

**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**February 5, 2020 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B**  
**Minutes**

**A. Call to order**

*Mayor Clay Koplín* called the Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on February 5, 2020, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

**B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance**

*Mayor Koplín* led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll call**

Present for roll call were *Mayor Clay Koplín* and Council members *Ken Jones, Melina Meyer, David Allison* and *David Glasen*. Council members *Tom Bailer* and *Jeff Guard* were present via teleconference. Council member *Anne Schaefer* was absent. Also present were City Manager *Helen Howarth* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

**D. Approval of Regular Agenda**

*M/Allison S/Glasen* to approve the Regular Agenda.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Schaefer). Motion was approved.

**E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications - none**

**F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors**

1. Guest speaker - none
2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none
3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

*Greg Meyer*, Chair of the CCMCA Board reported: 1) thanked City for the wonderful job snow plowing and sanding at the hospital; 2) talks with NVE are moving along, no real glitches yet; 3) they've sent a request to the state for the PERS information - should hear back in a month or so; 4) will be losing CEP Randall Draney end of June - looking for a replacement; 5) the cashflow analysis that was reported back in August seems to be holding true; approximately \$600K in bank currently, which equals about 20 days. Some good news - 2019 gross revenue was up \$1M, contractual adjustments were also up about \$1M. More good news on bad debt: in 2018 \$740K was written off, in 2019 it was \$260K. 6) *Vicki Blackler* is coming on part-time to help with Accounts Receivable - currently to date A/R is about \$2M. Average aging of accounts receivable in June was 130 days, we've gotten that down to 100 days currently and our goal is to get to 50 days by the summer. 7) The CNA course he had reported 6 participants, actually 12 would up enrolling a good collaborative effort between PWS College, CCMC and Ilanka.

4. Student Council representative - *William Deaton* reported that a new school board policy had been approved and Student Council discussed it last week. They are concerned about the implications the new policy will have on teachers, coaches and volunteers. They will be taking their concerns to School Board next week. Homecoming will be March 6 and 7 and preparations are well underway; hope to see a lot of alumni show up in support of the Wolverines.

**G. Approval of Consent Calendar**

5. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of excused absence of the following: Council member Anne Schaefer from the 01/15/2020 Regular Meeting

6. Council action to waive right to protest renewal of liquor licenses #40 and #41 (beverage dispensary and package store) for Alaskan Hotel & Bar

7. Council Concurrence of Appointments to fill vacancies on Library Board and Historic Preservation Commission

8. Council Concurrence of Mayor's Appointments to City Election Board

Vote on the approval of the consent calendar: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Glasen-yes; Jones-yes; Meyer-yes; Schaefer-absent; Allison-yes; Bailer-yes and Guard-yes. Consent calendar was approved.

**H. Approval of Minutes**

*Mayor Koplín* commented - asked the Clerk if there had been an audit of some minutes that hadn't ever been approved. *Bourgeois* reported that these are just some minutes that hadn't been written or approved - she had a college student come into the office over Holiday break and help get us caught up. More might be coming forward.

*M/Allison S/Glasen* to approve the minutes.

9. Minutes of the 12-08-17 Special Council Meeting
  10. Minutes of the 03-15-18 Special Council Meeting
  11. Minutes of the 04-17-19 Special Joint Council Meeting w/CCMC Authority Board
  12. Minutes of the 05-24-19 Special Council Meeting
  13. Minutes of the 06-12-19 Special Joint Council Meeting w/CCMC Authority Board
  14. Minutes of the 09-28-19 Special Council Meeting
  15. Minutes of the 12-18-19 Council Public Hearing
  16. Minutes of the 12-18-19 Regular Council Meeting
  17. Minutes of the 01-15-2020 Council Public Hearing
  18. Minutes of the 01-15-2020 Regular Council Meeting
- Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Schaefer). Motion was approved.

#### **I. Consideration of Bids - none**

#### **J. Reports of Officers**

19. Mayor's Report - **Mayor Koplín** reported that he's been working hard on Fisheries issues and AMHS issues (as has the whole community). He recognized **Cathy Renfeldt**, the Chamber Board, local businesses and citizens for keeping the pressure on the AMHS. He thanked **Robin Irving** for drafting some insightful considerations to the AMHS. The Port Authority item later is just a memo asking for support for the Manager to start exploring that option.

20. Manager's Report - City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) sat in on AMHS scheduling teleconference - it is clear that the scheduler is trying to accommodate earlier service in PWS to help with SERVS, Shorebird and arrival of the fishing fleet - difficulty being all the out-of-service vessels. We were told the LeConte would not be able to start any earlier than May 20 - will try to get the Kennicott to serve a few runs in PWS early. The schedule will be out in 2 weeks and we should not let the pressure off. **Howarth** also gave a shout out to **Robin Irving** - she pored over the schedule and really came up with actual workable solutions that don't impact the whole system. 2) Governor has a supplemental budget that can help with a lot of the major cuts from last budget, fire, Medicaid/Medicare, an AMHS (\$5M for vessel improvements and \$7M for operations) - should be voted on Friday by the legislature. 3) **Howarth** gave a shout-out to all snow removal crews, public and private, she said it was obvious that we're experienced having endured the last snowpocalypse.

21. City Clerk's Report - **Bourgeois** reported: 1) upcoming March 3, 2020 election, declared candidates: Council Seat B - Ken Jones, Cathy Sherman, Seat C - Jeff Guard, School Board - Sheryl Glasen, CCMCA Board - Kelsey Hayden. Absentee in person to begin February 18 at City Hall.

22. Staff Quarterly Reports - 4Q 2019 - Library Department - **Director Debbie Carlson**, Cordova Harbor & Port - **Harbormaster Tony Schinella**, Cordova Center - **Museum Director Mimi Briggs**, Cordova Fire Department - **Fire Marshal Paul Trumblee**, Cordova Police Department - **Chief Mike Hicks**

Council comments on Staff reports - **Bailer** commented that the burn pile was mentioned in the Harbormaster report, so he wanted to reiterate his concern about figuring out what to do with the burn pile sooner rather than later as the PWSSC works toward building down there. **Meyer** commented that the Police Report mentions the NVE grant for the K9 officer and she wanted to acknowledge them for that.

#### **K. Correspondence**

23. 12-18-19 CFDC letter to ADF&G re PWS Tanner Crab Test Fishery
  24. 01-07-2020 ADEC ltr to ADFG re early notice of LTF wastewater discharge permits
  25. 01-16-2020 Letter to CCMCA board and staff forwarded to Council by G. Meyer
  26. 01-16-2020 Letter from DCRA Director Moller re 2019 Cdv population determination
  27. January letter from City Planning Commission to ADOT
  28. 01-28-2020 ADF&G 2020 PWS and Copper River Salmon Forecast
  29. 01-29-2020 Letter from Bob Smith regarding Fisheries
  30. 01-29-2020 Letter from Representative Don Young regarding USCG City designation
- Glasen** commented on item 29 and wondered if Council shouldn't have a resolution of support for the proposals being put forward to the Board of Fish.

#### **L. Ordinances and Resolutions - none**

#### **M. Unfinished Business - none**

#### **N. New & Miscellaneous Business**

31. Council direction to Manager to investigate and make recommendations regarding establishment of a Port Authority

*M/Allison S/Glasen* to authorize City Manager, *Helen Howarth*, to investigate and make recommendations regarding establishment of a port authority by the City and/or work collaboratively with regional partners to determine viable management structure for the AMHS in PWS.

*Allison* said he wanted to clarify that there are other uses of a port authority, not just the marine highway, it's worth looking into. *Meyer* agreed she'd like this explored, she wants the pros and cons presented. *Jones* thinks this is a bad idea, this won't be profitable for the City to take over the ferry - or else private industry would've taken it over already. If there is a state subsidy, maybe it could make the ends meet, he then might be more inclined. He thinks this is a waste of staff time.

*Glasen* was under the impression that this would be in conjunction with NVE. *Howarth* said many things are on the table. Shepard Point is a consideration, NVE will need a regional port authority or a Cordova port authority, so she will gather and research and bring all the information back to Council.

Vote on the motion: 5 yeas, 1 nay (Jones), 1 absent (Schaefer). Motion was approved.

### 32. Pending Agenda, Calendar and Elected & Appointed Officials lists

*Mayor Koplín* said due to flight cancelations the USCG City Proclamation presentation was rescheduled, he'll let us know an update when there is one. *Mayor Koplín* also asked Council to fill out and return the Clerk's evaluation documents that he had handed out for Council - he'd like them all back by February 19. *Meyer* asked for Gross Receipts tax to be added to the Impact Tax item (13 on the PA list). *Jones* asked for a work session on the prospect of requiring a vote before any new tax or increase in tax. Council opted for a 6:30 pm work session on February 19. *Allison* mentioned item 5 on PA - he is more interested in actually going out for an RFP for City Attorney. He'd like to get one out before summer, maybe evaluate it in the fall. *Bailer* said there is an item on PA about Council/Board training - he'd like to see us move on that. He would also like to hear an update from the manager on how it's going with investment firms. Council also pulled off the item that said Joint Work Session with Harbor Commission by scheduling that joint work session for March 11 at 6 pm. *Jones* asked to discuss the different grants as listed in PA item 15.

*Barb Jewell*, School Board President arrived late and reported for School Board. Contract recommendations will be heard at the next School Board meeting - earlier than usual so they have more time to fill open positions. *Gayle Groff* will be retiring so the district is already in search of an elementary school principal. They will also be looking at budgets revisions and will conduct the superintendent evaluation. Travel has been tough for the school, like the whole community. They continue to advocate with legislators for better AMHS/travel access.

### O. Audience Participation - none

### P. Council Comments

*Bailer* thanked staff for handling the snow, especially the coordination with the State to help open the airport. He mentioned Roberts Rules being used even in the highest court in the land, he heard "without objection" being used and he thinks it's a smart way to move meetings along.

*Glasen* thanked staff and crews on clearing snow and also sanding. He also said it was amazing that just in time for Iceworm parade there was sunshine.

*Meyer* echoed the snow/airport issues. She also thanked the Iceworm committee for their great job again with the festival. *Jones* clarified his comments and vote on the Port Authority issue; he is not anti-ferry service for Cordova - he wants to hold the State's feet to the fire - he thinks it's their responsibility. He thanked Council member *Meyer* for wearing the costume. He also thanked the volunteer committee for the festival.

### Q. Executive Session - none

### R. Adjournment

*M/Allison S/Glasen* to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection *Mayor Koplín* adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Approved: February 19, 2020

Attest:   
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

