

Regular City Council Meeting
March 6, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes

A. Call to order

Vice Mayor David Allison called the Council regular meeting to order at 7:15 pm on March 6, 2019, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance

Vice Mayor Allison asked for a moment of silence for Ed Zeine, a former Cordova Mayor, who passed away recently. *Vice Mayor Allison*, then, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll call

Present for roll call were Council members *Jeff Guard*, *Melina Meyer*, *David Allison* and *James Wiese*. *Mayor Clay Koplin* and Council members *James Burton*, *Ken Jones* and *Anne Schaefer* were absent. Also present were City Manager *Alan Lanning* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

M/Wiese S/Meyer to approve the Regular Agenda.

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Burton, Jones and Schaefer). Motion was approved.

E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest - none

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speakers - none

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

Alex Russin of 209 South Second Street spoke on behalf of the Cordova School District and the Cordova School Board in opposition to borough formation. The Board passed a resolution at last month's board meeting opposing borough formation.

Matt McDaniel spoke representing Chugach, Tatitlek and Chenega also in opposition to borough formation, he was in favor of the resolution in Council's packet also opposing the borough.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

CCMCA Board Chair *Kristin Carpenter* reported: 1) they will be undertaking a Community Health Needs Assessment as required every three years; 2) if any Council members are speaking to the legislature regarding the Governor's budget, the potential cuts to Medicaid would be devastating to the medical center; any opportunity to convey that message would be appreciated.

CSD Superintendent *Alex Russin* reported: 1) they are ready for some basketball - conference tournament starts tomorrow morning at 9 am; about 120 kids from 5 schools are here for the tournament to be conducted on Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 2) district is developing the next school year budget, the governor's proposed budget has a potential \$1.02 million impact to the district - some of that may include a reduction in or elimination of Title Funding which is received from the federal government - they are just staying the course, waiting to see how the legislature reacts and builds their own budget; 3) they are also in final stages of strategic planning - the document should be rolled out later in spring or summer.

4. Student Council Representative Report - was not present

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Record unexcused absence of Council member *James Wiese* from the Feb 20, 2019 Regular Meeting

Vote on the approval of the consent calendar: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent. Wiese-yes; Burton-absent; Meyer-yes; Schaefer-absent; Allison-yes; Jones-absent and Guard-yes. Consent calendar was approved.

H. Approval of Minutes

M/Meyer S/Wiese to approve the minutes.

6. Minutes of the 02-06-19 Regular Council Meeting

7. Minutes of the 02-20-19 Regular Council Meeting

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Burton, Jones and Schaefer). Motion was approved.

I. Consideration of Bids - none

J. Reports of Officers

8. Mayor's Report

a. Southeast Conference Ferry reform meeting report & agenda - **Mike Anderson**, City Rep

9. Manager's Report -City Manager **Alan Lanning** reported 1) he showed Council a draft letter being written by AML outlining all the impacts that the governor's budget would have on local governments - school funding, school debt reimbursement, etc. - the intent is to have 21 communities put a signature to this, he hoped Council would give **Vice Mayor Allison** authority tonight to sign this on their behalf.

M/Guard S/Wiese to authorize **Vice Mayor Allison** to sign the letter.

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Burton, Jones and Schaefer). Motion was approved.

He mentioned he has been in close contact with **Bitney**, now that ballot props have been approved, to look into process for Tier 1 harbor grant. Also, there is an item under New & Misc. about another State grant that came up suddenly and it could be another opportunity for 9:1 money for a City project. **Lanning** mentioned a meeting last week with the Marine Response Team as part of the Alaska Shield exercise that is upcoming in April.

Guard asked the **Manager** to look into if the AMHS becomes a public corporation if they would still be able to collect on Federal Highway Funds - he will look into it and report back.

10. City Clerk's Report - **Bourgeois** reported that the election was yesterday, she thanked the crew who helped: **Seawan, Terri, Marc, Sarah, Marleen, Tina, Jeff** and **Cathy**. She said the propositions both won easily, **Tom Bailer** won seat A and **Mayor Koplín** won the Mayor's race. All the other races were uncontested. She said they counted 433 ballots last night and the election board will meet Wednesday March 13 to count the 70 or so ballots remaining - then Council is required to meet to certify on Thursday March 14 - she will mention this at Pending Agenda to set the time of the Special Meeting.

K. Correspondence

11. 02-05-19 **Mayor Koplín** letter to **DNR** supporting aquaculture & mariculture permits

12. 02-15-19 NVETC Chair & Mayor letter to ADoT&PF Commissioner - AMHS service cuts

13. 02-19-19 Email from **Dan O'Connor** CEO of PWS College re Governor's budget

14. 02-28-19 **Mayor Koplín** email to Stevens & Stutes re Power Cost Equalization endowment

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

15. Resolution 03-19-08 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska authorizing the City Manager to enter into a ten (10) year lease with Tania Harrison of Lot 1, USS 4606 which includes an option to purchase
M/Wiese S/Guard to approve Resolution 03-19-08 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska authorizing the City Manager to enter into a ten (10) year lease with Tania Harrison of Lot 1, USS 4606 which includes an option to purchase

Wiese said this lot has come up a few times, he is glad we are moving in it, he thanked **Ms. Harrison** for putting roots here. **Allison** also thanked her for her willingness to invest in Cordova.

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Burton, Jones and Schaefer). Motion was approved.

16. Resolution 03-19-09 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska opposing the incorporation of the Prince William Sound borough as discussed in 2018-2019, and staying the duties of the Prince William Sound Borough Advisory Committee

M/Guard S/Wiese to approve Resolution 03-19-09 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska opposing the incorporation of the Prince William Sound borough as discussed in 2018-2019, and staying the duties of the Prince William Sound Borough Advisory Committee

Guard said we entered into this to get as much information as we could, he doesn't think at this time that any of us are convinced it is a good time to move toward boroughization, so he wholeheartedly endorses this resolution to not endorse borough formation. **Wiese** said he was in favor of doing the study, he hasn't seen enough to move ahead and there has been considerable support for not moving ahead at this time. **Meyer** said she will not vote in favor of this resolution as she does not believe it is necessary, she doesn't think we have to follow suit.

Vote on the motion: 3 yeas, 1 nay (Meyer), 3 absent (Burton, Jones and Schaefer). Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

17. Match Agreement for CTP (Community Transportation Program) Grant application

M/Meyer S/Wiese to support a Community Transportation Program grant application for \$4 million, with the City matching 20%.

Public Works Director **Sam Greenwood** approached the table to speak to Council – she said this grant has not been out since the 2012-2015 cycle, and you probably won't see it again for a while. Also, these take a while to get going even once they are awarded – as you can compare the Whitshed Road Pedestrian Path project which is getting going soon but was awarded several years ago. Second Street is our chosen project because there are several things going on with that area that will give us good points on the grant application such as there is no storm drain system between Browning and Council on Second Street which means there are roof drains going straight into the sewer which means after storms, the sewer outfall is huge which requires DEC reporting and more chemicals, etc. it is just a very expensive and difficult proposition for the sewer department. A fix there would be extremely beneficial. So, if storm drains are built into that area, they would allow the water to be carried away, bypassing the sewer system. Safety concerns for kids exist in that area too, with diagonal parking and vehicles constantly backing up into a route that kids use frequently with the elementary school and Bidarki on two ends of that Road. A huge deficit to overcome is that we will be competing with Urban communities (Anchorage, MatSu, Fairbanks, etc.) on this. Urban communities that can document much more severe safety issue of how they can speak of fatalities and/or serious injuries in an area vs. our safety concerns which doesn't have documented fatalities. Therefore, the best way for us to regain some points would be the community's commitment to the project in the form of a larger local match. That is why she is suggesting a 20% or 25% match. She said that is the way for us to keep up with the urban grant applicants and our way to maybe get ahead of the other applications that are from communities more like ours.

Wiese asked how time sensitive this is. **Greenwood** said the grant application is due May 15, so she needs to know whether or not she should be devoting the time necessary to complete that pretty quickly. **Allison** opined it would be a good idea to pass this tonight, he is supportive at this point. **Guard** asked about the timeline as to whether we'd be burning bridges with the state if we said yes now then backed out. **Greenwood** said she would need a resolution committing to the match before May 15, before then, you could back out, but she will have spent time and energy on the grant application at that time.

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Burton, Jones and Schaefer). Motion was approved.

18. Pending Agenda, Calendar and Elected & Appointed Officials lists

Clerk mentioned a meeting DoT will hold on March 21 from 5-7pm in this room, about the Whitshed Pedestrian Path project. March 20 agenda will include the City Clerk's evaluation. March 14 Special meeting to certify the Election – Council opted for a noon meeting on that day. Work session on March 20 will be auditors, UBS and Interim Finance Director will have City financials. **Wiese** asked about the small group meetings for the health care project **Shelly Wade** is coordinating. He was not invited to the last meeting and he wondered why, he asked the City Manager to look into that for him.

O. Audience Participation

Tania Harrison thanked the Council and the City staff for the support and patience through this process and she was excited to get going on building in Cordova.

Cathy Rehnfeldt spoke representing the Cordova Chamber of Commerce. She said they had their annual meeting last week including a transportation round table – she has put together a prioritized list of ideas and concerns that came from that conversation – it is available on the Chamber Facebook page and there is a link on the chamber website.

Alex Russin, superintendent, congratulated those who won election this time and thanked everyone who ran.

P. Council Comments

Meyer thanked people for attendance tonight and thanked **James Burton** and **Wiese** for serving, she knows how much work it is and she is appreciative.

Guard echoed that about the outgoing Council members, he also thanked the volunteers and staff who give all the time effort for the elections to go so well. He got to see it firsthand this time.

Allison also thanked the election committee and all of the candidates who put their names in to volunteer. Thanked James and James for putting in their time, doing their homework, truly were interested in the best for Cordova.

Q. Adjournment

M/Guard S/Wiese to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection Vice Mayor Allison adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Approved: April 3, 2019

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

