

Regular City Council Meeting
July 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 July 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 were *Mayor Clay Koplín* and Council members *Cathy Sherman*, *David Allison* and *David Glasen*. Council members *Tom Bailer* and *Anne Schaefer* were present via teleconference. Council members *Jeff Guard* and *Melina Meyer* were 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, *Mayor Koplín* declared it approved.

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

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 the ferry will be starting up here shortly and we do not need testing at that location because they are taking care of the testing protocols themselves. We are assisting with conducting tests on the ferry workers themselves; we feel ready for the ferry and are happy that will be getting going.

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) Covid preparation – testing continually being worked on; 2) for the remainder of 2020 she does not anticipate any budget shortfalls; she doesn't think they will need any City funding for 3Q or 4Q because they've had operational money freed up after receiving the PPP grant – hospital should be self-sufficient for the rest of the year.

School Board President – no report

4. Student Council representative – summer vacation

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of excused absence of the following: Council member Glasen from the 06/17/2020 Regular Meeting

6. Minutes of the 06-17-2020 Public Hearing

7. Minutes of the 06-17-2020 Regular Council Meeting

Vote on the consent calendar: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Guard-absent; Schaefer-yes; Meyer-absent; Allison-yes; Sherman-yes; Glasen-yes and Bailer-yes. Consent Calendar was approved.

H. Approval of Minutes - in Consent Calendar

I. Consideration of Bids - none

J. Reports of Officers

8. Mayor's Report – *Mayor Koplín* reported: 1) he has been involved in a lot of dialogue regarding fisheries and working with IMT; 2) in contact with Congressman Young's office and he will be coming for a visit to Cordova on August 10-11

9. Manager's Report - City Manager *Helen Howarth* reported: 1) *Chief Hicks* has retired, there was a community drive by horn honking event to celebrate at the Fire Station – she has appointed an interim police chief, Nate Taylor. With the dialogue going on around the country about what is policing, she's going to take advantage of the turnover and see what this community would like to see for policing – as we head into budget time, she's going to be looking at that over the next month to determine if we need to add officers or shift resources; she's got *Shelly Wade* with Agnew Beck and our PR contractor, *Heidi Embley* set to help reach out to the community; 2) She said that over the years the front parking lot at the Cordova

Center has been used for parades or meetings or conversations, etc. She believes that this should continue, she envisions that space as like a “public square” – to encourage conversations of diverse topics, people could sign up for the space, if we legitimize this space for this use then there is no conflict with opinions of the City or Council – she’d like Council feedback on this; 3) fishing has been skinny, budgets at ADF&G have been skinny and we’ve received word from CDFU that ADF&G might not have budgets to fly as often as usual for aerial surveys which could further limit fishing time – she is reaching out to groups to try to help CDFU raise about \$20K toward that (she’s calling it the flying fish fund); 4) Covid still front and center, ferry is about to start, we’ve hired a couple of more ambassadors, testing is ongoing at the airport and we should celebrate that we still don’t have any community cases.

Questions: **Allison** opined that the processors would jump on the flying fish fund. He also said that concerning the public square as long as we are careful to make clear that we are not condoning one side or the other. **Bailer** commented that spending money on **Shelly Wade** on a non-issue like policing is probably not the best use of our money right now especially if our revenues will be down. **Bailer** also said that he thinks the public square idea sounds interesting but he is pretty disappointed that he’s mentioned it a couple of times now that City Hall cannot be used to endorse the recall of any politician. He thinks it is appropriate for politicians to come here and discuss their points and talk to the public; that is a great use of City Hall – as long as you give the opportunity to both people if two are running for office. **Bailer** said our lobbyist told us not to do this a few years ago, we need to stay neutral – he said we need to be smart about that sort of thing. **Sherman** said she is going to have to disagree with Council member **Bailer**, she thinks it is a great idea to rethink our policing; it’s always been an issue at budget time about whether we have too many officers, too few officers. She said when **Chief Hicks** first started in Cordova he walked the streets with the officers, that is the kind of policing we need in Cordova, officers who know the people and interact with the people. **Sherman** said she thinks it is a really good idea to get the communities opinion on this not just Council’s opinion and perhaps we can work our budget differently. **Sherman** said as far as the public square idea – that was an intention from the beginning, for the Cordova Center to be a place where people could express opinions. She has never considered it just a building that houses City Hall it is a community facility – there are Cordova Center policies, so those can be looked at again and worked on if necessary. She likes that idea. **Schaefer** said she does also like the town square idea and having written policies about it, as suggested by City Manager **Howarth**, could clearly state that the views expressed there are not those of the City of Cordova or the City Council – it is a free speech zone and if a request needs to be in writing to use the space that would further clarify that these are not views of the City. **Schaefer** also said she is in favor of looking into rethinking police in Cordova; we may talk about it and decide that that the model we have has been the best and is working, but it never hurts to have a community conversation about it. She thanked **Helen** for the good work and said to keep it up.

a. Finance Director **Ken Fay**, COVID-19 Expenses update

10. City Clerk’s Report – **Bourgeois** had nothing to report.

K. Correspondence

11. DNR Preliminary Decision and notice of public comment period through 07-27-20 for 21 acres for kelp cultivation in Simpson Bay ADL 233604

12. State Division of Elections Press Release re: online absentee ballot application

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

13. Resolution 07-20-30 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a sole source contract with Arctic IT for up to \$82,000 for the purpose of purchasing laptop computers and upgrading technology for the City of Cordova

M/Allison S/Sherman to approve Resolution 07-20-30 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a sole source contract with Arctic IT for up to \$82,000 for the purpose of purchasing laptop computers and upgrading technology for the City of Cordova

Howarth said after our discussion last week, this is one of the projects/purchases she said would be coming before Council. Our technology is lacking and the phone system we have is pretty old, not great connectivity. The phone system upgrade is about \$10 thousand but before we can do that we need system upgrades and that’s part of this Arctic IT contract. This contract also upgrades our hardware that will allow remote working for more staff members.

Allison supports this and wants to ensure we are getting the latest models of items we need. **Sherman** said we have been trying to get this into the budget from before she retired and to be able to upgrade with CARES money is a great opportunity.

Bailer, **Schaefer** and **Glaser** all said they support this item.

Vote on the motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Meyer-absent; Guard-absent; Schaefer-yes; Glaser-yes; Bailer-yes; Sherman-yes and Allison-yes. Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

14. Discussion of Covid-19 Emergency Response

Schaefer commended the community for doing such a good job, for wearing masks, washing hands, keeping distanced from large groups, it is easy to get complacent – she encouraged everyone to keep it up. **Bailer** said he is interested in where we are at with some of the Harbor projects we talked about. Bathrooms and other projects, hopefully they are still moving forward, keeping us up to date on these is important.

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

Council opted to cancel the second regular meeting in July but have a special on that day at noon instead. Special meetings could be held within only 24-hours’ notice. **Glaser** asked if we could get a CCMC update maybe at an upcoming meeting.

O. Audience Participation

P. Council Comments

Bailer thanked staff and said let’s be careful about our budget because we know we are going to be short on sales tax. Also, let’s ensure we get going on the COVID projects because that brings money into town, gets people working.

Sherman appreciates all the work going on, she knows a lot is behind the scenes. She was out and about today and saw lots of masks which was appreciated. On a side note – Cordova Historical Society bid on and won a 1935 **Jules Dahlager** original oil painting which really ups the museum’s collection.

Glaser thanked the community for their vigilance and following protocols; thanks to Ilanka and CCMC for making the testing procedures super easy.

Allison also thanked everyone for their efforts. He congratulated **Kristin Carpenter** and the PWSEDD for the \$400 thousand grant they’ve received to assist with economic development in our region.

Q. Executive Session - none

R. Adjournment

M/Glaser S/Allison to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection **Mayor Koplín** adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Approved: July 15, 2020

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

