



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 10, 2025
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council via Zoom webinar and in 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 (remotely)
 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 (remotely)
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief
 Richard Sweet, Deputy Police Chief
 Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief
 Kristi Merideth, FECC Manager (remotely)
 Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director (remotely)
 Sean Lai, Police Sergeant (remotely)
 Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

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

Tammie Wilson – T. Wilson declared that she was speaking on her own behalf. She discussed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new regulation which requires all residential buildings

to have an energy rating audit completed and submitted before being placed on the market, effective December 31, 2025. She explained that Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and any prospective buyers are provided copies of the rating. She shared that the DEC claimed that it held a hearing on the matter in 2024 but that no individuals spoke during the allotted time for public comment. T. Wilson stated that they are trying to determine what method the State used to notify the public about the meeting as no one she has spoken with was aware of the opportunity for public comment. She noted that only two people are on record as currently being licensed to perform energy rating audits and that no classes are scheduled for anyone wishing to get certified. She added that another component of the regulation is that any type of stove for heating, whether using wood, pellets, or coal, must be reported and that if it does not meet certain criteria, it must be replaced or made inoperable prior to the sale of the home. T. Wilson stated that the cost of an energy rating review is around \$1,000 but would likely be higher with only two licensed auditors. She discussed other past programs that attempted to address energy efficiency improvements in Interior Alaska and were not successful. She encouraged the Council to discuss the new regulations and oppose them, sharing that Leslie Hajdukovich, working for Congressman Nick Begich's office, has invited individuals and organizations to send her comments which she will ensure are conveyed through the appropriate channels. T. Wilson indicated that at the previous meeting of the Borough Assembly, of which she is a member, the Capital Improvement Plan was discussed and that the Assembly would vote on whether to approve it on February 27, 2025. She noted that the Plan involves several projects and encouraged everyone to review the details and submit comments to help guide the decision-making process.

Ms. Therrien asked T. Wilson to provide the exact reference for the new regulation. T. Wilson shared that it is 18 AAC 50.081.

Mr. Cleworth asked T. Wilson if she had read a recent Community Perspective article in the newspaper written by Jason Olds. T. Wilson indicated that she had not. **Mr. Cleworth** asked T. Wilson if it was her opinion that the DEC was doing everything it could to pacify the EPA after the wrist-slapping imposed upon the State. T. Wilson confirmed that it is her understanding that the DEC had seen several ideas rejected by the EPA and that the new regulations were what had finally been accepted. She noted that the current DEC Commissioner now holds a regional role with the EPA and that there may be a chance that some changes can be reversed.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if these regulations were statewide or just within the Fairbanks North Star Borough. T. Wilson explained that they are local but not even for the entire Borough, just the "Non-Attainment Area", which are the locations that have been deemed to have greater air-quality concerns. She pointed out that this will also see an added challenge of pitting subsections of the housing market against each other.

Mayor Pruhs asked T. Wilson if the regulation included a definition of a residence. T. Wilson indicated that the term used is simply "residential building" which could be anything from a cabin to a condominium. **Mayor Pruhs** noted that the regulation also uses the term "agents" for real estate professionals, which is a designation not used in Alaska since 2004, which he considers problematic. T. Wilson suggested that they are using broad terminology which will ultimately make real estate professionals the bad guys. **Mayor Pruhs** agreed that the individuals are being used as the enforcers of the regulations, with threats of revocation of licenses for noncompliance.

He asked T. Wilson if she believed an energy audit would do anything to improve the air quality around a particular building. T. Wilson indicated that it would not but that it seems to be the first step. She explained that they will likely see no changes to air quality when only the audit itself is required but that the information gathered will be used to set new standards for minimum ratings that must be met for a home to be sold.

Mr. Marney asked if the audits are done by the government or through the private market. T. Wilson stated that auditors must be certified through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), which is the only entity authorized to provide such a license. **Mayor Pruhs** reported that he sits on the Board of Directors for AHFC and that all of this had caught them by surprise.

Ms. Tidwell shared that when she purchased her home a couple years prior, she was under the impression that only one person in the area was licensed to perform an energy audit, that they seemed to not even live in the local area year-round, and that communication was extremely difficult. She asked if there was any more information available about who can perform the audits. T. Wilson indicated that she visited AHFC's website which listed everyone with current licenses, though they did not contact them to confirm whether they are actively performing audits. She added that there are only nine total certified auditors across the entire State with six in the Palmer/Wasilla area and one in Anchorage. **Ms. Tidwell** stated she tried multiple times to initiate the process during her homebuying experience but ultimately gave up.

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.

Ms. Therrien pulled item 12(b), Resolution No. 5163, from the consent agenda.

Mayor Pruhs pulled item 12(a), Resolution No. 5162, 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 January 27, 2025

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
3997	BPO Elks Lodge #1551	Club	Fairbanks Lodge #1551 of the BPO of	1003 Pioneer Road
5887	RNDC Alaska	General Wholesale	RNDC Alaska, LLC	945 Elizabeth Street
4464	Fred Meyer #224	Package Store	Fred Meyer Stores, Inc.	930 Old Steese Highway

Mayor Pruhs disclosed that he and Ms. Therrien are members of the Elks Lodge. He asked if any Councilmembers believe they have a conflict of interest, and none indicated such.

Mr. Ringstad, 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 licensees were being notified when their applications would be considered. Clerk Snider confirmed that the Council had approved an ordinance in 2024 requiring such notice. She noted that she notifies licensees; however, there is no requirement that they attend the meeting or provide public testimony. **Ms. Therrien** asked Clerk Snider whether she includes a note that stating that the Council strongly encourages licensees to be present to answer questions that may arise. Clerk Snider indicated that she could add language extending an invitation from the Council.

Mr. Ringstad pointed out the 197 entries on the FPD call report for Fred Meyer. **Mayor Pruhs** shared that the store had recently reported having new asset protection personnel onsite. **Mr. Ringstad** discussed the burden on law enforcement for so many calls to one location. **Mayor Pruhs** declared that while that was true, the calls were not related to the alcohol license.

Ms. Sprinkle stated that a seven-page report that seems to not be pertinent to the discussion seems inefficient and asked what could be done to help filter out the data to include only calls related to the license. **Mayor Pruhs** stated he prefers that the Council receive the birds-eye view for all calls and that members use their discretion to analyze what does and does not pertain to the proposed action. Clerk Snider suggested that if the Council desired, a discussion on the topic of reports and research for license applications could be added to the agenda of the next Work Session. **Ms. Sprinkle** stated that she would appreciate that opportunity.

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

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

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
10112	Great Alaskan Bud Company	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	SP&C Enterprises, LLC	1905 Livengood Avenue
10113	Great Alaskan Bud Company	Retail Marijuana Store	SP&C Enterprises, LLC	1905 Livengood Avenue

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the marijuana license applications for renewal.

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

Ms. Sprinkle pointed out that there are two addresses that do not appear to be associated with the address on Livengood Avenue and asked for clarification. Clerk Snider explained that the packet included a screenshot from the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) indicating “no protest” on the license application. She explained that the screenshot included an open window behind the intended window and could be disregarded.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- c) The Fairbanks City Council considered an appeal of a denied application for a new Chauffeur License for applicant Peter Olanna-Bloomstrand.

Mayor Pruhs invited the applicant to come forward, and it was noted that he was not present.

Mr. Cleworth asked if P. Olanna-Bloomstrand was aware of the hearing time and date. Clerk Snider confirmed that her staff had spoken to the applicant directly and that she had personally emailed him details regarding the appeal hearing.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to DENY the appeal of the denied application for a new Chauffeur License for Peter Olanna-Bloomstrand.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the applicant would be able to submit another appeal if there was sufficient reason for his absence. **Mayor Pruhs** indicated that they are unsure of why he was not present, only that he had been given proper notice.

Mr. Cleworth suggested that if there were extenuating circumstances, he believes the applicant would communicate with the City Clerk’s Office in the near future.

Mr. Ringstad noted that the disqualifying offense was listed as an “Assault in the Fourth Degree” and asked for examples of that type of crime. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that it is a lower-level offense. **Mr. Ringstad** pointed out that the applicant signed the form indicating he would attend

the meeting, which included the date and time. **Mayor Pruhs** reiterated that if there were extenuating circumstances, the Council could consider the appeal again on a future agenda.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO DENY THE APPEAL OF A DENIED APPLICATION FOR A NEW CHAUFFEUR LICENSE FOR PETER OLANNA-BLOOMSTRAND AS FOLLOWS:

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Pruhs expressed appreciation for the FPD's handling of multiple recent homicides, for their professionalism, and for their punctuality in responding to challenging circumstances. He discussed the recent problems at the downtown post office and his recent meeting with State-level officials, the Postmaster, and District Attorney. He stated that he will be compiling notes and potential remedies to address the situation in the near future.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Tidwell indicated that she had no comments.

Mr. Marney asked if the Borough Assembly had accepted the Council's challenge to compete in a friendly bowling match. T. Wilson stated she could not respond on behalf of the Assembly.

Mr. Ringstad and **Ms. Sprinkle** each indicated that they had no comments.

Ms. Therrien suggested that the Legislative Committee could draft comments to submit to representatives in Juneau regarding the EPA regulations shared by T. Wilson.

Mr. Cleworth reported that Jason Olds, the individual who wrote the Community Perspective article he referenced earlier, is a member of the Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) Planning Policy Board and represents the DEC. He stated that the group will have the opportunity to ask him questions about the new regulations. He shared that former Councilmember Vivian Stiver had simplified the issue by pointing out that reviewing the cost of heating is the easiest way to assess a home's energy efficiency.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6304 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 54 Procurement, Sections 54-39 and 54-241, to Clarify the Council Notification Requirement for Sole Source Purchasing. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6304.

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

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6304 by substituting the amended, proposed version.

Mayor Pruhs called for objection to the motion to AMEND Ordinance No. 6304 by substituting the amended, proposed version and, seeing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth asked if the language of “unless otherwise provided by law” includes the Fairbanks General Code (FGC). City Attorney Thomas Chard confirmed that it did.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6304, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6304, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6305 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 70-162, to Ensure Visible and Safe Traffic Intersections and Amending the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6305.

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

Mayor Pruhs stated that he would like to see the ordinance postponed for about six months to allow time for some additional work to be done on it.

Ms. Sprinkle questioned the six-month timeframe. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that the discussion at the last Work Session brought up numerous points and that he would like to come back to the ordinance during the summer so that more examples of what could potentially be considered visual obstructions could be gathered. He acknowledged that the City Engineer had identified many moving parts with the ordinance and that additional time to refine the details would be prudent.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6305 to the Regular Meeting of July 28, 2025.

Ms. Therrien stated that if it is postponed to the second meeting in July, there would likely be no progress made on the problems it aims to address until the following year. She cited concerns about visibility at tight intersections and suggested the Council revisit the matter within three months.

Mr. Cleworth noted that there are already numerous rules in place regarding visibility and safety of intersections in the FGC and that while the proposed changes are important, the City still has the power to enforce what is currently in place.

Mr. Ringstad suggested that early June may be a good compromise.

Mayor Pruhs indicated that while he would like to see the ordinance adopted by the end of July, he would not want to wait that long to discuss the matter. He explained that he would like to have a Work Session on it in May and another in June. He reminded the Council that this was not a one-size-fits-all situation and that no two properties are the same. He concurred that the City has many things in place already to address issues regarding intersection visibility and that the reason for needing additional time is to research grandfather rights and have answers to all the questions.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND the motion to postpone by changing the date to the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2025.

Ms. Sprinkle concurred that would be a reasonable time for the ordinance to return for a vote.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO POSTPONE BY CHANGING THE DATE TO THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2025, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6305 TO THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2025 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6305 POSTPONED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6306 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 70-161 and the Local Amendments to the 2018 International Fire Code Adopted by Reference at Fairbanks General Code Section 30-32, and Amending the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services to Ensure Access to Fire Hydrants. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6306.

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

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6306 by substituting the amended, proposed version.

Mayor Pruhs called for objection to the motion to AMEND Ordinance No. 6306 by substituting the amended, proposed version and, seeing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth explained his struggle with some of the language in the ordinance, the first being the notification timeline changing from 24 hours to seven days, which he believes could be shortened. He stated that contact with the individual must be confirmed because if it is not, the person may get a bill they know nothing about.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, move to AMEND Ordinance No. 6306, as Amended, by replacing “7 days” with “5 working days” under Sec. 70-161(d).

Ms. Sprinkle pointed out that a similar reference exists in Sec. 70-161(e). **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he plans to address that item separately.

Ms. Therrien noted that “5 working days” is virtually the same as “7 days.” She asked if that timeframe would be from when the individual received notice. **Mr. Cleworth** explained that he also planned to address the topic of making contact under item (e).

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6306, AS AMENDED, BY REPLACING “7 DAYS” WITH “5 WORKING DAYS” UNDER SEC. 70-161(d) AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6306, as Amended, by replacing “7 days after having received notice” with “5 working days after making contact” under Sec. 70-161(e).

Ms. Therrien asked if they should consider clarifying that actual direct or personal contact be made so that a letter or sticker on a door would not suffice. Attorney Chard explained that throughout the FGC, notification timelines are tied to either when notice is sent or when notice is received. He advised using the timeline of when notice is received in this situation. **Mr. Cleworth** asked how the City would know whether the person received notice. Attorney Chard discussed the options of either an employee attesting that they had spoken to someone or using certified mail services which require the recipient to sign and date that they had received the notice.

Mayor Pruhs acknowledged the complexity of the topic and stated that there may be times when the City has to take immediate action, such as when someone leaves a large pile of snow in the middle of a street. **Mr. Cleworth** pointed out that Sec. 70-161(e) specifically refers to fire hydrants and that the example of pushing snow into the street was already covered in other parts of the FGC.

Mr. Cleworth expressed support of the City Attorney’s interpretation of “receiving notice.”

Mr. Cleworth, with concurrence of the second, revised his motion to AMEND Ordinance No. 6306, as Amended, by changing “5 working days after making contact” to “5 working days after having received contact.”

Ms. Therrien asked if the previous change to Sec. 70-161(d) should also use the term “contact” instead of “notice.” Attorney Chard confirmed that the two sections are indeed parallel. **Ms. Therrien** asserted that both sections should use the same terminology if they are addressing the same issue. Attorney Chard concurred that such consistency would be prudent.

Mr. Cleworth indicated that he would be fine with postponing the ordinance if the City Attorney felt that would be wise; he stated he was also willing to continue working through some changes. He noted that any given winter could see significant snowfall which may involve the blocking of multiple fire hydrants and require a great deal of property owner notifications. He shared that he recently made inquiries about whether the City could be proactive after heavy snowfalls by having the Public Works and Fire Departments remove most of the snow blocking hydrants. He suggested that, otherwise, they would be contacting many public and private property owners in town.

Attorney Chard reiterated the prudence in ensuring consistency between sections (d) and (e) and noted that if that was the Council’s intent, a motion would need to be made to further revise the motion on the floor to use the word “notice” rather than “contact.” **Ms. Therrien** clarified that after the current motion was disposed she intends to propose an amendment to change the term in section (d) to mirror that used in (e).

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6306, AS AMENDED, BY REPLACING “7 DAYS AFTER HAVING RECEIVED NOTICE” WITH “5 WORKING DAYS AFTER HAVING RECEIVED CONTACT” UNDER SEC. 70-161(e) AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6306, as Amended, by replacing “notice” with “contact” in Sec. 70-161(d).

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6306, AS AMENDED, BY REPLACING “NOTICE” WITH “CONTACT” IN SEC. 70-161(d) AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6306, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Sprinkle, Cleworth, Ringstad, Marney, Tidwell, Therrien
NAYS: Non
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6306, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- d) Ordinance No. 6307 – An Ordinance Reestablishing the Incentive Bonus Program with the Fairbanks Police Department for Recruitment and Hiring. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6307.

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

Mr. Marney, **Ms. Sprinkle**, and **Ms. Therrien** asked to be added as sponsors of the ordinance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6307 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Therrien, Cleworth, Marney, Sprinkle, Tidwell
NAYS: None
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6307 ADOPTED.

- e) Ordinance No. 6308 – An Ordinance Reestablishing the Incentive Bonus Program with the Fairbanks Emergency Communications Center for Recruitment and Hiring. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6308.

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

Mr. Marney and **Ms. Therrien** asked to be added as sponsors of the ordinance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6308 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Cleworth, Sprinkle, Ringstad, Marney, Tidwell
NAYS: None
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6308 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5162 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the FY2026 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Appropriations for a Medical Ambulance Bus. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5162.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Mr. Marney**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5162 by substituting the hand-carried, proposed version.

Mayor Pruhs called for objection to the motion to AMEND Resolution No. 5162 by substituting the hand-carried, proposed version and, seeing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Pruhs shared that he had received a call from Senator Murkowski's office to inform him that the City should resubmit an application for things approved in FY2024 that were not ultimately appropriated. He explained that in addition to the medical ambulance bus for the Fairbanks Fire Department (FFD), staff realized that the City should include the renovation of a local building to serve as an Interior Regional Crisis Stabilization Center, which prompted the proposed substitute.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if a specific building had been identified for the Center. **Mayor Pruhs** invited Crisis Now Coordinator Brenda McFarlane to provide further details.

B. McFarlane shared that while some details still need to be worked out, it would make most sense for an approved provider to lease a building owned by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA). She explained that those buildings are already designated to be used for that purpose and that they have had initial conversations with Alaska Behavioral Health (ABH) regarding a location. She discussed the assessment and approval process which had not yet occurred and stated that that prevents her from sharing more details.

Mayor Pruhs asked B. McFarlane how long she has been working on the project. B. McFarlane stated that she began pursuing establishing a facility in April 2022. She recalled that Eric Boyer, an officer with AMHTA, stated on the record at a recent meeting that a building in the Peger Road and Eagan Avenue area would be the likely location.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if that meant they would renovate the structure and lease the building, should the City receive the funds in the CDS application. B. McFarlane explained that it would be AMHTA renting the building but that once they knew what federal committee the funding would come from, they would have a better idea of any stipulations in place.

Mr. Ringstad asked for more clarity on which entity would own or lease the building. B. McFarlane clarified that AMHTA would own the building and lease it to ABH who would serve as the provider of crisis stabilization services. **Mr. Ringstad** asked if there was a reason neither of the entities were applying for the grant funds. B. McFarlane reported that they were informed that the City needed to make the request if the intent was for the facility to open in the Fairbanks area.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if there would be a required match in funding. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that there would not be and that it would be a cost-free opportunity for the Fairbanks community.

Ms. Therrien reported that the item was discussed as a priority at the last Legislative Committee meeting and urged the Council to support the effort.

Mr. Marney asked what length of commitment there would be with the project. B. McFarlane indicated that AMHTA's traditional approach is to enter long-term, below-market leases with providers and that while buildings designated for mental health services have stipulations that they are to be used as such for 30 years, she does not believe that leases with providers are as long.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5162, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5162, as Amended, APPROVED.

- b) Resolution No. 5163 – A Resolution Urging the State of Alaska to Honor Its Commitment to Cap Past and Present PERS Service Costs for Municipal Employers at 22%. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Councilmembers Therrien and Ringstad.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 5163.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5163 by substituting the hand-carried, proposed version.

Mayor Pruhs called for objection to the motion to AMEND Resolution No. 5163 by substituting the hand-carried, proposed version and, seeing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien reported that the Legislative Committee had discussed the issue and, while it has been suggested that the sponsor of the associated bill in the State Legislature may be using it as leverage to pursue changes to defined benefits, the Committee felt it was important that the City convey its position on the issue. She noted that the added language in the amended version of the resolution makes the City's position clearer and suggested all Councilmembers join as sponsors.

Mr. Ringstad asked if there was an error in the sixth Whereas statement, which seemed to convey a much lower amount of money spent by Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) employers. Chief of Staff Sanders clarified that the City's lobbyist, Yuri Morgan, suggested that the language be revised to only reference "non-state PERS employers" as shown earlier in the same sentence, which is why the amount was updated.

Mr. Marney and **Ms. Sprinkle** asked to be added as sponsors of the resolution.

Ms. Tidwell noted that she did not have a copy of the hand-carried, proposed substitute and asked if the changes could be communicated. **Ms. Therrien** read all the changes the proposed version. **Ms. Tidwell** and **Mr. Cleworth** asked to be added as sponsors of the resolution.

Mr. Cleworth discussed some of the perceived behind-the-scenes politics surrounding the legislation and suggested that many in Juneau will miss the bigger picture and its impact on

municipalities. He admitted that if legislators are aware of the problems and still proceed with this action, the City could not stop them. He affirmed that regardless, the Council has a duty to highlight its stance through resolutions like this and outline various components that should be considered.

Ms. Therrien suggested that the bill may be used as leverage on the topic of defined benefits and, while it is not likely to pass, it is vital that the Council advocate against an increase to the City.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5163, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5163, as Amended, APPROVED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6309 – An Ordinance Amending the 2025 Operating, Capital, and Fairbanks Transportation Center Budgets for the First Time. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Ordinance No. 6310 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of Office Space in City Hall to the Denali Commission. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Tidwell reported that the Economic Development Commission recently heard a presentation from Jomo Stewart regarding the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation's (FEDC) effort to be designated as the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) for the Fairbanks area. She shared that it was a positive meeting and they will likely be drafting a letter of support soon.

Mr. Marney indicated he will be out of town for the next Work Session and may attend remotely.

Mr. Ringstad indicated that he had no report or additional comments.

Ms. Sprinkle reported that an upcoming meeting with the Downtown Association of Fairbanks will include a presentation by J. Stewart regarding the ARDOR issue.

Ms. Therrien shared that in the recent Legislative Committee meeting, Y. Morgan requested that the Chief of Police review all legislation dealing with police issues and send them any feedback. She stated that the same had been asked of B. McFarlane to review any items pertaining to the Crisis Now program. She reported that Y. Morgan hopes to have details about the Mayor's schedule for when he will soon travel to Juneau. **Ms. Therrien** indicated that she is planning to go to Juneau in March. She suggested that the Council send a copy of Resolution No. 5163, as Amended, to all legislators – not just the Interior Delegation. **Mayor Pruhs** agreed.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the Council has put off some important items for future discussions, and he wants to ensure that the items do not fall off the Council's radar. He indicated that the first topic was regarding certain parameters for resolutions versus ordinances. He also recounted that during budget presentations, the Building Department suggested pursuing a one-stop-shop service for new buildings, allowing builders to handle all aspects of the process within the department rather than having to go back and forth between various departments and agencies. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he supports that suggestion and that it would be a more efficient, simple way to make things easier for those looking to build within the City. He discussed the issue of mutual aid agreements between the FFD and other agencies and the need for more clarity. He acknowledged that the Fire Chief has been working on that and explained that his goal would be to make it possible for private ambulance companies to also become mutual aid partners, citing the benefit to the community when more service providers are available. **Mr. Cleworth** requested that the Public Works Department look into some damage in front of the bingo hall on Cushman Street.

Ms. Therrien added that she sent the Council a summary of her notes from attending the Alaska Municipal League (AML) conference in December and highlighted one of her top goals to work with local Alaska Native organizations on legislation and funding partnerships that would benefit the entire community. She stated that partnerships work well in many other Alaskan communities and can help fill funding gaps for certain projects.

Mayor Pruhs reported that he will be traveling during the March 10 Council meeting and asked if there was support in moving that meeting to March 17. **Ms. Sprinkle** shared that she would be traveling on March 17 and would not be able to participate. **Mayor Pruhs** stated that he would rather not create a conflict with another Councilmember's plans and indicated that they will leave the March 10 meeting date in place. He asked Mr. Cleworth to chair the meeting on March 10.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider shared that she will be on personal leave for the next City Council meeting and that Deputy Clerk Colt Chase will be present in her stead. She asked when the Council would like to have postponed Ordinance Nos. 6283 and 6285 return for Work Sessions. She reported that

Ordinance No. 6283 is postponed to May 19, and Ordinance No. 6285 to May 12. **Ms. Sprinkle** requested more time to discuss when each item should return for a Work Session.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard stated that he had nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Mayor Pruhs called for a brief recess. The Council reconvened at 7:56 p.m. in Executive Session following the brief recess.

- a) PSEA/COF Labor Negotiations: Guidance from Council [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(1)] *(ended at 8:05 p.m.)*
- b) FFU/COF Labor Negotiations: Guidance from Council [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(1)] *(ended at 8:36 p.m.)*

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

ADJOURNMENT

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


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

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:


for D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK
Colt Chase, Deputy City Clerk
Transcribed by: CC