

Regular City Council Meeting
June 5, 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 7:05 pm on June 5, 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 *Ken Jones, Jeff Guard, David Allison* and *David Glasen*. Council members *Tom Bailer* and *Melina Meyer* were present via teleconference. Council member *Anne Schaefer* was absent. Also present were City Manager *Alan Lanning* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

M/Allison S/Guard 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 speakers - *Chip Courtright*, PND, *Sam Greenwood, Tony Schinella* update on Cordova application for the FY2019 BUILD grant. *Greenwood* said this is a tough grant to get as we are competing with other "rural" applicants which in this context is defined as under 200,000 in population. \$900,000 is available half to urban, half to rural and no more than \$90 million per state and \$25 million per project. We are asking for the full amount, \$25 million. Due by July 15 - PND is doing the work but asking questions and gathering the info from City staff (Sam, Tony and others). There are 7 merit criteria: Safety, State of Good Repair, Economic Competitiveness, Quality of Life, Environmental Protection, Innovation and Partnership. The conceptual drawing is not detailed and specific, it can still see changes but everything being considered has to score high in these criteria. *Greenwood* hit on a number of project items and how they meet the different merit criteria. *Greenwood* said there is a resolution in tonight's packet concerning support for the grant application.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

CCMCA Board - Board member *Kristin Carpenter* reported: 1) collaboration effort with NVE - last night's meeting was postponed; 2) they are entering into a contract with *Randall Draney* for interim CEO he is currently CFO; 3) 5 travelling nurses currently, 3 of which are interested in becoming permanent and 2 current CCMC staffers are in training to be nurses - could have 5 local nurses someday soon; 4) business office is fully staffed, should help with collections; 5) auditors are here now, expect to have the report to the board by end of July; 6) Medicaid will be sending an \$800k+ adjustment which will be used to catch up on PERS liability from 2018; 7) a company is in talks with *Scot & Alan* about population health management (i.e. possibly opening up the City health plan to other entities in the community), and looking to streamline the system, not relying on pharmacy benefit manager as the in-between CCMC and physicians profiting on drug sales, looking to move toward that in 2020 which would be great especially for the small non-profits in town.

Questions: *Glasen* asked if they were able to pay PERS now - *Carpenter* said yes, they are - they wanted us to pay the arrears first and she said they will with this Medicaid adjustment. *Mayor Koplín* asked how the pharmacy is doing - *Carpenter* said they are doing well, in 2018 the pharmacy filled 12,000 prescriptions and so far, this year they've filled 4,000 so they should hit the 12,000 again. *Mayor Koplín* said that sounds like it is out performing what was anticipated. No representative from School Board was present.

4. Student Council Representative Report - was not present

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Council confirmation of May 9, 2019 Election of CVFD Officers

6. Resolution 06-19-26 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, supporting an FY2019 BUILD (better utilizing investments to leverage development) Transportation Grant application to improve and upgrade the Cordova South Harbor

7. Resolution 06-19-27 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing a Tier I application for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program to fund South Harbor repairs

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

M/Guard S/Allison to approve the minutes.

8. Minutes of the 05-15-19 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

9. Mayor's Report - **Mayor Koplín** reported: 1) there is a ribbon cutting for CEC's grid scale battery - Council is invited, Friday June 7 at 5 pm; 2) AMHS looks like it will land at a \$44 million cut to the system in the final budget, so at this point he is trying to at least ensure we get service to Whittier and more than once monthly; 3) Northern Edge '19 - his perspective is: we had asked Northern Edge for 3 things, a site visit to Cordova with a vessel, a fuel up at Shoreside and observers on site of the exercise. They weren't able to get a vessel here this time, but they did send 2 helicopters. Also, they did accommodate observers with the site visit of Mayor, 2 council and 2 city employees. **Mayor Koplín** said his experience on the aircraft carrier was exciting, as far as environmentally, he said his impression was that these guys live in that environment and they respect it - they talked about whale sightings with excitement - they report to NOAA and ADF&G, he said they had seen as many as 60 humpback whales in a day; when he asked individuals their impression of whales, they seemed indifferent, like the whales were there and the boat is there and each were doing their thing. All in all, he felt it was a positive experience. **Mayor Koplín** mentioned too that they brought salmon out to the boat which was very well received. He wanted the others who were there to weigh in and give their impressions. **Lanning** said he agreed with everything the Mayor said.

10. Manager's Report

City Manager **Alan Lanning** reported: 1) said that the audit is a big concern and we are working really really hard to get the audit done quickly this year; today he met with the owner of the auditing firm doing the CCMC audit and they are there now, they haven't seen anything out of the ordinary that would slow them down, last year it was the reconciliation of cash accounts that hadn't been done that took significant time to reproduce those, and that won't be an issue this year; 2) he gave them all copies of the 2019 budget book - they are in mailboxes for those not in attendance tonight, everything you would want to know about the budget is in that book, exhaustive number of charts, graphs etc. he encouraged council to bring these to meetings; 3) we will be kicking off budget process soon for 2020 - revenue decisions will need to be made by Council - as you've given more to the school and may give more to CCMC, these decisions affect the City operations on the back end - so budgeting and strategic planning will be coming up and revenue will be a question to consider.

Questions of Manager: **Glasen** said, with the news of the \$800k that CCMC will be getting, that's good news for us, right? **Lanning** said yes, when we had been thinking they would need \$1.2 million in a year as a funding level, it is looking more like \$900 k.

Mayor Koplín asked for comments from the other Northern Edge distinguished visitor attendees.

Guard said he agrees with most of the **Mayor's** perspective on the event, but he was disappointed that he couldn't get any comments from anyone, the Captain, the Admiral, about the environmental issues. He said they said they saw 60+ whales when they first got out there but lately they've been seeing much fewer - he wondered if that was a migratory thing or it was their presence forcing the whales out. **Guard** said, although it was a great show, that is exactly what it was, a show.

Meyer said her perspective was from a different vantage point as she was in medical the whole time. She said they are professional in what they do, the training, but she is still concerned about the timing of the training.

Mayor Koplín had a few items to add to his report, he mentioned that for his ribbon cutting and Nouveau, several visitors from our federal delegation would be in town. Senator Murkowski and staffers from Sullivan's office. He reminded Council that they were invited to attend, a good opportunity to get our priorities shared with these influential people.

Mayor Koplín mentioned a lunch with board and commission reps he scheduled for June 13, and Fisheries Development Committee will meet Sunday at 5 pm.

11. City Clerk's Report - *Bourgeois* had a written report in the packet

K. Correspondence

12. DCCED letter re Cordova 2018 population determination: 2,360

12a. Email/survey information on scope of work of Northern Economics AMHS reshaping project

Mayor Koplín mentioned that he didn't think a written response to this survey would be adequate, instead he called and talked to them for almost 1.5 hours.

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

13. Resolution 06-19-24 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, setting the mill rate for the 2019 tax year

M/Allison S/Guard to approve Resolution 06-19-24 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, setting the mill rate for the 2019 tax year.

Allison said our budget calls for a certain amount to be collected in property taxes and the resolution as written with 10.85 as the mill rate gives us that revenue goal. *Guard* said he does lean toward the 10.85 but he said we just gave the school an extra \$200k so he's not sure what is appropriate. *Glaser* said why don't we just keep it where it is at; he asked the Clerk what the mill rate is now. *Bourgeois* said the mill rate is set every year, so there is no mill rate until they set it; she said last year's mill rate was 11.81. *Allison* said that the increased school funding level set last Council meeting will be in the City's 2020 budget, what they are setting tonight is the 2019 mill rate. *Bailer* and *Jones* also seemed interested in leaving the mill rate where it is, at 11.81. *Bourgeois* clarified again that the mill rate is set annually, last year's mill rate was 11.81, if that is what they meant to be saying. *Bailer* said he has heard from people and business owners that they don't like when it is lowered and then next year Council has to go up 2 or 3 mills or more, he suggests leaving it at the 11.81.

M/Bailer S/Glaser to amend the resolution by putting the mill rate at 11.81.

Guard mentioned that in our strategic plan we had said we would keep the revenue goal of property taxes at a static amount. *Jones* said he believes keeping the mill rate consistent meets that objective, so he is in support of the amendment. *Jones* said he is normally against taxes, but he thinks this is the right thing to do. *Allison* said he will support this, but he believes that we have to find ways to spread the burden and not have it all fall on the shoulders of the property owners. *Guard* said he is not so opposed to the amendment, but he wants to make it clear that what we are doing is not in line with what we said when we approved the strategic plan. Keeping the mill rate the same is not keeping the revenue goal the same and it is not keeping individual property tax amounts the same.

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

Back to the main motion, to approve the resolution as amended thereby setting the 2019 mill rate at 11.81.

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

14. Resolution 06-19-25 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing amendment to the FY19 budget in the amount of \$38,078

M/Guard S/Allison to approve Resolution 06-19-25 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing amendment to the FY19 budget in the amount of \$38,078.

Guard asked the manager to explain this. *Lanning* said we are appropriating these funds into the 2019 budget because the truck wasn't delivered until 2019. *Guard* wanted to ensure we were not printing new money; *Lanning* confirmed that we were not.

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

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

15. Council discussion of the need for a federal lobbyist - possible staff direction

Bailer asked what we have done in the past, specifically with the Cordova Center, did we have a lobbyist on retainer?

Mayor Koplín said often that is exactly how it works, you use them when specific things come up and often they can coordinate with the state lobbyist. He has spoken with *Bitney* and he has relationships with both of these firms that we've been hearing from so maybe we can start with those two and then expand it to a few others who might specialize in these waterfront type projects. *Mayor Koplín* said that he spoke with *Robert Venables* from Southeast and he said every one of the major waterfront projects done in Southeast Alaska were successful at the federal level because of the use of

lobbying. *Allison* agreed, if we are going for \$25 million and we are sending staff time on putting these things together, we better support that with the lobbyist on the other end pushing for us. *Guard* agreed. *Meyer* said she is supportive. *Bailer* said he will go with the group but he's on the fence a bit, he's wondering exactly what the plan is, full-time, contract, etc. *Mayor Koplín* said maybe a good approach is ask the manager to work on an RFP but also get some insight into what our approach was with the Cordova Center – when we used a federal lobbyist last; also, the manager could maybe reach out to some of the Southeast communities that have had recent successes.

M/Allison S/Guard to direct the City Manager pursue an RFP as discussed for federal lobbying services.

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

Mayor Koplín said he believes the manager has direction from Council to work with to understand their expectations on this.

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

RFP for recruiting for CFO position. As far as investment firm – Council still wanted more information from the manager as far as fee structure, more specifics (percentage of fees year 1 -10, portfolio rating) and this should come back to Council in August. RFP and more info on our previous procedure with a federal lobbyist – for next meeting. CCMCA Board and Council to meet in a Joint Special Meeting June 12 at 3pm.

O. Audience Participation - none

P. Council Comments

Glaser thanked Tony Schinella for showing up.

Q. Executive Session

17. Council discussion about the terms of the City Manager's contract – 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

~~18. 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~~

Agenda item 18 was not necessary tonight.

M/Allison S/Guard to go into an executive session to discuss the terms of the City Manager's contract – 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

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

Mayor Koplín recessed the meeting at 8:18 pm to clear the room before the executive session.

Council entered executive session at 8:20 pm and came back into regular session at 9:13 pm.

Mayor Koplín stated that they discussed the City Manager's contract terms and no action was taken.

M/Allison S/Guard to direct the Mayor to offer the manager a contract as discussed in executive session.

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

R. Adjournment

M/Guard S/Allison to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection Mayor Koplín adjourned the meeting at 9:14 pm.

Approved: July 3, 2019

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

