



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 26, 2024
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 located at 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor David Pruhs presiding and the following Councilmembers in attendance:

Councilmembers Present: Jerry Cleworth, Seat A
 June Rogers, Seat B
 Sue Sprinkle, Seat C
 Crystal Tidwell, Seat D
 Lonny Marney, Seat E
 John Ringstad, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Thomas Chard, City Attorney
 Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
 Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer
 Colt Chase, Deputy City Clerk
 Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief (remotely)
 Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
 Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director
 Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)
 Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator (remotely)
 Marsha Oss, Reentry Coordinator

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Deputy City Clerk Colt Chase.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, **Ms. Tidwell** led the flag salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

[Clerk Note: Names of citizens who provide comments may not be spelled correctly if their name was illegible on the physical sign-up sheet.]

Scott Austin – S. Austin shared that he recently received a \$43 parking ticket in the downtown area and claimed that he was denied due process when he came to the scheduled appeal hearing. He expressed dissatisfaction with the existence and legitimacy of the Parking Authority. He explained that the person who wrote the ticket was not present, he did not have an opportunity to question

the legitimacy of the citation, and that when he asked for proof of the violation (parking more than 18 inches from the curb), the referenced photograph included no measuring device. S. Austin stated that this led to an argument with the City Engineer who asserted that the curbs downtown are all 18 inches and as such, the visual reference of the curb compared to his tire was sufficient evidence. He shared that the City Engineer invited him to go measure the curbs himself if he would like. S. Austin reported that he had done just that, documenting his measurements, and discovered that none of the curbs he encountered were more than 16 inches. He stated that this only added to his frustration and to the validity of his argument that without adequate proof to validate his citation, his rights had been infringed upon. He requested that the Council contact the Parking Authority to request he be refunded his payment for the citation.

Ms. Rogers asked for additional details about his efforts to personally measure the curbs. S. Austin shared that every measurement he took showed the curbs being within a fraction of 16 inches. He noted that the curb face is slanted, which may result in a measurement of 18 inches if measured from the top of the curb. He clarified that this would be unfair as one parking their tire directly in contact with the curb itself would therefore still be measured as two inches away, which is a poor argument. He added that he shared his photos with the Parking Authority who indicated a possibility that they would issue a refund. **Ms. Rogers** asked when this occurred. S. Austin reported that the citation occurred in late June but the appeal hearing had only been held last week.

Mayor Pruhs asked if his statement about being denied due process was because he showed up and no hearing was held. S. Austin explained that his statement referred to the lack of opportunity for an appeal as the experience did not include any kind of hearing format. He shared that after asking how he could appeal the decision further, he was told that he could speak to the City Council or file a suit in small claims court. He expressed the view that it does not seem fair for someone to bear the expense of small claims court for something that should involve a more reasonable, lower-level resolution process. He indicated that if he received a speeding ticket, he would have the right to appeal it at numerous levels of the law rather than suing the entity that issued the citation. **Mayor Pruhs** invited him to share his contact information with the Chief of Staff and committed to following up with him to find an acceptable resolution.

Victor Buberger – V. Buberger asked for an update on the planned public restroom for the downtown area. He discussed the possibility of Fairbanks establishing a casino as a way to add life and generate income, citing examples of “Indian casinos” in several other states. He mentioned the need for extra attention in filling potholes before the snow comes, noting the recent excessive rain.

Julie Smyth (via Zoom) – J. Smyth shared that she is a member of the Board of Directors for Bread Line, Inc. and that the need for the services they provided, such as hot meals through Stone Soup Café, has increased dramatically this year. She reported that over 300 meals were provided just earlier that day. She discussed the challenges they face as a result of COVID-era funding and other grant programs having recently ended. She extended the request for support and donations from the community to help their organization continue to meet the needs of those they serve. She concluded with a call for dignity and respect towards those who are homeless, citing stories of individuals being harassed simply for sitting, not camping, in public spaces.

Olivia Rodriguez – O. Rodriguez congratulated the City on the positive progress of the Polaris Building demolition. She shared seeing an exterior section of concrete being removed from the structure today as she walked downtown and expressed excitement for the space’s future.

Mayor Pruhs, hearing no requests for additional comments, declared Citizens' Comments closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Deputy Clerk Chase read the consent agenda into the record.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
1920	Salty's on 2nd	Beverage Dispensary	Tres Amigas, LLC	706 2nd Avenue
4156	Circle K	Package Store	Holiday Alaska, LLC	2300 S. Cushman Street
5353	Fairbanks Distilling Company	Distillery Manufacturer	Patrick Wayne Levy	410 Cushman Street
5436	Hoarfrost Distilling	Distillery Manufacturer	Hoarfrost Distilling, LLC	3501 Lathrop Street, Unit F
704	Costco Wholesale #1342	Package Store	Costco Wholesale Corporation	48 College Road
4168	Food Factory	Beverage Dispensary	CNR Enterprise, LLC	275 Bentley Trust Road
4170	The Library	Beverage Dispensary	Redbox, LLC	603 Lacey Street

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

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

Ms. Rogers asked for police input regarding the lengthy report of call activities near the Circle K.

Deputy Police Chief Richard Sweet explained that this business is one of the busiest in Fairbanks and years ago had some of the highest levels of theft. He shared that many practices have been put in place, such as regular safety checks, to reduce these issues and increase police visibility on any given day. He noted that, like other alcohol license application reports, not all calls are associated with the business itself. He discussed high levels of vehicle and foot traffic near this intersection, being a major bus stop, and its proximity to other nearby shops, the rescue mission, food bank, and more. He pointed out that the "SI" indicator on the report represents a "self-initiated" visit.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if he felt that the call report would be this long if there was no alcohol sold at the location. R. Sweet stated that for those calls actually associated with the business itself, very few pertain to the liquor store, noting that it is separate from the convenience store and gas station.

Mr. Ringstad shared that he visits this business often and rarely sees much police activity. He stated that he is often impressed with the good clean business taking place here. R. Sweet explained how officers frequently stop by to fuel their vehicles and grab a snack, citing statistics of a decrease in calls to locations where a police officer has recently been seen.

Mr. Marney expressed concern about the strain on law enforcement staffing in this area of the City. R. Sweet indicated that this part of town has always needed more of a police presence and that every city will have areas of higher call volume; this just happened to be Fairbanks'.

Mayor Pruhs acknowledged that this intersection is somewhat of a perfect storm for factors that result in a law enforcement presence, not just a liquor store. R. Sweet noted that many other alcohol establishments have limited hours and that Circle K is open 24 hours, which will naturally mean that their call report will be longer than others.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Pruhs invited Reentry Coordinator Marsha Oss to give a report on her work.

M. Oss shared a handout with the Councilmembers which highlighted her endeavors over the past year, including partnership efforts with the Housing and Homeless Coalition as well as the Crisis Now program. Highlights from her report included:

- Using funds provided through the State of Alaska Department of Corrections Reentry Program, 33 clients recently returning from incarceration were provided backpacks, supplies, and clothing intended to help them seek employment.
- \$40K in funds from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority were able to cover expenses for 14 individuals, including housing, utilities, driver's license fees, insurance, union membership, heating fuel, car repairs, and basic medical appointments.
- The City Council provided funds for mini grants, up to \$2,500, and 7 individuals met the criteria to receive this support.
- The Governor allocated a quarter of a million dollars for reentry programs across the state, of which Fairbanks received \$60K. This was less restrictive than other funding sources, allowing her to assist with getting individuals set up with union positions and cover the cost of tools, which enabled participants to receive much higher paying jobs.
- Those housed at the Northstar Center, a local residential reentry program, have a forced savings arrangement. This meant that those higher-paying jobs are resulting in significant savings built up for the participants to have funds for housing security once they are ready to progress from the program and move out of the facility.

M. Oss expressed appreciation for the support of the Council and other entities that provide grants to her programs. She shared her hope that these funding sources will continue.

Ms. Rogers thanked her for her hard work and asked for more information about one data point on her report that references an individual's home location. Ms. Oss explained that she tracks this information as some individuals are not from Fairbanks but get arrested here and are required to remain in town for supervision until they have completed the requirements of their program.

Ms. Sprinkle asked what more she might need at this time. M. Oss stated that her primary request is for those in the community who appreciate these efforts to thank the agencies she works with and support the reentry program. She praised the owners of Golden North Inn who stepped up last winter to help solve a difficult housing situation.

Mr. Ringstad asked to confirm the overall expense for her various projects and the number of individuals served. M. Oss reported that about 103 people were served in one way or another with a little over \$108K in project expenses. **Mr. Ringstad** asked if there was a way to track the success or recidivism of the individuals who receive services and benefits through her program. Ms. Oss explained that the Department of Corrections and probation officers do not notify her if one of her clients get arrested again. She added that sometimes individuals get arrested but nothing ends up being charged or they are found not guilty, yet on paper it still looks like they screwed up. She noted how disruptive and devastating this can be to someone who had started to make positive progress. **Mr. Ringstad** stated that his interest is in the overall success over time. M. Oss shared that she is quite tough and sets high expectations for those receiving assistance, including proof of work and a referral from their parole officer.

Mr. Marney praised M. Oss's work and stated that Fairbanks is fortunate to have her.

Ms. Rogers stated that everyone who works in programs like this need continued advocacy to legislators and administrators to ensure ongoing support.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if there is a Borough-level counterpart to her position or if she performs this work for the entire community. M. Oss shared that she was a case manager locally for five years and then became the coordinator. She noted that a lot of her projects are beyond what a typical reentry coordinator does but that her background and the trust that exists with many of the leaders in this field has granted her greater flexibility and more opportunities to provide assistance. She reported that the majority of the individuals she is helping have never lived in their own place with their own couch and bed. She shared details about the monthly meeting for the Reentry Coalition.

Mayor Pruhs spoke favorably of M. Oss's dedication and suggested a Resolution be drafted to highlight their local success and recognize her efforts, to be shared with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. Mayor Pruhs gave an update on the Portland Loo, the public restroom facility slated for implementation in the downtown plaza. He shared that by the time they would be ready to open it, it would be close to the point of having to shut it down for the winter. He indicated that they would wait until the spring of 2025 to install the facility. He added that despite having 12 individuals show up to the pre-construction conference, they received zero bids, which means they will now have the option to sole-source the project and decide how they would like to proceed, within their budget. Mayor Pruhs reported continued progress with abatements, specifically that the Alaska Motor Inn had hired a contractor to knock down a portion of the fire-damaged building. He stated that the owner has worked tirelessly and the buyer has good ideas for the space. He shared that this news also means that \$100K in budgeted funds for abatement can now be used for other properties that need attention, of which they have three or four set as priorities.

Mr. Ringstad inquired about a particular property on Lacey Street. **Mayor Pruhs** indicated that the structure is close to the Thai House restaurant and there is great interest in ensuring the business is not harmed, along with another nearby office building.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cleworth stated that it was nice to hear good news via the report by M. Oss.

Ms. Sprinkle indicated that she had no comments at this time.

Mr. Ringstad reported on his assignment as the Council representative at the last Borough Assembly meeting. He shared that all three representatives from the City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, and the school district were in attendance, which had not occurred in a long time. He stated that he had conveyed the Council's support for the Ordinance to remove the 5-minute limitation on reports from these representatives. Mr. Ringstad indicated that there were comments during the break in the meeting which gave him hope for an improved relationship between the Council and Assembly going forward. He shared that there was a lengthy, interesting discussion, along with significant public comment, regarding the idea of mail-in voting. He stated that his attendance that night also made him appreciate the decorum of their Council meetings even more.

Ms. Tidwell shared that today was the first day of the annual Alaska Defense Forum, which included tours of some of the impressive facilities at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She noted that a lot of research projects are underway that most of the community has no idea about. She provided details about the upcoming Labor Day parade put on by the local unions.

Mr. Marney reported that he had the privilege to participate in a ride-a-long with Officer Zheng. He stated that he is a remarkable young man and shared some of Officer Zheng's background.

Ms. Rogers thanked the Mayor for proposing a Resolution to highlight the work of their public services wing. She stated that folks in the trenches doing the hard work need people's support.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6283 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code by Enacting Section 10-207 to Require That Vacant Buildings Be Secured and Registered and Establishing Fines for Violations of These Requirements. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Council Members Sprinkle and Ringstad.

Note: Ordinance No. 6283 was introduced at the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2024, with a motion to ADVANCE made by Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by Mr. Ringstad. The first reading was postponed. The motion to ADVANCE remains on the floor and a public hearing will be held at the second reading, if advanced.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6283 by substituting the amended, proposed version.

Mayor Pruhs called for objection to the motion to AMEND Ordinance No. 6283 by substituting the amended, proposed version and, seeing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Sprinkle expressed appreciation for the time the Council had put into working on this Ordinance over the last several months. She provided a handout of images that showed vacant buildings within a small footprint of the downtown area. She explained that her intent was to highlight just how many buildings might meet their criteria across all of Fairbanks and how vastly different they appear from the street level. She expressed the desire to see a continued effort to enhance the downtown area for the sake of residents and visitors.

Mr. Ringstad indicated he was concerned about the associated fees, noting that many buildings remain vacant because owners cannot get a tenant. He stated it seemed counterproductive to have a hefty cost for those making an earnest effort to secure tenants but falling short.

Ms. Sprinkle pointed out a recent newspaper article highlighting three fires at unoccupied buildings. She noted that the building is no good to an owner if it is destroyed and that such incidents cost the City a lot of money.

Mr. Ringstad voiced support for how they handle abatements and stated that a similar process and approach would be useful for this situation. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked if that would really get the owner's attention. **Mr. Ringstad** pointed out the recent instances of the Mayor's abatement efforts finally spurring action from owners who have long been negligent. He stated that getting a result is better than just fining the owners. **Ms. Sprinkle** responded that many of these buildings have been vacant for decades and that others who live near these buildings are also affected. **Mr. Ringstad** recalled that Mayor Pruhs often mentions how every case is unique when it comes to properties. **Ms. Sprinkle** pointed out that there are a variety of remedies and options within the Ordinance to ensure that the City and owner have reasonable flexibility as remedies are sought.

Mr. Marney shared that he was contacted by an individual who requested the Council consider exemptions for those wishing to lease a property, similar to those selling. He discussed the numerous vacant structures, many of them former businesses, just driving down Peger Road. He acknowledged that most of the Council's conversation has focused on the downtown area.

Mayor Pruhs stated there are many moving parts to this Ordinance and that they have an opportunity with the person they will hire for the new position. He explained that this staff member will have the dedicated time for outreach, contacting the many owners with properties meeting their criteria. He reiterated that each property has a different story and that there is still some work to do on the Ordinance. Mayor Pruhs expressed a preference for another postponement, as there are seven applicants for the new position and they would like adequate time to prepare a program.

Mr. Ringstad asked how long until they have this new position filled. HR Director Jake Merritt indicated that the application would close on Labor Day and they will immediately set up interviews. He estimated October 1 as a likely start date, though it could be sooner.

Mayor Pruhs indicated that an ideal path forward for the Ordinance would be a work session in November and a return to the agenda of the second regular meeting of December. He explained

that their budget for 2025 will be done by then and they will have an opportunity to give this more attention, along with the benefit of the new, dedicated employee.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6283, as Amended, to the regular Council meeting of December 16, 2024.

Mr. Cleworth expressed support for postponement. He stated that the updated version of the Ordinance was a significant improvement and that he only noted a few items for future discussion.

Ms. Sprinkle agreed that additional time would be prudent, given how big of a deal an Ordinance like this would be for the community.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6283, AS AMENDED, TO THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2024, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6283, as Amended, POSTPONED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6285 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 74-36 Economic Development Property Tax Exemption or Deferral and Enacting Section 74-37 Tax Incentive for Property Development, Redevelopment, or Renovation. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Council Members Sprinkle and Ringstad. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2024; a public hearing was held at that time.

Note: Ordinance No. 6285 was introduced and advanced at the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2024. At the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2024, a motion to ADOPT was made by Mr. Marney, seconded by Ms. Sprinkle and a public hearing was held at that time. The Ordinance was postponed. The motion to ADOPT remains on the floor.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6285 by substituting the amended, proposed version.

Mayor Pruhs called for objection to the motion to AMEND Ordinance No. 6285 by substituting the amended, proposed version and, seeing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that some of their work on property issues this year have been more of a “stick” and she hoped that this would be a “carrot”. She noted that feedback from others prompted a shift from a tax exemption to a rebate approach in order to not affect their tax cap. She indicated that she had a couple suggestions for amendments but would hold off until others weighed in.

Mr. Ringstad referenced the fiscal note and the total estimated rebate amounts. He shared that recent conversations with local builders have taught him that the low dollar amount of incentive programs like this and the one offered by the Borough are really not worth the trouble.

Mr. Cleworth discussed the challenge of budgeting for something like a rebate. He suggested waiting until after the budgeting cycle in order to determine whether funds would be available and even then, just making it a one-year program. He shared that he had spoken to a contractor who has built three large rental units within the last few years and was told that a small rebate like this would not weigh into their decision of whether or not to pursue a project. Mr. Cleworth questioned whether the rebates would have the intended outcome of generating more development or if they would just be unnecessarily subsidizing taxes for a time. He clarified that he was open to the discussion but reiterated that this would have to be a line item in the budget and as such would support holding off on adoption.

CFO Bell confirmed that they would have to effectively reduce the expected revenue from property taxes by adding a line item to account for the expense of rebates. She explained that since the owners would have to obtain building permits for the necessary work that would qualify for the rebate, she would work closely with the Building Official to gauge how much interest existed in the program, to assist with estimates for the associated line item in the budget.

Mr. Ringstad acknowledged that he could not say if the number of interested property owners would be two or two hundred. He admitted that he has not had enough conversations with builders or owners to properly gauge interest. He added that bankers and brokers might look at it and determine that it is an insufficient incentive and ultimately a waste of the City's time. He agreed that they could use more time to have those conversations and due diligence, perhaps inviting someone from the builders' association to speak with them.

Ms. Rogers shared that Span Alaska had recently approached them to ask for something similar to this, so there may indeed be interest from at least some in the community.

Ms. Sprinkle noted the many moving parts and agreed it would be prudent to postpone again.

Mr. Cleworth concurred that estimates could be drafted and that the timing of late December would be conducive, having the benefit of being after the budget was adopted earlier in the month. He reminded them that the City's portion of property taxes is only about one third of the total amount levied, with the Borough and school district accounting for the rest. He reiterated that it might not be much of an incentive, though he hopes to be proven wrong.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6285, as Amended, to the regular Council meeting of December 16, 2024.

Mayor Pruhs agreed with Mr. Ringstad's suggestion to invite someone from the builders' association. He shared that the two of them sit on that board, which includes construction professionals, bankers, brokers, etc. He added that this effort, along with the City's building codes, would be a good topic for a work session in the future. He expressed appreciation for the efforts, such as this Ordinance, to try and make Fairbanks a better place to live.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6285, AS AMENDED, TO THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2024, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6285, as Amended, POSTPONED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6289 – An Ordinance Amending Schedule A of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1547 for the Code Compliance Inspector Position. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Council Member Sprinkle. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6289.

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

Mr. Ringstad pointed out that the increased wages of this change to Schedule A was based on salary savings for the current year but that in all future years it would remain at the higher rate and go up along with all other positions. He noted that they were committing to a long-term increased expense regardless of whether any salary savings exist in future years. He acknowledged that the real question is whether they want to hire someone and if they are willing to pay what it will take to accomplish that, considering their recent discovery that the offered wage was far below industry standards in the local labor market.

Ms. Rogers thanked Mr. Ringstad and agreed with his assessment.

Mr. Marney stated that he knows the Building Department has been hurting for a long time already due to vacancies and that the recent retirement of former Building Official Clem Clooten, after 42 years with the City, has only made that hurt worse. He expressed desire to do whatever they can to help strengthen the staffing of the department.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6289, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6289 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5135 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Colaska Inc. in the Amount of \$277,562 for the 4th Avenue and State Street Storm Drain Project. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Reappointment to the Fairbanks Diversity Council

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Appointment to the Fairbanks Diversity Council

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Tidwell indicated that she had no report or further comments.

Ms. Rogers thanked those who have been diligently performing their work on behalf of the City.

Mr. Ringstad expressed appreciation for Ms. Sprinkle's work on the tax rebate idea. He reiterated the benefit of considering a work session that included others with expertise in the field to advise them on possible ways to encourage growth and development within the City.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that she looks forward to working with Mr. Ringstad on the tax incentive Ordinance as well as the remaining loose ends pertaining to the joint economic development agreement that was recently approved.

Mr. Ringstad expressed a curiosity of whether the Borough would be interested in joining a tax exemption or rebate program for similar purposes, given that two thirds of taxes go to the Borough.

Mr. Marney indicated that there will come a time that they miss Ms. Rogers' words of wisdom. He reminded everyone that school was back in session and urged caution when driving, including following posted speed limits.

Ms. Tidwell pointed out that the Borough Assembly had referred a similar tax incentive program to the joint Economic Development Commission, which will have a special session to discuss the idea in the near future.

Mr. Cleworth clarified that the Borough program Ms. Tidwell mentioned has a slightly different scope but was still a positive effort to encourage similar outcomes. He thanked Brenda McFarlane for organizing a recent party to celebrate Ms. Rogers' 80th birthday. He shared some of the disheartening statistics about small business failure rates within the first several years of existence, highlighting the significant challenges faced by those striving to succeed.

Ms. Rogers echoed Mr. Marney's warning and added that large parking lots often have small children darting about, requiring additional caution from all drivers.

Mayor Pruhs expressed appreciation for J. Smyth's earlier comments regarding the services Stone Soup Café provides to the community. He praised the similar hard work done by the public services branch of the City, naming the coordinators of the Reentry, Crisis Now, and Housing and Homeless programs. He paraphrased Winston Churchill, stating that so much is done by so few for so many. He thanked the Council for their approval of recent appointments to the Fairbanks Diversity Council, sharing that the group had solidified greatly and done amazing work in the last six months. He indicated that he needs to appoint someone to the Fairbanks Historical Commission and invited them to forward any suggestions for candidates.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Deputy Clerk Chase stated that he had nothing to report.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard thanked the Councilmembers for their commitment and service to Fairbanks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ENTER into an Executive Session to discuss PSEA Labor Negotiations and FFU Labor Negotiations.

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

Mayor Pruhs called for a brief recess. The Council reconvened in Executive Session following the brief recess.

- a) PSEA Labor Negotiations (*entered at 8:36 p.m.*)
- b) FFU Labor Negotiations (*entered at 9:04 p.m.*)

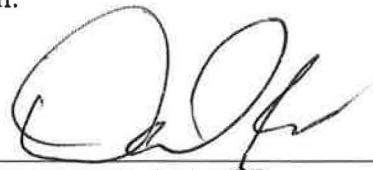
Mr. Cleworth brought the City Council out of the Executive Session, noting that the Council met in an Executive Session to discuss PSEA Labor Negotiations and FFU Labor Negotiations. He affirmed that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:


COLT CHASE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC