FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA NO. 2025-20
REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 27, 2025
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. INVOCATION

3. FLAG SALUTATION

4. CEREMONIAL MATTERS (Proclamations, Introductions, Recognitions, Awards)

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

   *a) Regular Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2025

8. SPECIAL ORDERS

9. MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports

10. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. CERTIFICATION OF 2025 REGULAR ELECTION AND OATHS OF OFFICE

a) Certification of the 2025 Regular Election Results

BRIEF TRANSITION RECESS

b) Oaths of Office and Seating of Elected Officials

13. NEW BUSINESS

*a) Resolution No. 5191 – A Resolution Designating Check Signing Authority for Banking, Investment, and Custodial Accounts of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

14. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

*a) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025

15. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

16. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

17. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) AFL-CIO Labor Negotiations [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(1)]

19. ADJOURNMENT

FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 13, 2025
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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

Councilmembers Present:	Jerry Cleworth, Seat A Valerie Therrien, Seat B Sue Sprinkle, Seat C Crystal Tidwell, Seat D Lonny Marney, Seat E John Ringstad, Seat F
Absent:	None
Also Present:	D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk Thomas Chard, City Attorney Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director (remotely) Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director Robert Pristash, City Engineer Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, Clerk Snider led the flag salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Victor Buberge – V. Buberge shared that one of his biggest concerns is the possibility of hitting someone on the road. He discussed having had close calls with pedestrians around the intersection of Airport Way and Cushman Street. He spoke of public intoxication and the lack of reflective clothing being significant contributing factors and expressed concern that he might someday have to go to court for accidentally hitting a pedestrian despite his best efforts to avoid doing so.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor Pruhs called for objection to the APPROVAL of the agenda and the consent agenda, and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Clerk Snider read the consent agenda into the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2025

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

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
3483	Fairbanks Curling Club	Beverage Dispensary	Fairbanks Curling Club, Inc.	1962 2nd Avenue
4488	RJ's Lounge & Grill	Beverage Dispensary	Roy J. Stoltz	3450 Airport Way

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

Mayor Pruhs called for testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

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

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

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
17250	Pipe and Leaf: Premium Alaskan Cannabis	Retail Marijuana Store	Pipe and Leaf, LLC	3546 Airport Way

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

Mayor Pruhs called for testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

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

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

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

Type/License: Beverage Dispensary, License #556
DBA: The International Hotel & Bar
Location: 122 N. Turner Street, Fairbanks
From Owner: Hard Work, LLC
To Owner: The Big Eye, LLC

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

Mayor Pruhs called for testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

Ms. Sprinkle questioned whether there had been any significant police activity at the location. **Mayor Pruhs** responded that there had been no recent issues.

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

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

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

Type/License: Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility, License #15800
DBA: Baked Alaska, LLC
Applicant: Baked Alaska, LLC
Location: 2745 Hanson Road, Unit B, Fairbanks

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

Mayor Pruhs called for testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

In response to a Councilmember's inquiry about details of the transfer, Clerk Snider explained that it is a transfer of controlling interest from Steve Hallsten (50%) and Ryan Hallsten (50%) to Ryan Hallsten (100%).

Mr. Cleworth asked if this was one of the businesses for which they had received odor complaints. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that it was not. A brief discussion followed regarding other businesses in the marijuana industry for which the City had received odor-related complaints in the past and how the City has handled such situations.

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

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Pruhs asked Chief of Staff Sanders to provide an update on the childcare facility project at City Hall. M. Sanders reported that he hosted a second walkthrough with representatives from the Enep'ut Children's Center and that they are very interested in the space as well as the area currently used by the Boys & Girls Club (BGC). He was optimistic about the potential partnership.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if there was an anticipated timeline. M. Sanders explained that while it would hopefully come to fruition by the end of the year, such details were still unknown.

Mayor Pruhs reported that the BGC has significant amounts of unpaid rent and that the City would be sending an official letter to them in that regard.

Mr. Marney asked about pricing for a potential rental agreement. M. Sanders explained that the issue would be approached with long-term goals in mind and that details were still being discussed.

Mayor Pruhs discussed the log cabin downtown currently rented by the Yukon Quest. He shared that the organization would like to move out on April 1, 2026 but that doing so would cause them to break their lease. He added that they are also requesting to have their rent waived until that time. He suggested that the City consider creating a lottery to operate out of the cabin in the future.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ringstad noted that a lot of campaign signs had come down quickly after the recent local election. He expressed appreciation for Fairbanks Police Department officers with whom he had interacted with the night before, highlighting their quick response time.

Mr. Marney, **Ms. Tidwell**, and **Ms. Sprinkle** each indicated they had no comments.

Ms. Therrien gave a land acknowledgement and noted that it was Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Mr. Cleworth indicated that he would defer his comments until later in the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Ordinance No. 6328 – An Ordinance Amending the 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Third Time. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6328.

Mayor Pruhs called for testimony and hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

Chief Financial Officer Bell provided a summary of the changes included within the ordinance.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for more information about reduced rental revenues and the new vehicle for the Emergency Service Patrol (ESP). CFO Bell provided additional details on both items.

Ms. Therrien asked how the $275,000 from the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) for the ESP would be used. CFO Bell confirmed that a large portion of the funds would be used to purchase a new van for the ESP. **Ms. Therrien** inquired if the increased payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) would be reflected in future years. CFO Bell stated that the amount would be for the next five years. She explained that the PILT comes from the City's contract with the military and increases whenever there is a Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) increase for servicemembers.

Mr. Marney asked if the ESP would now have three vehicles. M. Sanders confirmed that was so but noted that two of them are nearly non-functional and require significant mechanical work.

Mr. Ringstad asked for clarity on the reallocation of $100,000 from the contingency fund for an ESP van. CFO Bell explained that the Mayor has a contingency fund for capital needs and that the purchase of the new ESP van would come from that account.

Ms. Tidwell asked if the increase to salary and benefits for temporary workers at Public Works was in addition to the original budget. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that the 2025 budget had not provided as much funding for temporary labor as in the previous year, with the understanding that the item would be revisited in the fall, if necessary. **Ms. Tidwell** asked what the current balance of that line item was, adding that she was under the impression the City would be saving money in that area for the year. CFO Bell clarified that the original budget was $1.4MM and that, to date, about $966,000 had been spent. She indicated that the ordinance would ensure the department had sufficient funds to cover a heavy snowfall event before the end of 2025, should it occur.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if any remaining balance to that account would artificially increase the Employee Capital Incentive Program (ECIP). CFO Bell explained that it would not, as the ECIP is based on the original budget.

Mr. Ringstad noted that the transfer ensures labor funding through the end of the year. He pointed out that with emergency funds, the total amount available is $450,000. CFO Bell clarified that the other funds Mr. Ringstad was referring to may only be used if an emergency is declared.

Mr. Marney asked for clarification on salary savings. CFO Bell explained that the funds being discussed were only related to temporary labor, not regular salaries for permanent positions.

Mr. Cleworth asserted that the City had never done well at being a landlord and suggested that the anytime a portion of City Hall or another City-owned property is leased, the rent should at least cover the space's overhead costs. He recounted that a formula had been created in the past to determine appropriate rent amounts, but the City had long since veered from that practice. He stated that the current situation has resulted in taxpayers subsidizing the BGC, which should not continue. He expressed his belief that the increase to Public Works temporary labor was proactive and that the Finance Committee had a goal of not needing another budget amendment before the end of the year. He discussed how the surplus of $2.3MM at the start of the year had dwindled to only $88,000. He expressed concern with spending trends and acknowledged that there may be some salary savings available to transfer to capital needs.

Mr. Ringstad concurred with Mr. Cleworth about the slim budget. He asked if salary savings at Public Works could be used to cover temporary laborers. CFO Bell provided details about the projected salary savings and temporary labor, noting the net amount would be about $300,000. She confirmed that most of the funds within the budget amendment should come back as surplus if there were not significant needs for snow removal. She expressed concern over the growing practice of treating salary savings as a slush fund.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6328 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Marney, Tidwell, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Therrien
NAYS: None
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6328 ADOPTED.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

a) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2025

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

b) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2025

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

c) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2025

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

d) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2025

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

e) Reappointment to the Building Code & Landscape Review & Appeals Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

f) Third Quarter Sole Source Purchasing Report

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Therrien recounted that the Mayor had asked Councilmembers to submit legislative priorities by October 31 and noted that department heads had been asked to do the same by October 24. She asked that she and Mr. Ringstad receive those requests so they could begin working on them, with the hope to meet with the Interior Delegation sometime in November. She discussed a national Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) competition for middle schoolers which she hopes could be brought to Fairbanks and committed to reaching out to the school district. She spoke of the Alaska Municipal League (AML) annual conference, expressed a desire to attend, and stated that Ms. Sprinkle had also conveyed interest in going. She noted the Mayor had requested an increase in the travel budget and asked if that was for the Mayor and Chief of Staff to attend the AML conference as well. **Mayor Pruhs** confirmed that was correct.

Ms. Tidwell stated that she had no committee reports. She pointed out that Halloween was approaching and encouraged the Council to put something together for the City Hall event.

Mr. Marney reported that the Q&A session for the Discretionary Fund Committee would take place at noon on October 15. He stated that it had been a pleasure working with Mayor Pruhs.

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

Ms. Sprinkle reported that the recent event at the Starter Block on Lacey Street had been great and thanked Mayor Pruhs for his work on the property. She shared that at the recent meeting of Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning's Project Enhancement Committee, she had suggested the Clay Street Cemetery due to its proximity to the Steese Highway.

Mr. Cleworth thanked staff for removing the abandoned vehicles from the Lavery Transportation Center. He asked if a vehicle had been acquired for use by FAST Planning. **Mayor Pruhs** confirmed that one had been identified, but it had not yet been communicated to anyone at FAST Planning. **Mr. Cleworth** discussed news about a potential bike path on the north side of the Chena River.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider reminded everyone that the final absentee and questioned ballot count would take place the following afternoon at 2 p.m. at the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly Chambers and is open to the public.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard reported that the new Deputy City Attorney was settling in well and would likely attend the next work session to be formally introduced to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tidwell moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

Mayor Pruhs called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

____
DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

____
D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION

REGULAR ELECTION – OCTOBER 7, 2025

We, the undersigned members of the City Council of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska, in the meeting duly convened this 27th day of October 2025, do hereby certify that the attached election results are true and correct in all particulars.

That **MINDY O'NEALL**, having received a majority of the votes cast for CITY MAYOR, for a three-year term ending October 2028, is hereby declared elected as the Mayor of the City of Fairbanks.

That **SUE SPRINKLE**, having received a majority of the votes cast for CITY COUNCIL SEAT C, for a three-year term ending October 2028, is hereby declared reelected as a member of the Fairbanks City Council.

That **CRYSTAL TIDWELL**, having received a majority of the votes cast for CITY COUNCIL SEAT D, for a three-year term ending October 2028, is hereby declared reelected as a member of the Fairbanks City Council.

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

ATTEST:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk	**David Pruhs, City Mayor**

REPORT OF ELECTION
CANVASS BOARD

October 7, 2025 Regular Election

We, the undersigned, duly appointed at the Regular Council Meeting of September 8, 2025 to serve as canvass board judges in the regular election of October 7, 2025, do hereby certify that we have examined in detail all absentee ballots, special needs ballots, questioned ballots, and original and questioned registers for each of the seven precincts of the City of Fairbanks.

Upon completion of the canvass, it is our opinion that the attached summary of election returns, as compiled by the City Clerk, accurately reflects the total shown on the Certificate of Election returns by the election board of each voting precinct.

Nancy [illegible]	Barbara A. Rose
Ramona [illegible]	Leann Folsom
Patty Wise	DeeDee (Dianne) Dalen
Carol [illegible]	B Higdon
Canvass Board Chair	

Election Summary Report
Regular Election
City of Fairbanks
October 7, 2025
Unofficial Results

FAIRBANKS CITY MAYOR (Vote for 1)
COF

	Election Day	Absentee	Early Voting	Question	Total	
Times Cast	2,658	285	704	44	3,691 / 22,248	16.59%
Undervotes	15	1	0	0	16	
Overvotes	0	0	0	0	0	

Candidate	Election Day	Absentee	Early Voting	Question	Total
Mindy L. O'Neall	1,402	151	406	27	1,986
David Pruhs	1,230	133	298	16	1,677
Write-in	11	0	0	1	12
Total Votes	2,643	284	704	44	3,675

FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL SEAT C (Vote for 1)
COF

	Election Day	Absentee	Early Voting	Question	Total	
Times Cast	2,658	285	704	44	3,691 / 22,248	16.59%
Undervotes	92	15	20	3	130	
Overvotes	0	0	0	0	0	

Candidate	Election Day	Absentee	Early Voting	Question	Total
Hannah Ekalook	1,094	99	268	19	1,480
Sue Sprinkle	1,444	168	415	21	2,048
Write-in	28	3	1	1	33
Total Votes	2,566	270	684	41	3,561

FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL SEAT D (Vote for 1)
COF

	Election Day	Absentee	Early Voting	Question	Total	
Times Cast	2,658	285	704	44	3,691 / 22,248	16.59%
Undervotes	417	49	97	11	574	
Overvotes	0	0	0	0	0	

Candidate	Election Day	Absentee	Early Voting	Question	Total
Crystal Tidwell	2,099	222	573	31	2,925
Write-in	142	14	34	2	192
Total Votes	2,241	236	607	33	3,117

Results by Precinct
City of Fairbanks
Regular Election
October 1, 2024
Unofficial Results

FAIRBANKS CITY MAYOR (Vote for 1)

Precinct	Mindy O'Neall	David Pruhs	Write-in
31-446 Aurora	267	204	2
31-455 Fairbanks #1	320	274	5
31-480 Fairbanks #2	245	245	2
31-485 Fairbanks #3	217	158	1
32-355 Fairbanks #4	190	194	
32-365 Fairbanks #5	139	144	1
32-375 Fort Wainwright	24	11	
38-000 Absentee	151	133	
39-000 Early Voting	406	298	
40-000 Question	27	16	1
Total	**1986**	**1677**	**12**

FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL SEAT C (Vote for 1)

Precinct	Hannah Ekalook	Sue Sprinkle	Write-in
31-446 Aurora	186	266	4
31-455 Fairbanks #1	222	347	4
31-480 Fairbanks #2	196	277	9
31-485 Fairbanks #3	174	191	4
32-355 Fairbanks #4	163	209	5
32-365 Fairbanks #5	139	134	2
32-375 Fort Wainwright	14	20	
38-000 Absentee	99	168	3
39-000 Early Voting	268	415	1
40-000 Question	19	21	1
Total	**1480**	**2048**	**33**

FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL SEAT D (Vote for 1)

Precinct	Crystal Tidwell	Write-in
31-446 Aurora	373	24
31-455 Fairbanks #1	466	28
31-480 Fairbanks #2	377	32
31-485 Fairbanks #3	316	22
32-355 Fairbanks #4	311	22
32-365 Fairbanks #5	229	11
32-375 Fort Wainwright	27	3
38-000 Absentee	222	14
39-000 Early Voting	573	34
40-000 Question	31	2
Total	**2925**	**192**

Introduced by: Mayor Pruhs
Date: October 27, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 5191

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING CHECK SIGNING AUTHORITY FOR BANKING, INVESTMENT, AND CUSTODIAL ACCOUNTS OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

WHEREAS, a change in City staff has made it necessary to designate a new individual with check signing authority.

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

Section 1. That any two of the following named individuals shall be designated as authorized signatories for the City of Fairbanks accounts maintained at Mt. McKinley Bank:

Mindy O’Neall	Mayor
Michael Sanders	Chief of Staff
Margarita Bell	Chief Financial Officer
Thomas A. Chard	City Attorney
Jacob Merritt	Human Resources Director

Section 2. That any two of the following named individuals shall be designated as authorized signatories for the Key Trust City of Fairbanks AML Investment Pool Accounts:

Mindy O’Neall	Mayor
Michael Sanders	Chief of Staff
Thomas A. Chard	City Attorney
Jacob Merritt	Human Resources Director

Section 3. That any two of the following named individuals shall be designated as authorized signatories for the Key Trust City of Fairbanks Permanent Fund Account:

Mindy O’Neall	Mayor
Michael Sanders	Chief of Staff
Thomas A. Chard	City Attorney
Jacob Merritt	Human Resources Director

Section 4. That any two of the following named individuals shall be designated as authorized signatories for the U. S. Bank City of Fairbanks Permanent Fund Custodial Account:

Mindy O'Neall	Mayor
Michael Sanders	Chief of Staff
Thomas A. Chard	City Attorney
Jacob Merritt	Human Resources Director

Section 5. That the Chief Financial Officer will file a copy of this Resolution in the business offices of each company referenced above.

Section 6. That the effective date of this resolution is six days after adoption.

____
Mindy O'Neall, Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

____
D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

____
Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025, 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. **Chair Karen Blackburn** (Seat I) was physically present, and the following members were in attendance:

Members Present (In Person):
Erica Dillard, Seat A
June Rogers, Seat C (arrived at 5:33)
Juanita Webb, Seat D
Herb Butler, Seat J
Deirdre Hamilton, Seat K
Jake Merritt, HR Director
Lonny Marney, City Council Member

Members Absent:
Jennifer Hartford, Seat B (excused)
Vacant, Seat E
Dorothy Shockley, Seat F (excused)
Vacant, Seat G
Vacant, Seat H
David Pruhs, Mayor

Also Present:
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER (Reading of Mission Statement and Land Acknowledgement)

Chair Blackburn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. **J. Webb** read the mission statement, and **H. Butler** read the land acknowledgement.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Blackburn led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

J. Webb, seconded by **H. Butler**, moved to approve the agenda. There being no objection, the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2025

b) Regular Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2025

J. Rogers, seconded by **D. Hamilton**, moved to approve both sets of meeting minutes. There being no objection, both sets of meeting minutes were approved.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS – None

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Blackburn stated that she met with Clerk Snider earlier that day, and they discussed FDC history and new ideas. She stated she would like to look into getting the FDC on social media and explore different options for funding. She indicated she would like the FDC to have a tag line and unified branding and suggested an update of the FDC logo. She spoke about ways to create community visibility for the FDC and partnerships with other local organizations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Election of New Vice Chair

Chair Blackburn asked if there were any volunteers to serve as vice chair. Clerk Snider explained process. **J. Webb** suggested that it may be invigorating for the FDC to have new members step up.

D. Hamilton asked about the duties of the vice chair. Clerk Snider summarized the typical duties. **D. Hamilton** nominated J. Rogers. **J. Rogers** declined. She explained that she has served on the FDC since 2014, and she currently has many commitments. She indicated that it is not a good time for her to add more obligations. She stated that she would commit to remaining on the FDC and helping, but that she could not take on the role of vice chair.

D. Hamilton volunteered. Seeing no other volunteers to serve as vice chair, **Chair Blackburn** called for objection to appointing D. Hamilton as vice chair. No members objected.

b) Human Library Update – Event Coordinators: Marney, Webb
Noel Wien Library, September 20, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

L. Marney stated that the event is only a week away and he does not think there are enough "books." **J. Webb** confirmed that there were not enough volunteers and recommended the Human Library be postponed. She presented a draft flyer for the event for the FDC to review. She reported that she and L. Marney met with Josh at the Noel Wien Library. She shared that October is global diversity awareness month, and she suggested moving the Human Library date to October 18. Other members indicated that is the date for the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) convention, so it would not work. Members agreed to pursue October 25 as the event date. **J. Webb** spoke about the flyer and discussed her vision for how the Human Library would be conducted. **L. Marney** added that the event would not be worth the FDC's time if there isn't more participation. **J. Webb** stated she would like to get 20 books scheduled; she indicated that she has been trying to personally invite people to be books.

H. Butler questioned how the library would work and whether a book would just show up and wait for someone to bring up a topic. **J. Webb** stated that the book would choose the topic in advance—an aspect of their life. **H. Butler** remarked that any topic in his life would take way longer to present than the allotted time. **J. Webb** stated that might be an issue because there must be a time limit. She explained that she foresees a timekeeper/helper in each room. **H. Butler** asked how books would be introduced. **J. Webb** suggested a bio or a brief introduction before the groups split off. **H. Butler** recommended that multiple topics be allowed. **J. Webb** commented that she does not want to repeat what happened the last time, where only three people showed up. **J. Rogers**

shared her opinion that it does not need to be about tragic or negative events and cautioned on channeling other folks' memories in a way that is not their own.

J. Merritt stated he believes there is a disconnect amongst the FDC regarding the Human Library topic. He stated that the event would involve 20 human "books" that can be "checked out" so that people may learn and ask questions in a safe place. **D. Hamilton** asked who the audience would be, and **J. Webb** replied that it would be whoever attends.

H. Butler stated that he would offer two topics for himself: the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the Natural Gas Pipeline. He commented that the only information about those things available to the public is from newspapers and other publications. **J. Webb** indicated that she has a different perspective on the event, and she read the descriptive paragraph from the Human Library flyer. She stated that the intent is for it to be diversity-based. **H. Butler** stated that he is having a hard time envisioning library patrons who are interested in a diversity topic. **L. Marney** responded that the young man who runs the Noel Wien Library is very interested. **H. Butler** shared that he is a prolific reader, but if he had not gotten involved with diversity councils, he would not have any interest in diversity. **J. Webb** stated she feels it will be a safe place for people to ask questions that they cannot ask elsewhere. **H. Butler** stated he is struggling with knowing what topic to choose without knowing his audience.

Chair Blackburn summarized how she envisions the event based on the discussion:

- Books have preset topic(s)
- Interested individuals check out the books they are interested in
- There will be a rotating schedule so that everyone has a chance to be "checked out"
- Topics are the personal preference of the "book"

Chair Blackburn gave examples of what she would talk about if she was a book and stated that people will be interested because individuals want to get to know one another. **L. Marney** stated that it will be a learning experience for everyone. **D. Hamilton** asked how often the FDC will hold a Human Library event. **J. Webb** stated that she would like to do it at least twice a year and maybe quarterly eventually.

Chair Blackburn stated that the date has tentatively been set for October 24, from noon to 4 p.m. She stated she would see if some members at the Northern Hope Center would be interested. **J. Rogers** asked if the informational paragraph on the flyer was something that had been used previously. J. Webb stated that she drafted the paragraph from information she found online.

c) Calendar of Events (informational only)

Chair Blackburn stated the calendar needs to be updated and asked the group if there were other events that should be added. **J. Webb** stated she feels it is good to list all events; **J Rogers** agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Discussion on Land Acknowledgement Recommendation

Clerk Snider provided a history on the FDC's past recommendations to the City Council regarding the reading of a land acknowledgement and the City Council's action regarding such. **J. Merritt** pointed out that the land acknowledgement is posted on the wall outside of Council Chambers. **J. Rogers** shared that Councilmember Therrien reads the land acknowledgement at each City Council meeting.

H. Butler, seconded by **E. Dillard**, moved to postpone the discussion on the land acknowledgement recommendation to the next meeting. There being no objection, the item was postponed.

FDC MEMBERS' COMMENTS

H. Butler shared that in his most recent phone call with his son in L.A., they discussed the possibility of getting picked up by ICE agents because of how they look. He stated that his friends across the state are all discussing the same issue because they are all have brown skin, black hair, and brown eyes. He stated he did not know agents were in the community until someone was recently picked up in Fairbanks. He shared that the topic will most likely be discussed amongst the Native people at each meeting throughout the year and that resolutions might be offered.

J. Rogers thanked everyone and stated she is glad to see the FDC continue to move forward. She reiterated that her commitment to the FDC is strong.

D. Hamilton indicated that she is nervous about serving as the vice chair.

J. Webb thanked D. Hamilton for stepping up to serve as vice chair.

E. Dillard asked whether the FDC was planning to do something for Indigenous Peoples Day and whether all items on the calendar were indicative of the FDC's participation in an activity or event. Clerk Snider replied that the FDC does not participate in all the events or items on the calendar.

All other members present indicated they had no comments.

MEETING DATES

a) Next Regular Meeting Date, October 14, 2025 [NOTE: November 11 meeting falls on Veterans Day. Cancel or reschedule?]

Following a brief discussion, members decided to reschedule the November 11 meeting for November 18 and to hold a potluck instead of a regular meeting on December 9.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Blackburn declared the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Karen Blackburn, Chair

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Transcribed by: DS