FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 – 29

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A JOINT CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

WHEREAS, Warming temperatures, heavier summer rains, shorter snow seasons and increasing rain on snow in winter are currently impacting and as these trends continue will increasingly impact the health and wellbeing of current and future Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) residents and poses increasing economic and safety challenges including wildfire, pests and diseases, flooding, hazardous travel conditions, reduced winter recreation and transportation opportunities, and damage to infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The overwhelming threats from climate change to our environment, infrastructure, economy, and residents' health require that we take mitigation and adaptation measures to address these growing impacts; and

WHEREAS, Climate change will impact the interests of the FNSB, but will disproportionately affect communities already facing disparities in socioeconomic and health outcomes, and as such, climate action is necessary to advance social equity; and

WHEREAS, Efforts to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change impacts are likely to benefit FNSB residents through cost savings, stable energy prices, steady jobs and local revenues, social equity, improved air quality, better public health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, A climate action plan is the best platform to outline urgently needed comprehensive mitigation and adaptation strategies to address a changing climate; and

By: Leah Williams
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Christopher Quist
Matt Cooper

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Adopted: 07/25/2019
WHEREAS, The Fairbanks North Star Borough Sustainability Commission recently adopted a resolution calling for action on the climate change crisis, requesting that the Assembly and the administration create a climate action plan addressing these concerns; and

WHEREAS, The FNSB’s participation is critical, but as a second class borough, the FNSB’s authority is constrained by powers that it can exercise in order to address climate change impacts, for example, in how it constructs and maintains its infrastructure and conducts its operations; solid waste programs, including recycling and other waste reducing measures; water pollution control and storm water management; transportation systems and land use powers that can encourage increased use of public transit and non-motorized transportation; economic development, by expanding locally grown products; and land use controls that encourage smart growth; however,

WHEREAS, a second class borough has land use authority, and adopts a comprehensive plan for guiding the physical, social, and economic development of the borough; and

WHEREAS, The Interior Issues Council Climate Change Task Force performed work in accordance with Borough Assembly Resolution No. 2007-40, and issued a report dated January 10, 2010; efforts should be made to use this report and other Borough planning documents in assessing the next steps in this process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairbanks North Star Borough administration shall facilitate the formation of a Joint Climate Change Task Force, including borough staff, residents, and community partners such as the University, for the purpose of identifying tasks and developing a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan which includes actions allowable by a second class borough to address climate change impacts on the Fairbanks North Star Borough; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Climate Change Task Force will hold its first meeting no later than November 15th, 2019; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the first objectives of the Climate Change Task Force are to identify funding needs for the development of a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and to identify a path towards securing external funds to meet those needs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon plan completion, the Assembly shall review the draft tasks and plan for consideration and adoption of a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan for the Fairbanks North Star Borough.
PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25th DAY OF JULY, 2019.

Matt Cooper
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

April Trickey, CMC
Borough Clerk

Yeses: Williams, Quist, Wildridge, Sanford, Gray, Lyke, Tacke, Cooper
Noes: Lojewski