

Regular City Council Meeting
August 7, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes

A. Call to order

Acting Vice Mayor David Allison called the Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on August 7, 2019, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance

Acting Vice Mayor Allison led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll call

Present for roll call were Council members *Tom Bailer, Anne Schaefer, David Allison* and *David Glasen*. *Mayor Clay Koplín* and Council members *Ken Jones, Jeff Guard* and *Melina Meyer* were absent. Also present was City Manager *Alan Lanning* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

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

Acting Vice Mayor Allison stated that items 13 and 16 are being pulled off the agenda.

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Jones, Guard, Meyer). 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

CCMCA Board - no one was present to report (the work session earlier had included a report from CCMCA Board Chair *Greg Meyer*)

School Board - no one was present to report

4. Student Council Representative Report - was not present

G. Approval of Consent Calendar - none

H. Approval of Minutes

M/Bailer S/Schaefer to approve the minutes.

5. Minutes of the 07-17-19 Regular Council Meeting

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Jones, Guard, Meyer). Motion was approved.

I. Consideration of Bids - none

J. Reports of Officers

6. Mayor's Report - *Mayor Koplín* had a written report in the packet.

7. Manager's Report - City Manager *Alan Lanning* reported: 1) he is going to make a bound copy of the Build Grant which was submitted on July 15 - he had a printed copy with him which was a pretty sizable grant application; he also said the Harbor Facilities Grant application has been completed and he will make printed copies of that for Council - he thanked *Sam Greenwood, Leif Stavig* and *Tony Schinella* for all their hard work on these 2 items - it was a monumental task - hopefully we'll hear about the Harbor Facilities Grant in September and the Build grant between October and December; *Bailer* made a quick comment that it is probably not necessary to make all those copies maybe it could go on the website or be emailed to Council; 3) *Lanning* explained the report on page 7 of the packet, the UBS fees, etc. He explained that the City is on a wrap fee arrangement and the numbers are net/net. If an investment returns x, we pay x. There are no hidden brokerage fees. The percentage that we pay of the starting balance, called basis points, like in 2010 it was .37% the fee was \$52K - that number is exact, the percentage is more illustrative because throughout the year, we are billed quarterly, so it fluctuates. He also relayed that the report offered a chart with a comparison to our previous investment (AMLJIA). We've paid \$657,681 in fees and we've gained \$3,912,029 - over 9 years and our average fees are about one-half a percent.

Questions: **Bailer** said he'd like to see the return on investment percentage annually. **Lanning** said we have made sizable withdrawals in some of these years too. **Bailer** also wanted to know if we had the ability to get, say, \$100,000 if we needed to quickly. **Lanning** said yes, we have a certain percentage of liquid assets – he can get that to Council – it is in a report that he has, basically in cash. He said we also have the central treasury account which is also pretty liquid for us. **Lanning** continued and said the Permanent Fund needs 7 votes to get to it, but he doesn't think the central treasury requires that. **Allison** asked if the central treasury was the general fund, **Lanning** said yes. **Allison** also asked about the status of the CD at First National – you were going to look into that for us. **Lanning** said he would look. **Allison** said, yeah because we will need to know what we can access if we have to help the hospital soon with the PERS debt.

4) **Lanning** wanted to discuss recruiting a little bit, we are in our 3rd effort for Finance Director – we interviewed an applicant a week ago and we are going to keep looking – in speaking with a City that has also been recruiting for a long time, they've been open for a month and have 2 applicants. Our plan was to bring **Dean** on and get ourselves through this year trying to culminate in a new budget, a new hire for 2020. We are still on track with that, we are evaluating other options and continuing to move forward – we are doing fine, have staff learning new things.

Questions: **Bailer** said that when he looked last week for the Finance Director advertising, the only place he could find it was on the City website, he wondered if he just couldn't find it or why it isn't being advertised far and wide. **Lanning** said his method is to do an intense recruitment and then you retract so people don't see this ongoing advertisement for months and months. The reason it got pulled was because we were bringing in that candidate and there was a pause while we did that. We have now renewed our efforts. **Bailer** made some suggestions about throwing a wider net; possibly contact CTC and CEC who in recruiting sometimes use non-conventional methods, they might offer advice. PWSAC, PWSSC, have all done recruiting, maybe we can pick up on what has been successful for them. Also look at the universities – Fairbanks, Anchorage, Southeast in Juneau. **Bailer** said he knows there is a lot of competition, we need to get creative – tell the citizens, they may have friends/family members interested in relocating. **Schaefer** said the University system has list-servs that they send out with job announcements, etc.

a. UBS Comparison: Gain/Loss with Fees vs. Short Term Instrument

8. City Clerk's Report – **Bourgeois** asked Council about correspondence the third letter, she needed Council input on whether she should bring a resolution to the next meeting. After a short discussion, Council did direct the Clerk to look into this and bring a resolution forward. **Bailer** had suggested that Council could do something different to honor her, that they actually have control of instead, as an option. **Bourgeois** also suggested that Council look at the Pending Agenda page and maybe knock some of the list down since tonight's meeting might wind up being fairly short.

9. Staff Quarterly Reports – 2019 2Q (April 1 – June 30, 2019)

a. Cordova Harbor & Port, **Anthony Schinella**, Harbormaster

Bailer asked **Schinella** how he determines what kind of projects to work on, how much to spend fixing things up in the Harbor, knowing that we are seeking big funding for a major renovation project. **Schinella** said it is a safety and liability issue – when conditions are unsafe, he spends the money, he must make the fix. **Bailer** appreciated that.

K. Correspondence

10. July 12, 2019 Mayor letter of support for Tommy Sheridan appointment to NPAFC

11. July 18, 2019 Mayor letter to ANTHC, accepting invitation for site visit

12. July 23, 2019 Letter from Kim Aspelund re Irene Webber bridge naming

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

this Resolution was pulled from the regular agenda as it needed edits/more work

~~13. Resolution 08-19-31~~

~~A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska establishing lease terms for the lease back of facilities in the hippy cove area from the PWSSC~~

M. Unfinished Business – none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

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

Bourgeois said she has been remiss in recording Council absences in the Consent Calendar so on August 21 agenda she'll have a few listed as a catch-up. She also asked if Council wanted to discuss taking any of the items off the pending agenda list on page 28 of the packet. After discussion, the Clerk was directed to bring a discussion item on "Council member service on boards/commissions". They also removed long term RV/trailer rental space as staff is working on that currently (seeking a grant). Also removed was harbor expansion/town hall type meeting – that was related to the 2017

\$72 million project that was brought to DC when a big infrastructure bill was in the works. Staff was directed to bring an ordinance in fall about changing the date the school board brings its budget request to Council. Council concurred to discuss where to get the money for funding CCMC as they need to get a handle on their debt. Work session on 8/21/19 will be that topic. **Lanning** said he'd be talking to the CFO of PERS on August 14 again - Council decided a discussion for August 21 would be best, not ready yet for the ordinance. **Bailer** suggested an executive session item as well, if possible. **Bourgeois** said she was unsure if there was reason enough to warrant executive session, but she would get with the City Attorney to confirm that.

O. Audience Participation - none

P. Council Comments

Bailer said the work session with **Greg Meyer** about the hospital was really helpful, they needed to hear that.

Schaefer agreed that the discussion in the work session about healthcare in Cordova was good, she looks forward to partnering with NVE. She expressed thanks and appreciation to the staff that worked on the Harbor Grant and the Build Grant, that was a lot of good work and she hopes for success.

Glaser said he concurs with those comments.

Allison thanked staff as well, he thanked **Robbie Lewis** of KLAM for recording tonight and sticking with Council until the end. He reminded the citizens who might listen that they are still looking for CCMCA Board members if anyone was interested in helping in that role.

Q. Executive Session

15. 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

M/Schaefer S/Glaser to go into executive session for a 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.

At 7:42 pm, **Acting Vice Mayor David Allison** called for a recess to clear the room.

City Clerk Bourgeois called City Attorney **Jennifer Alexander** to teleconference into the executive session. The draft contract that Council was going to discuss had been emailed to **Vice Mayor Meyer** who was unable to teleconference into the meeting, therefore, **Acting Vice Mayor Allison** determined it wasn't worth having the executive session and asked for it to be brought back on the next agenda.

~~16. 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~~

this executive session was pulled from the regular agenda as there was no update at this time

R. Adjournment

M/Bailer S/Glaser to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection Acting Vice Mayor Allison adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

Approved: August 21, 2019

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

