

**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**June 3, 2020 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B**  
**Minutes**

**A. Call to order**

*Vice Mayor Melina Meyer* called the Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on June 3, 2020, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

**B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance**

*Vice Mayor Meyer* led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll call**

Present for roll call was Council member *Melina Meyer*. Council members *Tom Bailer, Cathy Sherman, Jeff Guard, David Allison* and *David Glasen* were present via teleconference. *Mayor Clay Koplín* arrived at 8:10 pm. Council member *Anne Schaefer* was absent. Also present were City Manager *Helen Howarth* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

**D. Approval of Regular Agenda**

Hearing no objection to approval of the regular agenda, *Vice Mayor Meyer* declared it approved.

**E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications**

*Glasen* said he had a conversation with *Greg Meyer* about the financial needs at CCMC as it relates to setting the mill rate. *Vice Mayor Meyer* ruled that as not an instance of ex parte or conflict of interest.

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

1. Guest speaker

a. Incident Management Team, Covid-19 update - *Dr. Hannah Sanders*, Medical Team lead for the IMT emergency response reported that Cordova has testing available 5 days/week and has an excellent capacity - the state's new mandate involving a testing strategy is coming on and she and the medical team believe that everyone should get tested 2 - 4 days after arrival.

Questions from Council: *Bailer* asked who to call when he flies in as far as testing. *Dr. Sanders* said to call either CCMC or Ilanka for testing.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

*Dr. Hannah Sanders*, CCMCA CEO was present via teleconference and reported: 1) they will be receiving 4 large distributions from HHS of COVID relief - they are doing their best to not commingle the funds with regular finds and there is a new CFO assisting with this; 2) Currently, financially, they should be able to manage at least through 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter but will keep in touch with the City to see if they'll need a disbursement of funds come 4<sup>th</sup> quarter; 3) the relief money is also catching them up with equipment and maintenance and improving the building. She said she feels as though at the end of all this CCMC will be in pretty good shape.

Council questions: *Glasen* said if you don't need the funding, get with *Helen*, let us know so we can divert it elsewhere.

*Barb Jewell*, School Board Chair reported: 1) bittersweet ending to a difficult year, had to say goodbye from afar to some retiring teachers/administrators such as *Pam Jones* and *Gayle Groff*; 2) administration has been working hard on multiple strategies to open in fall - State mandates, conditions with the virus all need to be considered; 3) they had a special meeting to approve technology purchases and to amend the budget considering Council did not fund all of what they had asked for, she understands that and was glad that the Council will revisit that in the fall, she reiterated that the request was based on need not want - they will fund the elementary school position.

4. Student Council representative - summer vacation

**G. Approval of Consent Calendar**

4a. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of excused absence of the following: Council member *Bailer* from the 05/20/2020 Regular Meeting

*Vice Mayor Meyer* moved the minutes to the consent calendar

5. Minutes of the 05-20-2020 Regular Council Meeting

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

## H. Approval of Minutes

~~5. Minutes of the 05-20-2020 Regular Council Meeting~~

## I. Consideration of Bids - none

## J. Reports of Officers

6. Mayor's Report - **Mayor Koplín** arrived later in the meeting and reported then.

7. Manager's Report - City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) the Governor has just announced changes to the State travel mandates - IMT and Med team have anticipated that the change would include certain health requirements and we are fully prepared to implement that - we have the capacity to do the testing - we are well set up for this; 2) we have received our CARES funding commitment from the State - Council will need a discussion item about this to help direct some of the funds; we'll need to retrofit many community spaces/City buildings for safety of community members and staff.

9. City Clerk's Report - **Bourgeois** had no report.

## K. Correspondence

10. 05-26-20 Email from K. Laird

## L. Ordinances and Resolutions

11. Ordinance 1188 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, amending Cordova Municipal Code Section 5.40.030 to update language regarding sales tax exemptions and adding CMC 5.40.025 to identify classes of buyers exempt from city sales tax and to exempt sales, services, and rentals to federally recognized tribal entities from City sales tax - 1<sup>st</sup> reading

**M/Meyer S/Guard** to approve Ordinance 1188 an ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, amending Cordova Municipal Code Section 5.40.030 to update language regarding sales tax exemptions and adding CMC 5.40.025 to identify classes of buyers exempt from city sales tax and to exempt sales, services, and rentals to federally recognized tribal entities from City sales tax

**Meyer** said this is a housekeeping measure. **Guard** agreed. No other Council member commented other than supporting this.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Allison-yes; Meyer-yes; Sherman-yes; Guard-yes; Glasen-yes; Bailer-yes and Schaefer-absent. Motion was approved.

12. Resolution 06-20-24 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, setting the mill rate for the 2020 tax year

**M/Meyer S/Guard** to approve Resolution 06-20-24 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, setting the mill rate for the 2020 tax year

**Guard** said the mill rate might change year to year but the revenue is the budgeted amount so he supports this. **Allison** said he supports the resolution as is, getting the revenue that was budgeted.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Allison-yes; Schaefer-absent; Guard-yes; Meyer-yes; Glasen-yes; Bailer-yes and Sherman-yes. Motion was approved.

## M. Unfinished Business

~~13. City land disposal to Sheridan Joyce previously approved by Resolution 02-20-09 later rescinded on May 20, 2020 (see item 15, executive session) motion may be made after the executive session~~

There was no Council objection to moving this item to be after the executive session.

## N. New & Miscellaneous Business

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

Council scheduled a noon Special Meeting for June 10. An action item to align with the Governor's new mandate about travel, CARES funding discussion and other items that come up will be on the agenda for that special meeting. There was clarification that when the new state mandate takes effect on Saturday June 6, Cordova will still be with the existing rule which is 14-day quarantine until at least Wednesday when Council will have the option to vote to move to the new state mandate. **Bailer** asked if for our next regular meeting the new CFO can report on investments to us, if he's been looking into that. **Sherman** agreed that we should start working on knocking these items off of the PA list.

## O. Audience Participation

**Barb Jewell** appreciated, as a community member, all the extra and hard work being undertaken by the administration and Council during these difficult times these last couple of months. She said she is surprised by the mill rate decision; surprised

that you didn't choose to access an additional revenue source while you had the opportunity knowing that other revenues are likely to be lower this year. She also said that if the video was still available on the YouTube stream, it would be much easier for the audience.

**Mayor Koplín** arrived at the meeting at about 8:10 pm, so **Vice-Mayor Meyer** reverted to the Mayor's report. **Mayor Koplín** reported that he had a work-related conflict that just ended. He said we recently reached out to our federal delegation, President Trump and Governor Dunleavy and thanked them for all the support we've received through this COVID-19 emergency.

**P. Council Comments**

**Sherman** welcomed the new Finance Director **Ken Fay** - she was glad to hear the City Manager report that he's been digging in to work and it was a difficult time for him to start up during COVID.

**Meyer** agreed with that and she is present tonight she actually was able to meet him. She appreciates his work behind the scenes.

**Q. Executive Session**

15. Recommendations from City Manager regarding Sheridan Joyce land disposal negotiations, a subject which is a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon City finances

**M/Meyer S/Sherman** to go into an executive session to discuss recommendations from City Manager regarding Sheridan Joyce land disposal negotiations, a subject which is a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon City finances

With no objection, the meeting was recessed at 8:17 to clear the room and give the Clerk time to text the executive session call-in number to Council

Council went into the executive session at 8:22 pm and was back in open session at 8:46 pm.

13. City land disposal to Sheridan Joyce previously approved by Resolution 02-20-09 later rescinded on May 20, 2020 (see item 15. executive session) motion may be made after the executive session

**M/Meyer S/Allison** to direct staff to proceed with no further negotiations beyond what has been offered, \$30,000 or the appraised price from a mutually agreed-upon appraisal of the property.

**Meyer** said we have discussed this a number of times now and after staff again explained to us the process of arriving at a price, she believes the best course of action is to continue to do things the way we have been. The process the City has is a good way to not have to go and get an appraisal for land disposal but the option is there for an appraisal. The Council wants to see this work out for Mr. Joyce but at this time it seems that an appraisal might be the best option for coming up with the price on this property if the staff-calculated price is not agreed upon. **Allison** said **Vice-Mayor Meyer** had that perfect, no further comment from him. **Glaser** said we did change to a mutually agreed-upon appraiser which initially had been an appraiser chosen by the City; so, some latitude was given there. **Sherman** said she supports it.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Meyer-yes; Allison-yes; Glaser-yes; Schaefer-absent; Guard-yes; Bailer-yes and Sherman-yes. Motion was approved.

**R. Adjournment**

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

Hearing no objection **Mayor Koplín** adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Attest:   
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

