

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in a budget workshop at 5:30 PM and then regular session following at 6:00 PM on Monday March 27, 2023. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Coffin. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Brittany Fuller, City Clerk; and Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk.

During the budget workshop, the new information on payment schedules for the upcoming projects was discussed. The council was updated on the changes that were made to the capital projects sections of the budget, given the information that payments would not be due in FY24. Councilman R. Woods arrived at 5:48 PM. The council also discussed the impact of Senate File 181, which caused a drop in property taxes of \$12,240.00 if they did not want to raise the tax rate. The council wanted to stay at the rate of 9.15 and they felt that to stay at the current rate but not miss out on the drop in revenues that the \$12,240.00 should be divided amongst the General Fund accounts and taken out of their expenses.

Mayor Cowell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by T. Woods, second by Erickson to approve the agenda. Roll call vote- Ayes: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Nays: None.

There were no public comments during the public comment section.

Motion by Williams, second by Erickson to approve the minutes of the March 13th Regular Meeting. Roll call vote- Ayes: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Nays: None.

The budget publication was discussed, and the council still felt that to keep the tax rate down and compensate for the decrease in revenues, there would need to be a decrease in expenses. Mayor Cowell said he would work with the City Clerk on an equal division of the \$12,240.00 decrease in expenses between the general fund accounts. Motion by Erickson, second by Coffin to approve the FY 2024 budget for publication after equally dividing the \$12,240.00 between the expenses in the general fund accounts and to allow Mayor Cowell and the City Clerk to calculate the deduction per department. Roll call vote- Ayes: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Nays: None.

Motion by Williams, second by R. Woods to approve **Resolution 2023-06 – Resolution Setting Time and Place for a Public Hearing for the City’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**. Roll call vote- Ayes: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Nays: None. The budget public hearing will be held at City Hall on Monday April 10th at 5:00 PM.

The Fayette County Fair Board asked if the city would be interested in partnering with them again for the fair this year. Last year the council voted to approve \$600.00. The money would go towards the carnival again and due to that they are able to make the carnival completely free. The fair dates are July 18-22, and everyone is encouraged to attend. Motion by William, second by Coffin to approve the donation of \$600.00. Roll call vote- Ayes: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Nays: None.

The council was informed that the Main Street Project was pushed back a week to April 3rd and that the V62 project was scheduled to start in Fairbank on April 10th.

Lisa Kremer and John Welsh were both present again to finalize the dollar amount that the city is committing to for the 1897 Café Building Catalyst Grant Project and how much is in kind, what the in kind would consist of and how much would be reimbursed in dollars. The application is due April 15th with an award date around June. John said the project was going to take at least a year. The committed amount could be figured out at that time or a later date. Councilman Coffin asked how the council felt about sticking to the \$75,000 or if anyone wanted to change it. Motion by R. Woods, second by Coffin to approve a \$75,000.00 commitment for the 1897 Café Building Catalyst Grant Project. Roll call vote- Ayes: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, and R. Woods. Abstain: Williams. Nays: None.

The grant application included two forms that needed to be approved and signed by the mayor. Motion by R. Woods, second by Coffin to approve the 1897 Building Catalyst Project Assurances form and a Letter of Intent to Participate. Roll call vote- Ayes: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, and R. Woods. Abstain: Williams. Nays: None.

Motion by Williams, second by T. Woods to approve Brittany Fuller and Michelle Laube’s attendance at the IMFOA Spring Conference on April 20th and 21st 2023 in Des Moines. The City Hall office will be closed during that time. The clerks will be available via City Hall phone now that they are able to access the phone system remotely. Please leave them a message during that time and they will get back to you as training allows. Roll call vote- Ayes: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Nays: None.

Councilwoman Erickson updated the council on the pool board progress. They have conducted some interviews for the pool management positions and are going to make some offers. Pool planning is moving forward. They are still looking for a third pool board member.

Due to some scheduling conflicts both meetings in April needed to be adjusted. Motion by Coffin, second by T. Woods to approve the council meeting on April 10th to start at 5:00 PM and for the meeting on April 24th to begin at 4 PM. Roll call vote- Ayes: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Nays: None.

Police Chief Drish said that the department had written citations for speeding, addressed noise complaints, and they were also looking into a harassment complaint. One of the officers will attend a career fair being held in Independence and Drish purchased four 2-way radios so that the Fairbank Days committee can get ahold of the officers on duty if they are needed during the celebrations in June. Brian discussed the information that he was made aware of from the pre-construction meeting for the V62 project. The project is set to start on Monday April 10th. Fire Chief Chris West attended that meeting as well to get information about emergency services during the project phases. Salt and sand were delivered that past week and they were working on locating more utilities for the city's GPS software. A drop box was added to the alley behind City Hall for a drop off option when the Main Street section is closed, and the front of the building will not be accessible.

Motion by Williams, second by T. Woods to adjourn at 7:03 PM. Roll call vote- Ayes: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Nays: None.

Bill Cowell, Mayor

Brittany Fuller, City Clerk