

Regular City Council Meeting
April 1, 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 April 1, 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 was **Mayor Clay Koplín**. Council members **Tom Bailer**, **Cathy Sherman**, **Jeff Guard**, **Melina Meyer**, **Anne Schaefer**, **David Allison** and **David Glasen** were present via teleconference. Also present were City Manager **Helen Howarth** and City Clerk **Susan Bourgeois**.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

Hearing no objection to the regular agenda, **Mayor Koplín** declared it approved as presented.

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

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speaker – **Heather Brannon**, Emergency Management Coordinator gave Council an update on what the response to the coronavirus emergency has been to date. Several Council members asked questions and **Brannon**, **Mayor Koplín** and City Manager **Howarth** combined to answer questions.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

Due to the coronavirus emergency, the Council meeting was conducted entirely electronically, all council members were in attendance via teleconference and citizens were afforded 2 options for public comment: 1) emailed public comments sent to the City Clerk would be read aloud into the record; 2) the public was given a call-in phone number for access to the meeting.

Mayor Koplín read the comments which had been emailed:

Kate Laird referenced an article that she provided as an attachment and she suggested following the guidelines and locking down Cordova over the spring and summer.

Ellen Americus sent two emails, first she suggested local only fishermen fish out of Cordova this summer, then she suggested closing the fishery altogether.

Sarah Trumblee thanked the emergency management team members who are working many hours doing Incident Response as well as their regular jobs.

Denis Keogh suggested continuing the City lockdown.

Andrew Smallwood suggested mandatory quarantines, random testing and contact tracing.

Greg Meyer appreciated City allowance of deferrals on payments and mentioned all the grant opportunities for small businesses.

Sylvia Lange offered suggestions to step-up communication and possibly limit the fishing industry to fewer people in Cordova.

Sara Parker asked medical questions about Cordova's capabilities and asked for communication regarding harbor and fishermen quarantining.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

Greg Meyer, CCMCA Board Chair was present via teleconference and reported: 1) he thanked the City's many health care workers, the grocery store clerks, the fuel station employees – big shout out to everyone; 2) 2 new board members, **Kelsey Hayden** and **Craig Kuntz** – he thinks they will be a great addition to the board; 3) the Clinic use has dropped off by about a third in this last week or so; there are procedures in place if people have respiratory issues, to call first and then they are greeted in the parking lot for assessment; pharmacy also delivering prescriptions into the parking lot; 4) 5 doctors will be rotating in and out this summer – looking good compared to the past several years; 5) he wanted to be very clear that we do not have an ICU and we have no ventilators nor any plans to get ventilators; 6) \$625,000 cash on hand (about 20 days' worth) City has given \$150,000 to date; auditors will do the audit remotely and should have it out by end of April; 7) the board appropriated funds for the elevator – about \$45k to fix it; 8) thanked **Helen** for picking up **Rob Allen**, he and **Bert**

are working with *Allen*, he's insightful will certainly add to the process - a great asset, we are almost at the term sheet portion; 9) testing - we have been testing and sending them out to CA - takes about a week - *Dr. Sanders* is daily looking at tests that might work for Cordova.

Alex Russin reported that April 6 will be "return to learn" - via distance delivery. Kudos to staff and those in community supporting us and he thanked the community for their patience. Food distribution began yesterday, over 350, age 0-18 Cordova youths were given 5 days of breakfast and lunch. They received a waiver to use the summer food service program guidelines for this and that is better reimbursement rate so that is why anyone 0-18 is eligible. They also had locker and resource distribution - staff had bagged up lockers and gym shoes, etc. to hand to students (in a drive/walk by). CTC has lifted internet data caps for students and staff with internet accounts with them. Secure rural schools for 2019 and 2020 were approved, we can anticipate that. He also appreciated the efforts of *Doug Carroll*, using a 3D printer to create headbands that go with face shields for first responders.

Barb Jewell added that they are focusing on the future and on the present - the board is supportive of the administration.

4. Student Council representative - was not present

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of unexcused absence of the following: Council member David Glasen from the March 18, 2020 Regular Meeting

6. Minutes of the 03-18-2020 Regular Council Meeting

Vote on the approval of the consent calendar: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Sherman-yes; Guard-yes; Glasen-yes; Meyer-yes; Bailer-yes; Schaefer-yes and Allison-yes. Consent calendar was approved.

H. Approval of Minutes - *Mayor Koplín* moved these under the consent calendar.

I. Consideration of Bids - none

J. Reports of Officers

7. Mayor's Report - *Mayor Koplín* reported: 1) there is a tsunami of information being thrown at us on IMT, especially the PIOs; we are constantly writing and re-writing based on State mandates, City rules, etc. 2) he said it has been made very clear to us by the Federal and State governments that we cannot close our airport; 3) Feds had been saying no to masks, now they are changing their minds on that, so we are considering that; 4) the best way to protect yourself is to protect yourself.

8. Manager's Report - City Manager *Helen Howarth* reported: 1) COVID-19 all day, all the time; 2) She welcomed *Ken Fay* is the new finance director and is now on board, in town, quarantining, working from home.

9. City Clerk's Report - *Bourgeois* had nothing to report.

K. Correspondence

10. 03-12-2020 Agency review period for ADL233596 aquatic farmsite lease Simpson Bay - including development plan

11. 03-12-2020 Agency review period for ADL233599 aquatic farmsite lease Simpson Bay - including development plan

12. 03-17-2020 Agency review period for ADL233604 aquatic farmsite lease Simpson Bay - including development plan

Glasen said he is in favor of kelp farms. He asked staff to look into whether or not kelp would count towards our raw fish tax.

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

13. Ordinance 1183 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, adopting Cordova Municipal Code Chapter 5.42 Alaska remote seller sales tax code including common definitions, and amending CMC 5.40.030(F) to repeal the exemption for interstate sales found in CMC 5.40.030(F)(4) - 2nd reading

M/Bailer S/Meyer to approve Ordinance 1183 an ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, adopting Cordova Municipal Code Chapter 5.42 Alaska remote seller sales tax code including common definitions, and amending CMC 5.40.030(F) to repeal the exemption for interstate sales found in CMC 5.40.030(F)(4).

Vote on the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Allison-yes; Meyer-yes; Sherman-yes; Guard-yes; Glasen-yes; Bailer-yes and Schaefer-yes. Motion was approved.

14. Emergency Ordinance 1184 An emergency ordinance continuing the City's declaration of a local emergency and acknowledgement of a state-wide emergency resulting from COVID-19; ratifying temporary emergency rules and procedures adopted by the City Manager in response to COVID -19; and temporarily authorizing the suspension and/or modification of various sections of the Cordova Municipal Code regarding public meetings, procurement, and other city operations as necessary to preserve public health and safety

Mayor Koplin said the date in Section 2 on page 1 of the ordinance will be changed to March 30.

M/Glasen S/Meyer to approve Emergency Ordinance 1184 An emergency ordinance continuing the City's declaration of a local emergency and acknowledgement of a state-wide emergency resulting from COVID-19; ratifying temporary emergency rules and procedures adopted by the City Manager in response to COVID -19; and temporarily authorizing the suspension and/or modification of various sections of the Cordova Municipal Code regarding public meetings, procurement, and other city operations as necessary to preserve public health and safety

Meyer asked about the 30-day declaration, she thought maybe it should be longer than that realistically. **Mayor Koplin** said it would be before them again as extensions occur at the state level. She also asked if rule 6 is exercised and there is a COVID purchase over \$25k that Council could just be emailed/kept in the loop on that.

Vote on the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Sherman-yes; Guard-yes; Glasen-yes; Meyer-yes; Bailer-yes; Schaefer-yes and Allison-yes. Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

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

Meyer suggested special meetings weekly during the emergency. **Bailer** suggested more flow of information to the City Council. A special meeting was agreed to by other Council members - April 8 at noon; **Helen** ensured they would get a report like the one **Heather** gave tonight.

O. Audience Participation

Luke Borer appreciated the hard work everyone's doing, he said he'd like the community to isolate instead of individuals isolating. He wants us to stay with zero positive tests. He encouraged us utilizing the Alaska Small Community Travel Order until May 1.

Seawan Gehlbach of 707 Railroad Avenue - Cordova's mandate must be prevention, we don't have the ability to just stop the spread like larger communities can do, we must lock down our community. She referred to a UAA paper. She asked Council to limit the people coming into Cordova - she encouraged use of the Small Community Travel Order. She also encouraged Council to lobby DHSS and the Governor to further restrict the essential workers list, she thought it absurd and inclusive of too many individuals. She appreciated everyone working together and she said it affirms what a great community we have.

P. Council Comments

Meyer thanked everyone for the long hours and she encouraged them to recruit people, others in the community may have the time.

Bailer wants the public to know that we are taking this very seriously - he immediately asked the manager what could be done to keep people from flying in and when it was made clear that we couldn't, he said then you just shift gears and do everything you can to prepare and prevent.

Guard thanked staff and IMT - thanked the citizens for their patience, let's just watch out and take care of each other through this.

Schaefer thank City staff, IMT, volunteers, store owners everyone for going above and beyond. Direct questions through corodvapropered@yahoo.com

Allison echoed the thanks mentioned before him, thanked **Heather, Clay** and **Helen**.

Glasen thanked **Helen** said baptism by fire - he appreciated she takes his calls - also thanks to **Clay**. He doesn't think shutting any fisheries down will solve any problems at all. He also believes we have pushed the furthest we can on limiting people coming in.

Mayor Koplin said that food is critical for the country especially with supply lines from outside the country shut down.

Q. Adjournment

M/Glasen S/Bailer to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection **Mayor Koplin** adjourned the meeting at 9:12 pm.

Approved: May 6, 2020

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

