

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM
MINUTES**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor James Kacsh called the Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on January 21, 2015, in the Library Meeting Room.

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor James Kacsh led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ROLL CALL

Present for roll call were *Mayor James Kacsh* and Council members *Kristin Carpenter*, *Bret Bradford* and *Dave Reggiani*. Council members *Tom Bailer*, *Tim Joyce* and *Hayley Hoover* were present via teleconference. Council member *James Burton* was absent. Also present were new Student Council Representatives *Ashley Reece* and *Bhren Peña* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*. City Manager *Randy Robertson* was present via teleconference.

D. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

Vote on motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Burton). Joyce-yes; Hoover-yes; Bradford-yes; Carpenter-yes; Reggiani-yes; Bailer-yes; Reece-yes and Peña -yes. Motion was approved.

E. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - none

F. COMMUNICATIONS BY AND PETITIONS FROM VISITORS

1. Guest Speaker - none

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

Moe Zamarron of 524 Second Street spoke to agenda item 22 a letter he wrote to the council to bring this topic to light. He wanted to request that Council comment on this issue. Prop 4 in 2014 was passed by the people and it funded refuse upgrades which put into play the 2013-2014 recycling program according to *Zamarron's* comments. He said the City suspended recycling activity indefinitely in late 2014 which he said looks like the vote was being disregarded. *Zamarron* said DCRA is following this topic and has requested a copy of any reply he gets from Council on this issue.

Tom Carpenter of 501 Lakeview Drive said he was perplexed when he saw in tonight's packet the amount of bonded indebtedness this City has taken on or intends to take on. He said the last ten years of City revenues has been at the apex of the fisheries. He worried how hard the taxpayers would be hit when we are at the bottom of the revenue stream. He was most concerned about the \$3 million bond on the ballot for the Cordova Center completion. *Carpenter* said that he attended the first 8 meetings about Cordova Center construction and he said it was promised that the construction would never require bonding by the citizens, yet it looks like that will happen and that's frustrating.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions (Harbor, HSB, Parks & Rec, P&Z, School Board)
Carpenter reported for the HSB and she mentioned that there had been a lot of rumors regarding the Doctor that has been offered a contract and she wanted to say that he comes highly recommended and he was very upfront about some personal issues during the interview process. She hoped people would give someone a fair chance and not judge before they knew all the facts. *Carpenter* also said she contacted a facilitator for the workshop on February 24 and so, someone from Agnew Beck will be coming for that. Location is still to be announced but the idea is to receive feedback from people on Health Care in Cordova and the current relationship with Providence, etc.

There were no reports on Parks and Rec, Planning and Zoning and School Board.

4. Student Council Representatives *Ashley Reece* reported that there are a lot of new people that have joined student council this year. It is appreciated to see those who have stepped up. Different fundraising

opportunities are being explored such as: taping the principal to a wall, “kiss the sheep”, movie nights, etc. Student Council has been working on the Homecoming Dance and the theme is Hunger Games – date and location unsure as of now, maybe Masonic or Mt. Eccles Commons. **Bhren Peña** added that he and **Megan Reggiani** will be going to the legislative fly-in in Juneau on Friday February 6 as members of AASG, but will be coming back early to attend the basketball trip to Valdez.

Barb Jewell, School Board President, was present and asked to report on the last School Board meeting. She said they would begin looking at Superintendent applications this coming Friday. She said there is a good number already and the closing date for applications isn’t until 1/30/15 and they have been told they should be expecting even more. The review process will take place over the next ten days or so. There is a community survey out that the Board would like to get as much participation on as possible; it’s about qualities and attributes that the public would like to see in a new superintendent. On February 5 the board will decide who to interview and the interviews will be February 26, 27 and 28 – at which time there will also be a community forum so people will be able to meet the candidates. **Jewell** was also excited to be taking students (**Megan** and **Bhren**) to the legislative fly-in.

G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Kacsh informed Council that the consent calendar was before them.

Council member **Reggiani** pulled item 10 which was handled immediately after the Consent Calendar because the City Attorney, **Tom Klinkner**, was on the phone to discuss it with Council.

5. Resolution 01-15-03 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the conveyance to Ronald and Anne Winters of 416 square feet of Lot 13, Block 5 and 726 square feet of Tract A, Odiak Park Subdivision

6. Resolution 01-15-04 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing conveyance to Ocean Beauty Seafoods LLC of approximately 4601 square feet of ATS 220

7. Resolution 01-15-05 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City to issue general obligation refunding bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$950,000 to refund certain outstanding general obligation bonds of the City, fixing certain details of such bonds and authorizing their sale

8. Resolution 01-15-06 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City to issue general obligation road bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$2,000,000 to provide funds for the planning, design and construction of road and related capital improvements, fixing certain details of such bonds and authorizing their sale

9. Resolution 01-15-07 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska allowing the Cordova Center Committee to support bond proposition 1, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, to finance completion of the Cordova Center upon approval by the voters of the City at the regular City election in March 2015 as outlined by City Resolution 12-14-48

~~10. Resolution 01-15-08 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City to issue general obligation refunding bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$12,550,000 to refund certain outstanding general obligation bonds of the City, fixing certain details of such bonds and authorizing their sale~~

11. Record unexcused absence of Council member Carpenter from the November 5, 2014 Regular Meeting

12. Record unexcused absences of Mayor Kacsh and Council member Bradford from the January 7, 2015 Regular Meeting

13. Record excused absences of Council member Burton from the November 5, 2014 and the January 7, 2015 Regular Meeting

Vote on Consent Calendar: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Burton). Hoover-yes; Joyce-yes; Bradford-yes; Bailer-yes; Carpenter-yes and Reggiani-yes. Consent calendar was approved.

10. Resolution 01-15-08 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City to issue general obligation refunding bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$12,550,000 to refund certain outstanding general obligation bonds of the City, fixing certain details of such bonds and authorizing their sale

City Clerk Bourgeois had handed Council a revised Resolution 01-15-08. It was titled as follows: Resolution 01-15-08 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City to issue general obligation refunding bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$13,500,000 to refund certain outstanding general obligation bonds of the City, fixing certain details of such bonds and authorizing their sale. City Attorney *Tom Klinkner* had advised that the bond bank requested the language in the replacement resolution. *M/Reggiani S/Bradford* to approve Resolution 01-15-08 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City to issue general obligation refunding bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$13,500,000 to refund certain outstanding general obligation bonds of the City, fixing certain details of such bonds and authorizing their sale.

Klinkner explained that bond bank bond issues combine loans of several municipal borrowers into one transaction and this refinancing transaction includes several different municipalities. The loans being refinanced have different payments, different interest rates, different payment schedules, different payment dates etc. This makes it challenging for the bond bank to align those and adopt a payment date that works for everybody. *Reggiani* said that there was an attachment in the packet which showed an annual savings summary – he wanted to ensure that with the change in language to the resolution that we were still saving at least that amount and he wondered in fact if there was more of a savings with the new language more than the \$1.4 million. *Klinkner* said that the savings in the exhibit B were projected savings – now that more bonds are being refinanced, he would anticipate that there would be more savings – i.e. which would be a higher number. He said until you really go to market and know what the rates will be, you wouldn't know for sure – these are just estimates here. *Joyce* said that he wanted to point out that the school bonds which are a significant part of our bond debt are paid at a 60% rate by the State of Alaska as the School district (City) gets reimbursed for those payments each year. So, he wanted people to understand that it looks like a big number (debt) but it's really not – and that was the money used for the new gym at the grade school and the renovations there which was voted on by the people because of the need for that.

Vote on motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Burton). Carpenter-yes; Bradford-yes; Bailer-yes; Hoover-yes; Reggiani-yes and Joyce-yes. Motion was approved.

H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Reggiani S/Bradford to approve the minutes.

14. Public Hearing Minutes 12-17-14

15. Regular Meeting Minutes 12-17, 18-14

16. Special Meeting Minutes 12-22-14

17. Regular Meeting Minutes 01-07-15

Joyce asked to make a correction to the December 17, 201 regular meeting minutes. At the bottom of page 74 he asked that his statement starting with, "Joyce referred...pay for it", be removed as it was out of context.

Reggiani asked if the Clerk concurred. *Bourgeois* said *Joyce* did make that statement but without the lengthy conversation and back and forth discussion that came just before the statement, she could see where he believed that it was out of context. She went on to say that without the sentence, the content of the minutes was the same. She was fine with removing the sentence. Council directed the Clerk to do that and then went ahead to vote on approval of the minutes.

Vote on motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Burton). Joyce-yes; Bailer-yes; Hoover-yes; Reggiani-yes; Bradford-yes and Carpenter-yes. Motion was approved.

I. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS – none

J. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

18. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Kacsh** mentioned his written report – he will be bringing an ordinance to the next meeting for Council consideration concerning the end time of meetings – changing that to 10:00 pm. Last week he met with Dawson's leadership along with **Randy** and **Kristin** and attended an EMO meeting with **Joanie Behrends** and before tonight's meeting he attended a community gathering about scheduling youth activities.

19. Manager's Report – **Robertson** mentioned the draft letter in the packet, he would be getting it from the school superintendent and Council could sign it and then we'd mail it off (**Bourgeois** said she would take care of that tomorrow). He asked if during pending agenda they could address a question he posed to them about picking a Saturday in March for the retreat/goal setting session. **Robertson** thanked **Mr. Klinkner** and **Mr. Stavig** for making the pretty complicated issue (i.e. this bond refinance) more easily understandable.

a. Cordova Center update report - **Rogers** said there was a good meeting last week with **Pete Dawson** and his staff – he thought everyone walked away a little closer. Work continues 6 days/week; an eight month schedule. The second pay request is in. The architect is handling over 104 RFI's – so they are busy. **Reggiani** said we are about 4 months away from substantial completion date, how is that looking schedule-wise? **Rogers** said early July (ninth) is substantial completion right now – City should anticipate moving in over July / August. He figured punch list items would be going on through the end of July. **Reggiani** asked what was in the contract as far as missing substantial completion. **Rogers** said he believed that liquidated damages were \$200/day.

20. Staff Reports – 4Q 2014

- a. **Miriam Dunbar**, Library Director
- b. **Michael Hicks**, Chief of Police
- c. **Cathy Sherman**, Museum Director
- d. **Tony Schinella**, Harbormaster
- e. **Samantha Greenwood**, City Planner

21. Clerk's Report – **Bourgeois** mentioned the upcoming election – she's been busy advertising for; declaration of candidacy will close February 3. So far Seat D has one declared candidate – **Robert Beedle**, Seat E – also one candidate so far, **Stephen Phillips**; School Board so far – **Dan Reum** and **Pete Hoepfner**. Ballot proposition 1 is on the election - \$3 million bond for the Cordova Center. **Bourgeois** mentioned a couple of recent FOIA (freedom of information act, i.e. records requests) requests where she was able to direct both requests to websites where all the answers were available. The Deputy Clerk is busy working on the 2015 tax roll and preparing for assessment notices which will be out to the owners in March.

K. CORRESPONDENCE

22. Letter from **Moe Zamarron** regarding recycling 01-13-15

Bailer commented that he is in agreement with the course of action we are taking regarding recycling and he would disagree with some of the assumptions that were made in the letter. **Joyce** said there are some assumptions being made in that which might not be the case if you look at the language in the bond proposition.

23. Proposed correspondence from School Board and Council to Murkowski, Young and Sullivan regarding SRS funding

L. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS - none

M. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

N. NEW & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

24. Pending Agenda & Calendar

Mayor Kacsh said he would be out of town Feb 14 – 24 so he will miss the second meeting in February – it seemed so would **Reggiani** and at least one other – **Bourgeois** said that at the February 4 meeting we could reaffirm the cancellation of the Feb 18 meeting and then we could consider a date for a special meeting in between if necessary. **Carpenter** reminded Council about February 24 at 7pm – location tba, the community

forum concerning Providence and CCMC. Council opted for Saturday April 4 for the goal setting session, off-site retreat. **Reggiani** asked for a meeting with the Providence delegation to discuss expectations – the amendment being worked on is specific to one item – the contract expires end of 2015 and he thinks we should all sit down sooner rather than later. Council opted for a special meeting alone, without Providence, to formulate a plan as to agreed upon goals and expectations to present to Providence at such a meeting. Monday February 9 at 6:30 pm was decided upon.

O. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Barb Jewell she said she may have misspoken earlier – all of the applicants' information would not be made available, but when we are down to a few interviewees that will be accessible. She also thanked the City Manager and Superintendent for putting the letter together concerning secure rural schools funding. She also mentioned that the school board meeting will be February 17 instead of February 11 next month.

Tom Carpenter was glad to hear that there will be a special meeting concerning the hospital. He asked if there still was a hospital board. Council answered by saying that the City Council members are all also Health Services Board members. He said that unless you go to the hospital on a regular basis, it's all just hearsay. Unfortunately, he's been going to the hospital a lot lately and is concerned about the employee morale. He believes there is a problem with turnover as well. He asked for a suggestion from Council as to who (which entity) he should approach with his concern. He asked when the next HSB meeting is – **Kristin Carpenter** said there would be a special meeting upcoming within the next few weeks – uncertain of the date as of yet.

Kevin Byrd said he is a permanent employee of the hospital and he is not unhappy. He said he was supposed to deliver a message from **Katie Hoepfner** who says she has not quit and she has never been happier. He has recently purchased a house and he said he's not going anywhere.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

25. Council Comments

Bailer said he agrees with **Mr. Carpenter's** comments – when you can have City Offices at \$800 - \$900 per square foot, that's a tough pill to swallow. He said we have to finish it and if the bond doesn't pass where will we get the money from? He is not in favor of using the permanent fund. He hopes the committee can get the word out and pass the bond and so we can spread the bond payment out over a longer period of time.

Hoover apologized for not being there and for missing the next meeting.

Joyce talked about encroachments onto City land and he said at some point this council needs to set some guidelines by changing code or in some way to deal with the existing encroachments and to discourage future encroachments.

Carpenter discussed the hospital situation again and was not glad **Tom Carpenter** finds himself at the hospital a lot but at the same time is glad that it is there and being used by citizens. She said that **Sean McCallister** (Providence employee) said his take on the morale at the hospital is also that it has improved quite a bit in the last four or five months. She did say that there certainly has been staff turnover so there are new faces at the medical center.

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. ADJOURNMENT

M/Bradford S/Reggiani to adjourn. Hearing no objections the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Approved: February 4, 2015

Attest:


Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

