



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 14, 2024
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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

Councilmembers Present: Jerry Cleworth, Seat A
 June Rogers, Seat B
 Sue Sprinkle, Seat C
 Crystal Tidwell, Seat D
 Lonny Marney, Seat E
 John Ringstad, Seat F
 Valerie Therrien, Seat B (Councilmember Elect)

Absent: None

Also Present: D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
 Thomas Chard, City Attorney
 Michael Sanders, Chief of Staff
 Margarita Bell, Chief Financial Officer (remotely)
 Jake Merritt, Human Resources Director (remotely)
 Jeremiah Cotter, Public Works Director
 Andrew Coccaro, Fire Chief
 Ron Dupee, Police Chief
 Kristi Meredith, FECC Manager
 Robert Pristash, City Engineer
 William Rogers, Engineering Assistant
 Brynn Butler, Housing Coordinator (remotely)
 Brenda McFarlane, Crisis Now Coordinator

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

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

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Pruhs read a proclamation to honor Temitayo Kalejaiye, a temporary Laborer Apprentice from the Public Works team who had recently passed away. He expressed condolences for the

tragic loss of this widely loved individual, presented the proclamation to T. Kalejaiye's wife, and requested a moment of silence.

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.]

Bill Wright, Director of Tourism and Meeting Sales for Explore Fairbanks – B. Wright shared details about Explore Fairbanks' recent activities, such as providing familiarization tours, site visits, conventions, and local meetings. He discussed plans for hosting a conference for tourism professionals in 2025, noting that it will be the first time the event will occur anywhere other than Sitka, Alaska. B. Wright discussed sales missions as well as passenger counts for the Fairbanks International Airport. He concluded with a report on year-to-date hotel occupancy rates.

Ms. Rogers asked if there is a good chance of Fairbanks hosting the conference again in future years. B. Wright indicated that he believes the organization is looking to alternate the conference location every other year between Sitka and another location in Alaska. He confirmed that while they will be sure to bid on hosting every year, there is a chance it may be a while before the conference returns to Fairbanks.

Grace Greene, CEO of LifeMed Alaska – G. Greene shared details about her company, which has operated for 15 years with dedicated assets in Fairbanks since 2009. She discussed LifeMed's major investment in the community through a new hangar facility in 2021 and a ground crew in 2023. She provided information about the company's mission, services, and statistics for medical transports in the Fairbanks area. She spoke in favor of Ordinance No. 6293 and affirmed that the community needs support for these critical, non-emergency services in order to allow first responders to focus on more emergent situations.

Mr. Ringstad asked if LifeMed hopes to see the ground transport side of its business expand. G. Greene stated that based on discussions with organizations and leaders in the community, there is a desire for greater access to that type of service. **Mr. Ringstad** indicated that he agrees with those sentiments and asked if, after reviewing the ordinance, G. Greene felt it was sufficient. G. Greene responded that the ordinance, as written, works. She added that other ideas they believe would be beneficial for the community can likely be accomplished at a later time with written agreements that do not necessarily need to be included in an ordinance or in City Code.

Mr. Cleworth asked G. Greene if there are State of Alaska requirements for licensing, insurance, and equipment in place for non-emergency medical transport. G. Greene stated that there are and that LifeMed is accredited by national entities that set high standards for medical transport services. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if the language in the ordinance regarding equipment standards was redundant to the State's. G. Greene indicated that they are a bit redundant but that Anchorage has a comparable ordinance with similar redundancies. **Mr. Cleworth** asked G. Greene if LifeMed would want to be considered a mutual aid partner with the City for emergency services. G. Greene confirmed that it would.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if LifeMed's transports are all in-state or if they fly to Seattle as well. G. Greene shared that they routinely fly out of state, with one Leer jet on standby 24/7 in Fairbanks

and two in Anchorage. She reported that they typically have at least one out-of-state flight a day, with Seattle being the most common destination, although they occasionally fly across the country or even internationally, if needed.

Mr. Ringstad asked if LifeMed Alaska is affiliated with any larger organizations. G. Greene stated that it is a standalone business, with the only outside relationship being a joint ownership with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation.

Ms. Rogers spoke of the “Fridays with Fire” program that Chief Andrew Cocco implemented to provide more insight into the Fire Department’s operations. She praised the efforts of G. Greene and her company and discussed the importance of communication and collaboration.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Cleworth pulled item 13(e), Ordinance No. 6293, 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 September 23, 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
4772	Chickentown Teriyaki	Restaurant/Eating Place	Two Star, LLC	1454 S. Cushman Street
4941	Seoul Gate Restaurant	Restaurant/Eating Place	Seoul Gate, Inc.	958 Cowles Street
4831	Irashai Japanese Restaurant	Restaurant/Eating Place	2Giro, Inc.	419 Merhar Avenue, Suite B
4247	Brewster’s	Beverage Dispensary	Restaurant Concepts, LLC	3578 Airport Way
6069	Hari Om Cuisine of India	Restaurant/Eating Place	A Paul, LLC	1528 S. Cushman Street
2565	El Dorado Bar & Grill	Beverage Dispensary	Eldorado Bar & Grill, Inc.	530 3rd Avenue
542	Geraldo’s Restaurant	Beverage Dispensary	Garlic Lovers, LLC	701 College Road
252	The Cabin	Beverage Dispensary	Avo Hospitality, LLC	901 Old Steese Highway

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.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
10131	Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc.	Retail Marijuana Store	Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc.	1851 Fox Avenue
10230	Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc.	Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facility	Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc.	1851 Fox Avenue

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

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

Ms. Rogers spoke favorably of the licensee's deep understanding of the laws and regulations pertaining to the industry and the good example they set for other companies.

Mayor Pruhs noted that Pakalolo Supply Company, Inc. was the first licensee to open in Fairbanks after marijuana was legalized.

Mr. Marney shared that he had spoken to the owner and learned that he was traveling out of state – otherwise he would have been present for the meeting.

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

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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

Type/License: Beverage Dispensary

License No.: 2124

DBA: Fenders

Applicant: D.B. & Fu, LLC
Location: 636 28th Avenue, Fairbanks
From Owner: 636, LLC

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

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

Mr. Ringstad asked whether the transfer involved new owners or an update and restructuring of the existing LLC. Clerk Snider shared the names of the owners of each LLC, noting that the application was for a total change in ownership.

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

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

- c) The Fairbanks City Council held a public hearing and considered the following new alcohol license application:

Type/License: Sporting Activity/Event License
License No.: 6195
DBA: Alaska Axe Co.
Applicant: JK Enterprise, LLC
Location: 3501 Lathrop Street, Unit B, Fairbanks

Mr. Marney, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the new alcohol license application.

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

Ms. Sprinkle shared that she has been to the establishment and had an enjoyable experience.

Mr. Marney stated that he felt that any existing business that was applying to add an alcohol license to its operation would do well to attend the Council meeting where it was being considered.

Ms. Rogers pointed out that there are both in-state and out-of-state owners with the company.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST ON THE NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Pruhs reported that the Polaris Building demolition will likely conclude for the season in the coming week, with work resuming in the spring. He shared that the Alaska Motor Inn had been demolished in full. He reported that the property on 7th Avenue has changed owners and status, moving the status from active abatement to improvement and overhaul. He indicated that the abatement process for the Kellum Street property had been completed, as had the one on Eielson Street, and that the neighboring property that was damaged by the same fire was now under renovation. He added that the property on 14th Avenue and Cushman Street is halfway knocked down. **Mayor Pruhs** reported that the City has begun working on the list of locations that may meet the definition of a blighted property, the first of which did not meet the criteria. He stated that there are a few others being investigated and shared that the City is taking its time to ensure things are done correctly and maintaining communication with property owners.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ringstad shared that he was recently driving around town with his son who pointed out a rough looking property and stated that it should be torn down. He stated that he smiled, knowing that the location was already on the list for blighted property considerations. He reported that while attending the recent Borough Assembly meeting as the City Council representative, he made some constructive comments focused on improving the working relationship between the two local governments. He indicated that a lot of time was spent at the meeting discussing the improvements to the Veterans Memorial Park, including interest in incorporating a public restroom similar to the Portland Loo facility that the City will be installing at Golden Heart Plaza in Spring 2025. **Mr. Ringstad** stated that he informed the Assembly that the Council would be working on a resolution to support the updates to downtown parking requirements at the next Council meeting. He shared that some Assemblymembers were under the impression that the Borough had been working with the City for several months on that project and that they were surprised to hear that City Engineer Bob Pristash had only been involved at the last moment. He noted that the remainder of the Assembly meeting focused on fire service district matters.

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

Ms. Sprinkle asked for an update on the Portland Loo project. Chief of Staff Mike Sanders reported that they had hoped to have the unit installed over the summer, but the order fulfillment took six-to-eight months rather than the 120 days that was originally quoted. He stated that despite the delay, B. Pristash was able to get advance work done on the plumbing aspect at the project site at a much-reduced cost. **Ms. Sprinkle** expressed excitement at seeing the project come to fruition.

Ms. Rogers stated that she was glad to hear that Mr. Ringstad was involved in the conversation about the nearby park and that she believes the City should continue to have a voice in future discussions pertaining to public parks in the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5136 – A Resolution In Support of Fairbanks North Star Borough Ordinance No. 2024-25 Amending FNSB Code Title 18 Regarding Parking and Loading

Requirements. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Councilmembers Tidwell, Rogers, and Sprinkle. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of September 23, 2024.

Note: Resolution No. 5136 was introduced at the Regular Meeting of September 23, 2024, with a motion to APPROVE made by Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by Ms. Tidwell. The resolution was postponed, and the motion to APPROVE remained on the floor.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 5136 by substituting the hand-carried, proposed version.

Mayor Pruhs invited B. Pristash to receive questions from Councilmembers.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for clarification between the different versions. B. Pristash indicated that he met with FNSB staff to suggest changes to the Borough ordinance, which resulted in a revised version being sent to him at 4:00 p.m., just a few hours before the Council meeting. **Mayor Pruhs** confirmed that they received an updated version of the Borough ordinance which required City staff to modify the City's resolution as it includes the Ordinance as an attachment. He noted that both versions were now provided for reference and that the changes therein are what was needed to satisfy the goals and requirements of both entities. He agreed that the meeting with Borough staff was productive.

Mr. Ringstad asked if staff is supportive of all the changes made. B. Pristash confirmed that they are, noting that important suggestions were incorporated relating to access to and use of the right-of-way. He stated that some items were not included but affirmed he had no concerns.

Mr. Cleworth expressed appreciation for the quick work done on the resolution and the Borough's ordinance. He stated that the ordinance would remove a restriction that has been problematic for new construction in the downtown core area for quite some time. He explained that if the goal is to attract economic growth, reducing restrictions generally helps, and he expressed his support.

Ms. Rogers thanked those who put time into the documents, citing it as an example of the positive work that can occur between the City and the Borough.

Ms. Tidwell echoed appreciation for the collaboration and noted that all parties seem happy with the result. She indicated that she desires to remain a sponsor on the revised resolution. **Ms. Sprinkle, Ms. Rogers, and Mayor Pruhs** also stated they would like to be listed as sponsors.

Mayor Pruhs shared details about the series of events that occurred in a short window of time and allowed the City to put together the resolution in a timely manner.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 5136 BY SUBSTITUTING THE HAND-CARRIED, PROPOSED VERSION AS FOLLOWS:

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 5136, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Tidwell, Cleworth, Marney, Ringstad, Sprinkle, Rogers
NAYS: None
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 5136, as Amended, APPROVED.

CERTIFICATION OF 2024 REGULAR ELECTION AND OATHS OF OFFICE

a) Certification of the 2024 Regular Election Results

Ms. Sprinkle, seconded by **Ms. Tidwell**, moved to CERTIFY the 2024 Regular Election Results.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CERTIFY THE 2024 REGULAR ELECTION RESULTS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ringstad, Tidwell, Rogers, Sprinkle, Marney, Cleworth
NAYS: None
Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED and the 2024 Regular Election results CERTIFIED.

Each Councilmember expressed appreciation for Ms. Rogers and her service on the City Council.

Ms. Rogers stated that she has been honored to serve the City for many years both on the Council as well as on numerous committees, commissions, and boards. She encouraged the Council to always be mindful of the significant work that occurs in the community through the array of nonprofit organizations that exist.

At 7:32 p.m., **Mayor Pruhs** called for a brief transition recess to enjoy refreshments in honor of Ms. Rogers. The meeting resumed at 7:46 p.m.

b) Oaths of Office and Seating of Elected Councilmembers

Clerk Snider administered the Oaths of Office for Councilmembers Cleworth and Therrien.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 5137 – A Resolution Authorizing the City Chief Financial Officer to Open an Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool (AMLIP) Cash Enhancement Series II Account. Introduced by Councilmembers Sprinkle and Ringstad.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Resolution No. 5138 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for the FY2024 Promoting Access to Crisis Teams (PACT) Community Policing Development (CPD) Program. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Resolution No. 5139 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for and Accept Funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the FFY2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs and Councilmember Marney.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- d) Ordinance No. 6292 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Sec. 14-167 and Sec. 14-214 to Require Written Notice to Licensees of Hearings for Alcohol and Marijuana License Applications. Introduced by Councilmembers Sprinkle, Marney, and Rogers.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- e) Ordinance No. 6293 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 26, Article III, Emergency Medical Services, Adding Regulations Governing Private Ambulance Services and Amending the City Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services. Introduced by Mayor Pruhs.

Mr. Ringstad, seconded by **Ms. Sprinkle**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6293.

Mr. Cleworth indicated that he had questions that would likely be suited for Chief Cocco. He asked how many ambulance services within the Borough are set up as mutual aid partners with the City and what kind of paperwork solidifies those agreements. Chief Cocco stated that every fire department in the Borough is considered a mutual aid partner with one other by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), signed by all. He noted that not all of them have ambulance services as part of their operations. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if it was a single agreement that all sign or if they are done individually with each agency. Chief Cocco clarified that they are individual agreements because not all departments have the same service level. **Mr. Cleworth** requested that a copy of the agreements be provided at the next work session. He asked who oversees ambulance services. Chief Cocco described the oversight that occurs through the State of Alaska as well as the standards in place through the Borough. **Mr. Cleworth** identified licensing, insurance, and equipment as the primary factors that he believes are prudent for oversight and asked if they use State regulations for those items. Chief Cocco indicated that he is unsure of the specifics for the current year's agreements, as he has not reviewed them in detail. He clarified that Ordinance No. 6293 would create an opportunity for the private sector to enter the equation for non-emergency medical transport needs. He explained that mutual aid agreements are strictly for 911 calls or other emergencies. **Mr. Cleworth** asked for confirmation that the current guidelines do not apply to those coming into town from places such as Tok or Healy to drop someone off at the hospital or a similar location. Chief Cocco confirmed that any ambulance can come into Fairbanks to drop someone off at a medical facility. **Mr. Cleworth** asked how the non-emergency transport companies, such as LifeMed Alaska, would react if an emergency such as a heart attack occurred at a location where they were present. Chief Cocco pointed out that G. Greene had earlier shared that her company's ground ambulance is considered a Basic Life Support (BLS) transport and that protocols across the nation require an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance to transport in cases involving cardiac arrest. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if companies would be able to become a

mutual aid partner if they had an advanced unit. Chief Cocco explained that private ambulance companies have approached the Borough in the past with such a request and that the Borough was not supportive of the idea. He stated that a discussion regarding changes to regulations would be necessary for that. He acknowledged that the ordinance is an experiment for everyone and that the idea of private entities as mutual aid partners could be part of the conversation as the program grows. Chief Cocco provided details about some of the overlap and coordination that already occurs between the Fire Department and non-emergency medical transport companies in town. He explained that the work that went into the ordinance included ensuring that nothing would take away from any existing business models for companies but rather expand their options. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if the State has minimum licensing requirements that include insurance and equipment standards. Chief Cocco indicated that he is unsure of the specifics but acknowledged that Alaska is known for having more wiggle room for licensing requirements in this and other industries. He cited the challenge that many rural communities face with meeting strict regulations. He affirmed that the ordinance is meant to match what other jurisdictions in the State have set up for requirements of private ambulance companies and that the expectations do not infringe on any existing business models. He shared that the meetings they have had with companies made it clear that regulations like those in the ordinance are expected and appreciated. **Mr. Cleworth** asked for confirmation that mutual aid partners are required to meet all State requirements. Chief Cocco confirmed that mutual aid agencies are fully licensed, which indicates compliance.

Ms. Sprinkle asked for details about the different licensing fees. Chief Cocco referenced the Section 26-93 of the ordinance which defines Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 licenses. He explained that the different types are in recognition of the business models that exist in the private sector.

Ms. Therrien asked if the ordinance would result in less income for the City and, if so, how much. Chief Cocco reported that they estimate once entities are licensed and operating under the guidelines, the impact would be in the range of 200 to 400 calls per year that the City would no longer, which would equate to \$150,000 to \$275,000 in revenue loss. He explained that while the income drop is unfortunate, it would also mean that City paramedics and ambulances would be freed up to focus on emergencies and 911 calls, which is their primary purpose.

Mr. Ringstad expressed support for the ordinance and acknowledged that while it might be new to Fairbanks, he appreciates hearing that it is a common set up in other cities. He agreed that the City can revisit the topic to make changes as needed. Chief Cocco reiterated that these types of programs are desired across the industry as a way to help emergency responders focus on the highest levels of calls. He noted that the positive public comment from LifeMed Alaska, a business that would be directly impacted, is a sign that the ordinance was well put together.

Mr. Ringstad asked for clarity on the status of the ordinance itself. Clerk Snider explained that a draft version had been discussed at a past work session but was never introduced at a Council Meeting. **Mayor Pruhs** confirmed that the City wanted to take time, consider all aspects that could be addressed, and do things right. He spoke about the desire to relieve the City of the burden of non-emergency calls that could be handled by the private sector.

Ms. Therrien asked if private companies would be able to take Medicaid payments. Chief Cocco stated that he could not speak directly for the companies but that he believes they are set up to take all major insurance companies and provide service to all regardless of payor status. Chief of Staff Sanders confirmed that in meetings with the hospital and LifeMed Alaska, it was stated that the

company can take every single home transport, which he understood to mean those with any kind of insurance, as well as those without. **Mr. Ringstad** shared that he had also had a conversation with G. Greene and learned that while LifeMed does take Medicaid, payments do not cover the cost of the service, so they have to work with the customer to address the remainder.

Mr. Cleworth indicated that it was ironic for the Council to help simplify things for people earlier through Resolution No. 5136, then consider a 13-page document that is anything but simple. He discussed redundancies with existing State regulations and what is being asked of businesses through the ordinance, as well as the reporting aspects. He expressed a desire to get out of the weeds, shorten the ordinance, and ensure there is a path for companies to eventually become mutual aid partners. He added that many of the requirements are not applied to mutual aid partners, and the double standard bothers him.

Ms. Sprinkle asked if the difference is that mutual aid partners are other government entities. Chief Cocco clarified that the only partners that are government entities are the City of North Pole and the University fire departments. He explained that all others are contracted groups that receive government funding, which puts them in a different category for regulations. He pointed out that the important component of the discussion differentiating between emergency and non-emergency calls. He agreed with Mr. Cleworth that the discussion of expanding mutual aid partnerships to private companies is something that can be addressed in the future. Chief Cocco shared that the conversation that resulted in the ordinance began with the hospital wanting to expand options for individuals being discharged from the hospital who need safe transportation back home. He stated that while 13 pages may seem complicated, it is actually very simple compared to other examples. He reiterated that the program is comparable to that in other cities and that the goal is to have a commonsense system with oversight to ensure citizens of the City have consistent, reliable options for care.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6293 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Pruhs declared the MOTION CARRIED.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

- a) Memorandum Re: Change to Senior Structural Plan Check Engineer Position

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- c) Fairbanks Diversity Council Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2024

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Therrien stated that she had no committee assignments to report on. She stated that she would like to serve on the Legislative Committee again.

Ms. Sprinkle reported that the Chena Riverfront Commission will soon meet. She stated that she is now serving on the FAST Planning Complete Streets Committee that will be working on updating policies that have not been touched in over a decade. She shared that she is also on the Public Enhancement Committee through FAST Planning and that she would ask if they could join the discussion regarding Veterans Memorial Park. She expressed appreciation for the work done pertinent to Borough's parking regulation ordinance.

Mr. Cleworth stated that it is an honor to serve another term on the Council. He added that he enjoys working with each Councilmember. He stated that they all strive to make the City work to the best of its ability and that every Councilmember believes strongly in what they do.

Ms. Tidwell reported that she did not have any recent committee activity to report on but that the Economic Development Commission would meet soon.

Mr. Marney shared that Explore Fairbanks Board recently held a meeting where they reviewed the organization's 2025 budget, which included a report from the CPA firm, Wilson & Wilson. He stated that Explore Fairbanks is trying to get caught up on audits and shared that they will meet again the following morning to continue the conversation.

Mr. Ringstad thanked Mr. Marney for sharing his report, recalling that a year ago the Council made it clear to Explore Fairbanks, and others who receive a significant portion of bed tax dollars, that they must have audits completed to remain in good standing. He expressed disappointment that Explore Fairbanks had not yet finished its current or past audits; he suggested that it may not have gotten enough attention or that mismanagement may be to blame. He asked for an update on the Barnette Street project. **Mayor Pruhs** explained that the project is not the City's; rather, it is being done by Aurora Energy. He shared that in the past, if a contractor has had significant, unreasonable delays, he has had no qualms about letting them know they might not be issued excavation permits in the future. He stated that he watched a pile of dirt sit for almost three weeks on Barnette Street while drivers had to follow detours. He noted that the road is now paved again but is still blocked off as the surface hardens. He reported that another issue occurred earlier in the year when the Interior Gas Utility (IGU) tore up 4th Avenue and let it sit for a few weeks. He shared plans to attend their next meeting to discuss what the City will consider unacceptable parameters for any future project, including penalties for failure to meet expectations.

Ms. Therrien expressed appreciation for all who participated in the recent election and for her gracious, hardworking opponents. She expressed eagerness to work with the Council again.

Mayor Pruhs stated that the Council will receive his draft of the 2025 budget at the next meeting. He indicated that he would begin making committee assignments and strive for consistency.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Snider stated that she will miss Ms. Rogers and welcomed back Ms. Therrien and Mr. Cleworth.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Chard thanked Councilmembers for their commitment to serving the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Ringstad**, moved to ENTER into Executive Sessions to discuss PSEA Labor Negotiations: Guidance from Council and the Peter Chapman Claim.

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

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

- a) PSEA Labor Negotiations: Guidance from Council [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(1)] *(entered at 8:25 p.m.)*
- b) Peter Chapman Claim [permissible under State law, including the provision at AS 44.62.310(c)(1)] *(entered at 9:06 p.m.)*

Mr. Cleworth brought the City Council out of the Executive Session, noting that the Council met in Executive Sessions to discuss PSEA Labor Negotiations: Guidance from Council and the Peter Chapman Claim. He affirmed that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

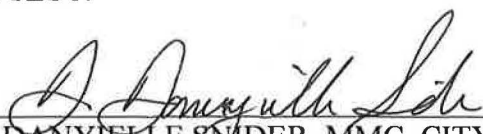
Mayor Pruhs called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Pruhs declared the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.



DAVID PRUHS, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYELLE SNIDER, MMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: CC