

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Regular Assembly Meeting
March 25, 2021
6:00 p.m.

A Regular meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly was held Thursday, March 25, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

There were present:

Mindy O'Neill, Presiding Officer and

Marna Sanford
Tammie Wilson
Liz Lyke
Aaron Lojewski

Frank Tomaszewski
Jimi Cash
Leah Berman Williams

Comprising a quorum of the Assembly, and

Bryce J. Ward, Borough Mayor
Jim Williams, Chief of Staff
Jill S. Dolan, Borough Attorney
Debbie Brady, Chief Financial Officer
Tim Doran, School Board Representative (Arr: 6:20 p.m.)
Daniel Welch, Acting Natural Resources Development Manager
Laura Minski, Parks and Recreation Project Coordinator
Adena Benn, CMC, Acting Borough Clerk
Gina Gregg, Research Assistant

Excused

Matt Cooper

NONSECTARIAN INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Track 1, 00:15

Presiding Officer O'Neill gave a land acknowledgement recognizing we work throughout the unceded territories of the indigenous peoples of Alaska. Ms. O'Neill then gave a nonsectarian invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

NONE

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND ANY OTHER PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

NONE

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Track 1, 04:30

- a. A citizen may speak on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing. Memorandums, Bid Awards, Unfinished Business (items postponed from previous meetings, reconsideration, or notice of intent to rescind), Resolutions, or Ordinances being advanced to a public hearing on a different date. Citizens' comments on Board of Adjustment matters are not permitted.

Christina Hommel, resident of the borough, spoke regarding Ordinance No. 2021-15 and potential borough regulations regarding nonprofit organizations.

Sarah Maxwell, resident of the borough, spoke regarding Ordinance No. 2021-15 and potential borough regulations regarding nonprofit organizations.

Tima Priess, resident of the borough, spoke regarding Ordinance No. 2021-15 and potential borough regulations regarding nonprofit organizations.

- b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda (this is the section to speak on anything **Not Scheduled** on the agenda).

Bill Wright, resident of the borough and representative of Explore Fairbanks, provided a social media update.

Devin Thompson, resident of the borough, spoke against property tax and mill rate increases.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Track 1, 32:15

WILLIAMS,
Seconded by LOJEWSKI

moved to approve the agenda and consent
agenda as read.

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

Yeses: Tomaszewski, Williams, Sanford, Wilson,
Lyke, Cash, Lojewski, O'Neill

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Track 1, 32:15

a. Regular Assembly Meeting minutes of March 11, 2021.

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY

a. Memorandum from Mayor Ward recommending the approval of modifications and/or waivers of FNSB Code provisions and rules governing Board and Commission meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Track 1, 36:40

Mayor Ward gave a staff report.

WILLIAMS,
Seconded by LOJEWSKI

moved to approve memorandum
recommending modifications and/or
waivers of FNSB Code provisions and rules
governing Board and Commission meetings
during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Discussion ensued.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY – continued

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE MEMORANDUM RECOMMENDING MODIFICATIONS AND/OR WAIVERS OF FNSB CODE PROVISIONS AND RULES GOVERNING BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Yeses: Williams, Cash, Lyke, Sanford, Wilson, Lojewski, O’Neill

Noes: Tomaszewski

MOTION CARRIED 7 Yeses, 1 Noes

b. Discussion on Fairbanks North Star Borough Federal Priorities talking points for the Presiding Officer and Borough Attorney meetings with the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

Track 1, 41:55

Discussion ensued. No formal action taken. Ms. Wilson suggested adding a talking point regarding the residential wood heather certification program.

MESSAGES FROM THE BOROUGH MAYOR

Track 2, 00:40

Mayor Ward provided a brief update on the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Mayor Ward also commented on:

- Messages from the Mayor Bi-Weekly Roundup Report.
- Eielson AFB is expecting four more KC-135 aircraft’s and additional service members soon.
- Noel Wien Library to start offering 45-minute browsing appointments April 9.
- Mary Siah Recreation Center reopening Monday, April 5 with limited services available.
- Pioneer Park master planning with Bettisworth North is in progress and held a visioning session with the advisory committee March 16.
- “Find a Job” button and additional budget information was recently added to the FNSB.gov webpage.

REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

NONE

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Track 2, 10:25

- a. Report from the City of Fairbanks Representative.

NONE

- b. Report from the City of North Pole Representative.

NONE

- c. Report from the School Board Representative.

School Board Member Tim Doran reported on:

- The Board met on March 24 and approved a FY21/22 Recommended Budget.
- Superintendent Dr. Karen Gaborik will host a Facebook Live event March 30 at 12 p.m. regarding the recommended budget.
- Superintendent search continues, final candidates will be chosen on March 27 with community forums to follow.
- Next Regular Board meeting is April 6 at 6 p.m.

SPECIAL ORDERS – PUBLIC HEARING

- a. ORDINANCE NO. 2021-12.

An Ordinance Authorizing The Direct Sale Of A Portion Of Tract H-3 Of Alaska State Land Survey 87-17, Within Section 16, T.1S., R.1W., To An Adjoining Landowner (Located On The North Side Of 30th Avenue, East Of Peger Road, West Of North Van Horn Road). (Sponsor: Mayor Ward)

Track 2, 15:35

Daniel Welch, Acting Natural Resources Development Manager, gave a staff report.

The Presiding Officer called for public testimony.

Alan Corrick, resident of the borough and Acting Executive Director of Alaska Family Health and Birth Center, spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2021-12.

The Presiding Officer called for further public testimony, there being none public hearing was closed.

LOJEWSKI,
Seconded by CASH

moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-12.

PUBLIC HEARING – continued

Discussion ensued.

VOTE ON MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2021-12.

Yeses: Williams, Lyke, Cash, Wilson,
Tomaszewski, Sanford, Lojewski, O’Neill

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

b. ORDINANCE NO. 2021-13.

An Ordinance Authorizing The Direct Sale Of A Portion Of Tract H-3 Of Alaska State Land Survey 87-17, Within Section 16, T.1S., R.1W., To An Adjoining Landowner (Located On The North Side Of 30th Avenue, East Of Peger Road, West Of North Van Horn Road). (Sponsor: Mayor Ward)

Track 2, 25:45

Daniel Welch, Acting Natural Resources Development Manager, gave a staff report.

The Presiding Officer called for public testimony.

Mitchell Twogood, resident of the borough and Board Member of Fairbanks Montessori Association Inc., spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2021-13.

The Presiding Officer called for further public testimony, there being none public hearing was closed.

TOMASZEWSKI, moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-13.
Seconded by CASH

VOTE ON MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2021-13.

Yeses: Sanford, Tomaszewski, Wilson, Cash, Lyke,
Williams, Lojewski, O’Neill

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

PUBLIC HEARING – continued

c. ORDINANCE NO. 2021-14.

An Ordinance Renaming And Redefining The Facilities Maintenance Reserve Established In Ordinance No. 99-016 To The Capital Improvement Program And Maintenance Reserve By Amending FNSBC Title 7 To Add Definitions Of Fund And Reserve Account, Adding New Sections To Establish Reserve Accounts Including The Capital Improvement Program And Maintenance Reserve Account, Providing For A General Fund Transfer To The Capital Improvement Program And Maintenance Reserve, Requiring A Contribution To The Capital Improvement Program And Maintenance Reserve In The Mayor's Proposed Budget, And Making Other Related Changes; And, Recomputing And Adjusting The February 2021 Transfers Of The Fiscal Year 2019-20 "Net General Fund Lapse." (Sponsors: Mayor Ward and Assemblymembers Lojewski and Sanford)

Track 2, 36:10

Mayor Ward and Assemblymember Lojewski gave a staff report.

The Presiding Officer called for public testimony, there being none public hearing was closed.

WILLIAMS,
Seconded by CASH

moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-14.

LYKE,
Seconded by WILLIAMS

moved to amend Line 197 by keeping the contribution to the capital improvement program and maintenance reserve at nine percent as follows: D. The borough mayor's total proposed comprehensive budget delivered to the assembly must include a contribution to the [FACILITIES MAINTENANCE RESERVE FUND] capital improvement program and maintenance reserve of at least nine [10] percent of the estimate of areawide tax revenue included in that budget, excluding penalties and interest and prior year['s] delinquent taxes.

Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC HEARING – continued

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND LINE 197 BY KEEPING THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND MAINTENANCE RESERVE AT NINE PERCENT AS FOLLOWS: D. THE BOROUGH MAYOR’S TOTAL PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET DELIVERED TO THE ASSEMBLY MUST INCLUDE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE [FACILITIES MAINTENANCE RESERVE FUND]CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND MAINTENANCE RESERVE OF AT LEAST NINE [10] PERCENT OF THE ESTIMATE OF AREAWIDE TAX REVENUE INCLUDED IN THAT BUDGET, EXCLUDING PENALTIES AND INTEREST AND PRIOR YEAR[’S] DELINQUENT TAXES.

Yeses: Williams, Lyke

Noes: Cash, Tomaszewski, Sanford, Wilson, Lojewski, O’Neill

MOTION FAILED 2 Yeses, 6 Noes

Discussion ensued.

CASH,
Seconded by TOMASZEWSKI moved to amend Line 112 by deleting “or mayor”.

Discussion ensued.

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND LINE 112 BY DELETING “OR MAYOR”.

Yeses: Cash, Williams, Sanford, Wilson, Tomaszewski, Lyke, Lojewski, O’Neill

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

Discussion ensued.

VOTE ON MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2021-14, AS AMENDED.

Yeses: Tomaszewski, Williams, Sanford, Wilson, Lyke, Cash, Lojewski, O’Neill

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

PUBLIC HEARING – continued

- d. ORDINANCE NO. 2020-20-1Q.
An Ordinance Amending The FY 2020-21 Budget By Appropriating \$22,239 In Federal Pass-Through Grant Funding To The Capital Projects Fund For The Growden Area Accessibility Improvements Project For The Purpose Of Providing Parks And Recreation Project Support, Designing And Furnishing Interpretive Panels, And Providing Design Support For Wayfinding Signs. (Sponsor: Mayor Ward)
Track 3, 16:05

Laura Minski, Parks and Recreation Project Coordinator, gave a staff report.

The Presiding Officer called for public testimony, there being none public hearing was closed.

WILLIAMS, moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-20-1Q.
Seconded by SANFORD

VOTE ON MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2020-20-1Q.

Yeses: Lyke, Sanford, Cash, Williams, Wilson, Tomaszewski, Lojewski, O’Neill

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR – Unfinished Business

NONE

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – Limited To 3 Minutes (Continuation if needed)

- a. items that are not scheduled for public hearing – continuation.

NONE

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR – New Business – Resolutions

Track 1, 32:15

- a. RESOLUTION NO. 2021-10.
A Resolution Encouraging Continued Work On The Chena Riverwalk Phase III Project And Consideration From The Alaska Railroad Corporation To Grant A Long-Term Land Interest For The Project. (Sponsor: Mayor Ward)

Without objection the measure was read by title, introduced and referred under the consent agenda to the Chena Riverfront Commission on March 30, 2021 with recommendation due back by April 9, 2021.

- b. RESOLUTION NO. 2021-11.
A Resolution Supporting Efforts To Eradicate The Invasive Weed Elodea In Fairbanks Area Lakes And Streams. (Sponsor: Mayor Ward)

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR – New Business – Ordinances To Be Referred To Committees Or Commissions

Track 1, 32:15

- a. ORDINANCE NO. 2021-15.
An Ordinance Amending FNSBC Title 22, Animals, And FNSBC 1.20.070(E), Fine Schedule, Including Adding A Definition For Animal Rescue Facilities, Clarifying Responsibilities Of Caretakers, Requiring Proof Of Immunization And Registration In Certain Circumstances, Removing Mandatory Warnings, Adding An Animal Ownership Section, And Other Related Changes. (Sponsor: Assemblymember Cash)

Without objection the measure was read by title and referred under the consent agenda to the Animal Control Commission with recommendation due back by June 11, 2021.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR – New Business – Ordinances To Be Introduced And Advanced To Public Hearing

Track 1, 32:15

- a. ORDINANCE NO. 2020-20-1R.
An Ordinance Amending The FY 2020-21 Budget By Reappropriating \$79,700 From The Department Of The Mayor In The General Fund To The Multi-Year General Subfund For The Purpose Of Funding The Development Of A Climate Action Plan, Creating A Climate Action Committee Of The Assembly, And Rescinding Resolution No. 2019-29 Establishing A Joint Climate Change Task Force. (Sponsors: Assemblymembers O’Neill, Sanford and Williams)

Without objection the measure was read by title, introduced and referred under the consent agenda to the Finance Committee on April 1, 2021; Advanced to April 8, 2021 for Public Hearing.

- b. ORDINANCE NO. 2020-20-1S.
An Ordinance Amending The FY 2020-21 Budget By Appropriating \$1,272,240 In Federal Pass-Through Grant Funding And \$424,080 In Local Matching Funds And \$575,920 In Additional Project Funding From The Facilities Maintenance Reserve To The Capital Projects Fund For The South Cushman Shooting Range Safety Improvements Project And Amending The FY 2021 Capital Improvement Program By Expediting This Project From FY22 To FY21. (Sponsor: Mayor Ward)

Without objection the measure was read by title, introduced and referred under the consent agenda to the Finance Committee on April 1, 2021; Advanced to April 8, 2021 for Public Hearing.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS – Limited To 3 Minutes (continuation if needed)

- b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda (this is the section to speak on anything **Not Scheduled** on the agenda).

NONE

ASSEMBLYMEMBER'S COMMENTS

Track 3, 19:15

Assemblymember Wilson thanked citizens for testifying tonight and informing her of a tax limitation in Alaska Statute Title 29.

Assemblymember Williams reminded citizens that more COVID vaccine appointments are becoming available.

Assemblymember Lojewski thanked Mr. Doran and other citizens for volunteering at the COVID Vaccine event he attended.

Assembly Schedule for the week of March 29:

- Monday, March 29: The Juanita Helms Administration Center is closed in observance of Seward's Day.
- Thursday, April 1: Finance Committee at 5:30 p.m. held at or hosted from in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers with the Committee of the Whole worksession immediately following. These meetings will be conducted in-person and by zoom or zoom-only based upon the Borough Risk Matrix FNSB Operational Status. Please visit fnsb.gov or contact the Borough Clerk's Office at (907) 459-1401 for more information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Mindy O'Neill
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

April Trickey, CMC
Borough Clerk