

**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**May 1, 2019 @ 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 May 1, 2019, 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 *Tom Bailer, Ken Jones, Jeff Guard, Melina Meyer, Anne Schaefer, David Allison* and *David Glasen*. Also present were Acting City Manager *Cathy Sherman* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

**D. Approval of Regular Agenda**

*M/Allison S/Bailer* to approve the Regular Agenda including the addition of item 7a.

Vote on the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion was approved.

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

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

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

CSD School Superintendent *Alex Russin* reported that there are 3 weeks of school left, graduation will be on May 18. A couple of weeks ago he met with the Mayor, School Board President and School Finance Director, very informative, they provided the Mayor with an overview of the District's financial status and what they've been working on as far as strategic planning. He said he sent a 2019-2020 proposed budget to the Manger and Clerk today - there is a statutory requirement to do so by May 1. They have a budget work session next Wednesday, prior to regular board meeting on May 8, he invited them to attend if they wanted to know more details about the proposed School budget.

CCMCA Board - *Kristin Carpenter* was present via teleconference to report that *Greg Meyer* is the new Board President, but he is out of town and had no phone connection where he is, so she's reporting instead. The CCMCA Board met last week, they had interviewed recruiting firms in thoughts of hiring one to assist with the replacement of the administrator but they've decided to hold off and they are entering a contract instead with *Randall Draney* the CFO to act as Interim Administrator. He said he is willing to act in that capacity for at least 6 months, she said the board can explore the collaboration with NVE more in that time as *Shelly Wade* the Agnew:Beck consultant is still trying to get that group back together again. *Carpenter* reported that they have arrived at a total amount owing to PERS and that figure is \$1.4 million; currently PERS is blocking CCMC from making payments to them for current payrolls as they want CCMC to go back and pay old amounts first. *Mitchell* and *Lanning* have a scheduled meeting with PERS on May 7. She believes that CCMC will be coming to Council with an ask soon as they have been requesting about \$100K/month from the City and they will almost be through the amount that was budgeted for 2019. She said they have to start thinking of short-term plan and then a 3-5-year plan of maybe collaborating with NVE. Then even what is much further out, longer term plan. *Schaefer* asked if she knew when that PERS debt was from, how far back does that go. *Carpenter* said she is not sure, at least as far as July 2018, that is the date *Mitchell* had given her, but it could be from even longer ago than that. *Meyer* asked when they began getting blocked from making PERS payments to coincide with current payrolls. *Carpenter* was not 100% sure she is guessing probably from about December 2018.

4. Student Council Representative Report - was not present

**G. Approval of Consent Calendar**

5. Record excused absence of Council member *Jeff Guard* from the April 17, 2019 Regular Meeting

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

## H. Approval of Minutes

*M/Meyer S/Schaefer* to approve the minutes.

6. Minutes of the 4-17-19 Regular Council Meeting

7. Minutes of the 4-17-19 Regular Council Meeting

Vote on the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion was approved.

## I. Consideration of Bids

7a. Direction to the City Manager to negotiate a contract with Kendall Ford for the purchase of one 2019 F-550 truck.

*M/Bailer S/Glasen* to direct the City Manager negotiate a contract with Kendall Ford to provide one 2019 F-550 Chassis XL 4X4 SD Regular Cab truck with snow plow and towing package per the State ITB-ADoT State equipment fleet for a sum not to exceed Forty-two thousand one hundred ninety-five dollars (\$42,195).

*Bailer* asked for some information on the item. *Greenwood* said this truck purchase was budgeted. Currently a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck is being used to plow and sand some of the smaller City parking lots, upstairs and downstairs at Cordova Center, at the Public Safety building for example. Which isn't so efficient, this 550 would haul much more sand and handle these jobs much more efficiently and it will contribute to saving some life in the large City sand truck. This would replace that  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton which would in turn replace a 2005 Expedition which is exceptionally old and trashed. The 550 can also haul the infrared machine, the chip seal equipment, other trailered City equipment; versatile that way. We have 2 Expeditions that are 2005's - one will be parted out to keep the other running or else it will be auctioned - Streets Department s still weighing options on that. *Jones* said he is in support of this, he likes that it was a plan and was budgeted and he knows that a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton is too small of a truck for the job it's been doing, the 550 is ideal for this.

Vote on the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion was approved.

## J. Reports of Officers

8. Mayor's Report - *Mayor Koplín* said in addition to his written report - he said he did meet with the school and they walked him through their financials. They also supplied him a with a tri-fold document that he will get out to council which is a nice recap of their strategic plan. *Mayor Koplín* said they have asked for an extra \$250,000 to be given sooner than normal because they are upside down on their cash flow, also in the request given today, they are asking for an additional \$200K for their next budget. They have made it clear that they have completely drawn down their reserves, so they can't go to that again. *Mayor Koplín* said he's been in close contact with *John Bitney* and paying close attention to budgeting in Juneau, specifically AMHS and School Bond Debt reimbursement. Power Creek Road improvements went out to bid on Monday, up to \$2.5 million design estimate - very probably could be a local project, which is good. Northern Edge 19 - Council had requested a fuel up locally as well as a site visit and observers being able to board the boat during the exercise. He said they have given us 4 invites and it was a quick turnaround for needing the rigorous paperwork given back to them, so he wanted to get a couple of council members who had specifically spoken out at work sessions about the exercise, so he asked *Meyer* and *Guard* and then he and Manager *Lanning* will also be going. *Mayor Koplín* reported that he met with the Fisheries Development Committee yesterday and they are requesting a meeting with ADF&G Comm Fish Director *Sam Rabung* - to open a dialogue and he is asking him to come visit Cordova and he might be amenable to that. *Mayor Koplín* said that would be a good time to discuss policy decisions such as the Board policy that requires 3 inside closures per season on the Copper River and we've been averaging much more than that.

9. Manager's Report - Acting City Manager *Cathy Sherman* reported that there was a staff meeting this morning, she'd like to inform Council of what different departments are working on. May 8-10 our liability insurance company, APEI, is offering us some great supervisory training, it is open to City employees and we are going to open it to the community as well, and they are offering that free of charge. There are 2 vacant positions that have recently been filled, *Nolan Buehrle* has become permanent full-time in the Refuse Department and *June James* is the new receptionist in Finance at City Hall. Facilities team is working on the floors at CCMC - that's been *Malvin Fajardo's* focus of late. Harbor staff has been busy repairing and replacing floats - there are several pictures of that being passed around. They also saved a vessel from sinking last night which made her very happy as occasionally on her watch, vessels have sunk in the harbor - luckily, not this time. Finance says the auditors are getting through 2018 stuff extremely quickly, so much so that they are delving into previous years to straighten issues from the past. She commended *Dean Baugh* for his great work in Finance. He has also been teaching all the department heads how to prep annually for the audit. Public Works continues with Build grant and second street grant work. Fire Department, *Paul Trumblee* and *Chief Hicks* attended a fire-arson explosion investigation class in Ketchikan which was very useful to them and *Trumblee* reported receiving a grant for new CPR mannequins that are able to judge themselves whether or not CPR is being done properly; City's contribution to that

grant was only \$200. Parks and Rec is working with DoT on Skaters Cabin beach expansion project and the RFP for Bidarki roof repair, funded by insurance. Planning has been working hard on the comprehensive plan and **Leif Stavig** reported that spring building season is on, he's been getting a lot of customers coming into his office too. Museum Copper River Gallery has an opening reception for Shorebird tomorrow night from 5 - 7 pm. Also, the building is hosting shorebird central throughout the festival. The Cordova Center has been full of school events, Prom, Senior Class Dinner, Graduation parties are scheduled, baccalaureate, drama event, choral event. There have also been 2 concerts and for outreach to the schools each school brings the entire student body in for short events with the artists. Alaska State Chamber of Commerce has confirmed their event here in October, United Fishermen of Alaska will also be in Cordova this fall, and not yet confirmed but we should get Board of Fish in December 2020. **Bailer** asked if the schools get events here as in-kind or do they pay, for Prom, etc. **Sherman** said they do pay, before she retires her intent is to get Council a good list of how functions are charged at the Cordova Center based on whether or not they benefit the community and whether or not it's a festival that is a good money maker or not, sometimes they leave room for discounts. She said she'll have a good recap for Council on where they are with the five-year business plan. **Mayor Koplín** asked if the State Chamber is confirmed and she said they were, and they were also renting some associated spaces, the Pioneer for example will benefit as will all caterers that currently work the Cordova Center.

**Mayor Koplín** reverted to his report to thank **Tony** and **Cathy** for getting those pictures out on such a short notice. He also said the US House of Representatives just passed a huge spending bill that includes harbors and **Kaleb Froelich** is working for UnCruise that is looking to come to Cordova and he's an attorney, originally from Juneau and he represents Cities on Harbors and the like as a lobbyist in DC so he was wondering where Council sits on that idea. At some point, **Mayor Koplín** thought we should have a really focused meeting about our Harbor and port and where we want to go with it and sometimes that takes resources such as bringing in the experts.

10. City Clerk's Report - **Bourgeois** reported that in the coming meetings she will present a couple of important items. May 15 will be certification of the 2019 tax roll and then June 5 will be mill rate setting resolution.

**Bailer** asked if it would be ok to call **Dean Baugh** up to the table, so he could ask a few questions. **Mayor Koplín** said yes, through the manager that would be appropriate. **Bailer** asked his schedule, as to how long he'll be in Cordova. **Baugh** said he leaves this Friday, he'll be back in a week and then stays through the end of May. **Bailer** asked about how the search is going for his replacement, he wondered what kind of applications have been turned in so far. **Baugh** said he hasn't seen any of them, **Alan Lanning** has rejected the five that came in, said that he didn't like what he saw and sent them all letters. **Bailer** said he was hoping that he'd have been in on the hiring process since he's done such a great job, he hoped that **Baugh** would've been able to assist with hiring and then training.

11. Staff Quarterly Reports - 1Q 2019

a. Harbormaster **Tony Schinella**, Cordova Harbor & Port, 1Q 2019 report

**Bailer** said he hears a lot from citizens about the state of the harbor, etc. and to get pictures like that today really help a lot because he doesn't get to the harbor often but to see the work that's been done is really helpful. As staff does projects such as this it is nice to get project updates with pictures, so he can get his phone out and show people proof of completed work. **Jones** asked **Schinella** about the occupancy in the harbor. 10% of the Harbor's customers are recreational boats, the rest commercial. 40' slips and up and slammed full and the bow picker size slips are full, the open slips are the little ones for the 20' and under boats. We are probably close to 100% full of the slips that are in high demand (30' and up). **Bailer** asked how trailer spaces are going with everyone showing up in town now - **Schinella** said he leased the last space on the North Fill today. **Meyer** asked if there are any slips that are not usable due to condition. **Schinella** responded, probably a handful, three of which they are currently working on the floats for in the yard behind the Harbormaster building and a few other bigger ones that they are looking into how to replace. **Bailer** - do you have an update on the damaged launch and dock in the North Fill - **Schinella** said we have everything to get it done except the right tide (need almost a 13' tide to get it in), should get it completed next week. Also, we will get a camera in there. **Jones** asked about how full the haul out area is - **Schinella** said it is full, they are considering putting in another row of pedestals to offer more space for haul outs. He said there are 5 more hauls scheduled for next week.

## K. Correspondence

12. April 5, 2019 Letter from Collins re Whitshed Road safety issue

13. April 17, 2019 Mayor letter of support for PWSSC's Capital Campaign for New Facilities

14. April 19, 2019 Mayor letter of support for NVE's CRH Mile 44 reconstruction project grant application

15. April 25, 2019 Mayor letter of support for the USCG

16. April 25, 2019 Mayor letter of support for the Cordova Coalition

17. April 25, 2019 Mayor letter opposing HB65 re Raw Fish Tax

**Bailer** said that he attended the Whitshed widening presentation by DoT and he said he heard them emphatically say that safety issues are what gets their attention. So maybe we can further that or assist, regarding the letter form **Collins**. **Mayor Koplín** said he heard DoT officials say they have been monitoring that section of the road very closely and taking pictures every year and they say that stretch of road has seen the guard rail hit and there was a rock slide recently which made it look bad but that it is a rock solid piece of road and they have heard the concerns and will continue to monitor. Our local DoT supervisor has corroborated that information. **Meyer** asked if it would be appropriate for us to request signage about 1 lane ahead or narrow road. **Mayor Koplín** thought that would be appropriate.

#### L. Ordinances and Resolutions

18. Resolution 05-19-20 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing amendment to the FY19 budget in the amount of \$124,735

**M/Schaefer S/Guard** to approve Resolution 05-19-20 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing amendment to the FY19 budget in the amount of \$124,735

**Schaefer** said she understands this to be a clean-up of a few issues with the passage of the 2019 budget. She did ask **Baugh** to explain it a little more to her. **Baugh** said that mostly these are cases where there is money being spent, already in the budget but not money being transferred into that fund. There are no additional expenditures being made with passage of this resolution.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 1 nay. Meyer-yes; Jones-no; Schaefer-yes; Guard-yes; Allison-yes; Glasen-yes and Bailer-yes.

Motion was approved.

#### M. Unfinished Business

#### N. New & Miscellaneous Business

19. City Manager options - discussion item

**Mayor Koplín** prefaced this discussion as not specifically about Manager **Lanning**. This was an item put on by Council members concerned with what Council should be thinking about since the current Manager might be exploring other employment options at this time and his contract comes up later this year. **Bailer** said he thinks that knowing what we all know, we should put an ad out and start the search for a City Manager, 60 days can go by really fast and we shouldn't get caught short without a manager. **Guard** opined that we were in the middle of reorganization and it would be a bad time to change horses in the middle of the stream. **Guard** thought Council should consider an extension of some kind of the current manager since he is the one who came up with the restructuring plan. **Allison** said we had scheduled an executive session at the last meeting to discuss this with the manager and amongst ourselves and we have an item for next meeting to do that so this item, he thinks is premature. **Jones** agreed with **Allison** - he said we need to have that discussion with all parties present, in an executive session, how that conversation goes will then dictate what they do next. There was more discussion and Council agreed at Pending Agenda to set that executive session item for the May 15 regular meeting.

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

**Mayor Koplín** said per the last item, we will definitely have an executive session item on the May 15 agenda to discuss the City Manager's contract. **Allison** suggested the City Manager look into this school district budget request and ensure that if we need to act on this that we do so next time so that we don't get in a situation where we are forced to give them their request due to inaction on our part. **Bailer** had a future agenda item, he'd like the City self-funded health plan looked at, specifically he wanted to understand who had the ability to make amendments to the plan and possibly he'd like it to be a committee. Also, he wants to look at amendments 4 & 5. **Mayor Koplín** asked if he could get together with **Bailer** and maybe Manager **Lanning** to discuss and then it could be an agenda item later after more research is done on the topic. **Bailer** asked if it would be an agenda item next time then, **Mayor Koplín** said if there was another Council member who concurred now it could be. **Jones** and **Glasen** both said they would second the item. **Jones** asked if there could be a staff update on the harbor grants that we are currently seeking.

**Mayor Koplín** thanked **Robbie Lewis** of KLAM and **Emily Mesner** of the Cordova Times for always being present and reporting on City Council for their respective news sources.

#### O. Audience Participation - none

#### P. Council Comments

**Jones** thanked everyone for attendance on this sunny night, props to the Streets department for work on Second Street, looks great, he appreciates it, also he thanked the harbor department, the floats are looking good.

**Schaefer** thanked **Cathy Sherman** for stepping up as Acting City Manager this week and she really enjoyed the Manager's report she gave - overview of all the departments and what they are working on.

**Bailer** echoed the comments before him and also said the old library/museum building is really looking sharp – that is coming along nicely.

**Q. Executive Session**

21. Recommendations from City Attorney regarding Beecher v. City of Cordova – in executive session because the subjects which may be considered are matters the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government

**M/Allison S/Bailer** to go into an executive session to discuss recommendations from City Attorney regarding Beecher v. City of Cordova – in executive session because the subject is a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government

Vote on the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion was approved.

**Mayor Koplín** recessed the meeting at 8:17 pm to clear the room before the executive session. Council entered executive session at 8:20 pm and came back into regular session at 8:46 pm.

**R. Adjournment**

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

Hearing no objection Mayor Koplín adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm.

Approved: May 15, 2019

Attest:   
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

