



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA NO. 2025-01
REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 13, 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 any item pertaining to City business that is not up for public hearing. The total comment period is 30 minutes, 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 November 18, 2024
 - *b) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2024

8. SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
5927	Hyatt Place Fairbanks	Beverage Dispensary Tourism	Fairbanks Hospitality, LLC	400 Merhar Avenue
4547	Humble Roots Beer Project	Beverage Dispensary License	Humble Roots, LLC	104 Chief Evan Drive
4819	The Antler Room	Beverage Dispensary License	The Antler Room, Inc.	1003 Pioneer Road, #A

- b) 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
10869	Grass Station 49	Retail Marijuana Store	The Grass Station, LLC	1326 Cushman Street
16006	Arctic Bakery, LLC	Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility	Arctic Bakery, LLC	1409 Well Street
10278	GoodSinse, LLC	Retail Marijuana Store	GoodSinse, LLC	2604 Davis Road
10279	GoodSinse, LLC	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	GoodSinse, LLC	2604 Davis Road

9. MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- a) Special Reports

10. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6301 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 50-205, Adding Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day as an Observed City Holiday. Introduced by Councilmembers Therrien and Tidwell. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2024; a public hearing was held at that time.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- *a) Resolution No. 5152 – A Resolution Allocating Discretionary Funds from the Room Rental Tax in the Amount of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00). Introduced by Councilmember Marney.

- *b) Resolution No. 5153 – A Resolution Supporting the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation's Application to Be Designated as the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) for the Interior Region. Introduced by Councilmembers Marney, Tidwell, Therrien, Cleworth, Ringstad, and Sprinkle.
- *c) Resolution No. 5154 – A Resolution of the Fairbanks City Council Challenging the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly to a Friendly Bowling Match. Introduced by Councilmembers Sprinkle, Cleworth, and Tidwell.
- *d) Resolution No. 5155 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Braun Northwest in the Amount of \$340,000 for an Ambulance. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.
- *e) Resolution No. 5156 – A Resolution Closing City Hall on the Third Monday in January of Each Year in Observance of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Introduced by Councilmember Cleworth.
- *f) Ordinance No. 6303 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 26, Article III, Sections 26-94 and 26-95, Amending the Term of a Private Ambulance Service License and Renewal Procedures. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

13. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- *a) Appointment to the Board of Plumber Examiners
- *b) Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2024
- *c) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2024

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

16. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) FFU/COF Labor Negotiations [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(1)]
- b) *Roberts v. City of Fairbanks, et al.*: Guidance from Council [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(3)]

18. ADJOURNMENT



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 18, 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
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 (CFO)
Andrew Cocco, Fire Chief
Ron Dupee, Police Chief (remotely)
Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)
Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director
Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director
Robert Pristash, City Engineer
Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator (remotely)
Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator (remotely)

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, **Ms. Sprinkle** 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.]

Jeanne Ringstad – J. Ringstad spoke in support of the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) and Ordinance Nos. 6291 and 6295. She discussed the importance of public safety and stated that she would like to see action taken on both items.

Russell Dennis, Fire Captain at FFD – R. Dennis spoke in support of Ordinance No. 6291 and noted that the Mayor's proposed budget already includes these nine additional FFD personnel. He indicated that this would solve a lot of problems and claimed that certain misinformation has been shared in the past. He encouraged the Councilmembers to ask questions of himself and other members of the department who were present at the meeting.

Ms. Tidwell pointed out that Ordinance No. 6291 includes hiring six firefighters and three captains. She asked if adjusting it to nine firefighter positions would be prudent. R. Dennis explained that past conditions in the Captain ranks had changed and he would encourage amending the Ordinance to just nine firefighters. He stated that doing so would reduce more overtime.

Quinten Johnson, Firefighter at FFD – Q. Johnson Spoke about forced overtime at FFD that the issue would be greatly remedied through the hiring of nine additional firefighters. He described how few options they have for backup coverage to meet their minimum staffing requirements anytime someone is on leave, sick, or injured.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if he agreed that the three Captain positions in the Ordinance should be revised to regular firefighter positions. Q. Johnson replied that he does not necessarily agree but acknowledged that R. Dennis, being a Captain, would have a better perspective. He noted that additional personnel in each of the ranks helps ensure options are available in any given situation.

David van den Berg, Executive Director of Downtown Association of Fairbanks – D. van den Berg reported that the Downtown Association of Fairbanks had just held its annual meeting where a City department had received an award. He shared history, going back to 2010, of other times the Association had awarded City departments or individuals for their contributions and achievements. He noted that this year's award had gone to the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) in recognition of security and policing efforts in the downtown area in 2024. D. van den berg stated that they had also given an award to the owner of the former Alaska Motor Inn for taking swift action in demolishing his building after it had caught fire earlier in the year, rather than leaving it as an eyesore for years to come. He stated that their annual awards are meant to highlight positive efforts of individuals and groups who strive to improve the downtown Fairbanks region each year.

Ms. Sprinkle noted that Deputy Police Chief Richard Sweet had been involved with the award. D. van den Berg confirmed that R. Sweet had been invited to receive the award on behalf of FPD.

Zuzanna Bobinski – Z. Bobinski stated that she does not live within the City but believes communities needs to sufficiently fund firefighters and enable them to respond to any emergency.

Nick Clark, Battalion Chief at FFD – N. Clark encouraged the Council to advance Ordinance No. 6291 to a second reading. He acknowledged that the Mayor's proposed budget included nine additional FFD personnel and declared that the sooner the ordinances are moved forward, the sooner they can begin the hiring process. He confirmed that it would be feasible to change the

approach to nine firefighters and later determine if some positions should be converted to captain roles, noting the cost savings with that approach. He also spoke in support of the Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) contract and expressed hope that Ordinance No. 6299 would also be advanced.

Mr. Marney recalled having several conversations with FFD members and expressed confusion to hear this sudden change of pace regarding not needing the captain positions as was previously expressed. N. Clark stated that it was a numbers game and that, in looking ahead to a potential contract with a four-platoon system, it would give the City some flexibility with staffing. He acknowledged that the change in messaging might seem like the crisis is lesser than conveyed but clarified that it is simply an option to be considered. **Mr. Marney** stated that it would have been beneficial to hear that information before the Council completed its budget recap, noting that the salary difference between the two ranks could have increased the number of funded positions. N. Clark asserted that the amount saved would be relatively small in the grand scheme of things. He indicated that the Fire Chief would likely be more suited to discuss the differences in approach.

Ms. Sprinkle suggested that there may be an opportunity to rework some numbers. N. Clark agreed that there was still time to consider changes after the first reading of the ordinance.

Mr. Ringstad asked how management would be affected by each option for the nine positions. N. Clark reiterated that whichever option is chosen, the department would have more personnel to pull from when schedules are set. He spoke about how Ordinance Nos. 6291 and 6295 are complimentary, noting that the issue could be revisited if adjustments need to be made once things have settled and there is a clearer picture.

Ms. Therrien asked if the FFD is currently fully staffed for captains. N. Clark confirmed that all nine captain positions are currently filled. **Ms. Therrien** asked if another captain would be needed if the four-platoon system is implemented. N. Clark stated it depend on what level of service the Council and Fire Chief wanted to provide.

Dominic Lozano, Battalion Chief at FFD – D. Lozano spoke about the need for nine new FFD positions. He suggested that the 13-person minimum was a significant factor but that it was the correct number for the level of services that everyone agreed was appropriate for the community. He recounted how the City pursued a grant to cover the new positions, but the grant fell through. He stated that the need to fund additional spots was never readdressed, which led to the current overtime crisis. D. Lozano outlined issues of turnover and injuries in the captain ranks which exacerbated the situation. He stated it would have been better to start the process of adding new positions in August. He pointed out that even if the Council approves the new contract, the City will not automatically hire 16 more people. He acknowledged that there are several layers to the situation, but the clearest path forward included hiring nine more personnel. He added that the 16 additional positions in the proposed contract would be even better.

Cameron Gladowski – C. Gladowski shared that he used to work for FFD, and he voiced support for hiring additional firefighters. He stated he still has friends at FFD, and he is aware of the stress caused by spending so much time at work and away from family. He expressed hope that the City Council would put the needs and safety of the community first and move the ordinance forward.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Clerk Snider 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
4530	Blue Flame Bar & Grill	Beverage Dispensary	Midnight Sun Catering Services, LLC	95 10th Avenue
4174	Big Daddy's Bar-B-Q and Banquet Hall	Beverage Dispensary	RTG, LLC	107 Wickersham Street

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

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

Ms. Therrien asked if the license holders had been contacted about their renewal applications being on the agenda or if that process was not yet in effect. Clerk Snider confirmed that the recently adopted ordinance regarding notification of applicants was in effect and that the license holders for all applications on the agenda had been contacted.

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, 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
15800	Baked Alaska, LLC	Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility	Baked Alaska, LLC	2745 Hanson Road, Unit B

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

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

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarification on an attachment to the application. Clerk Snider explained that it was a screenshot of the search result screen indicating that no Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center (FECC or “Dispatch”) reports had been found.

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

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

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 location and ownership:

Type/License: Beverage Dispensary, License #328
To DBA: Lat 65 Brewing Company
To Owner: Latitude 65 Brewing Company, LLC
To Location: 150 Eagle Avenue, Fairbanks
From DBA: Drop-In Lounge
From Owner: N & P Enterprises, LLC
From Location: 1420 S. Cushman Street, Fairbanks

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

Mayor Pruhs called for public testimony.

Michael Rice – M. Rice shared that he lives down the street from Latitude 65 Brewing Company and that he has watched the neighborhood and traffic change over the years as the building went from a fitness center to an alcohol establishment. He expressed safety concerns over the conversion of the establishment from providing only beer sampling to full-fledged liquor service. He reported having visited the zoning office to learn more about the area, acknowledging the mix of residential and business properties which have not been a risk to children and families over the years. M. Rice stated that he believes it is a dangerous move and spoke against the transfer.

Mr. Marney asked M. Rice if he was sure the business intended to serve hard liquor. He explained that another business, HooDoo Brewing Company, recently had a similar transfer, but they indicated they did not plan to change their core business operations. M. Rice pointed out that HooDoo is in a completely commercial area whereas Lat 65 is in a mixed use neighborhood.

Ms. Sprinkle suggested that Lat 65 may intend to keep its operations relatively unchanged. M. Rice pointed out that the license being transferred is not for entertainment for but selling alcohol. **Ms. Sprinkle** acknowledged nuances of different license types and admitted the owner's plans are yet unknown. M. Rice stated that the Council should check that out before authorizing the transfer.

Ms. Therrien noted the overlap in the area for the existing and transferring license.

Zeb Mabie, co-owner of Latitude 65 Brewing Company, LLC – Z. Mabie shared that the comparison of his business to HooDoo Brewing Company was correct and that the primary reason for seeking a full liquor license was not to serve spirits. He affirmed that the goal is to be able to have entertainment with extended hours, which is not permitted under the current tasting room license. He confirmed that while the new license would allow it, serving hard liquor is not in their business model or plans. Z. Mabie expressed his belief that they have worked hard to create a good, safe establishment and that people often bring their children. He asserted that they would continue to strive to maintain that atmosphere. He recognized the concern from the previous speaker but noted that the license transfer is within all legal parameters.

Mr. Marney thanked Z. Mabie for attending and addressing concerns, pointing out that notifying business owners that their application is being considered has already proven to be helpful. Z. Mabie stated that he was happy to answer questions from any Councilmember or the community.

Ms. Therrien asked whether a future owner of the business and the license could potentially change the business plan and begin serving spirits. Z. Mabie admitted that was a possibility. **Ms. Therrien** asked Z. Mabie if he would be willing to sign an agreement to not serve spirits. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that would be a matter for the State of Alaska. **Ms. Therrien** stated she was just curious if it was something the owners would be willing to do. Z. Mabie stated that something like that would require a discussion with his business partner and their management team.

Ms. Sprinkle asked how they currently handle any safety or security issues. Z. Mabie affirmed that they do not serve anyone who exhibits signs of intoxication. He pointed out that the existing license limits patrons to consuming no more than 36 ounces, and they often have to refuse service to patrons, even without signs of intoxication. He explained how customers, especially tourists, are often confused by the limits and added that there is full food service available at the location.

Jeanne Ringstad – J. Ringstad admitted that when she first heard years ago that a business with an alcohol license was being considered for approval in her neighborhood, she was disgruntled. She shared that she could not be happier with the addition of the business and that the owners of Lat 65 are honest and do a great job running a safe business. She stated that the place is lighthearted, without the same angst that one might see with other bars. J. Ringstad reported that her concerns had long since been erased and that she loves the food and atmosphere at the establishment.

Mayor Pruhs declared Public Testimony closed.

Mr. Cleworth asked if the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board had already acted and approved the application. Clerk Snider stated that she is unsure of the current status but that she believes Z. Mabie may know. **Mayor Pruhs** invited Z. Mabie to respond. Z. Mabie shared that he

believes everything with the ABC Board has been approved and that they are just waiting on local municipality input to finalize the transfer. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the idea of restrictions as suggested by Ms. Therrien. He indicated that he believes the Council is permitted to put certain conditions in place when approving an application, and he gave examples of such in the past. He pointed out that the Council still needs to address the timing issue with the ABC Board.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that when she represented the Council at the last Borough Assembly meeting, the Assembly considered the application. She noted that the same had occurred with HooDoo and asked if the City was the last in line to have a say on licenses. Clerk Snider explained that after receiving an application, the City has 60 days to respond, which in this case would be by December 16, 2024. She noted that the City was only 30 days into that window and that the Borough and City receive notice at the same time. She suggested that the difference in timing could simply be due to the varying meeting calendars of the two governing bodies.

Mayor Pruhs, hearing a request, reopened Public Testimony.

Andrew Roe, co-owner of Latitude 65 Brewing Company, LLC – A. Roe stated that his business partner, Z. Mabie, had done a good job conveying their goals. He pointed out that they had weathered the storm of a large highway and road infrastructure project at the nearby intersection shortly after they opened a few years ago. He noted that the roundabout at 3rd Avenue and Eagle Avenue is only about 200 feet from their property and that the project had greatly improved the traffic flow and safety in the area. A. Roe stated that the majority of their customers leave the premises turning north, drive 200 feet, and exit the neighborhood through the roundabout. He reported that staff is very diligent about enforcing the rules for their existing license, even if it requires them being tough on a customer who orders a second beer and passes it to someone who has already reached their 36-ounce limit. He asserted that diligence will not change and that they intend to maintain a culture of responsible service.

Mayor Pruhs, hearing no more requests, declared Public Testimony closed.

Mayor Pruhs called attention to the trend of alcohol licenses being repurposed and consolidated across the City in an effort to evolve business models and have creative events for the community.

Mr. Ringstad expressed support for businesses choosing to invest and grow.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Pruhs addressed the heavy workload of the last couple months as the City prepared its 2025 budget and worked through two complex labor contracts, among other challenges. He thanked Councilmembers for their dedication.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ringstad agreed that it had been a long month and a half.

Ms. Sprinkle concurred, stating that she recently had her first good night of sleep in a long time.

Mr. Marney discussed the recent loss of the last televised local news program. He stated that the news is now based in Anchorage and that almost nothing about Fairbanks is reported. He expressed disappointment and stated that local businesses are still advertising on the Anchorage broadcast, which may change as more Fairbanksans choose to stop watching.

Ms. Therrien spoke to the concerns from M. Rice regarding traffic and other impacts of the alcohol license transfer. She expressed appreciation that the Lat 65 owners had attended the meeting and shared their plans. She stated she believes the owners are sincere in their intent to not sell spirits and invited M. Rice to come back to the Council if there are issues in the future.

Ms. Tidwell and **Mr. Cleworth** each indicated that they had no comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6291 – An Ordinance Increasing Staffing in the Fairbanks Fire Department by Six Firefighter and Three Captain Positions and Amending the 2024 Operating Budget. Introduced by Councilmembers Tidwell and Sprinkle.

Note: Ordinance No. 6291 was introduced at the Regular Meeting of September 23, 2024, with a motion to ADVANCE made by Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by Ms. Tidwell. Advancement was POSTPONED. If advanced, a second reading and public hearing will be held.

Ms. Tidwell stated that even though the nine new positions are included in the proposed 2025 budget, she wanted to see the ordinance advanced. She recounted the report that the hiring process could not begin until something is approved by the Council.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if there was any thought given to changing the makeup from six firefighters and three captains to just nine firefighters. **Ms. Tidwell** stated that since it would reduce the fiscal note and that members of FFD had stated that they would have flexibility to move people around, she would be in favor of making that change.

Ms. Therrien concurred that it would be prudent to get people hired as quickly as possible. She added that she also supports the change in position makeup and asked for a revised fiscal note.

Mr. Marney asked how the ordinance would be tied to the 2024 budget. Chief Financial Officer Margarita Bell confirmed that Human Resources cannot post job listings until funding is approved and that Ordinance Nos. 6291 and 6297 may both be up for second readings at the next meeting.

Mr. Ringstad stated that Ordinance No. 6291 seems redundant given that the earliest it could be adopted is the same time as the 2025 budget which includes the same positions. He indicated that the ordinance would not expedite the hiring process.

Mr. Cleworth concurred that the ordinance is redundant and that the upcoming budget ordinance covers the needs of all departments, though it still needs some work. He stated that it does not make sense to look at one department before all the others, and he spoke against advancing Ordinance No. 6291.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarification on when the hiring process could begin. HR Director Jake Merritt explained that he could begin advertising positions with a January 1 start date after funding is approved. He stated he was unsure if Ordinance No. 6291 would change the hiring timeline.

Ms. Tidwell asked for more details on the City's ability to hire for positions and whether that would be for January or February. J. Merritt stated that in the prior week he had been given the authorization to open recruitment with a posted start date of January 1. He noted that any job offers would be contingent upon inclusion of the necessary funding for the positions in the 2025 budget.

Ms. Sprinkle explained that her desire for moving forward with the ordinance was to ensure the positions would be created in the event the budget is amended to eliminate them.

Ms. Therrien asked for clarification on the authorization that was given regarding the job postings. J. Merritt explained that the Mayor had authorized HR to open recruitment. He gave details about typical application trends and timelines and noted that given the steps in the process, any new personnel would likely start on January 16, 2025. **Ms. Therrien** pointed out that like the budget, the Council does not know how the ordinance to ratify the firefighters union contract will go. She stated the Council should support Ordinance No. 6291.

Mr. Marney noted that the Council is now being told that the three captain positions are not needed and thus the fiscal note is incorrect. He asked how many firefighter positions could be added for the same amount of money. CFO Bell confirmed that the fiscal note would need to change anyway, because it was from October when the ordinance was introduced.

Mr. Ringstad suggested that the with start dates in January, the fiscal note for 2024 would be zero. CFO Bell stated that was correct.

Ms. Sprinkle conveyed that Ordinance No. 6291 allows the conversation to begin and asked if the Fire Chief could speak on the matter. **Mayor Pruhs** declined to have the Fire Chief address the Council on the matter, indicating that his part in the discussion was over. **Ms. Sprinkle** expressed confusion on how the hiring process is affected by the various ordinances if the positions were already authorized to be posted. **Mayor Pruhs** clarified that he had directed HR to begin the hiring process with the stipulation that offers could not be made until the positions were funded. **Ms.**

Sprinkle asked if, without Ordinance No. 6291, they would still be moving forward with nine to ten new positions. **Mayor Pruhs** confirmed that the positions were still included in the proposed budget. He pointed out that J. Merritt shared that on average the City receives four to five qualified applicants a month for FFD, noting how much greater that is than the number of applicants the City receives for FPD, FECC, or Public Works. **Ms. Sprinkle** repeated her question as to whether the Council could still expect to see nine to ten new positions added in 2025, should Ordinance No. 6291 fail. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that they could, so long as a budget is approved to fund the positions. **Ms. Sprinkle** expressed concern that that would not happen. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that if the Council does not pass a budget, his proposed budget is implemented, which includes the nine new positions. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked Mayor Pruhs to confirm that the Fire Chief could not speak. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that the Council already had lengthy public discussions on the matter and stated that Ms. Sprinkle likes to “drone on for fifteen minutes on things.” **Ms. Sprinkle** stated that she took exception to the Mayor’s comment. **Mayor Pruhs** asked if there were questions for the Fire Chief that had not already been asked in previous discussions. **Ms. Sprinkle** stated that she would like to hear the Chief’s thoughts about getting things started sooner rather than later. **Mayor Pruhs** invited Fire Chief Andrew Cocco to speak, with a time limit of one minute.

Chief Cocco stated that it may be best to keep the three captain positions in the ordinance as they never know when another injury may occur within that rank, which was the situation that created problems earlier in the year. He acknowledged that they may not use it but suggested that taking it out this early in the process might prove to be a mistake. Chief Cocco shared that despite the perceived redundancy of the ordinance, he could not advocate for it to be scrapped given that there was no guarantee of funding in the 2025 budget. He stated that the ordinance is a safety net to hold the positions that are vital to helping the City get out of the overtime spiral. He reminded the Council that any scenario that does not include increasing personnel will lead to more overtime.

Mr. Ringstad pointed out that the title of the ordinance references amending the 2024 budget but that the fiscal note would be zero. He added that the City has already started the hiring process.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6291 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Sprinkle, Tidwell

NAYS: Ringstad, Marney, Cleworth, Pruhs

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION FAILED and Ordinance No. 6291 FAILED TO ADVANCE.

- b) Ordinance No. 6295 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Firefighters Union, IAFF Local 1324. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6295.

Mayor Pruhs called for Public Testimony.

Andrew Fowler – A. Fowler shared that he works at FFD and is aware of the negotiation process between the City and Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU). He acknowledged that a deal was not reached over the last year, so a mediator had helped both sides come to the agreement that is before the Council. He discussed the importance of using taxpayer money efficiently and offered details on three FFD employees' wages and salaries starting with Travis Kulp, who retired as a Battalion Chief after 29 years at FFD. A. Fowler stated that T. Kulp made \$270,000 in his last year, of which \$162,000 was overtime wages. He discussed Cacy Wilfur, who has worked at FFD for five years and who, due to overtime, will be the highest paid employee at the City in 2024 at \$276,000, \$180,000 of which was overtime. He claimed that C. Wilfur will have worked 3,000 hours of overtime in 2024 with an average work week of 155 hours. A. Fowler shared that he himself was hired in 2005 and has a reputation for not taking overtime as he prefers to spend his days off with his three young children. He stated his normal schedule would have him earn \$113,000 in 2024.

Ms. Tidwell asked how much he is forecasted to make in 2024. A. Fowler stated that he will make about \$160,000 in 2024, noting that forced overtime is two times the regular wage.

Mr. Marney asked if he is a fan of the four-platoon system. A. Fowler stated that likes the idea for the sake of efficiency, having more fresh people on duty each day, and allowing for more days off. He acknowledged that the approach would cost money in terms of hiring more personnel but would save money by reducing overtime. He discussed other costs of the current system in terms of retention and the logistics of filling positions to maintain minimum staffing requirements. He stated that having enough experienced people to fill in where needed will eliminate overtime. **Mr. Marney** stated that it would not eliminate overtime 100%. A. Fowler concurred and stated that it would drastically cut overtime.

Ms. Therrien asked what the attitude was at FFD in terms of comradery and support. A. Fowler shared that support for each other is good, but morale is bad. He discussed the impacts on family life, for him and others, when forced overtime occurs. He pointed out that Councilmembers have agreed that forced overtime is bad and stated that the answer is to hire more staff.

Zachary Rittel – Z. Rittel stated that approving the contract would dramatically improve the FFD's retention rate. He noted that while HR's claim of four to five qualified applicants per month may be technically correct, the level of experience with new hires has been diminishing. He discussed challenges with new hires going through the training process only to leave for better opportunities. He stated that the contract will make the City more competitive, increase the overall experience level at the department, fix the overtime problem, and begin to mend the relationship between the City administration and firefighters. Z. Rittel shared that many have asked how things got to this point, and he discussed how the FFU contract was non-funded shortly after he was hired. He suggested that the path they are heading down is bad, and it will cause more attrition and the cycle to worsen. He stated that the best solution is the contract, and the second is adding more personnel.

Ms. Sprinkle asked Z. Rittel how he felt about the four-platoon system. Z. Rittel suggested that he may be the single biggest advocate for it. He shared that it began catching on in fire departments across the west coast and that over time even more traditional departments on the east coast have adopted the approach. He noted that the system addresses quality-of-life concerns for firefighters, particularly in situations where departments have a high call volume.

Sergio Cuellar – S. Cuellar shared that he is a 23-year-old firefighter/paramedic who has earned 362.5 hours of overtime so far in 2024. He stated that he would like to be able to go home to his dog during what should be his four days off. He expressed his desire to have a family and establish a life outside of work but explained that being stuck at the fire station makes that difficult. He stated he loves his job and hopes to remain at the City, but he would leave if things do not change.

Ms. Therrien thanked S. Cuellar for helping her father during a call to her own home.

Quinten Johnson – Q. Johnson shared that about a year ago he left FFD for a job outside of Alaska. He stated that one of the things that appealed to him at other departments was the four-platoon schedule. He explained that he returned to Fairbanks to be closer to family and the people he enjoyed working with previously. He reported that since his return he has noticed increased instances of burnout and how FFD personnel are home with their families less and less. He noted that in the nine weeks since returning to the department, he has worked about 380 hours of regular overtime and about 100 hours of forced overtime. He echoed the warning that without approving the contract and hiring more people, the City will likely see more people leave. He reiterated that the number of calls in relation to staffing levels has everyone feeling overworked and burnt out.

Charles Doelker – C. Doelker shared that he has been with FFD for two years and initially considered it a steppingstone towards something better. He reported that since then, he has found himself in a serious relationship with goals to start a family in the near future, which has changed his perspective and given him a desire to make a career at FFD. He shared that other people he has spoken with, particularly those nearing completion of training, view FFD as a lesser opportunity, noting the intimidating high call volume and better benefits elsewhere. He added that certain aspects of the proposed contract will attract more people. He concluded by discussing retention and the need to hire people with more than the minimum qualifications who will stay long-term.

Mr. Marney thanked C. Doelker for sharing his thoughts and stated that the goals he shared are the same as the Council's. He acknowledged the lengthy negotiations and recalled that when the idea of a fourth platoon had been presented in May, the Council supported it, only to see it get declined by the FFU. He stated that the process could have been complete if not for that.

Allan Johnson – A. Johnson shared that he heard Councilmembers discussing the stress they experienced recently with early morning and late evening meetings and asked the Council to consider that as they listen to the stories from FFD members.

Dominic Lozano – D. Lozano noted that the fiscal note for the ordinance includes 16 firefighters, but the reality is that it would take a quite a while to get that many qualified people hired. He stated that although it was reported that the City receives four to five applicants per month, the applicants are not always the caliber needed to get the job done. He asserted that it would be a disservice to hire 16 firefighters that are not paramedics and that hiring only nine would be a better approach to start the year and see how the four-platoon system plays out. He indicated that he has spoken to the Council many times in his 25 years at the City, and he hopes this is his last contract discussion. He shared that he knows personally how morale is impacted by seeing a contract ratified at first vote or failed entirely. He stated that the four-platoon system intrigued him, but he did not think

the Council support it. He pointed out that the FFD would be the first in the state to implement a four-platoon system, and it has a chance to improve recruitment and greatly help with retention.

Ms. Therrien asked D. Lozano how he thinks recruitment for the fourth platoon would go. D. Lozano stated that he thinks it would go well and that they would likely get qualified people from other local departments and throughout the state. He expressed hope to see the experiment succeed. He reiterated his suggestion to focus on hiring nine people right away.

Russell Dennis – R. Dennis stated that his intention was primarily to dispel misinformation about the proposed contract as he believes incorrect perceptions exist among Councilmembers. He stated the annual raise proposed in the contract is 5% in the first year and 2% in years two and three. He stated that the notion of a 29% raise has been thrown around, but that only happens if the City does not hire the additional firefighters. He explained that “debit days” as referenced in the contract are an additional 10 days of work that staff could be scheduled for without triggering overtime rates. He noted that is a method that can be used to avoid overtime, depending on how many new people are hired, and declared that it is a benefit to the City. R. Dennis indicated that “non-binding arbitration” had been previously referenced, which he had never heard of, and he suggested that the Council ask the City Attorney about it. He asserted that FFD overtime will stay in the multi-million-dollar range if more personnel is not hired. He indicated that hiring just eight people will solve virtually all the problems being discussed, and he advocated for eventually staffing a third ambulance and another platform truck. He suggested that the idea of hiring 16 new firefighters was only being used to scare the Council and inflate the fiscal note. He pointed out that the FFD does not need 16 more people to make things work, although he believes he will get in trouble for saying so. He reiterated that, in his opinion, the number 16 was only there to make the fiscal note look crazy.

Mr. Marney stated that one item the Council feels strongly about is for the Fire Chief to have more control over the management of the department. He shared that he has read section 6.3 of the contract a dozen times and that the language that would allow the Chief such control is not there. He asked R. Dennis to speak to the issue. R. Dennis urged the Council to ask the Chief how he would like to staff the FFD. He suggested that if the Council truly wanted the Chief to have that authority, they would not limit him to one minute of speaking time. He stated that Chief Cocco believes 13 people per shift is the right number to ensure the appropriate level of service to the community. He asserted that in order to provide a contract the Council would approve, FFU had to cut out something important and agreed to grant the Fire Chief the ability to staff at 11 instead of 13, as needed. He claimed that was a big concession by the FFU that he does not believe is being acknowledged. **Mr. Marney** indicated that he does not.

Ms. Tidwell expressed appreciation for the chart that analyzed the number of staff and days of the year. She spoke to R. Dennis’ statement that hiring eight people would be sufficient and asked if that would allow for staffing a third ambulance at times. R. Dennis explained that if they hired eight people and proceeded with the four-platoon system, two shifts would have 12 people and two would have 13. He explained that two shifts would have total coverage for potential leave every day, resulting in no overtime, and that the two shifts with 13 would also have leave covered and be able to staff the third ambulance. He acknowledged that overtime will never be completely eliminated but stated that the new approach would guarantee a significant reduction in overtime.

Ryan Holland – R. Holland shared that he is a captain and paramedic with FFD and that the FFD goes on a lot of calls with Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances. He noted that he has run thousands of calls during his time at the FFD and discussed how the ALS vehicles are outfitted with drugs that can stop or start a patient's heart, electricity that can reset a heart, tubes to go down someone's throat to allow them to breathe, needles that can be inserted into a chest to relieve pressure, and more. He explained that equipment and drugs are stocked for individuals of all ages and sizes and that the details matter. R. Holland stated that it is hard work, sometimes within the first ten minutes of coming on shift, and that there have been situations where a regular work schedule of two days has turned into four. He asserted that being on hour 90, which may be at 3:00 a.m., makes an already difficult job much harder; he added that is too long for paramedics or any person staffing an ambulance to be working. He declared the four-platoon system a good thing, noting that it would require a maximum of only two days of work. He asserted that brains would function much better in 24- to 48-hour work periods rather than 96.

Mr. Ringstad expressed appreciation for R. Holland's comments and agreed that he would not want a surgeon working on him if they had been awake for 96 hours. He recalled being told that 80% of the department's calls are medical-related and asked why the organizational chart does not include any Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) positions, noting that the chart shows only firefighters. He stated that it seems that the focus is not where it should be if the majority of calls are medical. R. Holland explained that the FFD has made that a focus by advocating for the third ambulance and ensuring a paramedic is scheduled for each ambulance at all times. He noted that all firefighters at FFD are EMTs with medical training. He stated that when a fire happens, more personnel is needed than when an ambulance is called, which requires them to staff accordingly.

Erik Winkler – E. Winkler reported that 80% of FFD's calls are medical, with fire-related calls being the second most common. He reported on the other types of rescue calls they receive and explained that the community expects them to be ready, knowledgeable, and trained. He shared that the EMT aspects of the job are important and frequent, but so much more is asked of them and the list constantly increases. He noted that the Community Service Patrol (CSP) is no longer around and that those duties have fallen to FFD. He reiterated that the scope of their job continues to grow and that after the first 24 to 48 hours of work they struggle, though the community expects them to be ready and capable when they call 911. He pointed out that after a difficult call they are expected to be back on the rig and ready for the next call. He stated that it is mentally exhausting and straining, which can cause problems at home and require therapy. He indicated that there is much more to the job than just being a firefighter or a paramedic and that the proposed contract would go a long way in helping support the FFD in the work the community expects of FFD staff.

Ms. Sprinkle asked E. Winkler if he liked the four-platoon system. E. Winkler stated that he is a fan of anything that will help the mental health of FFD staff and that the system would do that.

Sean Silva – S. Silva shared that she came to FFD after 10 years working in the emergency medical field in another state. She reported that because of forced overtime, she will have been on duty as an ambulance driver and paramedic for 96 straight hours as of when she leaves work the following day. She noted that for two of those days she is also cross staffed to drive the platform, if needed. She stated that as much as she and her colleagues need the contract, the City needs it in order to

ensure that FFD members are at their best and ready for calls. She shared that her hometown, which she has the option to return to, works their paramedics in 12-hour-maximum shifts because they cannot afford emergency responders to be exhausted. She pointed out that with current call volumes, each paramedic runs 600 to 1,000 patient contacts each year. She expressed support for the four-platoon system and stated it would be an attractive approach for recruitment and retention.

Allan Heineken – A. Heineken shared that he is a captain at FFD. He stated he was not planning to speak but was getting emotional as he listened to others. He asked to be paid less in exchange for seeing the contract signed. He explained that due to forced overtime he was paid a lot in the past year but never really wanted it. He suggested that he may have the most forced overtime hours of anyone at the department for the year and that he also has the highest hourly rate. A. Heineken stated that his wife would also be present to voice support but she is nine months pregnant. He reiterated that he just wants to be able to be home and enjoy the arrival of their firstborn son. He acknowledged that the contract would result in him making less money and that he gladly accepts those terms. He asserted that virtually all of his coworkers would say the same.

Nick Clark – N. Clark thanked the Council for hearing all the testimony and thanked his fellow firefighters for sharing their thoughts. He affirmed that the recruitment and retention benefit of the four-platoon system is a huge part of the plan. He expressed support for the process, noting that the mediation experience was interesting but necessary given the deadlock between the parties. He pointed out that through mediation, a third party helped the parties arrive to this point and got both sides to move to places they were not previously willing to go. He reported that from the FFU side, concessions were made relating to staffing that they previously considered nonstarters. N. Clark declared that the contract before the Council is a product of good compromise and noted that per the existing contract and Alaska Statutes, if the contract did not pass, it would go to binding arbitration. He reiterated that the impact on morale for not funding a contract is significant and that the Council can be proud of the proposed agreement.

Ms. Therrien asked N. Clark how much overtime he has worked in 2024. N. Clark shared that it was around 800 hours. He stated that he has a wife and two kids and that he can relate to his coworkers who say it is too much. He added that his wife recently had to change her job and leave work in the public school system due to his scheduling constraints at FFD.

Hunter McDonald – H. McDonald shared that he is a firefighter with FFD and came to Fairbanks five years ago to complete training at the University Fire Department. He stated he has been with FFD for one year. He stated that it could be the best job in the world but that he cannot keep going with the current schedule. He reported that in his first year he made over \$100,000, but he stated that if things do not change in the next year or two, he will have to leave because it is unsustainable.

Mayor Pruhs, hearing no more requests for comment, declared Public Testimony closed.

Mayor Pruhs asked how they arrived at this point. He shared that when the negotiation process began in October 2023, he predicted that the City would not be able to come to an agreement with FFU, and it seemed as though the union's goal was to go to arbitration all along. He recalled that in the last work session he referred to the last 12 months as a wasted year. He declared that at this point the Council needs to put on the record for any potential arbitrator the fiscal impact the

contract would have on the City and to show that the City could not afford it. He asserted that the union gave no middle ground. **Mayor Pruhs** reviewed the actions the City has taken to support FFD and increase services for the community, such as funding a third ambulance. He added that a new position for a Community Paramedic had been approved by the Council but because of more union-related issues, it took a whole year to get the position posted for hiring. He pointed out that the proposed contract includes a four-platoon system but requires the City to fully staff it within a six month timeframe – otherwise there would be penalties to the City. He declared that when the City inevitably fails to meet that expectation, the fiscal retribution would be innumerable. He noted that his proposed budget included nine new positions for FFD, including three captains and six firefighters, with the Council adding a Fire Marshal position during its budget work sessions. **Mayor Pruhs** stated, “Let us never hear again that we do not take manning the fire department seriously,” affirming that the Council is doing just that through the budget process. He suggested a review of the timeline of events that led to this point, recalling 15 total Council Executive Sessions on the topic of FFU/City contract negotiations. **Mayor Pruhs** reported that on January 22, 2024, FFU asked for a retention tool similar to what had been established for FPD, an annual permanent life insurance plan payment of \$10,000. He shared that the City figured out a way to make that benefit possible and offered it to FFU on February 12, only to have it systematically rejected with a response that they wanted the money as a pay raise instead. He expressed sadness in realizing that the request had ultimately been about getting a pay increase rather than actually creating a mechanism for retention. **Mayor Pruhs** noted that on February 28, FFU proposed a four-platoon system, which the City at first did not think was feasible, but the Chief of Staff and Fire Chief put in considerable time to find a way to make it work. He shared that on March 25, the City agreed to the new approach as well as to a 1.16% pay increase across the board based on the savings from overtime reduction. He indicated that on April 19, FFU rejected the four-platoon system but still wanted a 16% pay increase as well as a 4% annual increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). He pointed out that all other bargaining groups at the City take two to three months with four to five Executive Sessions to negotiate a contract, and the FFU process was far beyond the norm. **Mayor Pruhs** recalled that in the first Executive Session, he predicted what would happen; he repeated that the year had been wasted. He suggested that if he was a member of FFU, he would be angry at the union leadership because of their negotiators’ strategic blunder. He reminded the Council that also on their agenda was the first reading of the PSEA labor contract ordinance, which includes a \$1.2MM fiscal note for the 70 City employees in that bargaining group, compared to the several millions of dollars proposed for the 50 employees in the FFU bargaining unit. He noted that the contracts are on the floor at the same time as a proposed, sustainable budget, which the Council will soon review. **Mayor Pruhs** reported that his initial proposed budget included a \$2.6MM reserve while still adding nine positions at FFD. He discussed how even with Councilmember-initiated changes from work sessions, a \$1.9MM reserve remained in the draft budget for 2025. He acknowledged that the PSEA contract, if passed, will leave \$700,000 in reserves but that the budget would still be sustainable. He stated that the FFU could have gotten in front of the situation but it is now behind. He reminded the Council that in six months the City will be in negotiations with the AFL-CIO bargaining group. He spoke of the hierarchy of vital positions across the City, with Dispatch being a top priority, followed by police, grader operators, and heavy duty mechanics. He discussed the important roles of engineers, building officials, and the City Attorney. He affirmed that firefighters are absolutely needed, but they already have a hiring pool from the training program at UAF. **Mayor Pruhs** reiterated that this was all happening in the middle of the Council’s budgeting process for the coming year where

the Council must review and plan with fiscal certainty what the City can afford. He declared that the City could not afford the multi-million dollar increase in the FFU contract, suggesting that while the City could possibly survive one year of the fiscal impact, it would eventually have to decimate the police force, public works, or another department, in order to sustain the expense. He asserted that slashing one entity for the sake of another was not something the City could consider. He predicted that the FFU will say that the City can always raise taxes to fund the increased expenses but pointed out that it is not easy to raise taxes, with six votes of support by Councilmembers required just to put a proposition before voters. He shared that at the same time the City worked to draft a budget that included nine new firefighters, the City also was facing a \$1.4MM loss in revenue over the prior year. **Mayor Pruhs** noted that was even after an increase in taxes during the same period, explaining the reality of a loss in other income streams. He indicated that despite the City's declining revenue forecasts, there were still many needs that had to be funded. He proclaimed that FFD is by far the best fire department in the greater Fairbanks area but explained that there comes a time when the City must look at what it can afford. He recalled how Mr. Ringstad, in the past week's budget work session, pointed out that \$1.2MM of the remaining \$1.9MM reserve would be eaten up by the PSEA contract. He affirmed that PSEA members are also critical personnel for the safety of the City and that police officers put on bulletproof vests every day they go to work. He extended an invitation to visit FECC and see what dispatchers go through on a daily basis. He concluded by acknowledging everyone's importance but stated that the Council has to keep in mind what the City can afford. He indicated that the proposed budget is affordable, but the FFU contract is not.

Ms. Therrien shared that she had asked CFO Bell to provide a number for what would go back into the budget for unfilled positions. CFO Bell stated that based on her target, there would be about \$3MM going back into the fund balance. She noted that this did not include the actual amounts for the months of November and December, nor did it include the cost of the Employee Capital Incentive Program (ECIP). **Ms. Therrien** expressed her belief that the Council must advance the ordinance based on the clear communication from FFD regarding burnout and the strains on personal and family lives. She pointed out that Ordinance No. 6291 would have gotten things started if it had advanced. She stated that the Council should be listening to the firefighters and that she does not understand where the tension between the department and City management originated. She suggested that if there is \$3MM being returned to the fund balance, the City could afford the contract. **Ms. Therrien** asserted that the Council should advance the ordinance at the very least to get clearer numbers from the CFO. She reminded the Council that arbitration will be binding and that the result of arbitration is unknown. She noted that Mayor Pruhs had referred to the arbitration as non-binding and asked for the City Attorney for clarification on the matter. City Attorney Chard explained that the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) calls for binding arbitration and clarified that the arbitrator would have to rule within their scope of authority in order for it to be binding. **Ms. Therrien** stated that she would assume an arbitrator would only give a decision that had been verified as within the scope of their authority. She noted that the cost for an arbitrator is \$2,500 per day and that it would cost a lot of money. She added that the department could also be at a point where it would not have enough employees to make the contract work. She acknowledged that she was not on the Council at the time when the four-platoon system had been discussed but that it seems clear it is viewed favorably by the Council, the City's negotiating team, the firefighters, and FFU representatives, not to mention the mediator. She stated that she believes the Council has no choice but to advance the ordinance.

Mayor Pruhs clarified that the motion on the floor was to adopt the ordinance, not advance it.

Mr. Ringstad reported that he put a lot of time into reading the contract and that ever since he joined the Council two years ago it has been clear that the FFD is run by the CBA, not the Fire Chief. He shared that his primary concern is that the City pays someone to manage who does not have the opportunity to manage and as a result, overtime is out of control. He explained that the problem with using the \$3MM in leftover 2024 funds to justify adopting the contract is that those are one-time funds, and the contract spans multiple years. He noted that pay raises are forever and that the long-term effects of increased expenses tied to non-recurring revenues have gotten the City into trouble in other situations. **Mr. Ringstad** recounted how a federal grant a couple years ago added four more positions at FFD and when that grant funding went away, the positions did not and are funded by the City's general fund. He stated that the Council must come to terms with what the City can afford. He spoke of the issues at FECC that have been raised numerous times and that the FECC is so short-staffed that dispatchers sometimes have to put 911 callers on hold, which is unacceptable. He asserted that the FECC had to be a priority and that the PSEA contract, which he believes the Council supports, has to be factored into the 2025 budget. **Mr. Ringstad** spoke of the budget forecasting work done by the Finance Committee which looks at the past, present, and future as far as five years out. He reported that every analysis the committee has done shows that the City will be in the red within four to five years. He reiterated that ongoing expenses like increased salaries and benefits are not the same as one-time purchases for large equipment. He cited great potential for the parameters set in the FFU contract to not go perfectly, which would trigger major financial consequences to the City's budget. **Mr. Ringstad** added that the concern for negative cashflow within the next four years would mean that the City would have no choice but to dip into reserves and eventually find the fund balance to be below the minimum amount required by the Fairbanks General Code (FGC). He indicated that it would be unlikely that voters would approve an increase to the tax cap and how at that point the City would have no choice but to cut the budget of another department just to fund the increases implemented by the FFU contract. **Mr. Ringstad** asserted that no Councilmember believes that the current amount of forced overtime is appropriate, and they all agree the issue needs to be resolved. He shared that when the Council agreed to the four-platoon system and additional positions back in the spring, the process was close to wrapping up; however, surprisingly, it somehow blew up. He acknowledged the testimonies with the common theme that the FFD needs help. He noted that the City has added five positions to the FFD in the last two years and that the proposed 2025 budget will add up to 10 more. He stated that the City cannot sustain the current overtime situation and that no firefighters want it. **Mr. Ringstad** stated it is apparent after studying the 95-page CBA and having many conversations with those associated with the contract that there are significant differences in interpretation for a variety of items. He asked how the Council could approve an agreement, with its fiduciary responsibility to the City, when the parties cannot even agree on definitions. He asserted that the process should have been a partnership in which the two parties work together to come to an agreement on interpretations. He affirmed that it has been good to listen to the voices of FFD personnel and that they all can agree on the need for more help. He pointed out that the draft 2025 budget clearly shows that the Council is answering the call for help by funding more positions. He concurred that no one should be in the position of doing medical work while exhausted. He reiterated that he could not sign something when he does not know what it says or if parties cannot agree on meanings. He stated that the contract simply is not ready to be signed.

Ms. Tidwell stated that what she believes Mr. Ringstad is saying is that he wants less services, because hiring more people would mean spending more money. She pointed out that the fiscal note for 16 positions does not mean the City has to hire 16 people and that the note shows how four positions would only cost \$673,000. She stated that the City has spent over \$2MM in overtime so far in 2024 and that if the Council does not say it wants to reduce services, the City will spend that much in overtime again. She highlighted that the contract lowers minimum staffing and allows the Fire Chief managerial authority. In response to some of Mayor Pruhs' earlier comments, she stated that what he described was not what she witnessed. **Ms. Tidwell** shared that she was present for almost every negotiation session, sitting quietly, not part of the negotiation team. She stated it was true that the FFU gave up something major which they had previously considered a nonstarter, something that was exactly what the Council had asked for. She explained that the contract gives the Fire Chief managerial control to only run two ambulances instead of three on select days as a way to avoid overtime, if needed or appropriate. She recounted the considerations in moving to the four-platoon system, which sounded like the answer to virtually all the issues until something unknown blew up the process. She stated that as a result the City's negotiating team was switched out, and the process started almost completely over. She stated that Attorney Chard had done an amazing job, that both sides had made concessions, and that while the CBA was not perfect, it took huge steps in the direction the Council has said it wants to go. **Ms. Tidwell** expressed appreciation for those who came to speak and recognized the thousands of hours of overtime being worked. She pointed out that four or five employees stated that if the contract did not pass, they would be leaving the City. She asked what the City would do then. She admitted that she does not want to spend \$2MM on overtime but that she would love to spend \$2MM on hiring 16 more positions. She stated that if the City could not afford that right now, the Council should add as many positions as it could afford. She pointed out that the contract did not say that 16 people have to be hired and expressed frustration that the fiscal note to the ordinance used that number. She shared that she has two other fiscal notes showing the cost of only hiring four people for \$673,000 as well as eight people for \$1.1MM, which is half of what the City has already spent in overtime.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that the contract had been mediated, and both sides gave things up. She noted that the room was full of people who are overworked and losing family time. She acknowledged that the City will be hiring up to 10 people with the 2025 budget, that the Fire Chief will have greater management capacity, and that the four-platoon system will be implemented. She highlighted the point that had been made about the loss of the CSP and the additional burden that put on the FFD. She stated that she is not looking to go to arbitration and that while the CBA is not perfect it would not make sense to say no to the agreement.

Mr. Cleworth thanked the CFO for the work she put into the fiscal note and said it was the longest he had ever seen and very complicated. He asked CFO Bell if she was comfortable with the numbers cited in the fiscal note. CFO Bell responded that she was not. She stated that while Ms. Tidwell was correct that the City could reduce the number of staff for the four-platoon approach, her main concern was that if the City is not able to implement or maintain that system the cost to the City to return to a three-platoon system would be an additional \$1.2MM to \$1.34MM. **Mr. Cleworth** cited language in the fiscal note that the City should anticipate additional costs and asked CFO Bell to explain. CFO Bell indicated that when wages are increased, employee benefits and the cost of workers' compensation insurance increases. **Mr. Cleworth** referenced another ordinance on the consent agenda requiring a funding source to be identified for the duration of any

multi-year contracts, the obligations that funding be included in the proposed budget for each year of the agreement, and the prohibition on violating the established minimum fund balance. He asked if there was an identified funding source for all three years of the FFU contract. CFO Bell reported that if approved, the impact would likely fall into the 2025 budget. She explained that the Mayor would have to present a balanced budget for 2026 and thus be forced to cut expenses in other areas to fund the remainder of the contract. She noted that the fiscal note is based on 16 new positions, and an added cost of \$1.2MM to \$1.34MM should be expected if the four-platoon system fails.

Mr. Cleworth asked to confirm that if the Council approves the CBA, with the current proposed budget, the City will end up about \$1.3MM in the hole for 2025. CFO Bell confirmed that if adopted, the City would fund the additional expenses with the fund balance. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if that meant the City would have to dip into savings or cut other departments to make the contract work. CFO Bell confirmed that Mr. Cleworth was correct. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed his belief that such a situation would defeat the purpose of a balanced budget. He pointed out that the Council would be in violation of at least two parts of the FGC by doing so and reminded Councilmembers that they had each taken an oath to uphold the Code. He asserted that there really is not an identified funding source for all three years of the contract, and it is not appropriate to say that the City would pay for it out of the fund balance, as that was neither sustainable nor the purpose of those funds. **Mr. Cleworth** pointed out that the current year's budget paid for a new ambulance but that nothing was being set aside for any platform, ambulance, or other equipment in FFD's budget for 2025, although those items cost millions of dollars and take years to afford. He stated that he was going to wait to raise the issue during budget discussion, but if the Council intends to fund labor contracts with the City's fund balance, that will affect the City's ability to meet infrastructure needs. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that the concept of forced overtime bothers him and that he had brought that up at the last meeting. He recounted that the City has forced overtime only because of a letter of agreement (LOA) the City and FFU signed a year and a half ago, which he voted against. He discussed minimum staffing requirements and reviewed how things have changed over the years, with the last contract being set at 11, only to be increased by the LOA to 13. He pointed out that the proposed CBA drops minimum staffing from 13 to 11 and asked why it could not be lowered right now, with or without the contract, to drastically reduce overtime.

Ms. Tidwell pointed out that hiring even just two more people allows the department to transition to the four-platoon system. She stated that hiring even more staff only makes it that much more feasible. She stated that the astronomical numbers in the fiscal note are based on the hypothetical shift back to three platoons, but they would never go back to that system after moving to the fourth platoon. She added that minimum staffing of 11 makes it even easier to maintain the new system.

Mr. Ringstad discussed how adding people in the contract does not help anything if the positions are not approved in the budget and that, conversely, funding new positions in the budget can be done regardless of whether or not the Council adopts the CBA. He stated that claims of FFD not getting help if the Council does not approve the contract were false because approving a budget with several new FFD positions would mean extra people in as little as six weeks.

Ms. Therrien pointed out that with Ordinance No. 6291 failing to advance, the funds tied to that would go back into the general fund and could be used for the contract. CFO Bell clarified that those funds would have come from the bottom line for the year and thus the end result would be

the same. **Ms. Therrien** addressed the reality that the Council still had a mediated contract and needed to decide what to do with it. She noted that if it is not approved, there would be forced arbitration with potentially astronomical figures.

Ms. Sprinkle indicated that although the Council had discussed capital funding for equipment, none of that would help if the FFD lost another half a dozen staff. She expressed her belief that for the sake of morale the Council should move forward with the contract. She indicated that she too would like to avoid arbitration.

Mr. Cleworth asked what the funding source would be for the contract. **Ms. Sprinkle** stated that the Council may have to consider less common funding methods and pointed out that there is at least enough to cover the first year of the contract. **Mr. Cleworth** shared that the Council went through this same problem in 2017 when it did not have a funding source for an approved contract. He cited the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner article from that time which discussed the Council's obligation to know how it would pay for agreements it enters into. He asserted that the Council does not know how to pay for the FFU contract and that the solution being offered is to use savings, which robs the capital fund and affects other essential needs of City operations. He shared that in this past scenario, the Council decided, after approving the contract, to ask voters to approve a tax increase, which was strongly rejected. **Ms. Sprinkle** admitted that she did not know but that she would like to try something. **Mr. Cleworth** reiterated that if the Council wanted to do something like this, it must identify a funding source in advance.

Ms. Therrien stated that the same argument could be used to say that the City does not have a sustainable funding source for the PSEA contract. She pointed out that the PSEA contract would cost \$1.2MM, but the Council seems unwilling to put anything towards FFD which does not seem fair or right. She stated the Council should use the fund balance and hope for overtime savings.

Mr. Ringstad noted that the Mayor left the Council about \$2.5MM in reserves in his 2025 proposed budget in order for it to be able to do some of these things.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that the City reportedly had \$3MM in unspent funds from unfilled positions in 2024 and asked if that was correct. CFO Bell explained that the amount was based on her target numbers from October 31. **Ms. Sprinkle** indicated that the budget numbers from unfilled positions and overtime budgeted-for but not used seem to be brought to light after the fact. She stated that it is difficult to understand what funds are really available and suggested that the City has the money.

Mayor Pruhs explained that City budgets include funding for all positions regardless of vacancies, and unused funds can be made available later in the year. He shared that the Council knew at the start of 2024 that it would have two large contracts to tackle: FFU and PSEA. He recounted how he and his staff spent a month going through every department in order to create a \$2.6MM reserve to present to the Council. He noted that the reserve has dropped down to \$1.9MM, and there is a proposed, negotiated contract for PSEA that will use \$1.2MM of the reserve. He declared that there is \$700,000 left to work with and that the Council cannot claim unspent funds from unfilled positions as a funding source for a labor contract. He stated that if the Council approves the FFU contract without a funding source, he will have to cut positions in the City's largest departments, which would probably start with FFD, moving to FPD, FECC, and Public Works.

Ms. Tidwell spoke to the remaining \$700,000 reserve and the fiscal note that showed the cost of four positions at about \$630,000 which, combined with the Mayor's budget, could fund 12 new people at FFD.

Mr. Ringstad stated that he disagreed with that assessment, noting that the Mayor had carved out a few million dollars while adding numerous new positions at FFD. He asserted that cuts had already been made elsewhere to pay for more firefighters.

Mayor Pruhs reminded the Council that the \$2.6MM reserve was created while simultaneously absorbing \$1.4MM in lost revenue. He asked how much revenue the Council thinks the City might lose in the next year and reminded Councilmembers that the only thing they can hope for in terms of increased revenue is a high CPI.

Ms. Sprinkle argued that if 10 people are being added through the 2025 budget and nothing else happens, the FFD should still be able to manage the four-platoon system. **Mayor Pruhs** responded that CFO Bell had given her calculations on the actual and potential fiscal impacts. **Ms. Sprinkle** countered that the numbers were based on hiring more people than they determined is necessary. CFO Bell confirmed that the fiscal note is based on hiring 16 people.

Ms. Tidwell asked what the fiscal note would be if only the 10 people in the proposed budget are hired. CFO Bell indicated that such a scenario would come to about \$300,000, but that the clause would remain that if the City failed to implement the fourth platoon within six months, or cannot maintain it after implementation, then the additional \$1.2MM cost would be triggered. She noted that once that happens, the City would have to pay the higher rates regardless of whether or not the four-platoon structure was restored. **Ms. Tidwell** asserted that she was aware of the parameters but asked why it is assumed that the City would fail to implement or maintain the new four-platoon system. She pointed out that the Fire Chief would be managing the department to ensure things worked out. **Mayor Pruhs** interjected to clarify that both the union and Fire Chief would have to work those details out and that recent history with the FFU has shown how difficult it can be to implement something as simple as a new Community Paramedic position. **Ms. Tidwell** stated that everyone in the room supports the new approach, claiming that it is what they want and a good reason to stay with the City. She recalled testimony that others from around the state would also be drawn to the system. She expressed her strong belief that both parties would come to the table and work out the plan. **Mayor Pruhs** suggested that Ms. Tidwell had not sat through as many sessions as she claimed. **Ms. Tidwell** asserted that she had attended many of the meetings. **Mayor Pruhs** discussed the negotiation process and shared that after the FFU rejected the idea of the four-platoon system back in April, they had also called the Chief of Staff a liar and refused to work with the City's negotiating team. He explained that after that, he and the City Attorney met with the FFU in May to hear what the new reset would look like. He noted that Ms. Tidwell was present for that meeting. He shared that the reset lasted one month, and the FFU asserted they would not agree to the fiscal components of the negotiation but would focus instead on other aspects of the contract. He stated that was when he stopped attending the sessions. **Ms. Tidwell** reported that everyone at that meeting agreed that the City needed to hire more people for FFD, settling on nine people. She stated that a week later, the Mayor changed his mind and stated that the City would no longer do that. She asserted that she witnessed fair negotiations where both sides conceded on

various aspects. She expressed her belief that the City has the capacity to make something great for the department with a four-platoon system, which is something the Council already stated it wanted to do. She added that it can be done with the new positions already in the proposed budget.

Mr. Marney asserted that they are aligned and that the FFU and City want the same things. He suggested they get rid of the six-month clause, which is tied to things beyond the City's control, work together to create the fourth platoon, and hire the 10 people personnel proposed in the budget.

Mr. Ringstad agreed that the Council is already budgeting for the positions the FFU is asking for and that the 10 new jobs would happen with or without the contract. He reiterated that entering into an agreement when it is unclear what it says is wrong. He spoke to factors out of the City's control triggering additional long-term costs of \$1.2MM. He pointed out that the City can barely afford what it is trying to do now and that getting hit with that clause would be devastating. He said that managing risk is one of the Council's most important responsibilities and that this was a big risk. He pointed out that the Council's only option is to vote the ordinance up or down.

Mr. Cleworth addressed Ms. Tidwell's earlier comments that everyone was in favor of the four-platoon system and clarified that he had not supported the idea. He shared that he had advocated for keeping three shifts and keeping the negotiations as simple as possible. He expressed his belief that this issue is one of the reasons why the process has taken over a year. He suggested that a lot of City departments could come before the Council and argued many of the same points for more staffing. He noted that has happened many times over the years and that the Council has done a good job balancing the requests while working within the budget. He stated it was ironic that they got into this situation because of forced overtime and a minimum staffing level of 13 while the proposed contract has a minimum staffing level of 11. He suggested that if the Fire Chief had the management rights he deserves, he could make decisions about whether to run two or three ambulances on a given day and help control overtime expenses. **Mr. Cleworth** asserted that contracts should allow for some leeway, but the FFU contract offers none. He stated that is wrong, and no other union at the City has that kind of agreement, including other departments that are below the national average for staffing. He pointed out that FFD is above the national average for staffing for the size of the community's and that if one was to look at the last few years of budgets it would show that significant funding had gone to the department. He reiterated that the Council must keep in mind the other City departments, and he expressed frustration that for two years so many resources have been focused on FFD while infrastructure needs have been ignored.

Ms. Therrien spoke to Mr. Ringstad's comments about the uncertainty with interpretations and language. She reminded the Council that when the negotiations went to mediation, the City was represented by Attorney Chard. She suggested that if the City Attorney thought the language was unclear, he would have resolved it. She reiterated that if the contract is not passed, the City would be stuck with binding arbitration. She stated the Council could trust the City Attorney's work.

Mr. Ringstad noted that when he joined Council two years ago, he was told that FECC, with a budgeted staff of 25, had six or seven vacant dispatcher positions. He expressed how vital those workers are to public safety and that they were often staffing just two people during a shift due to vacancies, despite being budgeted for four per shift. He shared that the FECC Director had disclosed having worked 21 consecutive 12-hour shifts without a day off because of being

understaffed. **Mr. Ringstad** stated that he quickly realized that the FECC was in crisis and that the Council needs to remember the other City departments by striving to be fair and balanced with priorities that address all vital services for the community. He pointed out that there are still several vacancies at FECC and that they are paid five dollars less per hour than other dispatch call centers across Alaska. He asserted that the City is doing a lot for FFD but that everything will fall apart if the Council does not remember to balance all legs of the stool.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6295 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Therrien, Sprinkle
NAYS: Ringstad, Marney, Cleworth, Pruhs
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION FAILED and Ordinance No. 6295 FAILED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5144 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the United States Department of Transportation for the FY2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program for Island Homes Subdivision Reconstruction. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Ordinance No. 6296 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 2-118.1 to Add an Additional City Councilmember to the Council Finance Committee. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Ordinance No. 6297 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Ordinance No. 6298 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 2, Section 655, Multiyear Contracts, Clarifying Requirements for Amendments to Multiyear Contracts. Introduced by Councilmember Cleworth.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Ordinance No. 6299 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Public Safety Employees Association. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Appointment to the Fairbanks Diversity Council

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Recommendation for Appointment to the FNSB Planning Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Discretionary Fund Committee Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Ringstad summarized the events of the evening by acknowledging that more people are needed at FFD and that the Council is committed to providing the positions through the 2025 budget. He suggested that they could not say that this was all negative and that the notion of voting down the CBA and providing support for FFD are not necessarily connected.

Mr. Marney, Ms. Tidwell, and Ms. Sprinkle each indicated that they had no reports or comments.

Ms. Therrien stated that she was disappointed.

Mr. Cleworth expressed his belief that if the Council had approved the FFU contract, it would have been in violation of the FGC in two different ways. He stated that he cannot understand how the Council can make light of the Code when it is sworn to uphold it. He explained that, if need be, the Council can change the Code, and he asserted that the Council cannot approve any labor contract it wants and hope for a miracle down the road to make it work. He pointed out that such an approach does not work in real life nor in business. He reiterated that the City has the budget to live within its means. He complimented the Chief of Staff's work on the packet produced for the PSEA contract. Chief of Staff Sanders clarified that while he participated in the negotiations, credit for the packet should go to Mayor Pruhs' Executive Assistant, Lauryn Schloemer.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider stated she had nothing to report.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard stated he had nothing to report.

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 9:24 p.m.

DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 2, 2024
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:30 p.m. Work Session to discuss Code requirements for Room Rental Tax distributions, 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
 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 (CFO)
 Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director (remotely)
 Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director
 Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief
 Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
 Robert Pristash, City Engineer
 Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator (remotely)
 Marsha Oss, Reentry Coordinator (remotely)

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

At the request of Mayor Pruhs, **Mr. Cleworth** 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.]

Vivian Stiver – V. Stiver voiced support for Resolution No. 5147 and the improvement of drainage around the Senior Center. She stated that it does not take much for an aging senior to feel barriers to access and that this effort will make a big difference. She thanked the Council for publishing its legislative priorities, specifically the effort to secure funds to replace the siding on the Senior Center. She shared that affordable housing for the senior community has been one of her passions for a long time and that upcoming renovations would put the building in great shape for decades.

Scott Austin – S. Austin stated that he spoke at a Council meeting a couple months prior to address what he believed to be an unjust parking ticket and appeal process. He attempted to play an audio recording of that interaction, noting that he was told that if he reached out to the Mayor's Office, he would be taken care of. He alleged that he did as instructed but was never contacted. He added that he sent a message through the City's website but again got no response. S. Austin reported that he received an email from the Chief of Staff indicating that they would not grant his request to refund the \$43 ticket because they had a photo of his car parked illegally. He asserted that he had personally measured the distance in question and determined that there was a problem with the citation. He asked if the Mayor was a liar. **Mayor Pruhs** replied that the Council was not there to take questions from the public but rather to listen, noting that Mr. Austin still had one minute remaining to speak if he wished. S. Austin suggested that they were all liars and tyrants, declaring that the parking authority was ridiculous. He stated that he hopes they are happy with his \$43 and that they spent it well. He concluded by reiterating that they are all "f---ing liars," that they "can kiss my ass," and that he will park "however the hell I want" when he is downtown.

Ms. Sprinkle asked S. Austin to confirm that he paid the \$43 ticket. S. Austin stated he did.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Cleworth noted that under Unfinished Business, item 11(d), Ordinance No. 6299, would have significant impact on item 11(b), Ordinance No. 6297. He requested that the order of the two items be switched. **Mayor Pruhs** concurred, and no Councilmembers objected.

Ms. Sprinkle pulled item 12(h), Ordinance No. 6302, from the consent agenda.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2024

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Regular Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2024

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
54	American Legion Post 11	Club	The American Legion, Dorman H. Baker Post #11	129 1st Avenue
5926	FatBurger Alaska	Restaurant/ Eating Place	Arcticmonty, LLC	3548 Airport Way

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

Mayor Pruhs called for Public Testimony.

Joseph Collier & Lenora Mathis – J. Collier indicated that they were there to advocate for the renewal of the American Legion Post 11 license. He shared that they are a service organization focusing primarily on veterans and their families. L. Mathis stated that they are excited to continue to serve members and the charitable organizations they support through various fundraising efforts.

Mr. Ringstad asked how many members they have. J. Collier reported that the Post has just short of 100 members but that but that friends, guests, family members, and active-duty military often stop by, making their group of regulars in the hundreds.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she lives not far from the location of the Post, that she has never experienced any problems with their establishment, and that it is a welcoming place to stop by.

Mr. Marney thanked J. Collier and L. Mathis for attending and for putting a face to the license.

Robert Monteith – R. Monteith indicated that he represents FatBurger and wanted to make himself available for any questions.

Mayor Pruhs, hearing no requests for additional comments, 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: Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Therrien, Tidwell

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
12325	Good Cannabis	Retail Marijuana Store	Good, LLC	356 Old Steese Highway

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, 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: Ringstad, Tidwell, Therrien, Sprinkle, Marney, Cleworth

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Pruhs addressed issues with lighting around the City and asked Public Works Director Jeremiah Cotter to provide an update.

J. Cotter reported that the cold weather had been affecting the solenoids in various streetlights around town which caused them to malfunction, only to work again when it warmed up. He noted that the problems were inconsistent and that the contractor, Star Electric, was checking any reportedly malfunctioning equipment to determine whether units can be repaired or need replacement.

Mr. Ringstad asked whether the lights working again was due to increased temperatures. J. Cotter confirmed that was correct and that Star Electric was going through any units that had been reported even if they had come back online on their own.

Mr. Marney asked how long Star Electric had been under contract with the City. J. Cotter stated that he was unsure but would get back to him with that information.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

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

Mr. Cleworth stated that parking ticket revenue does not come to the City of Fairbanks nor does the City benefit from any increase in citations. He explained that those revenues go to the Fairbanks Parking Authority, which employs parking agents as well as custodial work at the parking garage.

Mr. Ringstad stated it is not necessary to call people names and use profanity in a public meeting.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she had the privilege to work with Mr. Marney and a team at the Presbyterian Church over the past weekend, handing out food to those in need, which was a warm experience, despite the cold temperatures. She thanked Mr. Marney for extending the invitation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6296 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 2-118.1 to Add an Additional City Councilmember to the Council Finance Committee. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6296.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6296 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6296 ADOPTED.

- d) Ordinance No. 6299 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Public Safety Employees Association. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6299.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6299 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6299 ADOPTED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6298 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 2, Section 655, Multiyear Contracts, Clarifying Requirements for Amendments to Multiyear Contracts. Introduced by Councilmember Cleworth. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6298.

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

Mr. Cleworth stated the ordinance includes suggestions from Attorney Chard that he agrees with.

Ms. Therrien asked if it was correct that if the Council passes an ordinance that covers a two-year period, the terms of Ordinance No. 6298 would mean that unless a funding source is identified, it would be in violation of Fairbanks General Code (FGC). **Mayor Pruhs** confirmed that there must be an identified funding source for any contract that involves the expenditure of funds beyond the first year. **Ms. Therrien** stated that she will not be in favor of Ordinance No. 6298.

Ms. Tidwell expressed concern with the ordinance, noting that all of the City's labor contracts are multi-year agreements and include wage increases. She stated that she does not believe the Council can have sufficient forethought for future years to comply with the terms of the ordinance. She expressed her belief that it would complicate future negotiations and that at some point the Council will have to discuss revenue sources. She indicated that she would not be voting for the ordinance.

City Attorney Chard pointed out that the FGC already requires that a funding source be identified for multi-year contracts and that the only language being added by the ordinance is to assign the same requirements for amendments to contracts. **Mayor Pruhs** concurred.

Mr. Ringstad asked to confirm that any modifications to an existing contract would be treated the same as the original agreement. Attorney Chard confirmed that a funding source would need to be identified for any increased financial obligation by the City for all years of the modification.

Ms. Sprinkle spoke to the concern of nothing ever being guaranteed and that while she would hope that future-year revenues would not be any less than current amounts, there is always the possibility that they would be lower. **Mayor Pruhs** reiterated that the requirement already exists and that the ordinance only extends the same terms to multi-year amendments to contracts.

Ms. Therrien expressed her belief that the Council is not following the requirements being discussed. She pointed out that a funding source was not identified for the Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) contract that was just approved.

Mr. Cleworth explained that the Council does have a funding source via the growth allowed by the tax cap. He stated it would be a problem if contracts included 10% pay increases when they know the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is lower, such as 3%. He stated that, with a great degree of certainty, the Council can count on funding for all three years of the contract. He likened the situation to buying a car that you can barely afford and that you will unlikely be unable to make payments on down the road. He stated that would not be prudent. **Mr. Cleworth** stated the Council has been given reports from the Finance Committee that paint a bleak outlook for future City revenue. He stated that the PSEA contract is one the City could reasonably afford now and that he has a comfort level for funding it in the future. He asserted that the same could not be said about the firefighter contract which included a \$2MM increase but was not approved. He indicated that adopting both would have blown everything out of the water for the future. He suggested that it is always prudent for an elected official to question the affordability of taxpayer-funded agreements and that the same considerations should be given when amendments or modifications are presented. He expressed his belief that the rules regarding contracts are some of the most important ones the Council has in place because it requires them to budget the City's money responsibly.

Mr. Marney suggested that if someone does not keep up with their checkbook, they will never know how much money they have in the bank.

Ms. Tidwell recognized that the ordinance would only add a few words to the existing Code and asked for an example of a scenario where it would apply. Attorney Chard explained that anytime a contract is being reviewed for approval, a fiscal note is included which outlines a funding source for each year of the agreement. He stated that it has been unclear if an amendment to a contract also requires a fiscal note. He affirmed that the ordinance would extend the fiscal note requirement to amendments.

Ms. Therrien stated that she did not see a fiscal note that covered the second year of the PSEA contract. **Mr. Cleworth** pointed out that in year two of the agreement, there would be an increase of approximately \$70,000, which would easily be covered under the tax cap computations for 2026. **Ms. Therrien** noted that the firefighter contract includes much greater increases which gives her concern.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6298 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Marney, Sprinkle, Ringstad, Cleworth

NAYS: Therrien, Tidwell

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6298 ADOPTED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6297 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6297.

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

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6297 by substituting the amended, proposed version.

Mayor Pruhs called for objection to the motion to AMEND Ordinance No. 6297 by substituting the amended, proposed version and, seeing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Pruhs invited Chief Financial Officer Margarita Bell to review the proposed changes as well as the key elements of the proposed 2025 budget. CFO Bell referenced highlighted changes to the operating and capital budgets since the ordinance's first reading, as well as a list of items the Council indicated it would like to discuss further. **Mayor Pruhs** asked if the Council would like to discuss any items or accept all the proposed changes.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarity on the \$13,000 increase in "Risk Services" for the Legal Department. CFO Bell explained that it is tied to wages and benefits for the Attorney's Office and that the amount would fluctuate depending on the positions within the Legal Department.

Mr. Cleworth discussed the recruitment and retention tool of Ordinance No. 6300, which was advanced on the consent agenda and would, if adopted at the next meeting, be a contributing factor to the budget item being reviewed. He expressed his belief that the Deputy City Attorney position is often used as a steppingstone or other short-term employment for individuals not seeking a career at the City. He indicated that some flexibility would be useful if they were serious about allocating funds for recruitment and retention, as not every candidate may be interested in a benefit that requires a 10-year commitment.

Mr. Therrien acknowledged the challenge of hiring attorneys in Fairbanks, given the small pool of candidates. She expressed her view that anything the Council can do to help the department is well worth the effort and that this might encourage some candidates to apply. She noted that the expenses the City incurs for outside attorney fees could be reduced with another in-house attorney.

Mr. Ringstad stated that he does not mind having flexibility with the incentive and that they just need to have the funds budgeted.

Mr. Cleworth stated he would like the incentive to be included under the department's benefits but with flexibility to be used as needed if a qualified candidate did not find the original offer appealing. CFO Bell stated that it is listed under benefits but only for the purpose of the incentive.

Mr. Marney pointed out that someone may not know their long-term plans right away and that if they left after five years, money would go back to the City, which would be a win-win.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if it was necessary to go into that much detail on the matter as part of the budget ordinance discussion, given that Ordinance No. 6300 would address the issue specifically if advanced to a second reading. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that the Council was currently determining whether the funds would be allocated for that purpose in 2025, whereas Ordinance No. 6300 would determine whether to enact the incentive long-term.

Mr. Ringstad asked what the Council needed to do to ensure flexibility with the funds to use as a hiring incentive, given that the use of the funds was currently limited in scope. CFO Bell stated that she would need guidance on what type of benefit it should be recorded as.

Attorney Chard shared that if there is a candidate seeking an alternative benefit, he could bring forth a proposed budget amendment, if necessary. He explained that it may be best to tackle that if the need arises rather than trying to determine what alternative options to plan for presently.

Ms. Tidwell acknowledged that the permanent life insurance program the City has used as a retention tool for other departments has been a positive approach, noting that if the person does not stay, the City will not lose any money. She agreed that if a potential candidate has different needs, the Council could address that matter when it arises.

Mayor Pruhs noted that all Councilmembers appeared to be in concurrence on the issue and asked if there was any other discussion on the proposed items.

Ms. Therrien asked for clarification on what changes had already been incorporated with the substituted version and which ones still required action by the Council. CFO Bell reviewed the changes, noting that bolded items in the last two pages of the document were new inclusions.

Mayor Pruhs stated that the Council could vote to approve all the additional changes at once or take them up individually. Clerk Snider clarified that the motion on the floor would adopt the ordinance with all changes included substituted version. She stated that no further motions would be needed if the intent was not to amend the ordinance further.

Mr. Cleworth requested that the Council go through the budget one department at a time to consider any final amendments. **Mayor Pruhs** agreed to use that approach. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he is not in favor of the \$2,500 increase to City Council travel under the Clerk's Office budget. He pointed out that the City pays \$44,000 for a lobbyist to advocate on its behalf in Juneau and that it costs nothing to make phone calls to State legislators who represent Fairbanks. He indicated that there is no reason for a Councilmember to travel to Juneau and that none of them has the authority to go to Juneau using taxpayer funds to lobby for something that the Council had not already discussed and supported. He reiterated that the cost of the lobbyist is already substantial.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6297, as Amended, by reducing the amount for Councilmember travel by \$2,500.

Mr. Ringstad discussed the importance of relationships from one elected official to another. He pointed out that there are no members of the Interior Delegation serving on the Legislature's Finance Committee, which makes for a weak financial position for Fairbanks. He expressed his opinion that \$2,500 is a reasonable amount to pay for the benefit of relationships that could best serve the City's needs over time.

Ms. Sprinkle suggested that the City's Legislative Committee could discuss whether or not there would be value to send a Councilmember to Juneau.

Mayor Pruhs stated it began six years ago, when he, Ms. Therrien, and former Councilmember Rogers served on the Legislative Committee. He agreed that there has been value for such activity over the years. He noted that the City has not sent someone every year – only when a need arises.

Mr. Marney asked if it would be appropriate to use the Mayor's contingency fund for that purpose if the need arose in 2025. **Mayor Pruhs** declared that it would not be appropriate.

Mr. Cleworth noted that in the past the contingency fund was used if there was a compelling reason to travel to Juneau. He reiterated that the only matters Councilmembers would be authorized to address were those items on the approved list for the Interior Delegation. He shared that he had more success as Mayor by making phone calls and requesting to speak with the Governor directly.

Ms. Therrien asserted that travelling to Juneau involves a lot of work and that no one does it because it is fun. She concurred that connections are important, that between her and Mr. Ringstad they know a lot of people, and that she believes it is worth the expense.

A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6297, AS AMENDED, BY REDUCING THE AMOUNT FOR COUNCILMEMBER TRAVEL BY \$2,500 AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mr. Cleworth stated the Council previously discussed salary increases for the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief that were not included in the Mayor's original budget. He explained that the salaries of both positions are outlined in a union labor agreement wage schedule with steps, depending on experience and performance. He stated that the majority of the Council approved an increase to both salaries at a budget work session. He referenced a lengthy email the Council recently received regarding the salaries. He suggested that proposed increases should come from the administration instead of the Council picking an arbitrary number to increase wages to and indicated that the process should have included deliberate thought, with a proposal brought forth at a future meeting.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6297, as Amended, by removing the \$7,300 increase to salaries and benefits for the Police Chief.

Ms. Sprinkle expressed concern with the amount of the increase because it did not seem to be in parity with other increases. She pointed out that increases for administrative positions between the Police and Fire Departments were not consistent and suggested that a percentage be used instead.

Ms. Therrien shared that the reason she advocated for the increase was due to the report showing that in 2023, every lieutenant and sergeant made more money than the Police Chief. She stated she does not believe the Police Chief should make less than those he supervises. She noted that due to the position being exempt from overtime and its heavy workload, the increase is not inappropriate.

Mr. Cleworth indicated that because of the frequent opportunities for overtime across the police force, he did not recall a single year where the Police Chief made more than most lieutenants and sergeants. He pointed out that top -level positions being exempt from overtime was the norm across most organizations or businesses and that making less than subordinate positions was not uncommon. He reiterated that that is the inherent nature of hourly-versus-salaried jobs.

Ms. Sprinkle recalled that the Council was told that if the City were to lose its Police Chief, the current salary would not be high enough to attract a new one. **Mayor Pruhs** clarified that the Council was told that the current Deputy Police Chief and Police Captain would each take a pay cut if they were promoted to the Police Chief position.

Mr. Cleworth indicated that he was merely recommending that staff come back to the Council with more specific numbers and research to justify the increase. He acknowledged that the increase may actually end up being higher but reiterated that he was not comfortable with the process of how the proposed increase was formulated. He agreed that the discrepancy between the increases for the Fire Chief and the Police Chief was also a concern.

Ms. Tidwell pointed out that the department had proposed a much higher number, and the \$7,300 increase was a compromise. **Mr. Cleworth** clarified that he is suggesting that the Council receive information from Human Resources and the administration, not the department directly.

Ms. Sprinkle asked how the mechanics of Mr. Cleworth's suggestion would work, given that the Council had to approve some salary amount. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that after research plus a report and presentation, the Council could consider a budget amendment by way of an ordinance.

A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6297, AS AMENDED, BY REMOVING THE \$7,300 INCREASE TO SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR THE POLICE CHIEF AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth

NAYS: Therrien, Tidwell, Ringstad, Marney, Sprinkle

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION FAILED.

Ms. Sprinkle discussed the increase to the Fire Chief salary, noting that it was much higher than that of the Police Chief. She stated that she meant no disrespect to the Fire Chief but that it was a significant jump from one year to the next and asked whether it was appropriate. She suggested an increase proportionate to that of the Police Chief might be fairer. **Mayor Pruhs** asked whether Ms. Sprinkle was making a motion. **Ms. Sprinkle** indicated that she was not necessarily ready to do so. **Mayor Pruhs** ruled that, if not, the Council would continue to the next item.

Mr. Cleworth commented that the proposed budget added more staff than any annual budget he had ever seen. He addressed the eight-position increase at the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD) and stated a ninth was being proposed with the addition of a Deputy Fire Marshal. He pointed out that the staffing increase coincides with dwindling revenue and questioned the Council's actions.

Mr. Cleworth moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6297, as Amended, by not funding the new Deputy Fire Marshal position. The motion died due to lack of a second.

Mr. Marney noted that the Council eliminated an Assistant Fire Chief position to provide for the new Deputy Fire Marshal position. **Mr. Cleworth** replied that the Council is still adding far more positions than ever before and that cuts need to be made somewhere.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6297, as Amended, by increasing the General Account budget for Abatements by \$50,000.

Ms. Sprinkle shared that the person hired to fill the recently added Code Enforcement and Abatement Specialist position has a long list of Council-approved items to pursue. She stated he needs adequate resources to ensure success. She noted that the funds are intended to help clean up problem properties and that all funds may not be spent, depending on how far he gets.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6297, AS AMENDED, BY INCREASING THE GENERAL ACCOUNT BUDGET FOR ABATEMENTS BY \$50,000 AS FOLLOWS:

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

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6297, as Amended, by adding \$90,950 to the Fairbanks Police Department budget for wages and benefits for an Equipment Manager.

Mayor Pruhs noted that the PSEA contract only allows for admin assistant or clerk positions.

Ms. Therrien explained that the question arose as to who would take care of equipment. She stated the Council needed to decide whether to have a higher-level role take on that responsibility or whether to designate it as its own position. She noted that the Police Captain has been handling the duties, which has been contributing to overtime. She expressed her opinion that it is a waste for a captain to be performing those duties on overtime. She indicated that she was also open to the position being titled something other than “Equipment Manager.”

Mr. Ringstad asked for clarity on the position title options and on the note included in the handout. CFO Bell reported that Schedule A of the PSEA collective bargaining agreement listed negotiated positions that could be added. She stated that “Equipment Manager” was not one of them. She explained that while the same duties could be assigned, the position would need to be titled an administrative assistant or clerk. **Mr. Ringstad** concurred with Ms. Therrien’s point that if the goal is to reduce overtime, it does not make sense for the duties to be handled by the Police Captain.

Mr. Marney asked whether it would be a full- or part-time position. **Mayor Pruhs** indicated that it would be a full-time position.

Ms. Sprinkle pointed out that in addition to managing equipment, there is little-to-no relief at the department for the many administrative duties, so the position would be a welcome support.

Mr. Cleworth asked to confirm what the current fund balance would be taking into account the discussed changes. CFO Bell reported that the balance would be approximately \$586,000, not taking into account the \$90,000 for the current position being discussed. **Mr. Cleworth** pointed out that it is unknown what will come of the ongoing deliberations on the firefighter labor contract and that at the rate the Council is going, there will be no money left. He addressed the challenge of getting through 2025 with only \$586,000 in available funds and stated that the Council is spending money very easily. He expressed concern for the coming year and stated that while the department requests are justified, the Council does not have the luxury to say yes to everything.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to AMEND the amendment on the floor by striking the title “Equipment Manager” and replacing it with “Administrative Assistant or Clerk.”

Ms. Therrien stated that the title change seemed necessary given what had been shared regarding the contract. She highlighted the benefit of reduced overtime once someone is hired and trained.

Mr. Marney asked to confirm that a recent email was sent regarding Police Captain overtime. CFO Bell confirmed that she sent an email showing about \$27,000 in overtime for that position.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT ON THE FLOOR BY STRIKING THE TITLE “EQUIPMENT MANAGER” AND REPLACING IT WITH “ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OR CLERK” AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Sprinkle, Therrien, Tidwell, Ringstad

NAYS: Marney, Cleworth

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6297, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING \$90,950 TO THE FAIRBANKS POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET FOR WAGES AND BENEFITS FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OR CLERK AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Sprinkle, Ringstad, Tidwell, Therrien

NAYS: Cleworth, Marney

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6297, as Amended, by increasing wages and benefits at Public Works by \$106,050 for a full-time, permanent laborer position and by reducing the temporary worker budget for wages and benefits by \$100,000.

Ms. Therrien discussed the challenges with temporary labor and stated that training, mistakes, and supervision sometimes add unseen costs. She stated that having someone in a permanent position often results in higher quality work and is an overall better value for the City.

Ms. Sprinkle recalled a discussion that highlighted a need for the position due to a new garbage truck that would require an additional worker. She noted that the cost appears to be almost a wash.

Mr. Ringstad asked if the \$100,000 for temporary laborers was for multiple people or a single worker. CFO Bell explained that there are a few long-term, temporary laborers with the department each year and that the change would remove one of those full-time, long-term, temporary roles.

Mr. Ringstad acknowledged that the Council would be trading one for the other.

Ms. Sprinkle pointed out that temporary labor often comes at a higher rate to the City.

Mr. Cleworth suggested that Councilmembers are fooling themselves if they think that they can reduce the amount for temporary labor, citing the fact that the City has been over budget in that area the last two years. He noted that during budget work sessions the Council determined that \$2MM was a more appropriate number than the \$1.8MM the department requested. He explained that this is one of the few budget line items where the City truly has no control, given that Mother Nature determines how much additional help Public Works needs each winter. **Mr. Cleworth** indicated that if the Council approves the permanent position, it will have to be tied to a firm commitment to limit temporary labor expenses, which he is not willing to do. He stated that the reality is that the change would not be a wash. He shared that if there was one area he would like to add more personnel it would be there but that he wants to be fair in his efforts to reduce expenses.

Ms. Tidwell pointed out that the Council already increased funds for the department to cover one new laborer and that the proposed change would add another position. She acknowledged that there are shortages in this area just as there are in other departments but that she would like to see how things go with the one position already added before considering a second.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6297, AS AMENDED, BY INCREASING WAGES AND BENEFITS AT PUBLIC WORKS BY \$106,050 FOR A FULL-TIME, PERMANENT LABORER POSITION AND BY REDUCING THE TEMPORARY WORKER BUDGET FOR WAGES AND BENEFITS BY \$100,000 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien

NAYS: Cleworth, Sprinkle, Ringstad, Marney, Tidwell

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION FAILED.

Mr. Cleworth reviewed his budget concerns by discussing the changes and trends he has seen over the last several years, beginning with the FFD (his initial comments are summarized below):

- Budgets have grown from 2016 to 2025 by:
 - 65% at FFD,
 - 14% at Fairbanks Police Department (FPD), and
 - 27% at Public Works.
- Personnel levels have changed from 2018 to 2025, if the budget is adopted as-is, by a:
 - 45% increase at FFD,
 - 8% decrease at FPD, and
 - 8% increase at Public Works.
- The Capital Fund Account for FFD:
 - contained \$1.9MM at the end of 2016,
 - had only \$1,641 carried over into January 2024, and
 - will have nothing left at the end of 2024.

Mr. Cleworth stated that this is the only time he has ever seen the Council ignore capital needs for FFD and that this will hurt down the road. He noted the cost of a new platform being over \$2MM with fire engines estimated at \$1MM or more. He admitted that he is unsure where the City will get money for those items the next time the need arises. **Mr. Cleworth** discussed staffing levels for fire departments across the country, noting that the population of the City of Fairbanks would dictate a staff of 36 employees to be on par with the national average. He pointed out that FFD has 44 employees, not counting the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal, and that the 2025 budget will bring the total to 53. He recounted that the rallying cry for needing more people was focused on the high call volume for the department. He shared that the Council was given a long list of call data which he reviewed. He indicated that the list did not match the numbers for calls that had been provided by the Fairbanks Emergency Communication Center (FECC, or “Dispatch”) Manager, a discrepancy which he is unable to explain without further study. He stated that the call volume between 2020 and 2023 increased by 5% and that the majority of calls were for non-emergency transports. He pointed out that in 2020, FFD had 43 personnel, not including upper management, and that an increase of 5% to match the call volume would have been equivalent to adding two positions – not 53. **Mr. Cleworth** discussed the alternatives being worked out for non-emergency transportations by private companies and the creation of the Community Paramedic position in the

past year. He reminded the Council that the FFD service area shrank due to the non-renewal of certain fire service contracts in the surrounding area. He suggested that the Council look at call volumes more objectively going forward, and he shared comments from 2020 by the Fire Chief at that time, when the minimum staffing level went from 9 to 11 per labor contract negotiations. He pointed out that the same number was included in the contract that was recently considered by the Council. He asked why the City is now adding all the new positions and questioned whether it was a deliberate step towards adopting a four-platoon system. He stated that he believes it is.

Ms. Tidwell called a point of order, questioning whether Mr. Cleworth's comments were germane to the motion on the floor. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that the Council was in discussion regarding the main motion to adopt the budget and that he believes Mr. Cleworth is sharing his reasons as to why he will not be voting in favor of Ordinance No. 6297, as Amended.

Mr. Cleworth asked if the four-platoon system would add more services to Fairbanks citizens and answered his own question by declaring that it would not. He stated, however, that it would add a lot more personnel with the same minimum staffing of 11 that existed a few years ago. He recalled hearing the new system lauded as a recruitment tool but pointed out that the department rarely has problems recruiting. He noted that retention of employees after two or three years is the real challenge, which is not dissimilar to every other business in town. He reiterated that a four-platoon system does not add services and that the reason no one else in Alaska uses it could be because it does not financially pan out. He expressed hope that the numbers he shared will convey the sense that the Council is going down the wrong path by adding so many positions in one year. **Mr. Cleworth** shared his concerns for the budget in general, citing that 2024 revenue was \$49,022,000 but only \$48,161,000 is projected for 2025. He pointed out that even with revenues on a downward trend, the Council is still adding 8.5 full-time equivalent positions. He discussed the stagnant population of roughly 32,000 over the last 30 years, and stated that despite that, the Council is constantly adding more positions. He referenced the restrictions under the City's Charter as well as the tax cap, stating that he fears the Council is going beyond capacity. He expressed concern that the Council is leaving no room for labor negotiations or extenuating circumstances and that it is throwing the dice, hoping that new or more revenue will come later. He cited the Finance Committee's repeated message of deficits being forecasted within just a few years. **Mr. Cleworth** reiterated that the Council has not put any money into the Capital Fund for FFD and that if he had any reason to believe it would pass, he would make a motion to move some funding from new positions to FFD's Capital Fund. He thanked the Mayor for starting off the budgeting process with a draft that included a \$2.6MM surplus and concluded by stating that the Council spends too much.

Mayor Pruhs asked what remained of the reserve after the amendments that had been made. CFO Bell reported that with all amendments factored in, the remaining reserve balance was \$1,704,984. She noted that with the now-adopted PSEA contract, that reserve amount dropped to \$495,496.

Ms. Therrien spoke to Mr. Cleworth's comments about the stagnant City population and pointed out that the City provides certain services for everyone in the Borough. She stated that many services, such as ambulance transports and traffic citations, generate revenue regardless of whether or not the individual is a City resident. She indicated that call volumes and the population of the entire surrounding area must be taken into consideration.

Mr. Cleworth agreed that there is a large daily influx of people who work, but do not live, within city limits, as well as an outflow of residents who work outside city limits. He spoke to the criticism the City sometimes receives for not taxing those who use City services but live elsewhere. He noted that taxes exist in various forms, such as business licenses and property taxes, and those costs must get passed on to customers in one way or another.

Mayor Pruhs thanked all Councilmembers for their hard work and valuable opinions, even when there were disagreements. He thanked staff members involved in the budget process, particularly CFO Bell and Chief of Staff Sanders, to whom he stated the City owes a debt of gratitude for their dedication. He expressed appreciation for all employees' understanding when something in the budgeting process does not seem to go in their favor.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6297, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6297, as Amended, ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5145 – A Resolution Stating the City of Fairbanks Legislative and Capital Priorities for 2025. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and all City Councilmembers.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Resolution No. 5146 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Participate in the FFY2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Resolution No. 5147 – A Resolution to Form a Cooperative Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and Moore Street Seniors, Inc. to Participate in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and all City Councilmembers.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Resolution No. 5148 – A Resolution Amending the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services by Eliminating the Fee for Telephonic Payments. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Resolution No. 5149 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2024 State Homeland Security Program. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- f) Ordinance No. 6300 – An Ordinance Establishing a Supplemental Retirement Permanent Life Insurance Plan for the City Attorney and Deputy City Attorney to Enhance Recruitment and Retention. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Councilmembers Tidwell, Marney, Ringstad, Therrien, and Sprinkle.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- g) Ordinance No. 6301 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 50-205, Adding Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day as an Observed City Holiday. Introduced by Councilmember Therrien.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- h) Ordinance No. 6302 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2025 Lavery Transportation Center Budget. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6302.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarification on the numbers presented in the Lavery Transportation Center budget. She noted that it is a zero-sum situation which does not cost the City anything but asked where the \$219,000 in operating cost came from. CFO Bell reported that the amount was provided by the Fairbanks Parking Authority and is calculated by expenditures over the last several years. **Ms. Sprinkle** asked if any revenue above what is in the adopted budget is split equally between the Authority and the City. CFO Bell explained that the City pays 100% of the operating cost for the Lavery Transportation Center and that some of that includes personnel costs associated with its operation. She clarified that the City does not pay for any parking enforcement agents that issue parking citations in the downtown area. **Ms. Sprinkle** thanked CFO Bell for the information and asked if this was the first time the Council has seen something like this. CFO Bell confirmed that the item was not included in the budget ordinance as it was not part of the Mayor's proposed budget. She indicated that it is a separate fund from those included in the budget process.

Mr. Marney asked if the Council has any say on the fees or charges levied by the Fairbanks Parking Authority. CFO Bell shared that the Authority has a board that reviews the operating costs and other aspects of the parking garage and that they make changes as necessary. She stated that there have not been any changes in three or four years but that any time a proposal is considered, it comes to her for review. She affirmed that the organization works closely with her and communicates well. **Mr. Marney** shared that he recently saw that there is a special rate being offered for Sunday evenings to make it easier for people to move their vehicles off the street for snow removal. CFO Bell reported that the majority of the parking garage's revenue is from monthly contracts and businesses that pay a monthly fee to reserve a certain number of spots.

Mr. Ringstad asked for clarification on a reference in the document to a Capital Fund balance. CFO Bell thanked Mr. Ringstad for catching that and affirmed that it was a typo. She said it should read, "Fairbanks Transportation Fund Balance," which is a separate account with its own balance

at the end of each year, due to it being a property. **Mr. Ringstad** acknowledged that he was still unsure of how a ~\$5.7MM balance exists for a facility that does not make anything beyond what it costs to operate. CFO Bell clarified that the balance includes the value of the facility itself and that it is not a cash account. **Mr. Ringstad** asked if there was a separate cash account for capital needs for the garage. CFO Bell indicated that there is not such an account and that any major purchases or infrastructure changes occur through the Transportation Fund. **Mr. Ringstad** asked how a major expense for the garage would be covered. CFO Bell reported that as far as available cash, there is about \$80,000 in property value that could be accessed. She noted that page 17 of the most recent audit outlines the associated financial values for the Lavery Transportation Center. **Mr. Ringstad** asked if the Authority would have to come before the Council to seek funding for a large improvement or repair. CFO Bell confirmed that was correct and, if approved, it would involve a transfer from the General Fund. **Mr. Ringstad** pointed out that all other departments are expected to budget for and set aside funds to build their own capital accounts, but that does not seem to be the case for the parking garage. CFO Bell stated that was also correct.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if that was something that could be implemented. CFO Bell confirmed that the Council could include a transfer of any amount into a fund for that exact purpose by way of a budget amendment. She shared that there have been times she has included a request for a transfer into the Transportation Fund as part of a budget amendment.

Mr. Ringstad asked if there were liability concerns should something happen to a vehicle in the garage that was parked under a contract. Attorney Chard stated he would have to review the lease agreement to determine the extent of liability and better understand the ownership of the structure.

Mr. Marney asked if there was history to show the transfers that have occurred over the years. CFO Bell referred him to the audit which included records of all transferred amounts.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6302 AS FOLLOWS:

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

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

a) Reappointment to the Permanent Fund Review Board

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ringstad stated he had no report or additional comments.

Mr. Marney shared that he had attended his first Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) meeting in November, that he already knew some of the members, and that it appears to be something that will be worth his while.

Ms. Tidwell reported that she has not had any meetings for some time for either of the committees she participates in but that they both have something scheduled soon. She expressed relief to be done with the budget process. **Mayor Pruhs** thanked Ms. Tidwell for her diligent service as a member of the Planning Commission, noting that her time serving on that body will soon be coming to an end. **Ms. Tidwell** stated that she will miss serving on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Cleworth stated he had no report or additional comments.

Ms. Therrien expressed regret that she had not been able to help Mr. Marney with a previous service opportunity but shared that she was able to visit the Rescue Mission with her Rotary Club over the Thanksgiving holiday. She stated that she was impressed that the Rescue Mission houses 200 people and that the facility is in great condition. She expressed gratitude that the Mayor reappointed Patty Mongold to the Permanent Fund Review Board, where Ms. Mongold has served well as the Chair. **Mayor Pruhs** shared that he had visited P. Mongold recently and that she told him about her upcoming retirement, which did not deter him from reappointing her. He agreed that she brings a wealth of knowledge and confidence to the Board. **Ms. Therrien** asked how the meeting had gone with the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Mayor to discuss legislative priorities. **Mayor Pruhs** shared that it did not happen and that they are working to reschedule.

Ms. Sprinkle reported that she will soon attend her first meeting of the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in the Mayor's stead. She shared that she believes there is a collective recognition by the community of the detrimental impact that the elimination of local news programs has had. She expressed frustration that an entity in Atlanta, Georgia could end the local news in Fairbanks, Alaska. She stated she was unsure how to approach the issue.

Mayor Pruhs invited City Lobbyist, Yuri Morgan, to give a brief report on legislative priorities and his efforts to help see them come to fruition. Y. Morgan thanked the Mayor and Council for approving the resolution outlining priorities for 2025. He indicated that the current list has more items than in past years, which will keep them quite busy. He reviewed details of the upcoming legislative session and expressed excitement to continue to advocate on behalf of the City.

Ms. Sprinkle asked Y. Morgan if he would like the priorities presented in a different format, such as a ranking of primary concerns. Y. Morgan stated that it does not matter to him but that the Council is always welcome to convey a particular priority. He indicated that although the items are numbered, he does not interpret that to imply order of priority. He affirmed that he would review each item and set a strategy for how to best reach the desired outcome. He acknowledged the wide selection of issues on the list.

Ms. Therrien recalled how Y. Morgan would meet with the City's Legislative Committee in the past and asked if he would be making time to do that again. Y. Morgan confirmed that he would continue to do so along with working with the Chief of Staff. He reiterated that it will be important to talk to individuals outside of the Interior Delegation, given the City's list of priorities.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider stated that she had nothing to report.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard indicated that he had nothing to report. He expressed his continued thanks for the Councilmembers' dedication and commitment to the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ENTER into an Executive Session to discuss FFU/COF 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) FFU/COF Labor Negotiations [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(1)] (*entered at 8:43 p.m.*)

Mr. Cleworth stated that the Council met in Executive Session to discuss FFU/COF Labor Negotiations. He affirmed that direction was given to staff, and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Therrien, 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 9:15 p.m.

DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC



800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Pruhs and City Council Members

FROM: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk



SUBJECT: Alcohol License Renewal Applications

DATE: January 8, 2025

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
5927	Hyatt Place Fairbanks	Beverage Dispensary Tourism	Fairbanks Hospitality, LLC	400 Merhar Avenue
4547	Humble Roots Beer Project	Beverage Dispensary	Humble Roots, LLC	104 Chief Evan Drive
4819	The Antler Room	Beverage Dispensary	The Antler Room, Inc.	1003 Pioneer Road, #A

Pursuant to FGC Sec. 14-178 the Council must determine whether to protest alcohol license renewal applications after holding a public hearing. Per FGC Sec. 14-167(b), I have sent written notice of the public hearing to the above-listed licensees. The 60-day response deadline to AMCO for these alcohol license renewals is February 7, 2025.

The Police Department has included call reports for the locations listed above, but **there are no department-recommended protests** for these alcohol license renewal applications.

CITY OF FAIRBANKS PUBLIC SAFETY

Event List with Report Numbers

Report #	Call Time	Nature	Location	Prime Unit	Disp.	Close Time
24004175	12/17/2024 03:50:05	ASSAULT - DELTA	400 MERHAR AVE	O37	RPT	12/17/2024 04:55:25
	12/12/2024 02:01:22	SI - FOLLOW-UP	400 MERHAR AVE	O37	NRP	12/12/2024 02:07:29
24004123	12/11/2024 22:57:37	SUSP CIRCUMSTANCES -	400 MERHAR AVE	O37	RPT	12/12/2024 00:02:18
24003722	11/05/2024 22:09:00	DISTURBANCE PHYSICAL	400 MERHAR AVE	O16	RPT	11/05/2024 22:42:20
	11/05/2024 07:41:12	TRESPASS/UNWANTED -	400 MERHAR AVE		CALL	11/05/2024 07:59:16
24003706	11/05/2024 01:08:59	DISTURBANCE VERBAL	400 MERHAR AVE	O17	RPT	11/05/2024 01:51:44
	11/04/2024 11:00:38	THEFT OR VEH THEFT	400 MERHAR AVE	O50	NRP	11/04/2024 19:24:44
	09/27/2024 12:30:10	ASSAULT CHARLIE -JUST	400 MERHAR AVE	O5	NRP	09/27/2024 13:05:24
	07/22/2024 08:08:11	LOST PROPERTY - ALPHA	400 MERHAR AVE		COMM	07/22/2024 08:36:27
	07/09/2024 03:14:19	TRESPASS/UNWANTED -	400 MERHAR AVE	O25	NRP	07/09/2024 03:26:29
24001744	06/02/2024 12:10:32	FOUND PROPERTY -	400 MERHAR AVE	O31	RPT	06/02/2024 13:09:35
	04/17/2024 14:03:25	THEFT FROM VEHICLE -	400 MERHAR AVE		COMM	04/17/2024 14:27:59
	04/15/2024 04:19:34	TRESPASS/UNWANTED -	400 MERHAR AVE	O11	NRP	04/15/2024 04:33:31
	04/08/2024 06:57:23	DISTURBANCE VERBAL	400 MERHAR AVE	S19	NRP	04/08/2024 07:49:17
	03/18/2024 21:21:18	TRESPASS/UNWANTED -	400 MERHAR AVE	O37	NRP	03/18/2024 22:32:48
24000353	02/04/2024 15:59:32	PAST VEHICLE THEFT -	400 MERHAR AVE	O31	RPT	02/04/2024 19:22:17
	01/21/2024 00:54:51	SI - FIELD CONTACT	400 MERHAR AVE	S5	NRP	01/21/2024 00:56:22
	01/15/2024 09:14:57	DISTURBANCE VERBAL	400 MERHAR AVE	O42	NRP	01/15/2024 10:45:30
	01/03/2024 03:48:23	TRESPASS/UNWANTED -	400 MERHAR AVE	O17	NRP	01/03/2024 04:01:22

Total Number of Events Listed: 19

CAD

CAD ToolbarOptionsModulesReportsDisplay

Event History

Out of Service Log

Tow Rotation Listing

Tow Records

Wrecker Companies

Sites

Premise Ranges

Employee

Advisories

Advisory List

BOL Entry

BOL Search

Related Names

Modules

MonitorLoc CheckPhone DirCommand LineLast 200Event HistoryNG911 Text HistoryNG911 Text History

Incident / Event (Search)

LinkEvent IDCall recvAVLPrintReport

Event InfoNotesTimesR/E LogOtherLog EntryAni/AlPatientsEmployeeNamesVehicles

Rpt #SourcePUEMSFireLawRescOthr

Loc104 CHIEF EVAN DRFAIRServiceAgency FPD

X-STDistrictRA

BusiCall group

NaturePriorityQA

CallerPQA HistAlarm

AddressPh#RapidSOS

Veh #Rpt onlyVehRMS statusSend To RMSSend Export

☒ Include delayed events☒ Include cancelled eventsView TextRe-Open

PrevNextAddDuplicateDeleteSearchViewExit Srch

ONESolution CAD

No match found.

Ok

CITY OF FAIRBANKS PUBLIC SAFETY

Event List with Report Numbers

Report #	Call Time	Nature	Location	Prime Unit	Disp.	Close Time
	07/20/2024 12:23:14	TRESPASS OVERRIDE -	1003 PIONEER RD	O5	NRP	07/20/2024 13:17:29
	05/25/2024 02:07:40	SUSP CIRCUMSTANCES -	1003 PIONEER RD	O17	NRP	05/25/2024 02:18:02
	05/08/2024 12:54:53	SI - FOLLOW-UP	1003 PIONEER RD	O6	NRP	05/08/2024 12:58:13
	05/07/2024 20:47:32	TRESPASS/UNWANTED -	1003 PIONEER RD	O17	NRP	05/08/2024 06:46:31
24001436	05/07/2024 19:17:27	SUPP-	1003 PIONEER RD	C3	RPT	05/07/2024 20:22:00
	05/07/2024 14:47:20	TRESPASS/UNWANTED -	1003 PIONEER RD	O6	NRP	05/07/2024 15:06:44
	04/02/2024 22:57:44	ALARM BURGLARY -	1003 PIONEER RD	S5	FAB	04/02/2024 23:12:44

Total Number of Events Listed: 7




800 Cushman Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Pruhs and City Council Members

FROM: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk 

SUBJECT: Marijuana License Renewal Applications

DATE: January 8, 2025

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
10869	Grass Station 49	Retail Marijuana Store	The Grass Station, LLC	1326 Cushman Street
16006	Arctic Bakery, LLC	Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility	Arctic Bakery, LLC	1409 Well Street
10278	GoodSinse, LLC	Retail Marijuana Store	GoodSinse, LLC	2604 Davis Road
10279	GoodSinse, LLC	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	GoodSinse, LLC	2604 Davis Road

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 marijuana license renewals is February 7, 2025.

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. FNSB and AMCO responded that they have no complaints on file for these licenses within the past year.

The Police Department has included a call report for the locations listed above, but **there are no department-recommended protests** for these marijuana license renewal applications.

CITY OF FAIRBANKS PUBLIC SAFETY

Event List with Report Numbers

Report #	Call Time	Nature	Location	Prime Unit	Disp.	Close Time
	11/19/2024 19:28:26	DISTURBANCE VERBAL	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O30	CALL	11/19/2024 19:30:38
24003049	09/06/2024 18:27:02	VIOLATION OF CRT	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O42	RPT	09/06/2024 20:25:09
	08/29/2024 22:18:35	PHYSICAL DOMESTIC	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O33	NRP	08/29/2024 22:29:08
	08/28/2024 18:23:19	MISCHIEF - CHARLIE	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O42	NRP	08/28/2024 19:30:21
24002687	08/09/2024 11:49:45	ASSAULT - DELTA	1326 CUSHMAN ST	C3	RPT	08/09/2024 11:49:45
24002468	07/24/2024 21:05:12	FOUND PROPERTY -	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O17	RPT	07/25/2024 00:41:22
	07/19/2024 19:06:19	DISTURBANCE PHYSICAL	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O31	NRP	07/19/2024 19:12:28
24002151	07/02/2024 08:16:33	ASSAULT - DELTA	1326 CUSHMAN ST	C3	RPT	07/02/2024 09:14:40
	05/23/2024 19:09:22	URGENT WELFARE	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O11	NRP	05/23/2024 19:17:12
	04/13/2024 00:47:16	ALARM BURGLARY -	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O28	FAB	04/13/2024 00:56:51
24000696	03/06/2024 23:22:15	THEFT FROM VEHICLE -	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O5	RPT	03/07/2024 00:11:36
	02/18/2024 11:17:42	DISTURBANCE PHYSICAL	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O6	NRP	02/18/2024 11:30:14
	01/29/2024 14:50:53	TRESPASS/UNWANTED -	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O6	NRP	01/29/2024 15:29:40
	01/13/2024 12:50:32	LOST PROPERTY - ALPHA	1326 CUSHMAN ST	S21	NRP	01/13/2024 13:16:42
23004780	12/30/2023 14:42:42	LOST PROPERTY - ALPHA	1326 CUSHMAN ST	O50	RPT	12/30/2023 15:36:21

Total Number of Events Listed: **15**

CITY OF FAIRBANKS PUBLIC SAFETY

Event List with Report Numbers

Report #	Call Time	Nature	Location	Prime Unit	Disp.	Close Time
	08/13/2024 16:19:20	ALARM BURGLARY -	1409 WELL ST		CBAC	08/13/2024 16:24:36
	07/03/2024 16:01:20	ALARM BURGLARY -	1409 WELL ST		CALL	07/03/2024 16:06:49
	06/14/2024 06:07:54	ALARM BURGLARY -	1409 WELL ST	O30	FAB	06/14/2024 06:19:32
	02/23/2024 15:38:23	ALARM BURGLARY -	1409 WELL ST	O31	FAB	02/23/2024 16:10:44
	02/15/2024 16:16:31	ALARM BURGLARY -	1409 WELL ST	O42	FAN	02/15/2024 16:29:29
	02/15/2024 15:08:40	ALARM BURGLARY -	1409 WELL ST	O7	FAB	02/15/2024 15:22:50

Total Number of Events Listed: 6

CITY OF FAIRBANKS PUBLIC SAFETY

Event List with Report Numbers

Report #	Call Time	Nature	Location	Prime Unit	Disp.	Close Time
23004592	12/14/2023 15:29:59	FRAUD/FORGERY -	2604 DAVIS RD	O6	RPT	12/14/2023 17:17:12

Total Number of Events Listed: 1

ORDINANCE NO. 6301

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE
SECTION 50-205, ADDING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
AS AN OBSERVED CITY HOLIDAY**

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to the struggle for justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, the third Monday in January is observed as a federal and state holiday recognizing the life and legacy of Dr. King; and

WHEREAS, for over a decade the City of Fairbanks has honored the work of Dr. King by recognizing the third Monday in January as a day of service and encouraged City employees to use part of their on-duty day to attend training on diversity and cultural awareness and to engage in volunteer activities to help those in need; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to encourage activities that raise awareness and promote service in honor of Dr. King.

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

SECTION 1. Fairbanks General Code, Section 50-205(a), is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~strike through~~ font]:

Sec. 50-205. - Holidays.

(a) The following days are observed as holidays:

(1) January 1—New Year's Day;

(2) Third Monday in January—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday;

~~(2)~~ **(3)** Third Monday in February—Presidents Day;

~~(3)~~ **(4)** Last Monday in May—Memorial Day;

~~(4)~~ **(5)** July 4—Independence Day;

~~(5)~~ **(6)** First Monday in September—Labor Day;

~~(6)~~ **(7)** November 11—Veterans Day;

~~(7)~~ **(8)** Fourth Thursday in November—Thanksgiving Day;

~~(8)~~ **(9)** December 25—Christmas Day;

~~(9)~~ **(10)** Personal holiday (2).

SECTION 2. The effective date of this ordinance shall be five days after adoption.

David Pruhs, Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
ADOPTED:

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: 6301

Abbreviated Title: ORDINANCE AMENDING FGC SECTION 50-205 ADDING DR KING JR HOLIDAY

Department(s): ALL [EXCEPT FIRE DEPARTMENT]

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:

EXPENDITURES:	2025+	TOTAL
TEMPORARY PAY FOR ADDITIONAL LABORERS [PUBLIC WORKS]	\$ 4,080	\$ 4,080
HOLIDAY OVERTIME PAY [POLICE AND FECC]	\$ 29,805	\$ 29,805
TOTAL	\$ 33,885	\$ 33,885

FUNDING SOURCE:	2025+	TOTAL
GENERAL FUND [POLICE, FECC, PUBLIC WORKS]	\$ 33,885	\$ 33,885
TOTAL	\$ 33,885	\$ 33,885

Since the budget includes the cost for all working hours for staff, this fiscal note reflects overtime costs for working on the holiday for Police and FECC and double garbage day for Public Works. The Fire Department observes this day as a holiday and has one personal holiday. If the Fire Department receives another personal holiday, the total cost for the holiday is \$128,490 (includes overtime cost).

Prepared by Finance Department:

Initial mb

Date 11/21/2024

RESOLUTION NO. 5152

**A RESOLUTION ALLOCATING DISCRETIONARY FUNDS FROM
THE ROOM RENTAL TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR
HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$400,000.00)**

WHEREAS, the total amount of discretionary funds from the room rental tax for the FY2025 budget is four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor appointed a committee to review grant applications from organizations to determine how and to whom these funds should be distributed; and

WHEREAS, although most proposals were laudable and had merit, there is only a limited amount of funds available; and

WHEREAS, after due deliberation the Discretionary Fund Committee is bringing forth this recommendation for City Council consideration.

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

Section 1. The following named recipients are hereby allocated the total sum of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) as follows:

	Name of Organization	Award
1	Fairbanks Youth Litter Patrol, Inc.	\$ 12,333.00
2	Alaska International Senior Games, Inc.	\$ 16,333.00
3	World I.C.E. Association dba: Ice Alaska	\$ 40,920.00
4	North Star Community Foundation/Friends of S.S. Nenana	\$ 30,167.00
5	Pioneer Memorial Park, Inc. dba Fairbanks Pioneer Museum	\$ 19,833.00
6	Clay Street Cemetery Commission	\$ 11,712.00
7	Festival Fairbanks, Inc.	\$ 28,167.00
8	Friends of Creamer's Field	\$ 15,337.00
9	Yukon Quest International, Ltd. (Yukon Quest Alaska)	\$ 34,667.00
10	Cold Steel Pan Orchestra	\$ 2,675.00
11	Fairbanks Children's Museum	\$ 13,833.00
12	The World Eskimo-Indian Olympics	\$ 21,416.00

	Name of Organization (continued)	Award
13	Georgeson Botanical Garden Friends	\$ 12,104.00
14	Alaska Songbird Institute	\$ 9,299.00
15	Alaska Dog Musher's Association, Inc.	\$ 26,833.00
16	Fairbanks Youth Soccer Association	\$ 8,917.00
17	Alaska Goldpanner Baseball, Inc.	\$ 30,167.00
18	University of Alaska Museum of the North	\$ 6,410.00
19	Fairbanks Community Band, Inc.	\$ 12,750.00
20	Literacy Council of Alaska	\$ 9,700.00
21	Fairbanks Community Museum	\$ 18,667.00
22	Downtown Association of Fairbanks Community Services	\$ 12,660.00
23	Golden Heart Consulting	\$ 5,100.00
	TOTAL	\$ 400,000.00

Section 2. The effective date of this resolution is five days after adoption.

David Pruhs, 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: 5152

Abbreviated Title: RESOLUTION ALLOCATING DISCRETIONARY FUNDS FOR 2025

Department(s): GENERAL

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:	TOTAL
ROOM RENTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ -

FUNDING SOURCE:	TOTAL
GENERAL FUND [GENERAL ACCOUNT]	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ -

This fiscal note reflects that the room rental distribution for discretionary grants in the amount of \$400,000 was appropriated in the 2025 budget in accordance with Fairbanks General Code 74-117 (b)(3).

Prepared by Finance Department: Initial mb Date 1/3/2025

Introduced By: Councilmember Marney
Councilmember Cleworth
Councilmember Tidwell
Councilmember Therrien
Councilmember Ringstad
Councilmember Sprinkle
Date: January 13, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 5153

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FAIRBANKS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S APPLICATION TO BE DESIGNATED AS THE ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (ARDOR) FOR THE INTERIOR REGION

WHEREAS, Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORs) were first established in 1988 under A.S. § 44.33.895 to encourage economic development for local communities and businesses within their region, collect and distribute economic information relevant to their region, develop and implement strategies to attract new industry, expand international trade opportunities, and encourage tourism within their region; and

WHEREAS, the current boundary of the Interior Region ARDOR, the municipal boundary of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), encompasses and includes the City of Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's Department of Community and Economic Development designated the Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission as the ARDOR for the Interior Region in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Fairbanks North Star Borough Code § 4.40 establishes the Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission, defines the Commission's purpose and scope, and lists among the Commission's responsibilities that it serves as an ARDOR; and

WHEREAS, regional development organizations are defined at A.S. § 44.33.896(f)(2) as nonprofit organizations or nonprofit corporations formed to encourage economic development within a particular region of the state that includes the entire area of each municipality within that region; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) is a nonprofit corporation providing economic development services to the City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, and FNSB; and

WHEREAS, A.S. § 44.33.896(f) further requires that the ARDOR have a board of directors that represents the region's economic, political, and social interests; and

WHEREAS, FEDC's board of directors includes representatives of the FNSB's three municipalities, key industry participants, and social interests; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by FEDC encompass all the activities envisioned for ARDORs by the State of Alaska and residents of the FNSB, including the creation, maintenance, and implementation of the community's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); and

WHEREAS, FEDC is applying to the Alaska Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development (DCCED) for the direct transfer of ARDOR-status from the FNSB to FEDC, within the existing service territory.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA that the City of Fairbanks supports Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation's application to become the official Alaska Regional Development Organization for the Interior Region of Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Fairbanks encourages the Alaska Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development to designate the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation as the ARDOR for Interior Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the effective date of this resolution is six days after it has been adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the City of Fairbanks is directed to provide copies of this resolution, once adopted, to the Clerk of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Clerk of the City of North Pole, and Director of the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation.

David Pruhs, City Mayor

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

Introduced by: Councilmember Sprinkle
Councilmember Cleworth
Councilmember Tidwell
Date: January 13, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 5154

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
CHALLENGING THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
ASSEMBLY TO A FRIENDLY BOWLING MATCH**

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks City Council and the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Assembly share a longstanding tradition of cooperation and mutual respect in serving the citizens of the FNSB; and

WHEREAS, it is important to foster camaraderie and strengthen the spirit of friendly competition among elected officials in order to build better working relationships and promote a sense of community; and

WHEREAS, physical activity, such as bowling, is a fun and engaging way to promote teamwork, sportsmanship, and local engagement while encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle for all participants; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the value of engaging in friendly challenges to raise awareness about important community causes and build stronger partnerships with our local government colleagues; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that a bowling match between the Council and the FNSB Assembly would be an excellent opportunity for local elected officials to bond in a spirited, low-pressure environment, showcasing leadership, community involvement, and good-natured fun.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, that the Fairbanks City Council hereby challenges the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly to a friendly bowling match at a date and time mutually agreed upon by both parties, with the intent of fostering cooperation, community spirit, and, of course, friendly competition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the winner shall be determined by the highest average scores of three bowling matches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council invites the public to attend, cheer, and participate in any related community events to celebrate this unique opportunity for elected officials to interact in a fun and inclusive environment.

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

David Pruhs, City Mayor

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 5155

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO BRAUN NORTHWEST
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$340,000 FOR AN AMBULANCE**

WHEREAS, in accordance with FGC Chapter 54, Article VI, Section 54-242, the purchasing agent may participate in a cooperative purchasing agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City identified Braun Northwest through a cooperative purchasing agreement that can provide an ambulance in the amount of \$340,000 that meets the specifications required by the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to contract with Braun Northwest in the amount of three hundred forty thousand (\$340,000.00); and

WHEREAS, funding was approved in the Capital Fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Fairbanks, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a contract and such other documents in a form approved by the City Attorney as may be necessary to award this contract to Braun Northwest for an ambulance.

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

PASSED and APPROVED this 13th day of January 2025.

David Pruhs, City Mayor

YEAS:
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: 5155

Abbreviated Title: AWARDING CONTRACT TO BRAUN NORTHWEST

Department(s): FIRE DEPARTMENT

Does the adoption of this ordinance or resolution authorize:

1) additional costs beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No x

2) additional support or maintenance costs? Yes _____ No x

If yes, what is the estimate? see below

3) additional positions beyond the current adopted budget? Yes _____ No x

If yes, how many positions? _____

If yes, type of positions? _____ (F - Full Time, P - Part Time, T - Temporary)

II. FINANCIAL DETAIL:

PROJECTS:	PURCHASE COST
AMBULANCE	\$340,000
TOTAL	\$340,000

FUNDING SOURCE:	TOTAL
CAPITAL FUND (FIRE DEPARTMENT)	\$340,000
TOTAL	\$340,000

The operations and maintenance costs associated with this equipment will be performed by Public Works and incorporated in the annual general fund budget.

Reviewed by Finance Department:

Initial mb

Date 1/7/2025

RESOLUTION NO. 5156

**A RESOLUTION CLOSING CITY HALL ON THE THIRD MONDAY IN
JANUARY OF EACH YEAR IN OBSERVANCE OF REVEREND DR.
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. graduated from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania in 1951 and later earned his doctorate from Boston University. He answered a call in 1954 at the age of 25 to pastor Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, which ironically was the original capital of the Confederacy in 1861; and

WHEREAS, he famously stated at the March on Washington in 1963 that, "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character;" and

WHEREAS, Reverend King devoted himself to the struggle for justice and equality for all, enduring many hardships for his family and himself along the journey, which ultimately cost him his life; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks City Council adopted Resolution No. 4609 (attached) on January 20, 2014, establishing a Day of Service and Honor for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Fairbanks that the Patrick B. Cole City Hall will be closed on the third Monday of January each year in observance of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and that non-essential employees City-wide, with the approval of their department head, will be afforded the opportunity to participate in community events honoring that day.

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

PASSED and APPROVED this ___ Day of ____ 2025.

David Pruhs, City Mayor

YEAS:
NAYS:
ABSENT
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

Introduced By: Mayor John Eberhart
Date: January 20, 2014

RESOLUTION NO. 4609, AS AMENDED

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING A DAY OF SERVICE IN HONOR OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. devoted his life to the struggle for justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, the third Monday in January is recognized as a federal holiday and a holiday in all fifty states;

WHEREAS, all across the country, Dr. King's legacy is honored with a national day of service; and

WHEREAS, by dedicating this day to service, we move closer to Dr. King's vision of all Americans living and working together as one beloved community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, that the third Monday in January is recognized as a day of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his principle of justice for all. On this day, the Mayor is authorized to modify City operations so employees may use part of their on-duty day to attend approved in-service training on diversity or cultural awareness and/or engage in approved volunteer activities to help those in need.

PASSED and APPROVED this 20th day of January 2014.



JOHN EBERHART, MAYOR

AYES: Anderson, Gatewood, Staley, Hilling, Matherly, Walley
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
APPROVED: January 20, 2014

ATTEST:



JANEY HOVENDEN, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



PAUL J. EWERS, City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. 6303

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE,
CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE III, SECTIONS 26-94 AND 26-95, AMENDING
THE TERM OF A PRIVATE AMBULANCE SERVICE LICENSE AND
RENEWAL PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks City Council adopted Ordinance No. 6293, as amended, adding regulations governing private ambulance services and amending the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services, on October 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, preparing for implementation of the new license type, sections of the Fairbanks General Code that would benefit from additional clarification and guidance became apparent.

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

Section 1. That Fairbanks General Code Section 26-94 is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~striketrough~~ font]:

Sec. 26-94. Contents of application for license; term of license; non-transferability.

(a) An application for a PAS license shall be made to the fire chief on an approved form and shall be accompanied by the following:

- (1) Payment of fee(s) pursuant to the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services. **License fees may be prorated for an entity not licensed under this chapter at any point in the previous year.**
- (2) Proof of insurance for all vehicles to be operated as ambulances pursuant to the license as required by FGC Sec. 26-98.
- (3) A complete list of the name, address, email address, and telephone number for every person who shall have a financial or proprietary interest in the license.
- (4) Proof that the applicant is at least 18 years of age.
- (5) Proof of current State of Alaska and City of Fairbanks business licenses.
- (6) Proof that the personnel required to operate the ambulance service are available as of the effective date of the license.
- (7) Proof that the applicant has acquired and installed the equipment that FGC Sec. 26-104 requires for each vehicle to be operated as an ambulance as of the effective date of the license.
- (8) Identification of the EMS medical director required by FGC Sec. 26-106(b).

(9) Identification of the vehicles to be operated as ambulances by vehicle registration number, VIN number, make, model, and year; proof that both the body and mechanics of each vehicle is in good repair; and proof that the applicant is lawfully entitled to use each vehicle for the purpose of an ambulance service.

(10) Proof that any new or used ambulances purchased after July 27, 2021, or any ambulance remounts completed after that date, are certified as meeting one or more of the following nationally recognized standards for ambulance design:

a. the most recent published version of the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Specification for Star-of-Life Ambulances (KKK-A-1822),

b. the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services Ground Vehicle Standard v 3.0 (CAAS-GVS), or

c. the National Fire Protection Association Standard for Automotive Ambulances (NFPA 1917).

(11) A complete description of the ambulance markings and color scheme to be used in compliance with FGC Sec. 26-103.

(12) Proof of current registration with the State of Alaska as an emergency medical service ground ambulance service.

(13) Attestation by the PAS's EMS director or medical sponsor that PAS personnel have, and will continue to receive, the necessary training and certification (if applicable) to know how to use the current Standing Orders published by the Interior Region Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc. (IREMSC), and will practice within their scope and according to the current IREMSC Standing Orders.

(14) Initial applicants will be required to submit a copy of their business plan.

(15) Certification by the city's chief financial officer or designee that the entity and person(s) applying for license are not reported as being delinquent on any city taxes or fees and have no outstanding judgments or debts owed to the city or borough.

(b) The fire chief shall issue a license if the applicant complies with all the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, unless good cause exists for denial. A license issued pursuant to this section is nontransferable and shall be valid for **up to** one year unless revoked or suspended pursuant to FGC Sec. 26-96.

Section 2. That Fairbanks General Code Section 26-95 is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~striketrough~~ font]:

Sec. 26-95. - Renewal of license

(a) A license issued pursuant to this chapter ~~is valid for one year from the date of issuance and will expire automatically if an application for renewal is not received by the fire chief~~

~~prior to the expiration of the license~~ **the last day of February each year.**

(b) ~~All ambulance service licenses will renew March 1 of every year.~~

~~(1) Fees may be prorated for the first year.~~

~~(2) Applications for renewal are due February 1st of each year. Late submissions may be denied or charged a late fee in accordance with the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services.~~ **Entities will be notified that their license has been renewed by February 15th. Renewed licenses take effect March 1st.**

(c) ~~An application~~ **applicant wishing** to renew an ambulance service license ~~is made to the fire chief in the same manner as an original application and shall be treated in the same manner as an original application.~~ **must satisfy the same requirements as provided in Section 26-94.**

(d) If a licensee is no longer qualified to hold the license at the time of renewal, the fire chief shall not approve the renewal of the license.

(e) Any person or entity that has forfeited a license pursuant to this chapter may not apply for a new license for a period of two years from the date of forfeiture.

(f) A complete schedule of ambulance licensure fees will be available for inspection at the fire chief's office and at the city website. Any increase in fees will be made available for public inspection and must be approved by the city council.

Section 3. That the effective date of this ordinance is six days after adoption.

David Pruhs, City Mayor

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney

City of Fairbanks

MEMORANDUM



To: City Council Members
From: David Pruhs, City Mayor
Subj: Request for Concurrence – Board of Plumber Examiners
Date: January 8, 2025

The term of Seat B on the Board of Plumber Examiners, formerly filled by Thomas Fisher, expired on December 31, 2024. Mr. Fisher is relocating and will spend most of his time out of state, so he does not intend to reapply.

Aaron Mabee has applied to serve on the Board and meets the required qualifications. I hereby request your concurrence to the following **appointment**:

Mr. Aaron Mabee	Seat B	Term to Expire: June 30, 2027
-----------------	--------	-------------------------------

Mr. Mabee's application is attached.

Thank you.

dds/



City of Fairbanks, Alaska

Board of Plumber Examiners

Board Details

The Board of Plumber Examiners is empowered to perform the duties as prescribed in Sections 2-306 through 2-309, as well as Sections 14-291 through 14-301 of the Fairbanks General Code (FGC).

Overview

- Size** 6 Seats
- Term Length** 3 Years
- Term Limit** N/A

Additional

Board/Commission Characteristics

The Board of Plumber Examiners shall consist of five members, at least three members of the board shall be residents of the City, each member shall serve a three-year term. The members shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council. The chairman shall be elected by the Board of Examiners subject to approval by the City Council, and shall serve in this capacity for one year. The City Building Official shall be a non-voting, ex officio member of the board and shall act as secretary.

Meetings

The Board of Plumber Examiners shall meet at least once each quarter and all meetings shall be open to the public. The chairman in his discretion is authorized to call special meetings, or a majority of the members may require a special meeting to be called. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and three affirmative votes shall be necessary to carry any question. Permanent records, or minutes, shall be kept. The minutes shall promptly be filed in the Office of the City Clerk and shall be open to inspection by any person.

Enacting Legislation

FGC 2-306 through 2-309

Enacting Legislation Website

<http://bit.ly/2Csgr3v>

Joint Commission Details

N/A

Email the Commission Members

boardofplumberexaminers@fairbanks.us

Profile

Aaron

First Name

Mabee

Last Name

Email Address

Mailing Address

Are you a City of Fairbanks resident? *

☒ No

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Board of Plumber Examiners: Submitted

Interests and Experiences

Why are you interested in serving on a City board or commission? What experiences can you contribute to the benefit of the board or commission?

I take great interest in the health, safety and welfare of the community in regard to plumbing regulations in the City of Fairbanks. I believe that I can contribute to the board of Plumbing examiners from my direct experience in the field of plumbing in the City of Fairbanks. I began plumbing in Fairbanks in 2010, I received my mechanical administrators license in Fairbanks in 2020 and became a Master plumber in Fairbanks in 2023. With the time I have spent in the industry and the licenses I have attained; I am well versed in the local plumbing regulations, and with my experience in the field as a local plumbing business owner, I have an insight into plumbing as it relates to the City of Fairbanks. I also have experience serving on committees through my Local church.

Please provide a brief personal biography in the space below, or attach a resume.

2010-2014: Apprentice Plumber at Nenana Lumber Co. 2014-2018: Journeyman Plumber, and project foreman at Central Mechanical Inc, 2018-2019: Journeyman Plumber, and project foreman at Beckley Mechanical Co. 2019-2021: Journeyman Plumber, and Project Manager at Central Mechanical Inc 2021-2023: Journeyman Plumber, and Manager of Operations at Central Mechanical Inc 2023-Current: Mechanical Administrator & Co-Owner of Interior Plumbing & Heating, LLC

List any professional licenses or training you believe are relevant to the seat you are applying for.

State of Alaska Journeyman Plumbers license. State of Alaska Mechanical Administrators License (Unlimited). City of Fairbanks Master Plumbers License. IAPMO Backflow Testers License through the Municipality of Anchorage. State of ALask General Contractors license.

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Historic Preservation Commission
September 3, 2024
5:34 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held Tuesday, September 3, 2024, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

B. ROLL CALL

There were present:

Martin Gutoski	Amy Viltrakis
John Poirrier	Patricia Peirsol, Vice-Chair
Matthew Reckard, Chair	

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Melissa Kellner, Community Planning Deputy Director
Marko Stepovich, Project Engineer
Kayde Whiteside, Long-Range Planner III
Allison Emmett, Assistant Clerk I

Absent and Excused

NONE

C. MESSAGES

C.1. Citizens' Comments - limited to three (3) minutes

C.1.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

NONE

C.1.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

NONE

MESSAGES – continued

C.2. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

GUTOSKI,
Seconded by VILTRAKIS

moved to approve the agenda and consent
agenda as read.

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

Yeses: Viltrakis, Poirrier, Gutoski, Peirsol, Reckard

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 5 Yeses, 0 Noes

E. MINUTES

E.1. *Historic Preservation Commission meeting minutes from March 5, 2024.

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

E.2. *Historic Preservation Commission meeting minutes from April 2, 2024.

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

E.3. *Historic Preservation Commission meeting minutes from June 4, 2024.

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

E.4. *Special Historic Preservation Commission meeting minutes from July 30, 2024.

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

F. REPORTS

- F.1. Report from Melissa Kellner, Community Planning Deputy Director, and Kayde Whiteside, Long-Range Planner III.

Kayde Whiteside, Long-Range Planner III; Melissa Kellner, Community Planning Deputy Director; and Marko Stepovich, Project Engineer, reported on the following:

- Upcoming term expirations.
- News article regarding a previous work session on an update to Alaska's State Historic Preservation Plan.
- Certified Local Government program.
- Newsletter from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Office of History and Archaeology.
- Current maintenance and future construction plans for the S.S. Nenana.
- Consideration of the Chena Building for the National Register of Historic Places by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Office of History and Archaeology.

- F.2. Update from Sarah Fuerst, City of Fairbanks Grants and Contracts Administration Manager, regarding the Polaris Building Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Sarah Fuerst, City of Fairbanks Finance Department Representative, provided an update on the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Office of History and Archaeology's accepting of the research and the next steps.

- F.3. Report from Chair Reckard.

Chair Reckard reported on the following:

- Commission's usage of Robert's Rules of Order.
- National Register of Historic Places listing process.
- Historic property tax assessment freeze programs in other states.

G. NEW BUSINESS

- G.1. Review and potential recommendations regarding Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Consultation Letters.

Kayde Whiteside, Long-Range Planner III, presented on a letter now including additional findings of effect regarding the Murphy Dome Road Rehabilitation that the Commission had reviewed at a prior meeting.

Discussion ensued on the history of the project and a lack of impacts on historic properties.

No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS – continued

Ms. Whiteside presented on a letter regarding the renovation of Fort Wainwright Building 2077.

Discussion ensued on the location and exterior of the building and a lack of impacts on historic properties.

No action was taken.

G.2. Review and potential recommendations regarding Alaska Historic Preservation Act Consultation Letters.

Kayde Whiteside, Long-Range Planner III, stated that no letters had been received for review and/or a recommendation from the Commission.

G.3. Approval of a letter requesting information from the Administration identifying priorities and support for historic preservation activities.

Kayde Whiteside, Long-Range Planner III, and Melissa Kellner, Community Planning Deputy Director, presented on the transition to a new Borough Administration and a letter being drafted for the Commission's consideration.

No action was taken.

H. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

NONE

I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Reckard suggested including a discussion on historic property tax assessment freezes on the next meeting agenda and adding it to the Commission's priority list.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Historic Preservation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVED: December 3, 2024.



CLAY STREET CEMETERY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 6, 2024
HELD VIA [ZOOM WEBINAR](#) AND
IN FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA



The Clay Street Cemetery Commission convened at 5:07 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 Aldean Kilbourn** presiding and the following Commission members in attendance:

Members Present: George Dalton, Seat A
Jessica Desmond, Seat B
Aldean Kilbourn, Seat C
Janet Richardson, Seat D (remotely)
Julie Jones, Seat E
Amy Stratman, Seat G

Absent: Karen Erickson, Seat F
Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director

Also Present: Colt Chase, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2024

J. Jones, seconded by **A. Stratman**, moved to APPROVE the October 9, 2024 minutes.

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to APPROVE the October 9, 2024 minutes and all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

J. Jones, seconded by **A. Stratman**, moved to APPROVE the agenda.

Chair Kilbourn requested to add “New Member” under the “Open Agenda” section.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Chair Kilbourn shared that while conducting poll-watcher duties during the recently local election, she saw someone whose name was Joe, with a last name beginning with the letter “V”, whom she recalled being a frequent attendee of their Commission meetings. She shared that she had spoken with him and thought that he may come again to a future meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION

J. Jones reported that she had been approached by a member of the Elks Lodge who used to serve as their “Exalted Leader”, who expressed a desire to undertake a new community project, with a hands-on component and budget of \$10K. She shared that she encouraged them to consider helping the Commission with upgrading the Elks section of the cemetery. She noted that much of the Elks section had already been updated to the best of their ability as a former Elks member had possessed significant records and was unwilling to share them. J. Jones stated that this member had eventually moved away and turned those records over to local funeral home director Keith Blanchard, who admitted to having lost them. She indicated that she has been encouraging leadership at the Lodge to continue to check their own recordkeeping areas to determine if the same information may be available elsewhere. She reported that one of the Elks she has spoken with shared that K. Blanchard had recently made a comment suggesting that he had once again come across said records. J. Jones stated that she encouraged them to connect with K. Blanchard and find a way to have those records shared with the Commission, to which they agreed. She indicated that while the Lodge had not yet made any official commitments, they expressed their intent to donate \$10K and support the effort to finish the rest of the Elks section of the cemetery.

A. Stratman asked if there are still unknown or unmarked graves in the Elks section. **J. Jones** confirmed that there are and that this project, assuming the records were found and shared, would make significant progress on these outstanding locations. She stated that the Lodge leaders are very excited about the idea.

EVENTS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chair Kilbourn acknowledged that an order of markers had been delivered to the cemetery prior to the start of winter, which has been covered and will be ready for placement once they have an idea of spring weather. She reported that volunteer Dusty Spencer had confirmed the willingness of his National Guard group to again participate in workdays for the next season.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

J. Jones reported that some invoices had been paid earlier that day which meant that the financial report included in the agenda packet was now not up to date. She shared details about paying the final bill for the graphic artist for the new high pressure laminate signs as well as an order from Fairbanks Precast for any more concrete pads they could afford. She explained that they will have to wait to order more gravel. J. Jones affirmed that the supplemental \$10K that had been allocated by the City Council earlier in the year had been fully expended. She stated that their account balance would now be \$2,606.10 which was just slightly under their starting balance for 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Quiring Monument Orders

J. Richardson reported that J. Jones had submitted a first round of mockups for their next order and that the results were terrible. She noted problems with specific instructions not being followed regarding lines, spacing, font sizes, and more, requiring significant corrections. **Chair Kilbourn** suggested they include a note reiterating that they want their products to be engraved exactly as the Commission submits them.

J. Jones confirmed that the proofs were riddled with spelling errors which did not exist in their original submission and that these human errors were becoming more common. She added that some of the

individual data on markers were also incorrect and was creating headaches. She shared that on several occasions she has responded to the proofs by simply asking them to refer to their original submission. **Chair Kilbourn** asked if she was working with the same company representative or someone new. **J. Jones** reported that while their previous representative still works for Quiring, they are in another department now and that their current contact is someone newer. She stated that she is unsure what is causing the disconnect between them and the graphics department. She also noted that in the past she would receive an email prompting her to review any updated layouts, which seems to not be occurring lately. **J. Jones** shared that she asked for, and received, login credentials to allow her to regularly check for updates on her own, avoiding delays from notifications not being sent or going to her junk folder.

b) High Pressure Laminate Sign

J. Jones reported that this has been completed. She explained how one draft of the sign had included pixelated lettering which prompted her to remind the company that high-resolution vector format files of the source material had previously been provided. She shared that they have a credit of about \$900 which could be used to cover a substantial portion of another project that **J. Richardson** has been working on. She stated that she let the vendor know to keep the credit on the account rather than remit a refund.

NEW BUSINESS - None

OPEN AGENDA

a) New Member

Chair Kilbourn invited newly appointed member, Jessica Desmond, to introduce herself and share more about her interest in serving on the Commission.

J. Desmond shared that she grew up in the Fairbanks area and actually has great-great-grandparents buried at the Clay Street Cemetery. She stated that she has degrees in animation, history, and space operations, that she works as an accountant, and that she enjoys writing and bodybuilding. She admitted that she was not expecting to be appointed to the Commission so quickly after submitting an application. **J. Jones** asked if anyone had invited her to apply. **J. Desmond** said that she had come across the opportunity on her own. **Chair Kilbourn** noted that there had been a vacancy for a few months now, which explains why the Mayor, who happens to be **J. Desmond's** godfather, completed the appointment so promptly.

J. Desmond added that she is also a member of the Sunrisers Rotary Club of Fairbanks and offered to support the Commission through any benefit this connection might provide. She shared that she had some ideas for future enhancements at the cemetery through using technology to allow visitors to scan a grave with a smartphone and have information about the individual buried there populate on their screen. She explained that this would allow for self-guided tours of the property.

Chair Kilbourn stated that something like this exists for the cemetery in Juneau, AK and it is incredible, although the cost was astronomical when they looked into it. She noted that the Juneau facility has a digital map where every grave can be selected and all available records for that individual are produced. She stated that there are a few others like this around the country.

J. Jones shared that she had visited a cemetery in California with simple PVC markers on each grave and a QR code that could be scanned to learn more about that person. **J. Richardson** stated that QR codes are very easy to produce these days. **Chair Kilbourn** explained that the benefit of a digital platform over a QR code on the gravesite is that anyone, anywhere would be able to learn about the cemetery regardless of whether they can visit the property in person. **G. Dalton** also spoke highly of the cemetery in Juneau.

A. Stratman spoke in support of digital platforms, noting that every year more and more information becomes available and how it would be wonderful to have an easy way for everything to be available in a publicly accessible tool which gets updated whenever new materials are uploaded.

J. Jones, seconded by **Chair Kilbourn**, moved to ELECT J. Desmond to the vacant seat on the Clay Street Cemetery Commission, effective immediately.

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to ELECT J. Desmond to the vacant seat on the Clay Street Cemetery, effective immediately, and all members voted in favor.

[Clerk note: This motion to Elect was merely a ceremonial gesture, as the appointment to the vacant Commission seat had already been completed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council via the Consent Agenda at the Regular City Council Meeting of November 4, 2024.]

J. Jones indicated that she loves now having someone in their group who enjoys lifting heavy things.

Chair Kilbourn shared that between the members of the Commission, there exists paid subscriptions to essentially every genealogical database, website, etc., as well as a multitude of printed resources, and that J. Desmond was welcome to utilize those resources anytime she would like.

Chair Kilbourn shared that there is an exhibit at the Alaska State Museum for the Princess Sophia, a ship that sank in the early 1900's near Juneau, AK. She suggested that it would be amazing to see the exhibit brought to Fairbanks, noting the cost of crating and transporting the materials would be around \$3,000. She expressed the hope that local organizations might be interested in helping make this possible. Chair Kilbourn recognized the great deal of research surrounding the Princess Sophia that A. Stratman had performed in the past.

A. Stratman discussed the increase in overnight parking that had occurred over the previous summer, which prompted them to have Public Works install a "No Camping" sign in the parking lot. She shared that she recently came across an online "boondocking" website which listed their location as a great place to park, where no one would bother the visitor and how they could stay as long as they wanted. A. Stratman stated that she quickly created an account on the website and commented on the post that this location was permanently closed for boondocking. **Chair Kilbourn** thanked her for acting on the matter.

J. Jones asked if J. Richardson had any success with a funding request to the Pioneers of Alaska. **J. Richardson** indicated that she had not tackled this yet but would be doing so soon, and that she plans to include some photographs of the areas of the cemetery where markers have sunk as a visual to accompany the request. She stated that she does not believe they will have any issues with having their request granted. **J. Jones** asked if the funds were to cover the cost of gravel to help raise the markers. **J. Richardson** stated that this was correct, that there is a concrete pad under each of the markers but that they need materials to

raise them up. **Chair Kilbourn** asked if the request could also include an invitation for help with the physical work involved. **J. Richardson** indicated that she could include this although the majority of the organizations' membership was quite aged and may not be able to contribute in ways other than funding. **J. Jones** shared details about the current cost of gravel to help her calculate a sufficient amount to request.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The Commission members discussed their individual availability for upcoming meetings, as well as the lack of pressing business to attend to, during the holiday season.

Chair Kilbourn asked if the dates for the next Discretionary Fund meetings had been set. C. Chase provided details about the presentation and distribution meetings based on what had been published on the City's website. **J. Jones** shared that she would be participating in the presentation meeting via Zoom as she would be out-of-state. **Chair Kilbourn** asked if she could also be forwarded the Zoom details in order to participate in the presentation as well. **J. Jones** indicated that she would share that when it comes through. C. Chase shared how to access these details via the website as well.

J. Jones, seconded by **A. Stratman**, moved to CANCEL the December 4, 2024 meeting.

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to CANCEL the December 4, 2024 meeting and all members voted in favor.

J. Jones, seconded by **G. Dalton**, moved to RESCHEDULE the January 1, 2025 meeting to January 8.


Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to RESCHEDULE the January 1, 2025 meeting to January 8 and all members voted in favor.

Chair Kilbourn indicated that the meeting scheduled for February 5, 2025 should remain unchanged.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Jones moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

Chair Kilbourn took a voice vote on the motion to ADJOURN. All members voted in favor and she declared the meeting ADJOURNED at 5:45 p.m.


Aldean Kilbourn, Chair
Colt Chase, Deputy City Clerk

Transcribed by: CC