director of public safety and his designee.~~

Intimidation means:

- (1) Tampering or interfering with property while having no right to do so nor reasonable ground to believe that the person has such right, with the intent to cause substantial inconvenience to another because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation;
- (2) Intentionally subjecting another to offensive physical contact because of the person's perception of the other's race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation; or
- (3) Intentionally, because of the person's perception of race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation of another or of a member of the other's family, subjecting such other person to alarm by threatening to:
 - a. Inflict serious physical injury upon or to commit a felony affecting such other person, or a member of the person's family; or
 - b. Cause substantial damage to the property of the other person or of a member of the other person's family.

Nuisance activities ~~activity~~ activity means any of the following activities, behaviors, or criminal conduct:

- (1) Harassment as defined in AS 11.61.120;
- (2) Intimidation as defined in this section;
- (3) Assault and reckless endangerment as defined in AS 11.41.200—11.41.230;
- (4) Disorderly conduct as defined in AS 11.61.110 or section 46-41;
- (5) Disturbing the peace as provided in section 46-42;
- (6) Sexual abuse, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, or sexual misconduct as provided in AS 11.51.130, AS 11.41.434—11.41.440, AS 11.41.455;
- (7) Prostitution or related offenses as provided in AS 11.66.100—11.66.130;
- (8) Alcoholic liquor ~~liquor~~ **beverage** violations as provided in AS 04.11.010—04.11.015;
- (9) Offensive littering as provided in AS 46.06.080 and section 46-162;
- (10) Criminal trespass as provided in AS 11.46.320—11.46.330;
- (11) Theft as provided in AS 11.46.100—11.46.200;
- (12) Arson or related offenses as provided in AS 11.46.410—11.46.430;

- (13) Possession, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance or related offenses as provided in AS 11.71.010—11.71.060;
- (14) Illegal gambling as provided in AS 11.66.200—11.66.260;
- (15) Criminal mischief as provided in AS 11.46.480—11.46.486;
- (16) Any attempt to commit, as defined in AS 11.31.100, or conspiracy to commit, as defined in AS 11.31.120, any of the above offenses;
- (17) ~~Fire or~~ **Unlawful** discharge of a firearm as provided in AS 11.61.190—11.61.220 and section 46-293;
- (18) Unlawful operation of sound producing or reproducing equipment as provided in section 46-186;
- (19) Unlawful drinking in public places as provided in section 46-80;
- (20) Curfew as provided by section 46-81;
- (21) Indecent exposure as provided in AS 11.41.460;
- (22) Illegal mobile home occupation as defined in section 10-381; and
- (23) Continued failure to secure a vacant building, as defined in section 10-207.
- (24) Harboring a dangerous or nuisance animal as determined by the Borough's Animal Control Officer with said determination upheld through appeal to the Borough's Animal Control Commission or at the expiration of the period in which to make an appeal.**

Permit means to suffer, allow, consent to, acquiesce by failure to prevent or expressly assent or agree to the doing of an act.

Person means any natural person, agent, association, firm, partnership or corporation capable of owning, occupying or using property in the city.

Person associated with means any person who, on the occasion of nuisance activity, has entered, patronized, visited or attempted to enter, patronize or visit, or waited to enter, patronize or visit a property or person present on a property, including without limitation any officer, director, customer, agent, employee, or any independent contractor of a property, person in charge, or owner.

Person in charge means any person in actual or constructive possession of a property, including but not limited to an owner or occupant of property under **his** **their** dominion, ownership, or control.

Property means any property, including land and that which is affixed, incidental or appurtenant to land, including but not limited to any business or residential premises, room, house, parking area, loading area, landscaping, building or structure or any separate part, unit or portion, or any business equipment, whether or not permanent.

For property consisting of more than one unit, property is limited to the unit or the portion of the property on which any nuisance activity has occurred or is occurring, but includes areas of property used in common by all units of property, including without limitation other structures erected on the property and areas used for parking, loading and landscaping.

Property Owner of Record means the individual or entity shown on the tax rolls of the borough.

Sec. 46-212. Chronic nuisance prohibited.

(a) Any property within the city which is a chronic nuisance property is in violation of this article and subject to its remedies.

(b) Any person in charge who permits property to be chronic nuisance property shall be in violation of this article and subject to its remedies.

Sec. 46-213. Procedures.

(a) When the ~~mayor, M~~mayor's designee, ~~or city council~~ receives two ~~three~~ or more reports **from distinct, identified individuals** documenting **regarding** the occurrence of nuisance activity on or within 200 ~~200~~ **250** feet of a property ~~within the area, the C~~chief of Ppolice or their designee shall independently review such reports to determine whether ~~they describe criminal or nuisance acts enumerated under this chapter~~ **the property is a chronic nuisance property.**

(b) Upon such a finding, the ~~M~~mayor's designee shall send a **written** notice to the person in charge **and, if different, the property owner of record,** ~~in~~ writing that the property is ~~in danger of becoming~~ **has been identified as a** chronic nuisance property. The notice must contain the following information:

(1) The street address or a legal description sufficient for identification of the property;

(2) A statement that the city has **identified** information that the property ~~may be~~ **as a** chronic nuisance property, with a concise description of the nuisance activities that may exist or that have occurred. The ~~M~~mayor's designee shall offer the person in charge an opportunity to propose a

course of action that the ~~M~~mayor agrees will abate the nuisance activities giving rise to the violation; and

(3) ~~A~~ Demand that the person in charge, or property owner of record or their legal agent, respond to the ~~M~~mayor's designee within ten days of receipt of the notice to discuss the nuisance activity-; and

(4) Notification that no response by a person in charge within the ten-day period will result in a civil penalty of \$250, that an additional \$250 civil penalty will be added every ten days thereafter until a response has been received, that any amount due under this section is in addition to any other permissible penalty or remedy, that any amount due under this section will not be reduced or reimbursed because a person in charge ultimately did respond, and that a lien may be placed against the property and/or property owner of record to recover any balance accrued.

(c) A copy of the notice shall also be posted at the property if ten days has elapsed from the service or mailing of notice and no response has been received.

(d) The failure of any person to receive notice that the property may be a chronic nuisance shall not invalidate or otherwise affect the proceedings under this article.

~~Sec. 46-214. Action by deputy director of public safety.~~

~~(a) After complying with the notification procedures in section 46-213, when the deputy director of public safety determines that the property has become chronic nuisance property, the deputy director of public safety shall notify the person in charge in writing that the property has been determined to be a chronic nuisance property. The notice shall contain the following information:~~

~~(1) The street address or a legal description sufficient for identification of the property;~~

~~(2) A statement that the deputy director of public safety has determined the property to be chronic nuisance property with a concise description of the nuisance activities leading to his findings; and~~

~~(3) Demand that the person in charge respond within ten days to the deputy director of public safety and propose a course of action that the deputy director of public safety agrees will abate the nuisance activities giving rise to the violation.~~

~~(b) Service shall be made either personally or by first class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, addressed to the person in charge at the address of the property believed to be a chronic nuisance property, or such other place which is likely to give the person in charge notice of the determination by the deputy director of public safety.~~

~~(c) A copy of the notice shall be served on the owner at such address as shown on the tax rolls of the borough, and/or the occupant, at the address of the property, if these persons are different than the person in charge, and shall be made either personally or by first class mail, postage prepaid.~~

~~(d) A copy of the notice shall also be posted at the property if ten days has elapsed from the service or mailing of notice to the person in charge and the person in charge has not contacted the deputy director of public safety.~~

~~(e) The failure of any person to receive notice that the property may be a chronic nuisance shall not invalidate or otherwise affect the proceedings under this article.~~

Sec. 46-2174. Copies of notice to city attorney.

Concurrent with the notification procedures in this division, the deputy director of public safety shall send copies of the notice, as well as any other documentation which supports legal proceedings against the property, **must be provided** to the city attorney.

Sec. 46-215. Notification regarding chronic nuisance property.

Chronic nuisance property, as defined in section 46-211, ~~shall be~~ **is** subject only to the notification requirements of this article.

Sec. 46-216. Postponement of legal proceedings.

If, after the notification but prior to the commencement of legal proceedings by the city pursuant to this article, a person in charge stipulates with the ~~deputy director of public safety~~ **mayor** that the person in charge will pursue **to** a course of action the parties agree will abate the nuisance activities giving rise to the violation, the ~~deputy director of public safety~~ **mayor** may agree to postpone legal proceedings for a period of not less than ten nor more than 30 days. If the agreed course of action does not result in abatement of the nuisance activity or if no agreement concerning abatement is reached within 30 days, the ~~deputy director of public safety~~ **mayor** may refer the matter to the city attorney to commence a legal proceeding to abate the nuisance.

Sec. 46-2187. Effect of response.

When a person in charge makes a response to the ~~deputy director of public safety~~ **mayor** as required in section 46-216, any conduct or statements made in connection with the furnishing of that response shall **will** not constitute an admission that any

nuisance activities have or are occurring. This section does not require the exclusion of any evidence which is otherwise admissible or offered for any other purpose.

Sec. 46-2198. Burden of proof; defenses; mitigation of civil penalty.

(a) In an action for chronic nuisance property, the city shall have the initial burden of proof to show by a preponderance of the evidence that the property is chronic nuisance property.

(b) It is a defense to an action for chronic nuisance property that the person in charge at all material times could not, in the exercise of reasonable care or diligence, determine that the property had become chronic nuisance property, or could not, in spite of the exercise of reasonable care and diligence, control the conduct leading to the determination that the property is chronic nuisance property.

(c) In establishing the amount of any civil penalty requested, the court may consider any of the following factors and shall cite those found applicable:

- (1) The actions taken by the person in charge to mitigate or correct the nuisance activities at the property.
- (2) The financial condition of the person in charge.
- (3) Whether the problem at the property was repeated or continuous.
- (4) The magnitude or gravity of the problem.
- (5) The cooperativeness of the person in charge with the city.
- (6) The cost to the city of investigating and correcting or attempting to correct the nuisance activities.
- (7) Any other factor deemed by the court to be relevant.

Sec. 46-22019. Closure during pendency of action; emergency closure.

Any emergency closure proceeding shall be based on evidence showing that nuisance activities have occurred on the property and that emergency action is necessary to avoid an immediate threat to public welfare and safety. Proceedings to obtain an order of emergency closure ~~shall~~ **will** be governed by state law for obtaining temporary restraining orders. In such an event, the notification procedures set forth in this chapter need not be complied with.

Sec. 46-2210. Commencement of actions and remedies.

(a) The ~~deputy director of public safety~~ **mayor** may request **that** the city attorney ~~to~~ commence legal proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin or abate **a**

chronic nuisance property and to seek closure, the imposition of civil penalties against any or all of the persons in charge, and any such other relief deemed appropriate.

(b) If after the commencement but prior to the trial of an action or suit brought by the city pursuant to this article a person in charge of a chronic nuisance property stipulates with the city that ~~he~~ they will pursue a course of action the parties agree will abate the nuisance activities giving rise to the violation, the city attorney may agree to stay proceedings for a period of not less than ten nor more than 60 days, except in the case of nuisance activity involving drugs where a search warrant was executed at the property. The person in charge or the city attorney may thereafter petition the court for such additional like period of time as may be necessary to complete the actions to abate the nuisance activity. However, if the city attorney reasonably believes the person in charge of a property is not diligently pursuing the actions necessary to abate the nuisance activity, the city attorney may apply to the court for release from the stay and may seek such relief as is deemed appropriate.

(c) If a court determines property to be a chronic nuisance property, the court shall order that the property be closed and secured against access, use, and occupancy for a period of not less than six months, nor more than one year. The court shall retain jurisdiction during any period of closure. The person in charge may petition the court for an order reducing the period of closure if the person in charge and the city stipulate that the nuisance has been and will continue to be abated.

(d) If a property is found to be chronic nuisance property, the person in charge of the chronic nuisance property is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$100.00 per day for each day nuisance activities occurred on the property, following notice to the person in charge.

Sec. 46-2221. Enforcement.

(a) The court may authorize the city to physically secure the property against all access, use, or occupancy if the person in charge fails to do so within the time specified by the court. If the city is authorized to secure the property, all costs reasonably incurred by the city to physically secure the property shall be paid to the city by the person in charge and may be included in the city's ~~money~~ judgment. As used in this subsection, "costs" mean those costs actually incurred by the city for physically securing the property, as well as tenant relocation costs.

(1) The finance department ~~of public safety~~ shall prepare a statement of costs, and the city shall thereafter submit the statement to the court for its review.

(2) Judgments imposed by this division ~~shall~~ bear interest at the legal rate of interest under state law.

(b) Any person who is assessed the costs of physically securing the property by the court shall be personally liable for their payment to the city.

(c) The person in charge shall pay reasonable relocation costs of a tenant if without actual notice the tenant moved into the property after a person in charge received notice of either:

(1) The ~~department of public safety~~city's determination; or

(2) ~~A person in charge received notice of a~~An action brought pursuant to this article.

(d) In any action pursuant to this division, the court may, in its discretion, award attorney's fees to the prevailing party.

Secs. 46-2232—46-229. - Reserved.

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

Mindy O'Neill, City Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 6355

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE
CHAPTER 78, TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, ADDING DEFINITIONS
INCLUDING ELECTRIC-ASSISTED BICYCLE AND MOTORIZED
BICYCLE AND PROVIDING FOR IMPOUNDMENT**

WHEREAS, electric vehicles with two tandem wheels are becoming increasingly common on streets, sidewalks, and pathways; and

WHEREAS, these vehicles range from low-speed bicycles to high-powered motorcycles; and

WHEREAS, the growing popularity and use of these vehicles has caused concern for the safety of all users of public roadways, sidewalks, and pathways; and

WHEREAS, designating appropriate areas for the operation of these electric vehicles promotes safe enjoyment for all users of these shared public spaces; and

WHEREAS, improving definitions for emerging recreational electric vehicles will help riders understand where they can operate safely and responsibly, supporting compliance; and

WHEREAS, current state law prohibits the operation of these electric vehicles on sidewalks generally and does not permit operation on public roadways without proper licensing, registration, and required safety equipment; and

WHEREAS, because many of these electric vehicles cannot be registered and many of their operators cannot be licensed, riders may unknowingly operate these vehicles in violation of law; and

WHEREAS, clearer local rules and consistent definitions will help riders understand where these electric vehicles can be used safely and will reduce conflicts between riders, pedestrians, and traffic.

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

Section 1. Fairbanks General Code Chapter 78, Article I, Section 78-2 is hereby amended, as follows [new text in **bold/underlined** font; deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~ font]:

Sec. 78-2. - ~~Administrative Code~~ Definitions applicable to chapter.

(a) The city incorporates by reference as if set forth fully in this chapter **the definitions provided in AS 28.90.990(a) and** 13 AAC 40.010. ~~The definitions set forth in 13 AAC 40.010 shall be the applicable definitions to this chapter.~~

(b) Additionally, the following definitions are used in this chapter:

1. "Bicycle" includes electric-assisted bicycle.
2. "Electric-assisted bicycle" means a bicycle, equipped with an electric motor, which has:
 - a. Fully operational pedals, which function to propel the bike;
 - b. A maximum assisted speed of 20 miles per hour; and
 - c. A maximum motor size of 750 watts.
3. "Motorbike" means a motorized bicycle, dirtbike, or similar conveyance with an engine attached; "motorbike" does not include electric-assisted bicycle.
4. "Motorized bicycle" means a bicycle equipped with a motor; "motorized bicycle" does not include electric-assisted bicycle.
5. "Public property" includes sidewalks, bicycle paths, and parks.

Section 2. Fairbanks General Code Chapter 78, Article XVI, Section 78-578 is hereby amended, as follows [new text in **bold/underlined** font; deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~ font]:

Sec. 78-578. - Driving motorized vehicles on public property in certain areas prohibited; authority to impound vehicles.

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle, motorbike, or motor-driven cycle on any public property in any park, playground, school ground or on any bicycle path within the city, unless the vehicle is operated on a highway or vehicular way or area pursuant to state law, except:

- 1. Upon pathways public property which has been expressly specifically designated and posted by the governing authority for such operation purpose; except that**
- 2. As permitted in borough parks and borough outdoor recreation areas; or**
- 3. Authorized maintenance vehicles and others approved by the city engineer are shall be exempt from this section.**

(b) A vehicle operated in violation of this section is subject to towing and impound. A vehicle impounded under this section may only be released upon proof of ownership and payment of the costs of impound, including towing and storage,

in accordance with the City's Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services. The mayor may waive the costs of impoundment in whole or in part.

(c) If the operator of the vehicle is a minor at the time the vehicle is impounded, the vehicle may only be released to the minor's parent or legal guardian.

(d) After 30 days of impoundment, the vehicle is considered abandoned and may be disposed of as such without further notice to the owner.

(e) Within seven days after the impoundment, the owner of a vehicle impounded under this section may appeal the impoundment to the mayor. Within 10 business days of the filing of the appeal, the mayor shall conduct a hearing on the appeal to determine whether sufficient and probable cause existed to sustain the impoundment. The mayor's decision on the appeal is a final administrative decision, and any further appeal must be filed with the superior court within 30 days from the date of the decision in accordance with the Alaska court rules.

Section 3. When codified, references to the specific definitions in AS 28.90.990(a) and 13 AAC 40.010 used in this ordinance may be included as state law references, including bicycle, highway, motor-driven cycle, motor vehicle, sidewalk, vehicle, and vehicular way or area.

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

Mindy O'Neill, City Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney



FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2026, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#) AND AT
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



The **Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC)** met on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting via Zoom Webinar and at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. **Mayor O’Neall** served as the Chair, and the following members were in attendance:

Members Present (In Person):

Erica Dillard, Seat A
Alyssa Quintyne, Seat B
Terry Norman, Seat E
Dorothy Shockley, Seat F
Lainey Appel, Seat G
Karen Blackburn, Seat I
Herb Butler, Seat J
Jake Merritt, HR Director

Members Present (Zoom):

Mary Jo Skaggs, Seat H

Members Absent:

Lonny Marney, Councilmember (excused)
June Rogers, Seat C
Vacant, Seat D
Deirdre Hamilton, Seat K

Also Present:

D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor O’Neall called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

K. Blackburn, seconded by **T. Norman**, moved to APPROVE the agenda. There being no discussion or objection, the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2026

L. Appel, seconded by **K. Blackburn**, moved to approve the minutes. There being no discussion or objection, the minutes were approved.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS (Limited to 3 Minutes)

Andy Harrington – A. Harrington reported on the upcoming Race Against Racism event.

Lisa Allen – L. Allen stated that she is the Treasurer for the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) organization and shared that she has lived in the area for nearly a year. She discussed the work and mission of the NAACP.

GUEST SPEAKER – NAACP

This item was taken up later in the meeting during the Report from the Chair.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

a) Review of Diversity Action Plan (DAP)

Mayor O’Neill provided an overview of the color-coded DAP handout. She explained that she took the results of the FDC’s strategic planning session, compared it to the DAP, and rearranged the goals according to the group’s discussion. She reviewed all the changes, including the delineation of responsibilities of staff versus those of the FDC and changing the term “revising” to “advising.” She reviewed other proposals included in the draft: change to bimonthly meetings, an annual retreat, and quarterly reports to City Council to include education about the FDC. She continued by reviewing the proposed draft one goal at a time while detailing each task. **D. Shockley, A. Quintyne, T. Norman, and H. Butler** provided feedback to Mayor O’Neill.

At the allowance of the FDC, L. Allen returned to speak. She spoke about having more visibility and togetherness in the community and to how that will have great impacts. She indicated that everyone should feel welcome. L. Allen and Robyne continued to speak about the NAACP, the importance of literature, and to the message it sends that the FDC continues to exist at the City of Fairbanks.

Mayor O’Neill asked if there is a goal NAACP is currently focused on. Robyne mentioned that the City has not recognized MLK Day as a holiday; she added that the NAACP’s focus this year is on voting rights, both locally and federally. The NAACP representatives shared that the NAACP’s Juneteenth event would be relocated to the Carlson Center this year because the Bernice Allridge Park is being renovated. They discussed the NAACP’s relationship with the FPD and spoke about how the groups regularly meet. They shared that the FDC and the City, including the Police and Fire Departments, participated in the 2025 Juneteenth event, and they invited the FDC to host a booth at the 2026 event.

Mayor O’Neill shared that at the last FDC meeting, members agreed that the FDC would not host a booth at the Juneteenth event this year but discussed that individual members could attend to mingle with community members and talk about the FDC.

Mayor O’Neill paused the discussion to take a group photo.

Mayor O’Neill resumed the review of the DAP. **H. Butler** thanked Mayor O’Neill for her leadership. **Mayor O’Neill** expressed hope that the time the FDC spends together will bleed into the community in a way that showcases diversity. **H. Butler** suggested that the nation’s political climate is worth discussing and that with voting approaching, it may be worthwhile for the FDC to take a position. **A. Quintyne** asked if the FDC is allowed to do Community Perspectives. **Mayor O’Neill** stated that it would require agreement by the FDC.

b) Update on Challenges with Unhoused Population in Fairbanks: Warming Center, City’s Role/Authority

Mayor O’Neill updated members on where the City is with the various projects and initiatives:

- HopeLink Funding – City Council allocated \$40,000 in April for HopeLink’s final operations; \$15,000 spent, leaving \$25,000 for a warming shelter or similar use.
- Housing & Density – Exploring options to increase residential density in the City core, including coordination with major landholders (e.g., hospital). Acting as a “matchmaker”

to bring builders and partners together; working with the Housing and Homeless Coalition on resetting and breaking down silos.

- Blighted Properties – Developing ordinances addressing blighted areas that invite vagrancy and criminal activity.
- Justice & Health Initiatives – Advancing a mental health court concept to alleviate court load, improve services, and divert individuals from the corrections system.
- City Health & Social Services/HEART – Highlighted the City’s role and the new HEART program serving the unhoused and encampments; referenced the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) and peer support for domestic violence victims. Emphasized the City as a convener, supporting entities with expertise and resources.
- Emergency Preparedness – Ongoing discussions on emergency warming shelters, especially given recent extreme cold and potential power outages.

H. Butler asked about coordination with other mayors. **Mayor O’Neill** replied that the Borough is more restricted in its health and social service powers as a second-class borough but that the City has partnered with the Borough on encampment issues and enacting similar ordinances. Members discussed the reasons why people become homeless and things that could be done to prevent homelessness. **K. Blackburn** spoke about numerous local resources, including the Northern Hope Center. **A. Quintyne** pointed out that often eligibility is a barrier to obtaining resources. She questioned the FDC’s role in that area. **Mayor O’Neill** noted it was a good question and suggested adding the item to the next FDC agenda.

K. Blackburn provided an update on recent and upcoming happenings at the Northern Hope Center, including their rapid growth, expanded services, and new location at 513 12th Avenue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Nomination of an FDC Representative to Alaska Native Roundtable

Mayor O’Neill asked if anyone was interested in serving as an FDC representative at Alaska Native Roundtable meetings. **H. Butler** volunteered, **D. Shockley** offered to be an alternate, and **T. Norman** volunteered to be third backup.

- b) Reconsideration of Meeting Frequency

Mayor O’Neill stated that she has cancelled the July meeting and that she would like the FDC to reconsider its meeting frequency; she added that she would rather do something right than do things out of obligation. She stated that the FDC is required to meet quarterly and that she proposes meeting every other month. She asked for consensus, and members agreed to make the change.

A. Quintyne asked if the FDC is allowed to take care of business via email. Clerk Snider stated that email communications may violate the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and cautioned members that FDC business should not be done via email.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- a) Juneteenth Celebration – Saturday, June 20, noon – 4 p.m., Carlson Center

FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS

E. Dillard stated that she advocated for member t-shirts with FDC logo and suggested that social media would be a good way for the FDC to gain exposure in the community. She spoke briefly about the "907 Navigation" website which provides a services guide for Fairbanks and Anchorage.

H. Butler read aloud a pledge of mutual respect written 26 years ago by an Anchorage group called "Bridge Builders."

T. Norman stated that she loved the meeting. She shared that she would try to get the FDC a spot at the Midnight Sun Intertribal Powwow.

K. Blackburn thanked the NAACP and Race Against Racism folks for attending the meeting, and she thanked Mayor O'Neill for her leadership. She also welcomed new FDC members.

D. Shockley stated that it had been a good meeting. She expressed appreciation for the leadership and momentum of the FDC. She asked for an introduction of members at the next meeting.

L. Appel expressed her appreciation for the draft DAP. She commented that the meeting provided more structure, and she thanked the guests who spoke.

M. J. Skaggs welcomed A. Quintyne and stated that she brings incredible experience, skills, creativity, and vision to the FDC. She thanked the NAACP for their presentation and stated that she looks forward to more speakers in the future. She stated that she would be unable to attend the Race Against Racism event but would certainly help spread the word about it.

Mayor O'Neill mentioned the murals being painted on City Hall. She stated that she was excited to work with the Native Movement and others on bio-cultural heritage in public spaces. She assured the group and listeners that the murals would not affect the historic integrity of the building.

MEETING DATES

- a) Next Regular Meeting Date, August 11, 2026 [Review of Diversity Action Plan; July meeting has been cancelled]

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor O'Neill declared the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



Mayor O'Neill, Chair



D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS



CLAY STREET CEMETERY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – August 5, 2026
HELD VIA ZOOM WEBINAR AND
IN FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



The Clay Street Cemetery Commission convened at 5:03 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: Allysa Westman, Seat A
 Jessica Desmond, Seat B
 Aldean Kilbourn, Seat C & Chair
 Janet Richardson, Seat D & Vice Chair
 Julie Jones, Seat E (remotely)
 Karen Erickson, Seat F (joined remotely at 5:20 p.m.)
 Amy Stratman, Seat G

Absent: Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director

Also Present: Colt Chase, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2026

J. Richardson, seconded by **A. Stratman**, moved to APPROVE the July 1, 2026 minutes.

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the July 1, 2026 minutes and all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

J. Richardson asked to add "Communication Protocols" under "6. Communications to Commission."

J. Richardson, seconded by **J. Desmond**, moved to APPROVE the agenda, as amended.

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the agenda, as amended, and all members voted in favor.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

George Dalton – G. Dalton spoke fondly of his time on the Clay Street Cemetery Commission, having just ended his service. He discussed the work that he had witnessed over the years and expressed willingness to continue to volunteer in ways that were conducive with his life situation and health.

Chair Kilbourn and **J. Richardson** both thanked G. Dalton for his dedication and work.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION

a) Message from A. Boone re: Marker for Inez Viola Strandberg, Gen NE196

Chair Kilbourn shared that she had received a request from A. Boone, a family member of Inez Viola Strandberg, who is buried in location Gen NE196, to have a new marker placed. She reported that she had provided an application and let her know the cost. **C. Chase** stated he had not yet received an application.

J. Richardson recounted that the grave in question had a basic slab marker that looked like someone had etched details into wet concrete with a stick, and that the whole thing was faded. She noted that her late niece, Arlene Strandberg, had long hoped for an updated marker for Inez

Chair Kilbourn stated that they have her information and could add an updated marker to their next order but that she would like to hold out to see if A. Boone responds.

b) Communication Protocols

J. Richardson discussed email situations where the entire Commission receives the same message and that there can sometimes be confusion over the best approach for responding. She noted that there are sometimes phishing attempts, spam, or other marketing emails which she would like to see ignored, while other more direct messages from individuals requesting information or asking questions should be responded to in a consistent manner.

C. Chase gave a brief summary of the Alaska Open Meetings Act. He noted that while the Commission, being an advisory body only, was not necessarily subject to all provisions of the Act, they have traditionally followed the same guidelines as a best practice.

There was additional discussion, with **J. Richardson** providing other examples of recent communications. There was a consensus that messages warranting a reply should be responded to by either the Chair or Vice Chair, and that other Commission members who may have information to provide to a particular inquiry were welcome to send that to the C. Chase or Chair Kilbourn.

C. Chase shared an email from a representative of the company “CemSites”. **A. Stratman** indicated that she was familiar with the software, that it was used by very large cemeteries that were open for new placements, that it was very expensive and not a good fit for them.

EVENTS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

J. Richardson shared that Chair Kilbourn had prepared a PowerPoint presentation for her to share and that the experience was great. **Chair Kilbourn** thanked J. Desmond for the invitation. **J. Desmond** stated that she could tell they had been well-received by the group based on the lack of side conversations taking place while J. Richardson presented.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

a) Recent Reimbursement: \$40.56 to J. Richardson – Trim for Sign

Chair Kilbourn discussed the new procedure for reimbursements that had been approved at the last meeting and noted that the \$40.56 purchase by J. Richardson had been approved and was reflected in the

financial report. She reviewed the report, which showed a current account balance of \$10,261.12, with \$7,631.23 remaining to be spent from the 2026 Discretionary Fund Grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Quiring Monuments Orders.

J. Jones stated that they could order 20 new markers and purchase any necessary supplies with the remaining funds for the year's grant. Discussion occurred on the current pricing of markers, quantity plans for the next order of markers as well as concrete pads, and the overall process of ordering from Quiring. **J. Jones** reported that the most recent order had finally arrived and that the two pallets would be delivered to the cemetery the following day.

J. Richardson shared that concrete pads for the 31 markers were already installed and that all they would have to do is get headstones placed and glued down. **J. Jones** noted how much work **J. Richardson** and her husband had done to prepare for this part of the process.

b) Resurfacing of Pathways Inside Cemetery

J. Richardson reported that Public Works' Street Foreman Robert Carlson had been out recently to run a blade over the walking paths and discussed next steps for resurfacing the pathways and eliminate weeds.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Adding More Reader Boards Throughout Cemetery

J Richardson suggested they consider adding more high-pressure, laminate signs throughout the cemetery as a way to encourage visitors to explore the property beyond the main central path.

J. Jones asked if they felt the size of their current signs was adequate. **Chair Kilbourn** suggested the size of their existing signs was just right. **J. Richardson** concurred and also discussed the appropriate height.

J. Jones asked how many signs they would like to see added. **Chair Kilbourn** suggested they come up with five ideas and that they select three of them at their September meeting, in time to ensure that the proposal gets included in the narrative for their 2027 Discretionary Fund Grant application.

J. Desmond asked if they were looking for suggestions on topics. **Chair Kilbourn** provided examples. **J. Richardson** confirmed that it could be individuals, groups, or even the evolution of the cemetery itself.

J. Jones stated that she would work on getting quotes for the various options.

b) Protocol for Reporting Camping or Other Prohibited Activity

Chair Kilbourn noted that they occasionally have vehicles, including campers, in their small parking area who stay overnight or for long periods of the day, without any clear connection to visiting the cemetery

J. Richardson recounted that a sign was already installed which read: “No camping or overnight parking”. She reported an instance of someone doing just that in the prior week, as well as walking their dog through the cemetery multiple times despite other signs indicating that such was prohibited. She shared that she had contacted C. Chase to confirm who should be called and that it was determined that calling the non-emergency line at the police station was the correct approach. **C. Chase** provided additional details about who at the City of Fairbanks had authority to cite or otherwise initiate towing of vehicles that were in violation of posted parking signs, based on the entity that managed any particular right-of-way. He confirmed that the solution identified earlier was correct. **J. Richardson** shared that an officer did stop by to notify the individuals and that the situation resolved itself.

c) Public Works Dandelion Maintenance Plans

J. Richardson shared that while there had been a potential solution for the dandelions, the Public Works employee who handles the majority of their groundskeeping had suggested that funds may not be available. **Chair Kilbourn** asserted that one could still see the improvement in the areas where she had dispensed “weed and feed” in 2025. **J. Richardson** concurred, noting that she had also applied some earlier in the year and that it was noticeable. She added that she had been told at the start of the season that plenty of the material was available.

Chair Kilbourn discussed other options for dandelion maintenance. **J. Richardson** added that she had recently pulled significant amounts of bird vetch, another invasive plant, off several graves, which was something they should be very diligent about addressing. **Chair Kilbourn** indicated that she would contact the Public Works Director to discuss the matter.

OPEN AGENDA

J. Richardson shared details of multiple individuals visiting the cemetery, how she helped them locate specific graves for their interred relatives, and that they had complimented the condition of the property.

J. Jones shared details about a recent community effort to rally and clean up the grounds of Birch Hill Cemetery, which had fallen into an unfortunate state after only one year of the change in ownership. **J. Richardson** shared that she had spoken with a representative from Legacy Funeral Homes, the new owners, and that it was clear the company had much to learn about the cemetery they now managed.

NEXT MEETING DATE – September 2, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kilbourn declared the meeting ADJOURNED at 5:47 p.m.


Aldean Kilbourn, Chair


Colt Chase, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Transcribed by: CC



800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor O'Neill and City Council Members

FROM: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk 

SUBJECT: Appointment of Election Officials for the 2026 Regular Election

DATE: August 28, 2026

The following list of officials for the 2026 Regular Election is submitted for your approval. This list does not include Borough or City Clerk's Office staff who will work as election officials for absentee voting and election day. Please note that circumstances may arise that require changes.

<u>AURORA</u>	<u>FAIRBANKS #1</u>	<u>FAIRBANKS #2</u>
Chair – Amelia Caskey	Chair – Susan Yanish	Chair – Sarah Triggs
Ann Diener	Co-Chair – Marilyn Nigro	Co-Chair – Lynn Slusher (partial)
Laura Jacobs	Deborah Rathbun	Gayle Myers
Kaitelynn Torres	Ann Hagestead (partial)	Janet Cenker (partial)
Barbara Sperl	John Rathbun (partial)	James Connor (partial)
	Kathryn McDougall (partial)	Diane Lyon (partial)
	Nancy Hanson (partial)	Michele Thompson Kelly (partial)
	Frank Yanish (relief)	Clark Milne (partial)
		Karen Milne (partial)
		Helen Howard (relief)
		Stephen Sparrow (relief)

<u>FAIRBANKS #3</u>	<u>FAIRBANKS #4</u>	<u>FAIRBANKS #5</u>
Chair – Antonio Shumate	Chair – Nancy Dreydoppel	Chair – Thomas Marsh
Co-Chair – Sarah Delon	Co-Chair – Barbara Nore	Co-Chair – Bonnie Marsh
William Witte	Debra Foster	Cherie Solie
Lydia Oceretko (partial)	Ashley Morris	Susiko Smalls-Glass
Lois Walker (partial)	Lori Mertes	John Estle
Gail Mayo (relief)	Lindsey Dreydoppel (partial)	Harriet Klann (partial)
	Leann Folsom (partial)	Susan Holder (partial)
	Gerald Morris (relief)	Anastacia Colp (partial)

<u>FORT WAINWRIGHT</u>	<u>CANVASS BOARD</u>
Chair – Peggy Barnebey	Leann Folsom
Co-Chair – Sara Buzby	Dianne Dalen
Kallie Jensen	Nancy Dreydoppel
Mary Rafter	Ramona Reeves
Kallie Jensen (partial)	Bev Higdon
	Carolyn Mustard
	Barbara Nore
	Linda Ness



Mindy O'Neill, Mayor

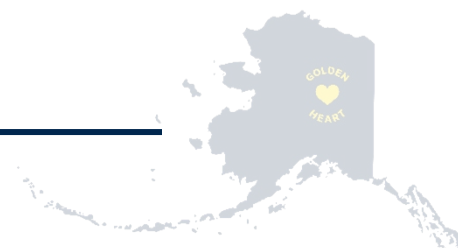
MEMO

DATE: September 9, 2026
TO: City Council Members
FROM: Mayor Mindy O'Neill 
SUBJECT: FEDC Grant Analysis and Timeline Report

FEDC has provided the attached report in an effort to satisfy the City of Fairbanks' FY2026 objective by identifying \$2.0 million in specific, real, currently-available regional development grant funding for the Fairbanks area across eleven programs where FEDC is a confirmed or probable-eligible applicant and by illustrating a realistic multi-year timeline for pursuing them.

FEDC's and the ARDOR Committee's actual immediate-term plan, however, is narrower: File the 2027 CEDS Update application (Portfolio item 1), targeting October 1, 2026. Subject to available capacity and ARDOR Committee/Board direction, FEDC may also pursue the FNSB Economic Analysis Report application (Portfolio item 2), targeting November 1, 2026, followed by an application to support a currently unspecified third award (ass allowed with the next 12 months under its grant writing agreement).

The fuller suite of items in Section 6 are not a committed FEDC work plan, but they demonstrate, with real EDA/USDA/SBA program detail, that the \$2.0 million objective is achievable – and need not rely on a single large award. Still, building on its own experience and the experiences of its ARDOR peers, FEDC will be working expeditiously to position itself, as quickly as possible, to achieve large awards in support of the City of Fairbanks, our community partners and our broader region.



MEMORANDUM**City of Fairbanks \$2M Grant Analysis and Timeline Report****Date:** August 27, 2026**From:** Fairbanks Economic Development**To:** City of Fairbanks**Re:** Response to the City of Fairbanks directive to “identify \$2.0 million in regional development grants for Fairbanks and prepare report of grant timelines.”**Acronyms & Abbreviations**

Full names are given at first use in the table where practical; this single alphabetical list is provided for quick reference throughout and continues in order across the page break below.

Acronym	Full Name
ACEP	Alaska Center for Energy and Power
ACS	American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau)
AFB	Air Force Base
AFDF	Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation
AFFECT	UAF program cited as an agriculture-incubator lead in the 2025 CEDS Update; full name not specified in that source text
AIBA	Alaska Interior Business Accelerator (FEDC program)
AIDEA	Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
ALFA	Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
AMA	Alaska Mariculture Alliance
AARP	AARP (operates under this initialism; formerly American Association of Retired Persons)
ARDOR	Alaska Regional Development Organization
BBBRC	Build Back Better Regional Challenge (EDA program)
CAMP	Council for the Alaska Microreactor Pilot
CCHRC	Cold Climate Housing Research Center
CEDS	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
C.F.R.	Code of Federal Regulations
CRREL	Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
CRTC	Cold Regions Test Center (U.S. Army, Fort Greely, Alaska)

Acronym	Full Name
CWT	Cold Weather Testing (FEDC program / “Arctic Tested Alaska Tough” trademark)
EAA	Economic Adjustment Assistance (EDA program)
EDA	U.S. Economic Development Administration (Department of Commerce)
EDD	Economic Development District
EDR	Economic Development Representative (EDA regional staff contact)
FEDC	Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation
FMPP	Farmers Market Promotion Program (USDA)
FNSB	Fairbanks North Star Borough
IGU	Interior Gas Utility
KPEDD	Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District
LFPP	Local Food Promotion Program (USDA)
LTA	Local Technical Assistance (EDA program)
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
PCI	Per Capita Income
PRIME	Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs (SBA)
PWEAA	Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EDA's core NOFO)
PWEDA	Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended
PWSEDD	Prince William Sound Economic Development District
RBDG	Rural Business Development Grant (USDA)
RD	Rural Development (USDA Rural Development)
RMAP	Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (USDA)
SBA	U.S. Small Business Administration
SETS	Sustainable Energy Transmission and Supply Development Fund (AIDEA)
SOI	Statement of Interest
SWAMC	Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference
TA	Technical Assistance
TBD	To Be Determined
UA	University of Alaska
UAF	University of Alaska Fairbanks

Acronym	Full Name
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
WVU	West Virginia University

1. Executive Summary

This report is meant to satisfy the City of Fairbanks' FY2026 directive for FEDC to “identify \$2.0 million in regional development grants for Fairbanks and prepare report of grant timelines” by (1) identifying a portfolio of eleven currently-available funding programs totaling \$2.0 million in realistically-targeted regional development grants for Fairbanks, and (2) providing a phased, multi-year timeline for applying for, winning, and receiving those funds. It is grounded in FEDC's current program capacity and funding base, EDA's economic distress rules, and comparable ARDOR case studies.

Though single, large-dollar award may be achievable in the shorter-term through partnering with an entity like Interior Regional Housing, which has experience seeking and attaining such awards, the \$2.0 million figure in this report is based on a cumulative identified funding pipeline — the sum of a number of programs FEDC is both eligible for and has current or historic experience. Two of the eleven programs (the EDA CEDS Planning Grant and the FNSB Economic Analysis LTA, together \$90,000 in EDA funding on \$150,000 of real, in-hand consulting quotes) reflect FEDC's actual near-term plans: the CEDS Update targets an October 1, 2026 filing and the Economic Analysis Report soon thereafter. These two figures reflect actual EDA correspondence obtained by FEDC - including a match-rate - rather than the placeholder estimates used elsewhere in this portfolio. The remaining nine programs are sequenced across 2026–2029 for illustration only; see the Scope Note below.

Scope note: This report is an identification and planning exercise responding to FEDC understanding of the City's objective, not a committed FEDC work plan. FEDC has recently entered an agreement for grant writing and grant administration services that will allow it to submit three applications over the next 12 months. Though one of them may in fact turn out to be a major award, management's expectation is that they will be relatively small-bore grants, grounded in FEDC's current initiatives, for which FEDC can display high performance while both gaining experience in administration and reporting, and build a good initial reputation with federal funders. Therefore, FEDC's actual near-term intent is limited to (1) the 2027 CEDS Update application (Portfolio item 1) and, possibly, (2) the FNSB Economic Analysis Report application (Portfolio item 2). Portfolio items 3–11 (Section 6) are presented to demonstrate that the City's \$2.0 million objective is realistically achievable within real, EDA/USDA/SBA-eligible programs. They illustrate a feasible path but are not an authorized or committed pursuit list. Any decision to pursue items 3–11 will require separate ARDOR Committee and FEDC Board authorization not sought or granted by this report.

Key finding: A senior ARDOR administrator interviewed during FEDC's immediate post-designation research advised FEDC to expect it will be “two to three years” before it has built both the grantor relationships and the internal administrative capacity needed to achieve and manage large-scale federal awards. This is consistent with Southeast Conference's roughly eight-year path from its first NOAA planning grant to its \$49 million EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge award (see Section 3.1) and with FEDC's own roughly many-year build-up on the Interior Gas Utility (from a \$500K feasibility study to a \$327.5M blended finance package — \$52.5M grant, \$125M SETS Loan, and \$150M bonding authority). FEDC is starting this process from a materially weaker position than either precedent at their outset: no prior relationship with any federal grantor, no dedicated grants management staff or federal compliance experience, and a small non-federal match base. FEDC is addressing this directly: it is in the process of contracting with a grant-writing and grant-administration firm, and has structured the first two EDA applications (Portfolio items 1–2, Section 6) explicitly as the vehicle for that firm to work alongside FEDC staff and transfer federal grant-application and administration skills in-house over an 18 month to two-year horizon. Accordingly, this report treats full award and deployment of the \$2.0 million portfolio as a 3-year process, completing in 2029 — at the front edge, not ahead, of the administrator's 2–3 year guidance, and consistent with FEDC's own 2-year in-house capacity target. Section 8 sets out the capacity gaps. Programs beyond this initial \$2.0 million (EDA Public Works, EDD-designation benefits, foundation funding via a possible 501(c)(3) subsidiary) represent FEDC's potential longer-horizon growth, realistically post-2029.

Finally, this is intended as a living planning document. Dollar figures for programs marked “amount TBD” or “confirm with EDA” in FEDC's underlying analyses are shown here at conservative estimated levels and will be refined as pre-application conversations with EDA's Seattle Region Economic Development Representative and USDA Rural Development Alaska proceed.

2. Methodology & Sources

This report synthesizes four prior FEDC analyses and one internal program inventory:

- Interior ARDOR Grant and Funding Opportunities Analysis (FEDC Management to ARDOR Committee, May 2026) — the ranked matrix of federal, state, and foundation programs FEDC is eligible to pursue.
- EDA Economic Distress Eligibility by Interior Community (FEDC Management, revised June 8, 2026) — statutory distress qualification for Fairbanks city and surrounding communities under 13 C.F.R. §301.3.
- EDA Grant Alignment Report, 2022–2026 — a survey of FEDC's past and current projects and programs cross-referenced against comparable, already-funded EDA grants nationally, demonstrating competitive precedent for FEDC's program areas.
- A comparative case study of the Southeast Conference / Alaska Mariculture Cluster \$49M EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge award, and FEDC's own Interior Gas Utility experience, used to calibrate realistic timelines for large-scale award pursuit.
- FEDC's internal survey of past and current projects and programs, used to confirm organizational capacity to deliver the projects underlying each proposed grant application.

3. Case Studies: How Comparable Grant Pursuits Actually Unfolded

Before presenting the portfolio and timeline, this section examines two case studies on of large-dollar awards – and the processes and timelines of achieving them: the Southeast Conference-led Alaska Mariculture Cluster's \$49 million EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) award, and FEDC's own decade-long work regarding the Interior Gas Utility. Both cases show the same underlying pattern — a small seed investment, a multi-year coalition- and document-building phase, and only then a large award. Speaking to EDA and other ARDOR's, this appears to be the “standard practice.”

3.1 Southeast Conference / Alaska Mariculture Cluster — EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge

Though others exist, management believes this is an instructive precedent for FEDC: a fellow Alaska ARDOR, Southeast Conference, advanced on the EDA relationship path FEDC is now beginning, converted an eight-year process into a \$49 million award — the largest EDA grant referenced anywhere in FEDC's research. For this example, as others found, the sequence matters more than the headline number.

Date	Milestone
2014	Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) receives a NOAA grant for the Alaska Mariculture Initiative — a 30-year vision to grow a \$1 billion industry. This is the seed grant; no large federal ask exists yet.
2016	Governor Walker establishes the Alaska Mariculture Task Force (Administrative Order #280) — 11 representatives spanning communities, tribes, industry, hatcheries, the University, and two state departments, chaired by AFDF's head.

Date	Milestone
2016–2017	Task Force meets and deliberates for roughly six quarters before producing recommendations.
March 2018	Alaska Mariculture Development Plan released. Top priorities: hatchery seed supply, a state Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund, an Alaska Mariculture Development Council, a Mariculture Research Center at the University of Alaska, and key coordinator positions (NOAA, Alaska Sea Grant).
2021	Southeast Conference's 2021–2025 CEDS formally sets mariculture development as a priority objective — the document that makes the coalition's later federal application possible.
2021	Southeast Conference organizes a coalition of 30+ private businesses and numerous tribal entities (Sealaska, Native Conservancy, Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute) alongside AMA, AFDF, three other Alaska EDDs (PWSEDD, SWAMC, KPEDD), the State of Alaska, Alaska Sea Grant, the University of Alaska, Central Council Tlingit & Haida, and ALFA.
October 2021	Phase I Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) proposal submitted, with Southeast Conference as lead applicant.
December 2021	Selected as 1 of 60 finalists out of 529 applications nationwide.
Dec 2021–Mar 2022	Phase II proposal developed: more than 115 meetings with mariculture/seafood stakeholders and more than 30 informational and logistical meetings with EDA.
March 15, 2022	Phase II proposal submitted, Southeast Conference as lead applicant.
September 2022	\$49 million EDA BBBRC award announced — approximately 8 years after the initial NOAA seed grant and roughly 1 year after the CEDS priority objective was formally adopted.
Oct 2022–Sep 2026	Four-year program project period for implementation and fund deployment.

Source: Southeast Conference / Alaska Mariculture Cluster program history, provided to FEDC for comparative case study purposes.

The Coalition Southeast Conference Built

Southeast Conference did not apply alone. As lead applicant, it assembled and coordinated the Alaska Mariculture Alliance, the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, three other Alaska Economic Development Districts (Prince William Sound EDD, Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, Kenai Peninsula EDD), the State of Alaska, Alaska Sea Grant, the University of Alaska, Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, more than 30 private-sector businesses, and multiple tribal entities including Sealaska, the Native Conservancy, and the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute. This breadth — government, university, tribal, and private-sector partners united around a single CEDS-anchored priority — was a central factor in the proposal's competitiveness against 528 other applicants nationwide.

How the \$49 Million Was Structured

The award was not an undifferentiated block grant — it was built from distinct, purpose-specific categories, several of which map directly onto categories already present in FEDC's own portfolio (Section 5) at a much smaller scale:

Funding Category	Amount	% of Total
Governance, Coordination & Outreach	\$2,000,000	4%
Workforce Development	\$9,300,000	19%

Funding Category	Amount	% of Total
Equipment & Technology	\$16,000,000	33%
Green Energy	\$680,000	1%
Research & Development	\$8,000,000	16%
Marketing	\$1,200,000	2%
Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund	\$9,300,000	19%
Grant Administration	\$2,500,000	5%
Total	\$49,000,000 (approx.)	100%

Notably, governance/coordination/outreach and grant administration together consumed roughly 9% of the total (\$4.5M) — a useful benchmark for the level of administrative capacity a large, multi-partner federal award requires to manage, and a direct illustration of the staffing and fiscal-agency gaps flagged in Section 7.

Lessons for FEDC

- Eight years, not one grant cycle. The seed-to-award timeline (2014 NOAA grant → 2022 BBBRC award) ran roughly eight years — for an ARDOR with a longer operating history than FEDC's. This directly supports the senior ARDOR administrator's guidance in Section 1 that FEDC should expect 2–3 years just to build baseline capacity, well before a mariculture-scale award becomes realistic.
- Building partnerships precedes any large ask. The Alaska Mariculture Task Force (2016–2018) did the technical and stakeholder groundwork years before any federal application existed. FEDC's own Energy for All Alaska Task Force (2007–2023) and Housing Task Force follow this same model — and FEDC's stated interest in an Interior Agriculture Cluster (Section 5, “beyond the \$2.0 million target”) would benefit from a similarly structured, multi-year task force before any large-scale EDA ask is attempted.
- The CEDS priority objective is the formal on-ramp. Southeast Conference's 2021–2025 CEDS explicitly named mariculture as a priority objective — without that, the coalition would have had no credible platform for a \$49M ask. This is precisely why FEDC's own EDA Short-Term Planning Grant for the 2027 CEDS update (Portfolio item 1, Section 5) is positioned as the highest-priority, lowest-risk first application as it is the document that will eventually carry any larger Interior Alaska ask, agriculture or otherwise.
- Coalition breadth drives competitiveness. FEDC's own Grant Alignment Report shows the same pattern is already available to it at a smaller scale — e.g., partnering with UAF and Tanana Chiefs Conference on the EDA Build to Scale application (Portfolio item 4) is a direct, if earlier-stage, analog to Southeast Conference's multi-partner model.
- The process cost is real. 115+ stakeholder meetings and 30+ EDA meetings over five months for Phase II alone is a material staff-time investment. FEDC should size expectations for its own EAA Strategy and, eventually, Public Works or cluster-style applications accordingly — this is not administrative overhead that can be compressed.
- Structure the ask before it's needed. The eight-category budget structure (governance, workforce, equipment, green energy, R&D, marketing, revolving loan fund, administration) is a usable template FEDC can adapt when scoping its own EAA Strategy Grant or, later, an Interior Agriculture Cluster proposal, rather than building a budget structure from scratch under deadline pressure.

3.2 FEDC's Own Precedent: The Interior Gas Utility

FEDC does not need to look only to other ARDORs — it has already run a smaller version of this same multi-stage playbook once, internally, over roughly ten years:

Stage	Investment / Result	What It Unlocked
1. Community energy planning	Multiple community energy analysis and planning exercises (part of the 2007–2012 Energy for All Alaska Task Force body of work)	Documented the technical and economic case for a gas distribution system
2. Feasibility study	\$500,000 in state funds	A gas distribution feasibility study confirming system viability
3. State capitalization	\$3,000,000 in state funds	Stood up the Interior Gas Utility, obtained its required state operating certificate, sustained early operations
4. Blended finance / scale	\$327,500,000 total — \$52.5M grant + \$125M SETS Loan + \$150M bonding authority	Unified FNSB's two gas utilities into a single community-controlled entity and greatly expanded service-provision capacity

Elapsed time, stage 1 to stage 4: approximately 10 years.

The IGU sequence is important for a different reason than the mariculture case: it demonstrates that FEDC's own management already has direct, successful experience converting a modest planning investment (\$500K) into a state award (\$3M) and ultimately into a \$327.5M blended finance package (grant, SETS Loan, and bonding authority combined). The organizational muscle memory for this pattern already exists at FEDC — what is new is doing it through EDA and federal grant channels specifically, which is the relationship- and capacity-building gap Section 7 addresses.

3.3 The Common Pattern, and How It Maps to FEDC's Timeline

Both cases follow the same five-stage arc. The table below states that arc in general terms and shows where each of FEDC's four implementation phases (Section 7) sits on it — making clear that the \$2.0 million portfolio in Section 6 corresponds to Stages 1–4 of a pattern whose Stage 5 (large-scale award) is realistically a post-2029 outcome, not a 2026–2029 one.

Stage in the Pattern	Mariculture Case	IGU Case	FEDC's Current Portfolio (Section 6)
1. Seed grant / planning	2014 NOAA grant	Community energy planning exercises	Phase 1–2: CEDS Planning Grant, LTA Economic Analysis
2. Task force / coalition building	2016–2018 Mariculture Task Force	N/A (internal FEDC-led)	Phase 2: AIBA Nenana LTA, EDA Build to Scale consortium
3. Strategic plan document	2018 Development Plan; 2021 CEDS priority objective	Feasibility study (\$500K)	Phase 1–2: 2027 CEDS update itself
4. Capitalization / mid-size award	N/A — coalition moved directly to Phase I/II BBBRC	\$3M state award	Phase 3: EAA Strategy Grant (\$400K planning tranche)
5. Large-scale award / deployment	\$49M BBBRC (2022)	\$327.5M blended finance (\$52.5M grant + \$125M SETS Loan + \$150M bonding authority)	Phase 4 (2029–2030+): Public Works, EDD designation, foundation funding — beyond the \$2.0M target

4. Fairbanks-Specific Distress Eligibility Basis

Several of the highest-value programs in this portfolio (EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance and Public Works) are conditioned on demonstrated economic distress under PWEDA §301(a) and 13 C.F.R. §301.3. Fairbanks city independently qualifies on two separately codified criteria, which materially strengthens FEDC's distress documentation package.

Community	Unemployment	ACS PCI (2024\$)	Distress Basis	EDA Programs Available
Fairbanks city	5.7% ($\geq$ 4.9% threshold)	\$36,912 — 76% of national (\$48,540)	Dual-qualified: unemployment (§301.3(a)(1)(i)) AND per capita income (§301.3(a)(1)(ii))	CEDS, LTA, EAA Strategy, Public Works, SBA PRIME, USDA, Doyon, AARP
Nenana city (outside FNSB/ARDOR boundary)	3.4%	Pending B19301 verification	Special Need — 21.6% poverty rate (§301.3(a)(1)(iii)); likely qualifies for enhanced 80% cost share	LTA (AIBA feasibility — highest priority), EAA, Public Works, USDA
FNSB (borough-wide)	4.0% (below threshold)	\$45,905 — 95% of national	Borderline — no borough-wide numeric criterion met, but Fairbanks city qualifies within it	CEDS and LTA (not distress-conditioned); sub-area tracts may qualify for EAA/Public Works
North Pole city	4.6% (below threshold)	\$45,905 (FNSB proxy) — 95% of national	NO — no codified criterion met (poverty 4.9%, well under national avg); possible Special Need via 2014–2017 refinery closure (EDRA 2024), not yet documented	CEDS and LTA (not distress-conditioned); DOD DCIP (infrastructure-conditioned — Eielson AFB/Ft. Wainwright proximity)

Source: EDA Economic Distress Eligibility by Interior Community, FEDC Management, revised June 8, 2026. ACS PCI figures are 2020–2024 5-year estimates in 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars (U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts), the operative data source under 13 C.F.R. §301.3(a)(4)(i). North Pole ACS PCI uses the FNSB borough-wide figure as a proxy; city-level ACS data is not published below 5,000 population.

5. CEDS-Anchored Project Concepts

A dollar range attached to “a shovel-ready project” means little without an actual project. Therefore, this section identifies five specific, named project concepts. Four are pulled directly from the FNSB CEDS Annual Update process (the 2025 Update, the most recent full document available at the time of this analysis); the fourth (Anchor D, Cold Weather Testing) reflects a historic FEDC initiative for which FEDC recently provided the FNSB a plan for low-cost marketing restart. All five are cross-referenced against both FEDC's own program inventory and the EDA Grant Alignment Report's precedent grants. These five anchors are also what the portfolio and timeline in Section 6 is built around.

Anchor Project	CEDS Citation (Source)	FEDC Program Tie	Alignment Report Precedent
A. Downtown Fairbanks Storefront & Streetscape Revitalization	2025 CEDS Update, Small Business & Entrepreneurship: City of Fairbanks “piloting a grant	FEDC's seat on the City of Fairbanks Downtown Revitalization working	Crescent City Downtown Specific Plan (\$186K); Cottage Grove Historic

Anchor Project	CEDS Citation (Source)	FEDC Program Tie	Alignment Report Precedent
	program for downtown storefront improvements... part of the Downtown 2040 plan.” Land Use section: ongoing City blight abatement, Lead: City of Fairbanks, FEDC.	group; partnership with the Fairbanks Downtown Association.	District (\$5.0M); Las Vegas, NM Downtown District (\$1.85M); Madras Stormwater/Streetscape (\$4.4M).
B. AIBA Entrepreneurial Incubator Space	2025 CEDS Update, Small Business & Entrepreneurship: “Seek funding for entrepreneurial incubator spaces to lower start-ups’ barriers to entry”; “Explore the feasibility of a youth business incubator.”	Direct capital extension of the Alaska Interior Business Accelerator (9 cohorts, 160+ entrepreneurs trained) — FEDC’s most mature, most precedented program.	Norwalk (\$150K); Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center ×2 (\$1.13M, \$440K); Lowcountry Local First (\$790K); Tanana Chiefs Conference — in Fairbanks — (\$150K); Monterey Bay (\$300K); WVU Vantage Ventures (\$717K).
C. Interior Agriculture Incubator Farm & Wood/Food Processing Facility	2025 CEDS Update, Agriculture: “Explore opportunities to set up an incubator farm, potentially on Borough land” (Lead: UAF AFFECT, FNSB). Forestry: “Seek funding for a cooperative facility for drying to get saw and lumber into the building industry.”	Interior Farm Forum, Golden Heart Grown, Tanana Valley Farmers Market / Chef at the Market, Alaska Lumber Grading Program engagement.	NewBo City Market (\$1.3M); ND regional food processing facility (\$675K); San Miguel County Wood Park (\$1.0M).
D. Cold Weather Testing (CWT) Commercialization & Marketing	Not yet reflected in the 2025 CEDS text, but directly continuous with FEDC’s existing Research & Innovation priorities. FEDC has an active, internally-funded Phase 1 digital marketing plan (\$20,000, non-federal) and a staged EDA sequencing plan developed with EDA Seattle Region: CEDS-integration first, then an EAA market-research/feasibility study, then an EAA implementation grant.	FEDC’s Cold Weather Testing trademark (“Arctic Tested Alaska Tough”); existing CWT client relationships; CRTC, UAF/ACEP, and CRREL Fairbanks partnerships already in place.	Alaska Tech Strategy Development Consortium (\$499K, Fairbanks MSA) — same closest-fit precedent as Anchor E; EDA program fit strongest under Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Manufacturing categories. Expected EDA award size \$150K–\$500K with 20–40% match once a formal application is filed.
E. Interior Alaska Cold-Climate Energy Innovation Park	2025 CEDS Update, Research and Innovation: “Develop an energy innovation park” and “Expand the nexus of CCHRC, NREL, and ACEP” (Lead: CCHRC, NREL, ACEP).	FEDC’s Cold Weather Testing trademark (“Arctic Tested Alaska Tough”); CAMP / Eielson AFB microreactor engagement; UA research promotion role.	Alaska Tech Strategy Development Consortium, \$499,459 — explicitly covers the Fairbanks MSA and is the single closest precedent in the entire Alignment Report.

6. Identified \$2.0 Million Regional Development Grant Portfolio

The eleven programs below are FEDC's near-to-mid-term funding pipeline — corresponding to Stages 1–4 of the pattern documented in Section 3.3, and anchored to the named projects in Section 5. Amounts are conservative targets within each program's documented award range, selected to produce a defensible, cumulative \$2.0 million identified total rather than an aspirational maximum.

Only items 1 and 2 reflect FEDC's actual near-term intent (see the Scope Note, Section 1). Items 3–11 are included to demonstrate that the \$2.0 million objective is achievable through real, eligible programs — they illustrate a feasible funding landscape, not a committed pursuit list, and each would require separate authorization before FEDC filed an application for it.

Table order: items are numbered in the sequence they might be applied for.

#	Program / Funder	FEDC Project & Applicant Role	Grant Amount	FEDC Match	Apply → Award → Receive
1	EDA Short-Term Planning Grant (13 C.F.R. §303.9)	2027 CEDS Update — Lead applicant, with grant-writing/administration consultant support (see Section 8). Funds the 2027 CEDS comprehensive update, expanded to address EDD formation and Fairbanks distress documentation. First of two applications structured as FEDC's in-house capacity-building vehicle. Total project cost ~\$70,000 (FEDC-confirmed estimate); EDA confirmed via direct correspondence that match is tied to Fairbanks city's distress criterion, not project type.	\$42,000	\$28,000 (40%) — staff time eligible	Apply Oct 1, 2026 (delayed from an earlier target due to consultant onboarding) → Award ~Q1–Q2 2027 → Funds deployed ~Q2–Q3 2027
2	EDA Local Technical Assistance — FNSB Economic Analysis Report	FNSB Economic Analysis Report — Lead applicant, with grant-writing/administration consultant support (see Section 8). Comprehensive economic analysis of FNSB (City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, census areas). Second of two applications structured as FEDC's in-house capacity-building vehicle. Total project cost \$80,000 (consulting quote in hand); EDA-confirmed match below is satisfiable entirely via documented FEDC staff time — no cash required.	\$48,000	\$32,000 (40%) — staff time eligible, no cash req'd	Apply Nov 1, 2026 (delayed from an earlier target due to consultant onboarding; subject to capacity and Board direction) → Award ~Q2 2027 → Funds deployed ~Q3 2027
3	Doyon Gwintł'èeneegiyilii General Fund	AIBA & Interior Development Support — Lead applicant. Rolling	\$75,000	None	Apply monthly beginning Sep 2026 → Reviewed monthly → Received on a

#	Program / Funder	FEDC Project & Applicant Role	Grant Amount	FEDC Match	Apply → Award → Receive
		monthly relationship funding for AIBA and Interior economic development support.			rolling basis through 2027–2028
4	EDA Build to Scale (Venture Challenge)	Cold-Climate Energy Innovation Park (Anchor E) — Co-applicant with UAF, CCHRC, ACEP, and NREL. Feasibility, siting, and consortium formation phase.	\$550,000	~\$550,000 (50% required) — consortium partners needed, unresolved	Begin consortium-building now → NOFO ~Oct 2026 → Award ~mid-2027 → Funds deployed H2 2027
5	EDA Local Technical Assistance — AIBA Nenana Expansion Feasibility Study	AIBA Nenana Feasibility Study — Lead applicant. Feasibility study for extending AIBA services to Nenana.	\$150,000	~20–50% — enhanced share likely (Nenana distress); confirm w/ EDR	Rolling — target submission Q4 2026–Q1 2027 → Award ~mid-2027 → Funds deployed H2 2027
6	AARP Community Challenge	CEDS Livable-Communities Project — Lead applicant. CEDS-linked livable-communities project (Flagship, two cycles).	\$25,000	None required (improves score)	2027 cycle opens ~Jan 2027 → Award ~mid-2027 → Funds deployed H2 2027
7	SBA PRIME (15 U.S.C. §6902)	AIBA Microenterprise TA — Lead applicant. AIBA microenterprise technical assistance and capacity building — staff delivering AIBA services is the primary direct cost, so the grant largely funds FEDC staff time already budgeted.	\$200,000	None required	FY2027 NOFO ~Apr–May 2027 → Award ~Q4 2027 → Funds deployed Q1 2028
8	USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)	AIBA Rural Business TA — Applicant, pending 501(c)(6) eligibility confirmation with USDA RD Alaska. AIBA technical assistance and rural business support.	\$280,000	None (TA grant)	Confirm eligibility by Q4 2026 → FY2027 Q4 deadline ~Jun 2027 → Award ~Q4 2027 → Funds deployed Q1 2028
9	USDA Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)	AIBA Microentrepreneur TA — Applicant, pending eligibility confirmation. AIBA technical assistance component.	\$50,000	~\$12,500 (25%) — staff time eligible	Confirm eligibility by Q4 2026 → FY2027 Q4 cycle → Award ~Q4 2027 → Funds deployed Q1 2028
10	USDA Farmers Market / Local Food Promotion Program (FMPP/LFPP)	Tanana Valley Farmers Market (Anchor C) — Lead applicant. Funds the Tanana Valley Farmers Market / Interior Food Hub component.	\$150,000	~\$50,000 (25%) — staff time eligible	FY2027 NOFO expected ~Jun 2027 (FY2025 deadline was Jun 27) → Award ~Q1 2028 → Funds deployed mid-2028
11	EDA Economic Adjustment	Downtown Fairbanks Revitalization (Anchor A) —	\$450,000	~\$450,000 (50% typical)	Apply 2027, after CEDS and EDA Economic

#	Program / Funder	FEDC Project & Applicant Role	Grant Amount	FEDC Match	Apply → Award → Receive
	Assistance (EAA) Strategy Grant	Lead applicant. Planning / pre-development tranche, paired with the City's existing Downtown 2040 storefront pilot.		— staff time + FNSB in-kind	Development Representative relationship are established → 6–12 month review → Award/receive 2028

Cumulative identified total: \$2,020,000

Items 1 and 2 are shown at EDA-confirmed figures: real consulting quotes (\$70,000 and \$80,000 total project cost) at the 40% non-federal match / 60% EDA investment rate EDA confirmed applies to Fairbanks city under Table 1 of the PWEAA NOFO — not the placeholder “no match required” assumption in FEDC's original funding opportunities analysis, which EDA's own correspondence superseded. Amounts for items 5, 8, 9, and 10 remain conservative estimates pending confirmation with the EDA Economic Development Representative or USDA Rural Development Alaska. Item 3 (Doyon) reflects an estimated cumulative total across recurring monthly rolling applications rather than a single award.

Beyond the \$2.0 Million Target — Stage 5

The following are not counted toward the \$2.0 million total because they depend on institutional milestones (a fully-scoped capital project, EDD designation, or a 501(c)(3) subsidiary) that fall outside this report's near-term planning horizon. In the terms of Section 3.3, these are FEDC's Stage 5 — the mariculture-award or IGU-blended-finance equivalent.

- EDA Public Works Program (\$600,000–\$5,000,000) for Anchor Project B, the AIBA Entrepreneurial Incubator Space (Section 5) — full capital build-out following the CEDS/LTA groundwork already in the \$2.0M portfolio.
- EDA Public Works Program or USDA value-added processing grants for Anchor Project C, the Interior Agriculture Incubator Farm & Wood/Food Processing Facility (Section 5) — pending a Borough land decision and a defined facility scope.
- EDA EAA Strategy Grant — full implementation phase for Anchor Project A (Downtown Fairbanks) beyond the \$450,000 planning tranche already counted in Section 6, up to \$2,500,000.
- Foundation funding (Rasmuson, Murdock, Golden Heart Community Foundation) — an estimated \$50,000–\$500,000+ per year, contingent on establishing a 501(c)(3) subsidiary.
- Non-competitive annual EDA Planning Grant (\$50,000–\$350,000/year) — contingent on Interior Alaska Economic Development District (EDD) designation, targeted for 2029–2030.
- A future Interior Alaska industry-cluster application (e.g., agriculture, built on Anchor Project C) modeled directly on the Alaska Mariculture Cluster structure in Section 3.1 — realistically a post-2029 pursuit requiring its own multi-year task force and CEDS-priority groundwork first.
- A formal EDA application for Anchor Project D (Cold Weather Testing Commercialization) — expected award \$150,000–\$500,000 with 20–40% match, once FEDC's internally-funded Phase 1 digital marketing effort has built the documented market interest EDA will expect to see.

7. Organizational Capacity Requirements

FEDC's own funding opportunities analysis identifies fourteen capacity limitations across six categories that affect the pace and scale of this timeline. The items most relevant to the \$2.0 million portfolio and its 2026–2029 timeline are:

- No federal grants history — FEDC is a newly designated ARDOR; every application in Phase 1 and 2 is a first-time relationship with its respective federal program office, though the first two are being run with consultant support specifically to close this gap.
- No dedicated grants management staff and limited capacity for concurrent applications — the portfolio above assumes staff (with consultant support through 2028) can manage roughly two to three active applications at a time, which is the basis for the phased (rather than simultaneous) sequencing in Section 6.
- Small non-federal cash reserve — as detailed above, FEDC's small funding base and accrued reserves leave little meaningful uncommitted cash for match. Programs with a match component not resolvable through staff time (Build to Scale, Public Works) require partner or municipal cash FEDC does not currently have identified.
- No formal fiscal agency or pass-through grant agreement template — recommended to be developed during Phase 1, in parallel with the first two applications and the consultant engagement, so it is in place before award funds are received.

8. Conclusion & Recommendation

This report is meant to satisfy the City of Fairbanks' FY2026 objective by identifying \$2.0 million in specific, real, currently-available regional development grant funding for Fairbanks — across eleven programs where FEDC is a confirmed or probable-eligible applicant — and by illustrating a realistic multi-year timeline for pursuing them.

FEDC's and the ARDOR Committee's actual immediate-term plan, however, is narrower: file the 2027 CEDS Update application (Portfolio item 1), targeting October 1, 2026. Subject to available capacity and ARDOR Committee/Board direction, FEDC may also pursue the FNSB Economic Analysis Report application (Portfolio item 2), targeting November 1, 2026, followed by an application to support a currently unspecified third award (ass allowed with the next 12 months under its grant writing agreement).

The fuller suite of items in Section 6 are not a committed FEDC work plan but they demonstrate, with real EDA/USDA/SBA program detail, that the \$2.0 million objective is achievable – and need not rely on a single large award. Still, building on its own past experience and the experiences of its ARDOR peers, FEDC will be working expeditiously to position itself, as quickly as possible, to achieve large awards in support of the City of Fairbanks, our community partners and our broader region.



Mindy O'Neill, Mayor

MEMO

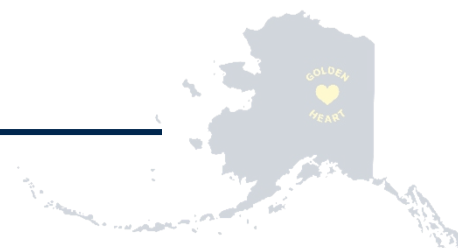
DATE: September 9, 2026
TO: City Council Members
FROM: Mayor Mindy O'Neill 
SUBJECT: Explore Fairbanks Draft and Financial Statements (2024-2025)

Pursuant to Fairbanks General Code Sec. 74-117.(e), Explore Fairbanks has provided the following information and the attached report for the City Council's review.

In 2025, two departments at Explore Fairbanks (Visitor Services and Community Engagement) were combined into one Visitor and Community Engagement Department. The end result reducing the overall number of departments from five to four which increased the shared expenses which are allocated out to departments. This shift did not reflect any changes in responsibilities, rather reflected their shared goals and operational synergy.

In his proposed FY27 budget to the borough assembly, Fairbanks Mayor Grier Hopkins had put in \$2,000,000 for the Explore Fairbanks grant, \$437,500 less than he had put in for FY26 (though that year the assembly reduced the overall amount by \$562,550. Through its FY27 budget process, the assembly ended up increasing the amount by \$332,500, to bring the grant total to \$2,332,500. This makes the second fiscal year in a row that the Borough has not funded Explore Fairbanks at the 65% of the projected bed tax revenues as prescribed by the ordinance the assembly approved in 2003.

Explore Fairbanks' management has evaluated subsequent events through the date the financial statements were available to be issued. They continued to express gratitude for the City's support of its mission and the overall Fairbanks visitor industry. They look forward to answering any questions from the Council pertaining to the attached audits or other matters.





**FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA
EXPLORE FAIRBANKS**

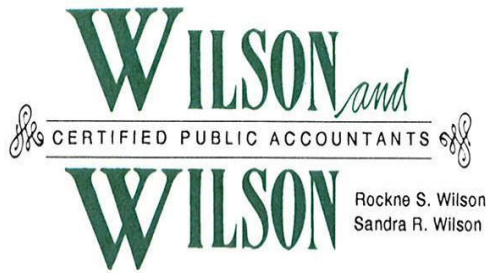
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
of Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau
DBA Explore Fairbanks

85410

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau DBA Explore Fairbanks (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2025, and 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Explore Fairbanks as of December 31, 2025, and 2024, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Explore Fairbanks and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Explore Fairbanks' ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Explore Fairbanks' internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Explore Fairbanks' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Fairbanks, AK

**FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2025 and 2024**

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 5,106,488	\$ 4,435,413
Accounts receivable	34,285	56,855
Bed tax receivable	224,157	163,173
Grant receivable	258,874	1,525,680
Inventory	113,540	108,513
Prepaid expenses	291,779	372,543
Total current assets	6,029,123	6,662,177
Property, equipment and software	749,892	559,592
Less: accumulated depreciation	(476,657)	(419,229)
Net fixed assets	273,235	140,363
Right-of-use operating lease asset		
Facility	380,346	515,886
Equipment and technology	327,229	383,367
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,009,933	\$ 7,701,793
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	\$ 206,968	\$ 301,558
Accrued liabilities	93,043	84,157
Current portion of right-of-use operating lease liability	219,898	275,495
Unearned revenue	244,961	148,092
Total current liabilities	764,870	809,302
Right-of-use operating lease liability, net of current portion	379,760	764,557
Total liabilities	1,144,630	1,573,859
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions		
Invested in property and equipment	273,235	140,363
Designated for subsequent years	2,497,905	2,152,180
Board designated for working capital reserve	2,727,025	2,839,513
Undesignated	367,138	995,879
Total unrestricted	5,865,303	6,127,935
With donor restrictions	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	5,865,303	6,127,935
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 7,009,933	\$ 7,701,794

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
For the Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025			2024
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	FNSB Grant Fund	Other Funds	Total All Funds	Total All Funds
Revenues, gains, and other support:				
Hotel/motel contribution from City of Fairbanks	\$ -	\$ 2,602,837	\$ 2,602,837	\$ 2,644,053
Grants from Fairbanks North Star Borough	1,752,598	-	1,752,598	1,991,840
Hotel/motel contribution from City of North Pole	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	68,456	68,456	80,306
Miscellaneous income	-	9,352	9,352	2,366
Program income, including in-kinds:				
Communications	-	171,621	171,621	163,138
Visitor engagement	-	-	-	2,833
Tourism & Meetings	-	146,797	146,797	146,578
Community engagement	-	137,865	137,865	107,684
Total revenues, gains, and other support	<u>1,752,598</u>	<u>3,136,928</u>	<u>4,889,526</u>	<u>5,138,798</u>
Expenses:				
Program expense, including in-kinds:				
Communications	1,065,384	954,494	2,019,878	1,971,391
Visitor & Community engagement	137,964	1,048,409	1,186,373	949,295
Tourism & Meetings	445,452	1,072,883	1,518,335	1,273,559
General administration	15,497	687,570	703,067	586,075
Total expenses	<u>1,664,297</u>	<u>3,763,356</u>	<u>5,427,653</u>	<u>4,780,320</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets without donor restrictions	<u>88,301</u>	<u>(626,428)</u>	<u>(538,127)</u>	<u>358,478</u>
Change in net assets	88,301	(626,428)	(538,127)	358,478
Prior year adjustment to net assets	-	275,495	275,495	
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	<u>-</u>	<u>6,127,935</u>	<u>6,127,935</u>	<u>5,769,457</u>
NET ASSETS, ENDING	<u>\$ 88,301</u>	<u>\$ 5,777,002</u>	<u>\$ 5,865,303</u>	<u>\$ 6,127,935</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash received from contributions, grants, contracts, and sponsorships	\$ 5,680,697	\$ 3,400,056
Cash received from program revenue	483,062	420,233
Interest	68,456	73,412
Miscellaneous receipts	9,352	2,366
Cash paid for programs	(4,729,526)	(4,327,816)
Cash paid for administrative	(650,665)	(590,424)
NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	861,376	(1,022,173)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Reductions to property and equipment	(190,300)	(112,314)
NET CASH (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(190,300)	(112,314)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Decrease in long-term debt	-	-
NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES	-	-
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	671,076	(1,134,487)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, January 1	4,435,413	5,569,900
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, December 31	\$ 5,106,489	\$ 4,435,413
RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS TO NET CASH (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ (538,127)	\$ 358,477
Adjustment to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	249,107	224,721
Changes in:		
Accounts and grants receivable	1,228,393	(1,233,082)
Net ROU assets	(164,900)	(211,381)
Inventory	(5,026)	(17,689)
Prepaid expenses	80,764	(149,861)
Accounts payable	(94,590)	(11,210)
Payroll liabilities	8,886	20,607
Deferred income	96,869	(2,755)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$ 861,376	\$ (1,022,173)
Non-cash operating, investing, and financing activities:		
Right-of-use assets exchanged for operating leases	\$ 356,579	\$ 367,968

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
For the years ended December 31, 2025
(with comparative total for 2024)

	2025				2024	
	Departments Actual					
	Communications	Visitor & Community Engagement	Tourism/ Meetings	General Administration	All Departments Actual to Date	All Departments Actual to Date
PERSONNEL EXPENSE						
Personnel expense	\$ 398,455	\$ 441,330	\$ 479,009	\$ 395,823	\$ 1,714,617	\$ 1,253,028
Total personnel expense	398,455	441,330	479,009	395,823	1,714,617	1,253,028
DIRECT PROMOTIONAL EXPENSE						
Production	-	564	-	-	564	6,805
Media placement	978,528	-	-	-	978,528	1,023,761
Collateral material	170,267	1,784	16,043	2,748	190,842	164,114
Website development	52,040	-	-	-	52,040	91,764
Promotional merchandise	-	3,755	28,151	50	31,956	17,456
FAM site visits	49,209	-	44,172	-	93,381	162,845
Trade shows	11,935	4,408	235,973	500	252,816	194,785
Travel and entertainment	18,984	8,471	60,563	20,343	108,361	177,168
Local meetings	1,274	2,093	2,647	6,091	12,105	12,452
Special promotions	12,815	238,341	33,445	22,362	306,963	153,832
Repairs & maintenance	561	561	561	561	2,244	-
International marketing	-	-	167,746	-	167,746	91,723
Research	59,750	-	60,145	-	119,895	33,500
Event hosting	-	51,773	47,638	500	99,911	18,100
Telephone	5,601	2,547	7,224	2,999	18,371	12,508
Dues and subscriptions	7,716	5,872	26,481	10,279	50,348	21,552
Mail fulfillment and postage	18,597	189,751	5,691	305	214,344	181,477
Direct mail and promotion	4,219	-	-	-	4,219	10,852
Total direct promotional expense	1,391,496	509,920	736,480	66,738	2,704,634	2,374,694
INDIRECT EXPENSE						
Computer	23,463	25,519	27,272	44,683	120,937	-
Education and training	4,085	5,615	1,275	5,067	16,042	17,775
Equipment rental	3,434	3,541	3,434	3,586	13,995	13,488
General insurance	4,859	4,860	4,860	4,459	19,038	15,861
Bank and other fees	-	4,863	152	9,859	14,874	52,560
Professional fees	10,035	10,035	10,035	10,985	41,090	103,730
Rent expense - office and storage	45,242	50,186	45,242	45,242	185,912	104,030
Supplies and office expense	5,941	6,993	9,216	7,121	29,271	19,737
Licenses and taxes	26,077	30,098	27,340	58,030	141,545	131,417
Miscellaneous expenses	909	502	-	1,634	3,045	-
Capital outlay Morris Thompson	840	204	204	204	1,452	4,606
Total indirect expense	124,885	142,416	129,030	190,870	587,201	463,204
OTHER						
Depreciation and amortization	49,636	49,634	49,636	49,636	198,542	224,721
In-kind donations	55,406	33,073	124,180	-	212,659	193,832
Trade outs	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,250
Total other	105,042	92,707	173,816	49,636	421,201	428,803
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,019,878	\$ 1,186,373	\$ 1,518,335	\$ 703,067	\$ 5,427,653	\$ 4,519,729

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report

**FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025, and 2025**

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- A. Nature of organization
- B. Basis of accounting
- C. Financial statement presentation
- D. Cash
- E. Accounts and grants receivable
- F. Net assets
- G. Property and equipment
- H. Right-of-use assets and lease liability
- I. Income taxes
- J. Inventory
- K. Advertising expense
- L. New accounting pronouncement
- M. Deferred income and unearned revenues
- N. In-kind support
- O. Estimates
- P. Functional allocation of expense

NOTE 2. LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

NOTE 3. MAJOR FUNDING SOURCE

NOTE 4. CASH

NOTE 5. LINE OF CREDIT

NOTE 6. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

NOTE 7. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

NOTE 8. LEASE COMMITMENTS

NOTE 9. BOARD DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

NOTE 10. DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES

NOTE 11. PENSION PLAN

NOTE 12. INVENTORY

NOTE 13. RECLASSIFICATIONS

NOTE 14. ACCOUNTING CHANGES CORRECTION OF AN ERROR

NOTE 15. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

**FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025, and 2025**

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.A. - NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau DBA Explore Fairbanks (hereafter referred to as Explore Fairbanks) is a non-profit destination marketing and management organization whose mission is to be an economic driver in the Fairbanks region by marketing to potential visitors and optimizing the visitor experience. Explore Fairbanks markets Fairbanks as a year-round destination by promoting local events, attractions and activities to independent travelers, group tour operators, travel agents, meeting planners and the media. In July 2014, Explore Fairbanks was awarded accreditation from the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program (DMAP) of the Destination Marketing Association International. Explore Fairbanks was the first destination marketing and management organization in Alaska to attain the DMAP accreditation.

The accounting policies that affect the more significant elements of the financial statements of Explore Fairbanks are summarized as follows:

1.B. - BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

1.C. - FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION

The statement of activities presents the revenue from the Fairbanks North Star Borough grant fund and related expenses. The remaining revenues and expenses are reported as other funds, which include the City of Fairbanks revenue.

1.D. - CASH

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the organization considers all savings accounts and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025, and 2025

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, CONTINUED

1.E. - ACCOUNTS AND GRANTS RECEIVABLE

Receivables are primarily from members and grants and contracts with the City of Fairbanks and Fairbanks North Star Borough. The City of Fairbanks receivables consist of bed tax contributions collected in the current year and remitted to the organization in the following year. The Fairbanks North Star Borough and other receivables are recorded when billed. The allowance for doubtful accounts is recorded on an annual basis after a review of receivable aging and historical trends. Receivables are delinquent when unpaid after 30 days. Management charges off receivables when the amount due is deemed worthless, based on past experience. Interest is not charged on delinquent accounts.

1.F. - NET ASSETS

The organization reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets: net assets without donor restrictions and net assets with donor restrictions.

Net Assets Without Donor Restriction – Net assets that are not subject to or are no longer subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

Net Assets With Donor Restriction – Net assets whose use is limited by donor-imposed time and/or purpose restrictions.

Revenues are reported as increases in net assets without donor restrictions unless use of the related assets is limited by donor-imposed restrictions. Expenses are reported as decreases in net assets without donor restrictions. Gains and losses on investments and other assets or liabilities are reported as increases or decreases in net assets without donor restrictions unless their use is restricted by explicit donor stipulations or by law. Expirations of donor restrictions on the net assets (i.e., the donor-stipulated purpose has been fulfilled and/or the stipulated time period has elapsed) are reported as reclassifications between the applicable classes of net assets. Explore Fairbanks has adopted a policy to classify donor restricted contributions as without donor restrictions to the extent that donor restrictions were met in the year the contribution was received.

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025, and 2025

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, CONTINUED

1.G. - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment are recorded at cost, except for those acquired by gift or donation. Those acquired by gift or donation are recorded at fair market value at the time of receipt, if they are significant in amount and Explore Fairbanks has a measurable and objective basis for determining the amount. Depreciation is computed over the estimated useful lives of the assets on the straight-line basis. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the account, and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in income for the period. Explore Fairbanks capitalizes assets in excess of \$1,000.

1.H. - RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS AND LEASE LIABILITY

ROU asset represents Explore Fairbanks' right to use the underlying assets for the lease term and lease liabilities represent the net present value of the organization's obligation to make payments arising from these leases. The lease liabilities are based on the present value of the fixed lease payments over the lease term using the current risk-free interest rate as established by U.S. Department of Treasury on the lease commencement date. If the lease includes one or more options to extend the term of the lease, the renewal option is considered in the lease term if it is reasonably certain that Explore Fairbanks will exercise the options. Operating lease expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. As permitted by Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 842, leases with an initial term of twelve months or less (short-term leases) are not recorded on the accompanying statements of financial position.

In addition to the facility lease, which is reported as a standalone ROU Asset, the Organization has chosen to implement the portfolio approach to record ROU Asset – Equipment and technology due to their similarity.

Explore Fairbanks has elected to utilize the risk-free rate.

1.I. - INCOME TAXES

Explore Fairbanks is exempt from income taxes as a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. The organization is not a private foundation. Management has evaluated Explore Fairbanks' tax positions and determined there are no liabilities required to be recognized as the result of uncertain tax positions.

1.J. - INVENTORY

Inventory is recorded at the lower of cost or market, determined on the first-in, first-out method and consists primarily of undistributed visitor guides and promotional items.

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025, and 2025

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, CONTINUED

1.K. - ADVERTISING EXPENSE

Advertising and promotion are expensed when incurred.

1.L. - NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENT

During the year ended December 31, 2018, Explore Fairbanks adopted the requirements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-14 - *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. This Update addresses the complexity and understandability of net asset classification, deficiencies in information about liquidity and availability of resources, and the lack of consistency in the type of information provided about expenses and investment return between not-for-profit entities. A key change required by ASU 2016-14 is the net asset classes used in these financial statements. Amounts previously reported as unrestricted net assets are now reported as net assets without donor restrictions and amounts previously reported as temporarily restricted net assets and permanently restricted net assets are now reported as net assets with donor restrictions. A footnote on liquidity has also been added (Note 2).

In February 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-2, *Leases (Topic 842)*. Under the standard, an entity is required to recognize lease assets and lease liabilities on the statement of financial position. Explore Fairbanks applied the ASU for the year ended December 31, 2024, as restated, using the modified retrospective method. The ASU also requires additional, both quantitative and qualitative, including pertinent information about the leasing arrangement, and the amount, timing, and uncertainty of cash flows arising from the leases. Explore Fairbanks elected the exemption of short-term leases that are 12 months or less in addition to certain practical expedients permitted under the transition guidance. As a result of implementation, right-to-use assets of Facility and Equipment and technology and lease liability of Current portion or right-of-use operating lease liability and Right-of-use operating lease liability, net of current portion were reported for the years ending December 31, 2025, and 2024, respectively. There was no impact on net assets or change in net assets.

1.M. - DEFERRED INCOME AND UNEARNED REVENUES

Grant proceeds advanced by a governmental agency in excess of reimbursable expenses and future event revenue are recorded as deferred income. Memberships and payments for support of future expenses are recorded as unearned revenues. Memberships and payments for support of current operations are recorded as current revenue.

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025, and 2025

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, CONTINUED

1.N. - IN-KIND SUPPORT

Explore Fairbanks recognizes contributions of tangible assets at fair value when received. Contributed professional services are recognized at fair value if the services received (a) create or enhance long-lived assets or (b) require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation.

1.O. - ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

1.P. - FUNCTIONAL ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

The costs of providing the various programs and supporting services have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities, and statements of functional expenses are presented as part of the basic financial statements. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited, based on management estimates.

**FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025, and 2024**

NOTE 2 - LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The following reflects Explore Fairbanks' financial assets as of December 31, 2025, and 2024, reduced by amounts not available for general use within one year of the balance sheet date because of contractual or donor-imposed restrictions or internal designations. Amounts available include amounts set aside for operation and other reserves that could be drawn upon if the organization or the Board approves that action.

	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash	\$ 5,106,489	\$ 4,435,413
Accounts, receivable, net collected in less than one year	517,316	1,745,708
Total financial assets, excluding noncurrent	5,623,805	6,181,121
Contractual or donor-imposed restrictions:		
Other donor restrictions	-	-
Board designations:		
Subsequent years	(2,497,905)	(2,152,180)
Working capital reserves	(2,727,025)	(2,839,513)
Financial Assets Available to Meet Cash Needs for Expenditures Within One Year	<u>\$ 398,875</u>	<u>\$ 1,189,428</u>

All Board designated net assets for subsequent years are available for expenses within one year of the balance sheet date. The accounts receivable are expected to be collected within the first 6 months of the next year. All cash amounts, except for the certificate of deposits, are available for normal operating needs, however, the working capital reserve is an estimate of the minimum cash and cash equivalents needed for months, when cash balances are at a minimum. This amount is excluded from the above assets.

NOTE 3 - MAJOR FUNDING SOURCE

In 2025, Explore Fairbanks received eighty-nine percent of its total revenue from contributions and grants from hotel/motel taxes collected by the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. As of December 31, 2025, and 2024, the organization had \$801,856 and \$679,454, respectively, in Fairbanks North Star Borough Marketing Grant funds available for the subsequent contract year.

In 2023, the City of Fairbanks made a revision to the bed tax ordinance, that has been in place for more than twenty years, with the new formula in effect for 2024. The percentage/amount of bed tax collections allotted to the City, Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation, Golden Heart Plaza, and the bed tax discretionary committee increased; and the allocation to Explore Fairbanks decreased.

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
DBA EXPLORE FAIRBANKS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025, and 2024

NOTE 4 - CASH

Cash at December 31, 2025, and 2024, respectively, consists of the following:

	2025	2024
Checking accounts	\$ 240,635	326,853
Certificates of deposit	713,022	710,130
Northrim Bank operational sweep account	4,152,632	3,398,230
Cash on hand	200	200
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 5,106,489</u>	<u>\$ 4,435,413</u>

Explore Fairbanks had \$4,241 and \$3,702 in uninsured deposits on December 31, 2025 and 2024. Interest earned on the sweep account and certificates of deposit are \$68,456 and \$80,306 for the year ended 2025 and 2024, respectively.

NOTE 6 -RECEIVABLES

Receivable at December 31, 2025, and 2024, respectively, consist of the following:

	2025	2024
Contribution receivable from City of Fairbanks	\$ 224,157	163,173
Grant receivable from Fairbanks North Star Borough	-	1,270,546
Grant receivable from State of Alaska	258,874	255,134
Membership accounts receivable	34,285	56,855
Total receivables	<u>\$ 517,316</u>	<u>\$ 1,745,708</u>

NOTE 7 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment at December 31, 2025, and 2024, respectively, consist of the following:

	Depreciable Lives	2025	2024
Property, equipment and software	3-10 years	\$ 749,892	\$ 559,592
Less: accumulated depreciation		(476,657)	(419,229)
Net fixed assets		<u>\$ 273,235</u>	<u>\$ 140,363</u>

Depreciation expense is \$57,427.69 and \$13,340, for 2025, and 2024, respectively.

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
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For the Year Ended December 31, 2025, and 2025

NOTE 8 - LEASE COMMITMENTS

Explore Fairbanks leases over 11,000 square feet of space in the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center, representing 29 percent of the gross square footage. The original lease term began on August 1, 2008, and was renewed in August 2021 for an additional seven years. The lease contains provisions for a base monthly rent, increases for operating expenses and property taxes, and contributions to a major maintenance reserve account. Annually in October, the monthly payments are adjusted. Explore Fairbanks paid monthly rental payments at the end of 2025 of \$25,391. The organization pays property taxes to the Fairbanks North Star Borough and City of Fairbanks for the portion of the facility it occupies. Property tax expense was \$31,435 in 2025 and is included in general administration expenses.

Explore Fairbanks leases facilities and equipment and technology, that expire at various dates through December 2029. The organization has recognized a right-of-use asset of \$707,575 and \$899,253, and a lease liability of \$844,435 and \$1,008,608, on the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2025, and 2024, respectively. Explore Fairbanks utilized the Treasury's risk-free rate to determine the net present value of the applicable lease liabilities and right-of-use, which was 4.17%, as of December 31, 2025.

	Morris Thompson Center	Equipment	Software/ Technology	Total 2025	Total 2024
Monthly Payment	\$8,669	\$959	\$15,545	\$25,173	\$40,200
<u>Payments</u>					
2024	-	-	-	-	371,603
2025	104,030	11,504	146,375	261,909	442,665
2026	104,030	11,504	162,106	277,640	432,232
2027	104,030	11,504	117,294	232,828	385,801
2028	104,030	8,149	31,608	143,787	311,334
2029	-	7,031	-	7,031	-
Total Payments	416,120	49,692	457,383	923,195	1,943,635
Present value discount	(36,220)	(5,214)	(37,326)	(78,760)	(934,994)
Lease Liability	\$ 379,900	\$ 44,478	\$ 420,057	\$ 844,435	\$ 1,008,641

Lease expense for office and storage space is \$104,030 in 2025. The office lease expires August 8, 2028, with an option to extend for eight (8) additional five (5) year renewals.

Lease expense for office equipment and technology is \$157,879 in 2025.

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
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For the Year Ended December 31, 2025, and 2024

NOTE 9 - BOARD DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

The net assets of Explore Fairbanks as of December 31, 2025, included Board of Director designated net assets of \$2,497,905 for 2026 operations and \$2,727,025 for working capital. The following is a table of changes to the reserves for the year ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively.

<u>Designated for subsequent years</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Beginning Balance, January 1	\$ 2,152,180	\$ 536,345
Board Additions	345,725	1,615,835
Expense	-	-
Ending Balance, December 31	<u>\$ 2,497,905</u>	<u>\$ 2,152,180</u>
 <u>Designated for working capital</u>		
Beginning Balance, January 1	\$ 2,839,513	\$ 1,140,000
Board Additions	(112,488)	1,699,513
Expense	-	-
Ending Balance, December 31	<u>\$ 2,727,025</u>	<u>\$ 2,839,513</u>

NOTE 10 - DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES

Explore Fairbanks received and utilized in-kind donations of various goods and other items during the year. These values are recorded in the financial statements as follows:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Communications	\$ 55,406	\$ 56,681
Visitor and Community Engagement	33,073	7,573
Tourism	124,184	129,578
Total donated goods and services	<u>\$ 212,663</u>	<u>\$ 193,832</u>

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
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NOTE 11 - PENSION PLAN

Explore Fairbanks has a 401(k)-retirement plan for all eligible employees. Employees become eligible after one year of service and may enter the plan on the first day of the following month. Employees may elect to contribute up to 15 percent of their gross salary, not to exceed federal tax limitations. Explore Fairbanks matches contributions up to 5 percent which vests to the benefit of employees over five years. If an employee terminates employment before fully vested, forfeiture of the unvested Bureau contributions reduces future employer contributions. Total pension costs for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, were \$42,747 and \$31,074, respectively.

NOTE 12 - INVENTORY

As of December 31, 2025, and 2024, respectively, Explore Fairbanks has three main categories of inventories:

	2025	2024
Merchandise	\$ 21,130	\$ 19,599
Visitor's guides	84,729	79,483
Winter guides	7,681	9,431
Total inventory	<u>\$ 113,540</u>	<u>\$ 108,513</u>

NOTE 13 - RECLASSIFICATIONS

Certain reclassifications have been made to present last year's financial statements on a basis comparable to the current year's financial statements. These reclassifications had no effect on the change in net assets or total net assets.

NOTE 14 - ACCOUNTING CHANGES CORRECTION OF AN ERROR

ASU 2016-02 Leases (Topic 842) required application in year beginning after December 15, 2019. The accounting for leases was not timely implemented in the December 31, 2024, financial statements. The organization failed to report the right of use asset for the building and equipment leases and the related right of use liability. The amounts for the right of use asset and liability for 2024 have been restated to correct for the error in the statements for 2025 and 2024. The restatement did not affect the net assets amount for 2024.

FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
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NOTE 15 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In 2025, two departments (Visitor Services and Community Engagement) were combined into one Visitor and Community Engagement Department. The end result reducing the overall number of departments from five to four which increased the shared expenses which are allocated out to departments. This shift did not reflect any changes in responsibilities, rather reflected their shared goals and operational synergy.

In his proposed FY27 budget to the borough assembly, Fairbanks Mayor Grier Hopkins had put in \$2,000,000 for the Explore Fairbanks grant, \$437,500 less than he had put in for FY26 (though that year the assembly reduced the overall amount by \$562,550. Through its FY27 budget process, the assembly ended up increasing the amount by \$332,500, to bring the grant total to \$2,332,500. This makes the second fiscal year in a row that the Borough has not funded Explore Fairbanks at the 65% of the projected bed tax revenues as prescribed by the ordinance the assembly approved in 2003.

Management has evaluated subsequent events through ***, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Data Report to Fairbanks City Council

Subject: Summer 2026 Community and Homelessness Response Data

Prepared by: Brenda McFarlane

Date: September 4, 2026

Overview

This memo provides a consolidated summary of HEART outreach activity, Emergency Service Patrol usage, Project Summer Connect homelessness survey data, and Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) activity with the time period of data collection. Collectively, these data points offer a snapshot of current community needs, service utilization patterns, and the challenges faced by unsheltered and vulnerably housed residents in Fairbanks.

1. HEART Outreach Data (May 1 – July 31, 2026)

Service Volume & Encounters

- **Unique Individuals Served:** 25
- **HEART Encounters:** 90

Overdose & Distribution

- **Overdose Reversals:** 2
- **NARCAN Kits Distributed:** 31

Encampment Outreach

- **Encampments Referred:** 24
- **Encampments Outreached:** 38

Shelter Engagement

- **Shelter Acceptances:** 3
- **Shelter Refusals:** 10

Housing Transitions

- **Successful Housing Placements:** 3

Referrals Made: 49 total

- Housing: 13
 - Medical/Behavioral Health: 6
 - Practical Needs: 33
-

2. Project Summer Connect Survey (July 23, 2026)

Total Respondents: 35

Demographics

- Men: 18
- Women: 17
- Ages 18–24: 2
- Ages 25–34: 13
- Ages 55–64: 19
- Age 65+: 1
- Veteran: 1

Homelessness Status (Night of July 22)

- Sheltered: 5
- Unsheltered: 21
- Not Homeless: 9

Health & Disability

- 27 reported at least one disabling or chronic condition (substance use, chronic illness, mental health, physical disability, developmental disability).
- 24 met criteria for **chronic homelessness**.
- 15 reported experiencing **domestic violence**.

Service Utilization & Winter Plans

- 21 stayed at the HopeLink Warming Center at least once last winter.

- When asked where they plan to stay this coming winter if unable to access housing, **21 respondents said “Warming Center.”**
-

3. ESP / FECC July 2026 Data

Service Volume

- **Unique Individuals:** 82
- **Total Encounters:** 275
- **Follow-Ups:** 31

Breath Alcohol Content (BAC)

- 0–0.08: 5.0%
- 0.08–0.12: 0.0%
- 0.12–0.20: 10.0%
- 0.20–0.30: 60.0%
- 0.30+: 25.0%

Substance Use Identified

- Alcohol: 65.9%
- Depressants: 12.1%
- Stimulants: 14.7%
- Hallucinogens: 1.5%
- Prescription: 2.6%
- Other: 3.3%

Encounter Locations

- Public: 53.1%
- Private Commercial: 24.1%
- Private Residence: 6.2%
- Facility: 16.6%

Dispositions

- Unable to Locate: 11.4%
 - Self: 14.0%
 - Refused: 8.5%
 - Residence: 19.1%
 - Detox: 8.1%
 - Sobering: 6.4%
 - Shelter: 2.1%
 - Hospital: 8.9%
 - EMS: 1.7%
 - Northern Hope Center: 10.6%
 - MCT: 0.4%
 - Other outcomes remain under 4%.
-

4. Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) Data

Volume

- **Total Calls:** 171
- **Total Entries (Calls + Follow-Ups):** 303
- **Unduplicated Individuals:** 136

Outcomes

- Safety Plans: 44
- Hospital: 28
- EMS: 1
- Law Enforcement: 2
- Detox: 0
- Respite: 1

- Resources Provided: 73

Referrals (22 Total)

- Mental Health Services: 19
- Substance Use/Recovery: 1
- Housing Services: 2

Additional Indicators

- Individuals Identified as Homeless: 20
- Transportation Provided: 28
- Secondary Beneficiaries (Care givers for the primary service recipient): 94

Follow-Ups: 132 Total

5. Statewide Data Access

For council members wishing to explore statewide homelessness trends or dashboards, the **Institute for Community Alliances** provides updated data here:

Alaska Communities Dashboard

<https://icalliances.org/alaska-communities-dashboard>

To view a **filtered view of Fairbanks homelessness data for July**, members can click this [link](#).

Closing Notes

Taken together, these datasets show a significant level of need across outreach, crisis response, housing navigation, and behavioral health support. The data also highlights persistent barriers around substance dependence, chronic homelessness, and limited shelter uptake, while illustrating strong engagement with crisis services and harm-reduction programs.

The Community Response Coordinator and Fire Chief did meet with Fairbanks Rescue Mission staff to encourage renewed partnership for intaking individuals when they are not under the influence and being supported by the community response teams, particularly the Fairbanks Fire Department community paramedics.



Mindy O'Neill, Mayor

To: City Council Members
From: Mindy O'Neill, City Mayor
Subject: Request for Concurrence – Discretionary Fund Committee Seat C
Date: September 9, 2026

There is a vacancy in Seat C on the Fairbanks Discretionary Fund Committee.

Brenda Riley has applied to serve on the Discretionary Fund Committee and meets the required qualification for Seat C. I hereby request your concurrence to the following appointment:

Ms. Brenda Riely Seat C Term to expire: June 30, 2029

Ms. Riley's application and resume are attached.

Thank you.

Mindy O'Neill
Mayor





City of Fairbanks, Alaska

Discretionary Fund Committee

Board Details

The Discretionary Fund Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council by reviewing applications from organizations applying for grant dollars and making recommendations for fund distribution. The primary purpose of discretionary grants is the promotion of the tourism industry and other economic development in the City of Fairbanks.

Overview

- Size** 6 Seats
- Term Length** 3 Years
- Term Limit** 2 Terms

Additional

Board/Commission Characteristics

The Discretionary Fund Committee consists of five community members and a Council person who functions as the Chair, all appointed by the Mayor. Each member serves a three-year term with a limit of two consecutive full terms.

Meetings

Discretionary Fund Committee Meetings are held annually in November, December, and January at City Hall in the Council Chambers. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk for meeting dates and times.

Enacting Legislation

FGC Chapter 74, Article V, Room Rental Tax

Enacting Legislation Website

<https://bit.ly/31mwjmD>

Joint Commission Details

N/A

Email the Commission Members

discretionaryfundcommittee@fairbanks.us



RECEIVED

SEP 08 2026

City Clerks Office

CITY OF FAIRBANKS
Office of the City Clerk
800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 907-459-6774 | Fax 907-459-6710
cityclerk@fairbanks.us

Please complete this form and submit it to the City Clerk's Office.

CITY BOARD AND COMMISSION APPLICATION FORM

Please note that profile information may be available to the public.

First Name	Brenda	Last Name	Riley	Date	09/04/2026
Email Address					
Board/Committee	Discretionary Fund Committee				☐
Phone Number			Alternate Number		
Residence Address					
City	Fairbanks	State	AK	Zip Code	99709
Mailing Address	same				
City			State	Zip Code	
Employer (if applicable)	Cold Climate Housing Research Center		Job Title	Operations/Finance Director	

Interests & Experiences - Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve. Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission? What life experience can you contribute to the benefit of the board or commission?

I have a long history of serving Fairbanks through both my professional work and my volunteer experiences. I also have an expansive knowledge of the local nonprofit community, having built the Fairbanks Children's Museum, leading the United Way of the Tanana Valley through the pandemic, and serving on multiple boards. I own property in downtown Fairbanks and am deeply passionate about how local experiences, events, and institutions make Fairbanks a destination.

Brief Personal Biography (or attach resume)

See attached resume

Professional Licenses/Training

See attached resume

Brenda Riley

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Professional Summary

Senior nonprofit and business leader with more than 20 years of experience in executive management, operations, finance, and organizational development. Proven record in fundraising, grant administration, fiscal oversight, and board relations. Entrepreneurial background with demonstrated success in revenue growth, community partnerships, and mission-driven leadership across nonprofit and for-profit sectors.

Professional Experience

Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC)

Operations and Finance Director | March 2025 – Present

Interim Executive Director | October 2025 – June 2026

- Provide executive leadership and organizational oversight during leadership transition.
- Direct finance, operations, and administrative functions, including budgeting, financial reporting, compliance, and internal controls.
- Partner with the Board of Directors on strategic planning, governance, and long-term sustainability.
- Support research and program teams to align operational capacity with mission objectives.

Callisto Group Consulting Owner | July 2020 – Present

- Provide grant writing, organizational development, and accounting services to nonprofit and for-profit clients.
- Support clients with financial systems setup, budgeting, reporting, and compliance.
- Assist organizations with strategic planning, governance, and operational improvement.

Ursa Major Distilling: Co-Owner | July 2020 – November 2024

- Developed and launched product lines and expanded statewide distribution networks.
- Managed staff, vendors, and regulatory compliance.
- Tripled company revenue over a three-year period through strategic growth and market expansion.

United Way of the Tanana Valley: Executive Director | December 2019 – July 2020

- Provided overall leadership, fundraising strategy, and fiscal oversight.
- Worked collaboratively with more than 20 nonprofit partners.
- Launched and administered a COVID-19 Relief Fund, overseeing grant distribution to community organizations.
- Strengthened donor relations and community engagement during a period of crisis.

Fairbanks Children's Museum: Founder and Executive Director | January 2012 – December 2019

- Led the organization in alignment with Board-directed mission and vision.
- Oversaw fiscal operations, fundraising, donor relations, and development strategy.
- Supervised staff and directed exhibit design, marketing, and educational programming.
- Built strong community partnerships and cross-organizational collaborations.

Riley Vision PC: Business Manager | 2009 – 2014

- Maintained financial and corporate records, bookkeeping, and reporting.
- Managed state and national certifications and compliance requirements.

Image Optical: Licensed Dispensing Optician | 2004 – 2009

- Fit and dispensed eyewear; interpreted prescriptions and fabricated lenses.
- Managed insurance billing, marketing activities, and physician credentialing.
- Maintained patient and provider records.

Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands, Colorado State University

Archaeologist | Ft. Wainwright, Alaska | 2003 – 2004

- Conducted archaeological surveys and testing.
- Developed research designs and reports.
- Utilized GIS data and coordinated with the Army and federal agencies.

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Archival Assistant, Alaska and Polar Regions Department | 2002 – 2003

- Processed archival collections and cataloged materials.
- Assisted researchers and supported archival operations.

Education

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology, 2002

Community Leadership

Current

- Fairbanks HopeLink: Founding Board Member
- 100+ Golden Heart Women Who Care: Founder and Steering Committee Member

Past

- Cold Climate Housing Research Center: Board of Directors and Treasurer
- Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Network: Board Member
- Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Pre-K Strategic Planning Committee: Member
- University of Alaska Fairbanks Alumni Association: Director

- Arctic Alliance for the People: President
- University of Alaska Fairbanks Board of Advisors to the Chancellor
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Downtown Planning Group

Certifications

- Building Science Principles, BPI
- First Aid/CPR, American Red Cross

Recognition and Awards

- Alaska Journal of Commerce Top Forty Under 40 (2014)
- Imagination Library Champion for Children (2014)
- Downtown Association Revitalization of the Year (2015)
- American Red Cross Real Hero Award (2017)

From: Mindy O'Neill
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 10:00 AM
To: Andrew Cocco; Christoph Falke; Dani Snider; Jake Merritt; Jeremiah J. Cotter; Kaylee Stickel; Kristi Merideth; Margarita R. Bell; Michael Sanders; Mindy O'Neill; Richard Elton; Richard L. Sweet; Ron J. Dupee; Shannon Lam; Thomas Chard; Timothy Zinza
Cc: Jarrod Zerbe; Christina Rowlett; Brenda McFarlane; Brenda S. Geier
Subject: Follow-Up on Council Comms and Presentation Procedures

To: All Department Heads
From: Mayor Mindy O'Neill
Subject: Follow-Up on Council Comms and Presentation Procedures

Good morning, everyone.

I want to reiterate a few important points from our morning meeting earlier today regarding council expectations and the process for preparing presentations to the City Council.

When a staff member is asked to present to the council, the Mayor's Office must review the presentation beforehand. It is essential that no new information is introduced in the council chambers that has not been previously communicated through the proper administrative channels. This ensures clarity, consistency, and alignment across departments and with the administration.

Additionally, no agenda items should be placed on an upcoming council agenda without my prior awareness. Before the draft agenda is released, any proposed items from department heads must be routed through the Mayor's Office. Administrative cohesion is critical in this administration, not only to maintain unified support for the initiatives being brought forward, but also to ensure that ideas presented have the needed information, clarity, and research behind them.

Finally, one thing I didn't mention: please let me know immediately if you receive a directive, request, or inquiry from the Council. With the exception of Dani and Tom, who work directly for the Council, department heads report to and work under the direction of the administration. It's important that I am aware of Council requests to ensure we are communicating clearly, maintaining appropriate lines of authority, and responding consistently.

These practices help us avoid situations where the administration appears out of sync or is unable to support items due to lack of background or preparation.

Thank you all for your exceptional professionalism, dedication, and continued service to our city. Your commitment is deeply appreciated, and these procedures are intended to support our shared success, strengthen our administrative teamwork, and provide the best public service possible.

Please reach out if you have any questions or need clarification on these expectations.

Mindy