

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2010 @ 7:30 PM
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM
MINUTES**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor EJ Cheshier called the Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 pm on February 3, 2010 in the Library Meeting Room.

B. INVOCATIONS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Corrine Erickson led the audience in an invocation.
EJ Cheshier led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ROLL CALL

Present for roll call were Council members *David Allison, Bret Bradford, EJ Cheshier, Jim Kacsh,* and *David Reggiani.* Mayor *Tim Joyce,* City Manager *Mark Lynch,* and Council members *Robert Henrichs* and *James Kallander* were absent. Also present was the City Clerk *Lila Koplin.*

D. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

M/Reggiani S/Kacsh to approve the Regular Agenda.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Henrichs, Kallander). Motion carried.

E. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – None.

F. COMMUNICATIONS BY AND PETITIONS FROM VISITORS

1. Guest Speakers – None.
2. Audience comments regarding agenda items – *Keren Kelly,* 107 W. Davis Ave, stated that she was here on behalf of the MOU between the City, CCMC, and NVE. The MOU is working to help reduce health care costs for the patients, as well as health care costs for the hospital. She appreciates the support from the City, as well as all the work from the Hospital Board.
3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

Jim Nygaard, 601 Alder, Superintendent of schools. He stated that he completed and handed in the school's Debt Reimbursement application asking for about \$360K. A few items that did not qualify under the Debt Reimbursement were the wood shop because it was only at 60% reimbursement, and that would have made

everything reimbursable at 60% instead of 70%. The van, work done to the air conditioner in the server room at the high school, and work at the District office were also not approved. Approval from the State for the application should only take a couple of days. The methane digester has been coming along nicely. The kids set up some gas-flow meters to see how much methane they are developing. They have developed a small portable digester as well. Mt. Eccles continues to move forward. *Nygaard* stated that Tom Cohenour continues to do a great job. The new superintendent for the gym has the guys working ten hours a day, six days a week. They are making considerable progress. As far as legislative bills, *Nygaard* stated that removal of the graduation exam is one he's keeping an eye on. Support for lunch reimbursement is another one. Alaska is one of many States that do not support the school lunch and breakfast programs. House Bill 317 is a bill for funding of the schools. It's a three year plan that looks at an increase of \$125 per student, per year. The other one *Nygaard* has been looking at is to extend the cost differential for one more year. It currently states that for every \$1.00 Anchorage gets, Cordova get \$1.13. Another bill is the peer involvement in schools. A grant *Nygaard* received paid for school board travel and training, as well as a community engagement person. The Governor is also supporting a post secondary scholarship for people to continue their education beyond high school. Lastly, they are trying to get Debt Reimbursement to roll over for one more year. On another note, *Nygaard* stated that Bidarki does a great job with their programs.

Bradford stated that Parks and Rec. met. They discussed keeping recreation areas free from the snow dumps with Cohenour.

Cohenour stated that the gym is making tremendous progress. The south wall is up, which is the steel portion. There are going to be inspections on the bolting and welding, starting February 4th. The ceiling joist is already being put up, as well as the interior footings and concrete. With the renovations side, they have torn down the vault. There are electricians, plumbers, carpenters, and asbestos abatement workers working. The steel stud walls are being placed on the upper portion. *Bradford* asked if the roof surface of the gym was going to be pitched. *Cohenour* stated that it was going to be, with a 1 or 2% grade, sloping from the south going north with a trench drain along the edge.

Reggiani stated that the Police and Fire Facilities had a meeting on January 25th. They narrowed down their recommendation for the new site with a draft report. The approved report will be in the Council's next packet.

a. Approved minutes from 01-04-10 Police and Fire Facilities Committee Meeting

4. Student Council Representative – *Jessica Smyke* stated that the school is now recycling plastic bottles and aluminum cans. The Student Council is also trying to put more art in the school above the lockers. They are planning a ski hill day where the students can go to the hill for free with free rentals as well. They are

also planning an Oscar/Talent night for April 20th, open to the community. Homecoming is being planned for February 27th. The Council also helped out with Ice Worm activities. The balance in their budget is \$7,300.

G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

M/Reggiani S/Kacsh to approve the Consent Calendar.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Henrichs, Kallander). Cheshier – yes; Reggiani – yes; Kacsh – yes; Allison – yes; Bradford – yes. Motion carried.

5. Waive right to protest renewal of liquor license for the Powder House #919 Beverage Dispensary.
6. Record excused absence for Council member Robert Henrichs from the 01-20-10 regular meeting. Reason – injury.

H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Kacsh S/Bradford to approve minutes.

M/Allison S/Kacsh to amend page 17 in the packet, second page of the January 20th minutes, where he is making comments as part of the public. Towards the bottom of his comment, where it says “stimulus loan,” it needs to say “stimulus grant,” and where it says “CRT,” it needs to say “CVT.”

Vote on motion to amend: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Henrichs, Kallander). Motion carried.

Vote on main motion as amended: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Henrichs, Kallander). Motion carried.

7. Minutes of 01-06-10 Regular Meeting
8. Minutes of 01-20-10 Regular Meeting.

I. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS – None.

J. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9. Mayor’s Report – *Mayor Joyce* was absent from the meeting.
10. Manager’s Report – *Mark Lynch* was absent from the meeting.
11. City Clerk’s Report – *Lila Koplín* stated that the office has been busy updating the property records for the 2010 tax roll, and working on the 2009 foreclosures. The list will be in the paper by the following week. The declaration of candidacy for the upcoming election has ended. For Mayor, Robert Henrichs and Jim Kallander signed up. For seat A, Dan Scott is running, for Seat F, David Reggiani, and Seat G is empty. For the School Board, there two seats open, and three people running: Shawn Gilman, Jon Nichols and Tom Bailer. There are

three Ballot propositions. Absentee voting starts at City Hall on Tuesday, February 16th. Voting hours are 8-5 pm. Absentee voting will run until March 1st, and the election is March 2nd in the Library meeting room. The polls will open at 7 am and close at 8 pm. They have also been working on the COOP plan with Joanie Behrends.

a. Staff Reports

K. CORRESPONDENCE

12. Letter from US Dept. of Commerce NOAA in re: Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental EIS on the EVOSTC's Restoration Efforts.
13. Letter to Gov. Parnell in re: debt forgiveness for PWS herring seine and gillnet permit holders impacted by EVOS.
14. Letter to Board of Fish members in re: Chitina personal use fishery

L. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS – None.

M. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

N. NEW & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

15. Council approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Cordova; Native Village of Eyak and Ilanka Community Health Center; and the Cordova Community Health Center.

M/Reggiani S/Kacsh to approve the MOU between the City of Cordova, Native Village of Eyak and Ilanka Community Health Center; and the Cordova Community Health Center.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Henrichs, Kallander). Motion carried.

16. Council approval of Senior Citizen property tax exemption application received after the Jan. 15 deadline.

M/Kacsh S/Bradford to approve Senior Citizen property tax exemption application for Ora Warner as if timely filed.

Cheshier stated that he had conversed with Koplín, and the new directive is, if a senior misses the deadline, but files before May 1st, the tax exemption is to be approved. *Allison* asked if the January 15th deadline was a State statute. *Koplín* replied that it was. *Allison* stated he sided with Kallander on this issue, in that he doesn't like it, but will go ahead and approve it this time.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Henrichs, Kallander). Motion carried.

17. Mayor appointment and Council concurrence to reappoint Greg LoForte to the Harbor Commission.

M/Allison S/Kacsh to approve Mayor Joyce's reappointment of Greg LoForte to the Harbor Commission to serve a three-year term, to expire January 2013.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Henrichs, Kallander). Motion carried.

18. Pending Agenda and Calendar

Koplin stated that the Council needs to schedule a meeting to review the hospital administrator's evaluation. David Bryant is available on Tuesday, February 16th. A special meeting can be held that evening. *Bradford* and *Reggiani* stated that they would be unavailable. *Allison* stated he would be available by teleconference. *Reggiani* asked if it could be done before the meeting on 17th. *Koplin* stated it was up to the Council. *Cheshier* stated that they should plan on meeting at 6:30 pm on the 17th to discuss the evaluation, unless the administrator is unavailable. *Koplin* will check with Mr. Bryant to see if he is available.

Kacsh inquired when the Manager's evaluation was scheduled. *Koplin* stated that a special evaluation could be done anytime. The required evaluation is done at a year. *Kacsh* stated that he thought that a preliminary evaluation was to be done. *Koplin* stated that it was done at the last meeting, the pre-evaluation. *Bradford* stated that he thought it was just a discussion, but not a real evaluation. *Kacsh* thought they would do a semi-evaluation using a form. *Koplin* stated that the purpose of the meeting last week was to review the process, and discuss expectations. Lynch passed out a list of things he was working on. *Bradford* stated that he would support an informal evaluation. *Kacsh* stated that when they hired Lynch, they discussed a six-month evaluation, mainly to give recommendations. *Bradford* stated he agreed, and would like to do an informal evaluation before a year. *Cheshier* stated that he was a little confused about the process as well. He thought that they would actually fill out their forms on the Manager. *Allison* stated they should look at his contract to see if there is a six-month contract required, and if not, he has no problem waiting until the year evaluation. The Council can tell him at any point anything they think he needs to work on. *Koplin* stated that she would check his contract.

O. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Barbara Beedle, 910 Ingress, stated that she waited a long time to get the Senior tax exemption. She noticed that someone forgot because they were busy during Christmas, and thought the City should abide by the rules and not allow exemptions after the deadline. She continued that there are people walking in the road, and it is hard to see them at night. She would like it required to have people wear reflective tape or something. In addition, she sees the light is still damaged across from the Library. *Beedle* stated that she sees that Bidarki is getting a new roof and would also

like to see an elevator in Bidarki since it's a City owned building. In addition, she would like to see a clock in a position that the audience can see it in the Library meeting room. She will donate a clock if it is hung where the audience can see it. On another note, she opened the ice worm store. It's open 1-5 pm, Wednesday through Saturday. The food fair is on Sunday at the high school. **Bradford** stated that the new roof is on the gym at the elementary, not Bidarki. **Beedle** would still like to see an elevator at Bidarki.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

19. Council Comments

Kacsh thanked everyone who put their name in the hat for City Council. He was unable to run this year.

Allison welcomed the Student Council Rep. Continuing on about the elevator, he agrees that there are issues around town with handicap access. There are many areas that could be improved. Some of the improvements need to come from the State, but he also encourages the Council to think about these issues when they are planning. On another note, the four-wheelers that drive around town haven't been a big issue, but he did see one parked in front of the emergency exit at Bidarki, making it unsafe if the exit needed to be used. He thinks a few signs around town on key parking hazards need to be put up. Otherwise, he thinks the program has been going good with no major complaints. **Allison** stated that hanging a clock where the audience can see it in the Library meeting room is not a problem. He also thanked those that are running for Mayor and City Council.

Reggiani thanked Cohenour for the great tour of the elementary renovation. The construction crew was very professional, and the area was nice and clean. It was very impressive.

Bradford questioned why people have to apply to the Senior Citizen tax exemption every year. **Cheshier** stated that he discussed this with Koplín a few days prior. He would like Koplín to explain to the Council what they are trying to get at with having a deadline, and why there is an exemption. **Koplín** stated that the State requires that people maintain their primary residence here in Alaska for the exemption; at least 185 days a year. When they apply every year, these issues come up. The City can then review the application, and make sure they are complying with the State's regulations. **Bradford** stated that there is probably a better way. **Koplín** stated that they do everything possible to get the seniors to hand in their exemption. They mail the forms, post notices, and even call them when the deadline is approaching. The applications also help the office keep abreast of their status. **Bradford** asked what the costs are to the City when people hand in late applications. **Koplín** stated that the deadline is set by the State, although the City could change it if they wanted. If the seniors miss the deadline, they can still apply for the exemption, with no real extra costs to the City until May 1st. If they come in after the tax roll has been certified or after the tax bills have been mailed out, that's when the extra work and costs incur. It

was decided then that they would not allow any more exemptions to be accepted after May 1st. If a senior brings in an application after May 1st, staff doesn't bring it to Council, but keeps it on file for the following year. *Kacsh* stated that if they are going to discuss it at length, it should be on the agenda. Nonetheless, if it's a State rule, it needs to be followed. *Allison* stated he agreed with *Kacsh*, to a point. However, if the City really does not like the State rules, the City can work to change them, be it through a lobbyist or another method. *Koplin* stated that they did have flexibility with the deadline. They can change it, not allow an exemption if the deadline is missed, or not even require a deadline.

Reggiani suggested putting the Senior Citizen exemption on the next agenda for discussion. He would like to see the ordinance and statute in the packet. *Kacsh* stated that the current system works, even if they gripe about it. *Cheshier* stated he would be in favor of an ordinance that allowed late applications if the person had medical issues, or something of that nature. He would like an agenda item at the next meeting for discussion. *Allison* concurred.

Bradford stated he was happy to see the MOU with the health providers.

Cheshier thanked Cohenour for the tour, and agreed with everything *Reggiani* stated earlier about the construction site.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

M/Allison S/Kacsh to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:42 pm.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Henrichs, Kallander). Motion carried.

Approved: February 17, 2010

Attest: *Erika Empey*
Erika Empey, Deputy City Clerk

