



**FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 27, 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 and Mayor-Elect 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:	Mindy O'Neill, Mayor-Elect D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk Thomas Chard, City Attorney Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director Ron Dupee, Police Chief Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief Andrew Cocco, Fire Chief Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director Robert Pristash, City Engineer Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely) Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator Laurn Schloemer, Executive Assistant

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, Chief of Staff Michael Sanders led the flag salutation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mayor Pruhs called for comments and hearing none, declared Citizens' Comments closed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, 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 October 13, 2025

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Pruhs asked Chief of Staff Michael Sanders to provide an update on the AFL-CIO contract negotiations. M. Sanders reported that all parties had met earlier in the day and that a tentative agreement on all items would be discussed later during the Executive Session. He also shared details about the public Trick-or-Treat event planned at City Hall for Halloween.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cleworth stated that it had been his pleasure to serve with Mayor Pruhs during his three-year term as mayor as well as for six years as a Councilmember. He spoke of Mayor Pruhs' love and commitment to the City and of his family's legacy of civic engagement and community involvement. He read the following excerpt from the City Clerk's recent quarterly report:

"To Mayor Pruhs:

It has been a privilege to work alongside you over the years—from your early service on the Clay Street Cemetery Commission more than a decade ago, to your two terms on the City Council, and most recently, during your three years as Mayor.

I've truly admired the unique perspective and exuberance you have brought to the mayoral role, both in day-to-day operations and during public meetings. Your commitment to the City has been clearly reflected in the hard work you've put in and the many accomplishments achieved during your mayoral term. You have been a strong advocate for the Clerk's Office, and I deeply appreciate the support and kindness you've extended to me and my team throughout your service.

I hope to continue to see you around these halls...or at the public testimony microphone. I wish you all the best in your next adventure. ~Dani"

Mr. Cleworth concurred with the excerpt and reiterated appreciation for Mayor Pruhs' service.

Ms. Therrien gave a land acknowledgement. She noted that she had served four years on the Council with then-Councilmember Pruhs and for the past year of his mayoral term. She expressed

her belief that he had done an excellent job with downtown improvements and initiatives, especially with the added seasonal police officers for the core downtown area.

Ms. Sprinkle acknowledged that while they had their occasional moments, she really liked working with Mayor Pruhs and celebrated their accomplishments. She expressed appreciation for his commitment to always end on a friendly note and his support of her pursuing various projects.

Ms. Tidwell thanked Mayor Pruhs for laying the groundwork for what she believes will be a lot of future downtown development, such as the demolition of the Polaris Building, and for his focus on dilapidated properties. She expressed excitement for the future of Fairbanks and gratitude for the various committee assignments Mayor Pruhs had issued to her over the past few years.

Mr. Marney thanked Mayor Pruhs for his leadership and noted the positive direction the City had taken since he took office. He spoke of the positive momentum they are currently experiencing and expressed his desire to see that continue.

Mr. Ringstad stated he had no comments.

CERTIFICATION OF 2025 REGULAR ELECTION AND OATHS OF OFFICE

a) Certification of the 2025 Regular Election Results

Clerk Snider read the following into the record:

“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.”

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to CERTIFY the 2025 Regular Election Results.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CERTIFY THE 2025 REGULAR ELECTION RESULTS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:	Cleworth, Marney, Tidwell, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Therrien
NAYS:	None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and the 2025 Regular Election results CERTIFIED.

Chief of Staff Michael Sanders stated that although Mayor Pruhs often asserted that he would be a boring mayor, he had done the exact opposite. He provided a thorough summary of Mayor Pruhs' accomplishments from a three-page list, including general City matters, downtown initiatives, recruitment and retention efforts across first responder departments, Public Works operations, City Hall renovations, the implementation of social services in the community, citizen engagement opportunities, and more. M. Sanders expressed appreciation for serving under Mayor Pruhs' leadership and presented him with a custom goldpan and flowers for Emily, his significant other.

Ms. Therrien provided a bottle of sparkling cider to commemorate the moment.

Mayor Pruhs stated that everything he had accomplished was due to the great people he had worked with across all City departments, highlighting M. Sanders' performance and dedication. He spoke of the positive working relationship between elected Councilmembers and City staff, mentioning several by name and adding personal notes for each. **Mayor Pruhs** discussed the uplifting experience of seeing citizens become involved in community matters. He declared that his time as mayor was the best he could have imagined and that more good days lay ahead.

At 6:58 p.m., **Mayor Pruhs** called for a brief transition recess. The meeting resumed at 7:03 p.m.

b) Oaths of Office and Seating of Elected Mayor and Councilmembers

Clerk Snider administered the Oaths of Office for Councilmember Sprinkle, Councilmember Tidwell, and Mayor Mindy O'Neill.

Mayor O'Neill expressed her appreciation to the citizens of Fairbanks for their confidence in her and stated that it was a pleasure to be sworn in as mayor. She shared that she had heard a great deal about the steadfast dedication of City staff and that she looks forward to working with everyone.

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.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

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

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Therrien expressed a desire to continue serving on the Legislative Committee. She reported having solicited input from Councilmembers on legislative priorities and indicated that the Council should have the item on the agenda in time for the meeting with the Interior Delegation on November 24.

Ms. Sprinkle reported that the Chena Riverfront Commission had met to discuss bike paths and potential Department of Transportation upgrades along the Steese Highway. She shared that discussions between the Borough and Alaska Railroad regarding a walking path along the Chena River may be coming to an end. She stated that the Commission has a vacancy, open to any City resident. **Ms. Sprinkle** discussed the limited time scheduled for the upcoming annual presentations and Q&A sessions for Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation and Explore Fairbanks. She asserted that the time allotted is insufficient, especially given the amount of money both entities receive from the City. She acknowledged that things are going well with both organizations but that she would still love to see more time allotted for those important annual presentations.

Mr. Cleworth congratulated Mayor O'Neill, Ms. Tidwell, and Ms. Sprinkle and expressed the belief that everyone will continue to work well together. He asserted that Fairbanks is a great city to be the mayor of, with a great staff. He noted that because the City is financially sound it is spared from some of the problems other cities experience. He extended an invitation to Mayor O'Neill to call upon him for any help she may need. **Mr. Cleworth** discussed the significant drop in voter turnout for local elections since he first ran for City Council in the late 1980s, a drop of 37%, and added that the population remained fairly stagnant over that time period. He admitted that he did not know the reason why but that it would be an interesting topic to explore further.

Mr. Marney concurred with Mr. Cleworth, offering congratulations to Mayor O'Neill. He stated he looks forward to working together. He reiterated that he hopes to see the momentum continue.

Ms. Tidwell reported that the Economic Development Commission would meet the following day. She stated she is glad the Council makeup had not changed. She commented that the Council has enjoyed a positive working relationship over the past three years, and she looks forward to the future.

Mr. Ringstad noted that the first budget meeting is scheduled for the following Monday. He asked when the Council would receive Mayor's budget to review. Chief Financial Officer Margarita Bell stated that she intends to have the books ready by October 31.

Ms. Therrien noted that the Permanent Fund Review Board would meet on October 29 and that she would also like to continue to serve on that body. She indicated that she too was looking forward to working together with Mayor O'Neill and congratulated her on the election.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider congratulated Mayor O'Neill on her election and noted that the City Clerk's quarterly report had been sent to the Council the previous week. She shared that she is working on a report that outlines all the various Council board and commission appointments and that she would work with the mayor on the matter.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard stated that he holds public service very highly in his mind and congratulated those beginning new terms of office. He reported that the Legal Department is fully staffed and that he would be bringing the new Deputy City Attorney to a meeting in the near future for introductions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ENTER into an Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO Labor Negotiations.

Mayor O'Neill called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor O'Neill called for a brief recess at 7:17 p.m., after which the City Council, excluding Ms. Tidwell who had declared a conflict of interest at a past meeting, reconvened in Executive Session.

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

The Executive Session was entered at 7:28 p.m. Those present included: Mayor O'Neill, Mr. Cleworth, Ms. Therrien, Ms. Sprinkle, Mr. Marney, Mr. Ringstad, Clerk Snider, Attorney Chard, Chief of Staff Sanders, Chief Financial Officer Bell, Human Resources Director Merritt, and Public Works Director Cotter. The Executive Session ended at 7:49 p.m.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the Council met in an Executive Session to discuss AFL-CIO Labor Negotiations. He affirmed that no action had been taken.

ADJOURNMENT

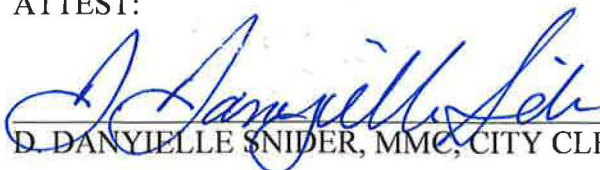
Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

Mayor O'Neill called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor O'Neill declared the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.


MINDY O'NEALL, MAYOR

ATTEST:


D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC