

Regular City Council Meeting
July 3, 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 July 3, 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**, **Melina Meyer**, **David Allison** and **David Glasen**. Council member **Anne Schaefer** was present via teleconference. Council members **Ken Jones** and **Jeff Guard** were absent. Also present was City Clerk **Susan Bourgeois**.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

M/Allison S/Bailer to approve the Regular Agenda.

Vote on the motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Jones, Guard). Motion was approved.

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

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speakers – City Lobbyist **John Bitney** reported that last Friday the Governor vetoed about \$400 million from the operating budget, the budget that the legislature had already approved with \$200 million in cuts. The big hits will be 50% cut to school bond debt reimbursement which equates to about \$250k hit to the City, he also cut revenue sharing, so we would see about 50% less in municipal revenue sharing for next year. AMHS cuts – remain the same, Governor didn't take more of that. Once the legislature gavels in to the special session next week on Monday, it will have 5 days to override the vetoes by a 75% majority of both bodies. There is an issue as to location, the Governor called for it to be in Wasilla, the majority of the legislators say they will be in Juneau. The legislature still has a capital budget to get through also, by mid-August and a bill has not yet been passed on the permanent fund dividend amount. **Bitney** opined that with all the drama around the vetoes, an override is not likely to happen, but stay tuned, stay engaged and realize there is a lot left to do.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

Jim Kacsh of 824 Woodland Drive commented on the creation of the City Manager Assessment Committee, he said he'd be glad to serve in that capacity; he thinks it is important to have community input. As far as the RFP for a federal lobbyist, he doesn't think that is good use of City funds unless it is very targeted and only meant for specific projects.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

CCMCA Board – Board chair **Greg Meyer** reported: 1) warm and fuzzy report is that 10 beds are full in long term care, nursing positions are all full, all the surveys come in with excellent ratings and reviews; 2) sky is falling report – he's been on the board for 10 months and the financials then looked awful, a mess, you can't run a business this way, in these 10 months there have been 3 CFO's, 2 CEO's, a new billing system, the PERS problem – he said we (CCMCA Board) got some half-truths, we didn't always get the full story. **Meyer** said the new CEO is also the CFO and we'll work really hard to get Council updated financials. 3) He said the hospital has a great staff, dedicated, caring people, they want to hear the input from the community. Pediatrician is coming in regularly, Physical Therapy, etc. 4) **Meyer** said we need to get the receivables under control and we need to get more insurance carriers to consider us in network, there are too many employers in town with insurance coverage that employees can't use at CCMC. Also, we just need to get more people in town to want to go there, to have CCMC be their first choice. 5) **Dr. Sanders** will stay on until we find a new doctor and medical director. 6) NVE invited us to the First Alaskans meeting last week; went very well. Hopefully that will lead us down one path or the other; he is optimistic. 6) After Governor's vetoes, it will cost CCMC another \$350k per year – also there are capital items that need addressing in an aging building. 7) **Meyer** said the board would like to get Council what they are asking for, a clear financial picture of where they are, where they've been and where they are heading. 8) He also wants CCMC to be more forthcoming with the City Council on issues like PERS; he said the CCMCA Board was given half-truths on that as well, they were told that PERS was being paid when it wasn't. Currently in arrears to PERS by about \$1.3 million. They have been locked out of paying PERS since about September of 2018. They are hopeful in getting about \$500k from Medicare soon and that is earmarked for the PERS debt and they are hoping to get the rest

from the City (\$800k). 9) The support needed annually is about at \$1 million, a meeting ago **Draney** may have reported that the number is more like \$2 million but that is a figure that would include loan payments to the City, funding depreciation and the like, they hope to have a better number to Council in the next month or so. 10) The board would like to see and better understand what path the preferred path of the citizens is, if we are to stay open and functioning on our own, we need to know what number it is everyone is willing to subsidize. His calculations roughly since 2005 the City has put \$3.5 million into the hospital, without any new revenue sources (i.e. taxes) on the City side.

Mayor Koplín asked if Council had questions for **Meyer**.

Allison thanked **Meyer** for his time and effort. His question, probably for the CCMC CEO or for our City Manager is, what is the liability to this unpaid PERS. He believes it is our responsibility to get this taken care of and soon. **Meyer** said that they haven't discussed the legalities, but it is the board's #1 priority. **Allison** agreed, and he hopes his fellow council members would agree. He also expressed appreciation to **Meyer** and his wife, **Sylvia Lange** and the First Alaskans - some good relationships were forged at that gathering. **Meyer** agreed as well and said we need to keep it going. Council member **Meyer** asked the Clerk to forward the letter in the packet from ANTHC and NVE to the CCMCA Board. **Bailer** thanked **Greg Meyer** for stepping up and he echoed a lot of **Allison's** comments and he said he likes the idea of a Tribal Health model for Cordova and he thinks with **Greg's** demeanor and business background that he is just the right person to head that up for Cordova. **Bailer** also said that the meeting with First Alaskans had the young (**Melina, Raven Madison**) and the old alike, some of the younger people need to be a part of this, they want to have babies here, they want to live here, we'd have to tax the heck out of everyone to keep this going as a City entity. **Schaefer** asked how far behind in PERS are they currently and after which what amount is paid will they be allowed to make current payroll payments. **Meyer** said that is what he estimates as the \$1.3 million figure, including \$52k in late fees. **Allison** also wanted to tell all those who would watch this on YouTube or listen on the radio that there is at least one vacancy on the CCMCA Board and there is another member according to **Meyer** who is staying on until they can find a replacement.

No representative from School Board was present.

4. Student Council Representative Report - was not present

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

Mayor Koplín said that the Consent Calendar was before Council; Council pulled no items. He recognized **James Burton** and **James Wiese** for their service; they were not present, so he did not read the proclamations aloud.

5. Resolution 06-19-28 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing: Leif Stavig, City Planner; Susan Bourgeois, City Clerk; Clay Koplín, Mayor; Melina Meyer, Vice-Mayor; Samantha Greenwood, Public Works director; and Anthony Schinella, Harbormaster to sign checks, vouchers, notes, other documents and have access to the safe deposit box as authorized by the City Council

6. Proclamation of Appreciation to **James Burton**

7. Proclamation of Appreciation to **James Wiese**

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

H. Approval of Minutes

M/Bailer S/Meyer to approve the minutes.

Council member **Meyer** commented that on page 4 of the minutes of the June 5 regular meeting, she wished that Council had been clearer in the motion made after the executive session. She said we need to think and more carefully articulate what was directed in the executive session in the future, especially since Council is not able to say what happened in the executive session, the public has to rely on the motion made after the executive session. **Bourgeois** clarified that there was no attempt to amend the minutes as they were reflective of exactly what was said. **Meyer** asked for more detail in motions after e.s.'s in the future.

8. Minutes of the 06-05-19 Regular Council Meeting

8a. Minutes of the 06-26-19 Special Council Meeting

Vote on the motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Jones, Guard). Motion was approved.

I. Consideration of Bids - none

J. Reports of Officers

9. Mayor's Report - **Mayor Koplín** had a written report in the packet he added that as far as the City Manager search there are 2 completed applications and three others who have expressed interest and will get full applications in shortly.

a. AMHS report - City Lobbyist, **John Bitney**

10. Manager's Report - City Manager *Alan Lanning* was not present. *Mayor Koplín* asked *Samantha Greenwood*, Public Works Director to give Council a short report about the status of water in the City. *Greenwood* said the snow is melting rapidly they are trying to be proactive with the onset of the highest use period, seine fish processing. Currently they have turned the Eyak Lake pumps on to supplement Murchison tank which will get us more gallons per minute out of that side and save Meals because Meals is what will get us through to the end, we have to make that supply last. Meals reservoir and tank (1.5-million-gallon tank), as of about 4 pm this afternoon, the 1.5-million-gallon tank was almost full, expect it to be full by 9 am tomorrow. When it is full, the water department will slow the Meals supply down and keep upping the other side (Murchison supplemented by Eyak Lake). *Greenwood* is putting out announcements on this to citizens to be smart with water (no car wash fundraisers and the like), in the E-news and on the City website. Also, emails were sent to the processors today to be conscientious and conserve as much as possible. Heney is still giving water but currently more is being taken out of the reservoir than is going in. *Bailer* asked about the longer-term possibility of getting more out of the lake in times like this. *Greenwood* said there is some LT2 money left and there are a few ideas they have been kicking around, another line from Murchison Tank could be an option. Another idea is to improve the existing Heney supply and configure it in a way to go straight into the pipes instead of through the reservoir, because that is a good year-round supply. Crater Lake is also an idea and there are other ideas of a new water source.

Meyer asked if the City had ever gotten in touch with DoT about the narrow Whitshed area where the slide happened earlier this year, encouraging them for signage, narrow road, etc. *Greenwood* said she could get in touch with the State, call *Rob Mattson*, but she can't guarantee what they can do, they have a lot of rules about signs. She does know that DoT Northern Division is working on a hazard mitigation grant for that rockslide area.

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

K. Correspondence

12. 06-13-19 Letter from ANTHC and NVE re program overview and invitation to tour operations

13. 06-13-19 Letter from PWSEDD re Regional Ferry Study, including full study

14. 06-19-19 Letter from Alaska Municipal League

Allison spoke about the ANTHC letter and said he thinks we should take advantage of that. He also wants to see us work with NVE and get Searhc to come and provide us with the information they have compiled - as much information as possible, share it with all of those involved and then together we can make a good informed decision. He said he is getting tired of us talking about doing things and not actually following through and getting things done. *Mayor Koplín* mentioned that there is a follow-up meeting with the facilitator for healthcare on July 10. After that he said he'd bring options to Council on next steps, be it further facilitation with First Alaskans, ANTHC visit, etc.

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

15. Ordinance 1175 An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, (i) declaring that tax-foreclosed property commonly known as the Cordova Hotel, located at 604 1st St, Cordova, AK 99574 and legally described as Lots Three (3) and Four (4), Block Six (6), Original Townsite of Cordova, Alaska, records of the Cordova recording district, Third Judicial District, State of Alaska (parcel no. 02-173-503), formerly owned by Dorene Wickham and deeded to the City by Clerk's Deed, is not required for a public purpose and (ii) authorizing and directing its sale and conveyance to the Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a Cordova Telecom Cooperative for \$52,000 - 2nd reading

M/Bailer S/Glasen to adopt Ordinance 1175 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, (i) declaring that tax-foreclosed property commonly known as the Cordova Hotel, located at 604 1st St, Cordova, AK 99574 and legally described as Lots Three (3) and Four (4), Block Six (6), Original Townsite of Cordova, Alaska, records of the Cordova recording district, Third Judicial District, State of Alaska (parcel no. 02-173-503), formerly owned by Dorene Wickham and deeded to the City by Clerk's Deed, is not required for a public purpose and (ii) authorizing and directing its sale and conveyance to the Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a Cordova Telecom Cooperative for \$52,000.

Glasen said we have a good deal going here, he's glad to finish it up. *Allison* commented that we have done our due diligence, he has full confidence that CTC will do a good job and make a big improvement to our downtown district.

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

16. Resolution 07-19-29 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing creation of a City Manager Assessment Committee to assist City Council in any or all aspects of the search and selection process for the next City Manager of the City of Cordova, Alaska

M/Bailer S/Glasen to approve Resolution 07-19-29 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing creation of a City Manager Assessment Committee to assist City Council in any or all aspects of the search and selection process for the next City Manager of the City of Cordova, Alaska.

Bailer said we've used committees before, it is a good way to go, a good way to get things started. **Glasen** supports this. **Allison** said he is supportive, but he said we need to get recommendations, instructions to this committee, give them guidelines and task them before we ask them to have their first meeting. **Mayor Koplín** agrees and said we should also choose a chairman when we set the tasks, etc. **Meyer** said she has 2 names to submit when the committee members are voted on later in the meeting, so she'd like to amend the resolution to allow for more members.

M/Meyer S/Allison to amend the motion to change the committee size, instead of up to 7 members have the committee membership consist of up to 10 members.

Allison asked about quorums if we say up to 10. **Bourgeois** said the quorum is of the number appointed. Later if more are appointed and it gets up to 10, then the quorum for subsequent meetings would be a quorum of 10, which is 6.

Vote on the motion to amend: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Jones, Guard). Motion was approved.

Schaefer asked what the general guidelines for this committee have been in the past. **Mayor Koplín** said the committee usually reads all the applications and forwards on their recommendations to council as to who they believe should have telephone interviews then Council and sometimes the committee again weighs in on who to bring up for in-person interviews. The committee can then also be involved when the candidates come to Cordova with the meet and greet, etc.

Vote on the main motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Jones, Guard). Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business

16a. Federal Lobbyist RFP

Glasen asked if this was specific to the Harbor project. **Mayor Koplín** said it could be any number of items that come up. Harbor is certainly something to work toward though. **Mayor Koplín** continued that the Manager could structure the RFP to be specific and call out certain projects that are city priorities for the lobbyist to focus on. **Glasen** said this is new to him he wonders what something like that might cost.

M/Allison S/Meyer to direct the City Manager to go out to RFP for a federal lobbyist.

Allison said he doesn't believe the Manager needs Council approval to go out for an RFP - to accept a proposal, if over his spending authority, he would need Council approval. He said we won't know a cost until we get proposals in. He supports the RFP but this wording as in the packet needs some work. **Allison** said he'd like to see the proposals that come in, doesn't hurt us to ask, we can always say no later. **Bailer** said he is not that in favor of this; he said an advantage of Alaska being so small is that we have good relationships with our federal delegation and their staffs, if anything comes down the pipe we can usually be made aware of that. With the state budget and CCMC's needs, the schools renegotiating teacher contracts, anytime we spend \$25 or \$50 or \$100 thousand, it will be felt. **Bailer** said if it were more focused just for the harbor maybe he could be supportive. **Glasen** asked **Greenwood** her opinion since she does these federal grants. She approached and said - she is not involved in the political side of this work, so she cannot speak to that. **Greenwood** said we would know about the build grant in December 2019. We can keep applying each year for that if we don't get it. **Mayor Koplín** said he maybe can help, in speaking with **Robert Venables**, Executive Director of Southeast Conference, he said just about all of the major harbor projects in Southeast over the past 10 - 20 years have been communities that have had federal lobbyist representation. These competitive grants need a person right there pushing and keeping it right under the nose of the decision makers. **Meyer** said she agrees with Council member **Allison** on this, she is ok with seeing what is out there; she would like to see this RFP be much more focused though. **Bailer** said along the lines that **Allison** said the manager doesn't need our ok to go out for the RFP but if we are giving him guidelines as **Meyer** said, then he'd be ok with that too, more focused and on the Harbor. **Mayor Koplín** said we can probably leave the motion as is and know that the Manager will listen to the conversation we are having now to help direct his writing of the RFP, we are capturing our wishes through this discussion, narrow scope. **Meyer** said she would like waterfront to be the focus, i.e. waterfront/harbor, etc. **Allison** said perhaps we could suggest that we ask for the focus - how much for Harbor, but if you add other options or add-ons, then give those costs as well.

Bourgeois suggested that Council give the Manager information on a timeframe for this. Should he be looking to fill this immediately and possibly require a budget amendment when approval of the contract comes before Council, or do you want him to have this ready to go as an inclusion in the 2020 budget? **Allison** and **Mayor Koplín** both suggested immediately.

Vote on the motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Jones, Guard). Motion was approved.

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

17. Council action to fill seats on City Manager Assessment Committee

M/Bailer S/Meyer to appoint the following committee members to the City Manager Assessment Committee: Cathy Sherman, Jim Kacsh, Dave Roemhildt, Dan Logan, Tony Schinella and Cathy Renfeldt.

M/Meyer S/Schaefer to amend the motion to add two more names: Christa Hoover and Bert Adams and to name Jim Kacsh as the committee chair.

Vote on the motion to amend: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Jones, Guard). Motion was approved.

Allison said we need to give the committee some direction. *Bailer* said he thinks Council needs to discuss this first. He'd like to have an agenda item on this for next regular meeting. They decided to discuss at Pending Agenda.

Vote on the main motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Jones, Guard). Motion was approved.

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

Informational item on the July 17, 2019 regular meeting agenda with possible consensus to give direction to the CMAC.

Allison opined that a part of this should be lists of questions to choose from.

Glaser said he really wants us to stay on top of the joint meetings with NVE Tribal Council, CCMCA Board and Council - he wants it to keep going while it is fresh in our minds. *Mayor Koplín* thinks there will be a lot to report at the meeting on July 17, after having had the July 10 meeting. *Allison* suggested that the Mayor ensure that he mentions the letter from ANTHC at the July 10 meeting.

O. Audience Participation - none

P. Council Comments

Schaefer thanked everyone for participation tonight and Happy Fourth of July!

Bailer said not to slight anyone, but *Greg Meyer* has really taken an interest in the hospital and he's the guy to push this thing through for us. He appreciates the participation tonight.

Mayor Koplín thanked *Bailer* for compiling the names for the committee, that was really helpful.

Glaser thanked Greg Meyer for the tough job he is doing over there - Happy Fourth!

Allison said like mentioned at the dialogue with First Alaskans, Cordova's best asset is our people. He is confident in the future - he appreciates staff and Council member's time - all valuable.

Meyer echoed previous comments and thanked First Alaskans for putting together that dialogue - good chance for us to all be in a room and led by people who do that sort of thing, well conducted. They all reported what a great time they had in Cordova and how well they were treated everywhere they went.

Mayor Koplín on behalf of Council Member *Jones* who expressed concern, he wanted to remind people of the dry spell we are enduring and that everyone should exercise restraint and caution with camp fires and fireworks this Fourth of July.

Q. Executive Session

19. 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/Bailer S/Meyer to go into an executive session to discuss 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

Vote on the motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Jones, Guard). Motion was approved.

Mayor Koplín recessed the meeting at 8:31 pm to clear the room before the executive session.

Council entered executive session at 8:36 pm and came back into regular session at 8:42 pm.

Mayor Koplín stated that they discussed Beecher vs. City of Cordova with the City Attorney, no action was taken, and no other items discussed.

R. Adjournment

M/Allison S/Glaser to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection Mayor Koplín adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.

Approved: July 17, 2019

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

