

Regular City Council Meeting
September 18, 2019 @ 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 7:02 pm on September 18, 2019, 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 were Council members *Tom Bailer, Ken Jones, Melina Meyer, David Allison* and *David Glasen*. *Mayor Clay Koplín* and Council member *Jeff Guard* were present via teleconference. Council member *Anne Schaefer* was absent. Also present were Student Council Representative *William Deaton*, City Manager *Alan Lanning* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

M/Bailer S/Allison 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 - none

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

Barb Jewell of Mile 2.2 Whitshed Road is speaking as a community member and hospital employee. She addressed the Mayor's report notes from a Healthcare Collaboration effort between City Council, NVE and CCMC staff and board members. She said she was grateful to see the notes because it is the first time she's seen anything in a packet about this effort. She was of the opinion that this is a big decision and the hospital is a public asset and the process should be more transparent and based on a community vision not just a reaction to big bills.

Mary Anne Bishop of 700 Fourth Street agreed with the previous speaker that there needs to be a public process if the hospital is being turned over to NVE, she has only just heard about this a week ago. She also spoke as President of PWS Audubon Society and urged Council to approve the Resolution in tonight's packet concerning the opposition to oil and gas drilling at Controller Bay.

Kristin Carpenter with the Copper River Watershed Project, she handed out a map of the actual proposed drilling site as compared to the map in the packet of the Copper River Delta Critical Habitat Area. She also spoke in support of Council passage of the Resolution opposing the drilling for oil and gas in Controller Bay.

Carol Hoover of 5.5 Mile Loop Road and representing Eyak Preservation Council spoke in favor of Resolution 09-19-39. She said there is actually overlap into the critical habit area because after initial permitting is allowed, they may be able to attain additional permits to use directional drilling in the ocean that would go into the critical habitat area.

Chelsea Haisman representing Cordova District Fishermen United spoke in support of Council passage of Resolution 09-19-39; she spoke of the rich fishing area that Controller Bay is and the negative economic impact this could have on Cordova's fishermen and on the community.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

CCMCA Board - Chairman *Greg Meyer* reported that he feels a little bad that people feel like there has been no transparency, we've been talking about Tribal Health as the probable solution for at least a year or two. We were in talks with SEARHC from Southeast for 2 or 3 years - that was a dead-end, so we've been looking now to our local Tribal Health provider, NVE. Until a few months ago there were no talks between CCMC and Ilanka - currently we have great dialogue going between the two, so far, it's all positive. CCMC Board has gotten a very strong impression from City Council that we need to move in a different direction; the finances are an extremely onerous burden on the community. He has done some research and says over the past 10 years the City has given CCMC over \$928K per year. It may seem like it's been going quickly but NVE has yet to say they are ready to do anything at the hospital. There are meetings next week between CCMC and NVE that may change that, he's hopeful. This will occur in stages, it won't happen overnight;

very many details will need to be worked out. NVE is fact-finding presently. He will try to attend all Council meetings to keep them closely updated.

Currently CCMC is back into the PERS system - they gave a \$503,000 check - were allowed back in and now staff is entering all the payroll data into the system, they should have an exact figure soon that will get it all caught up.

School Board - President **Barb Jewell** reported they are into the 3rd week of school. She is hearing kids excited about their Wednesday classes again. **Jewell** reported that 3 different languages are being offered this year. She said the district is willing to assist/help the council as they begin the City budget, she knows it is difficult with the different fiscal years, the superintendent is available. She reminded Council that last year they suspended negotiations with their staff due to the unknown fiscal climate - the understanding was to bring that back up in the fall, and they have begun that at this time.

4. Student Council Representative Report - **William Deaton** reported that student council has met twice this year, they've discussed the vaping awareness campaign - vaping is a major epidemic in our country and our state even in our school district. They also discussed Constitution Day - yesterday was 232 years to the day that our founders signed the US Constitution and we are the longest lasting system of government from the same document in the world.

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 **Jeff Guard** from the Sept 4, 2019 Regular Meeting

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/Bailer S/Jones to approve the minutes.

6. Minutes of the 08-28-19 Council Special Meeting

7. Minutes of the 09-04-19 Council Special Meeting

8. Minutes of the 09-04-19 Council Public Hearing

9. Minutes of the 09-04-19 Council Regular Meeting

10. Minutes of the 09-05-19 Council Special Meeting

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

I. Consideration of Bids

11. Council direction to CM to enter contract with Wilson Construction for harbor dock replacement per ITB #HB19-01

M/Jones S/Glasen to direct the City Manager to negotiate a contract with Wilson Construction to perform all work described in ITB #HB19-01 Harbor Dock Replacement for a sum not to exceed one hundred ninety-nine thousand three hundred ninety-five dollars and zero cents (\$199,395.00).

Jones said we have aging harbor infrastructure; it has been a priority of the community for years - we need to keep up on infrastructure in our community. **Glasen** agreed and said it is a safety issue at this point.

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

J. Reports of Officers

12. Mayor's Report - **Vice Mayor Meyer** mentioned the notes from the healthcare collaboration meeting of July 10 and asked **Mayor Koplín** if he had a report to give.

Mayor Koplín said he did have quite a bit to report: 1) in response to some of the audience comments, he did have a chance to meet with CCMC staff and board last Friday to listen to concerns about transparency and the current process; earlier in the week he had met with **Bert Adams** (Executive Director of NVE) and **Darrel Olsen** (NVETC Chair) over at NVE regarding the flow of information from the City (CCMC) to NVE and they said that has been good, they are receiving the information they've requested - financial and service-providing information that NVE needs to assess the benefits to determine if and at what level of interest NVE might have in operating, combining or collaborating with the clinic and hospital. He echoes **Greg Meyer's** comments that it will not happen overnight, but he feels like there has been more progress made these last 3 months than has been made in the last 3 decades on combined services. He agrees that public comment is important and on all of our parts it is important to maintain some level of transparency and not lose focus on the overall goal of providing quality, accessible and affordable healthcare for Cordova. 2) He has been working on ferry issues very hard and feels like he's mostly gotten a closed door from the administration. He had a good interview with **Nat Herz** from Alaska Public Media, and he put an article out over social media and in the newspaper - **Mayor Koplín** said he drafted a follow up letter today that he sent to our Congressional Delegation, the State Legislators, the

Media, AMHS Management and Commissioner - this letter is getting a lot of media attention, it is clear we are not going to make a lot of progress with the Commissioner, but we do have lots of media support so he thinks it might be a good time to consider a little PR work because of how much media attention we are getting. **Mayor Koplín** suggested **Debbie Reinwand** of Brilliant Media Strategies - he thought it would be a really good strategy and keeping the pressure on could restore us some winter service. 3) He also has requested a meeting with the Governor the week of September 30 and he hopes to sit down and talk about AMHS and Fisheries and how they are interlinked - how they could grow our economy. **Chelsea (Haisman)** at CDFU and **Cathy (Renfeldt)** also have been working tirelessly and with good effect. He also has still been working informally with Fisheries Development Committee and ADF&G commercial fisheries director and there are some new winter fisheries being considered, Sea Cucumber, Tanner Crab, Skate, Black Rock Fish, King Crab.

a. NVE/City of Cordova/CCMC Healthcare Collaboration Effort notes from final meeting July 10, 2019

Bailer said he knows that people sitting on boards/commissions and councils need thick skin, but he denies that anything, any of the discussions with NVE about the hospital have been done secretly or behind closed doors. He said we are doing what's best for the community, we could continue with City ownership and support of the hospital to the tune of more than \$1 million per year, we could raise property taxes 3 or 4 mills, cut some school funding to make that up, but they are looking for the best healthcare that is also affordable. You have to have a little trust in the Council and the Health Board, come ask questions, send emails, come in and ask the City Manager, the CEO at the hospital.

13. Manager's Report - City Manager **Alan Lanning** said his task moving forward will be the budget, he'll work diligently to get the draft to Council ahead of the first work session. He showed them a book he had made of the 3 main grants that we've completed this year. The second street CTP grant, Tier 1 Harbor Grant, the BUILD grant. He thanks **Tony, Leif, Sam** and **PND** who put a lot of work into these. **Lanning** said he is preparing a detailed account of what's going on in a City Manager Transition document. He reiterated that his last work day in October 16.

Mayor Koplín reverted to Mayor's report and mentioned again the need for a federal lobbyist. He got with the attorney and this is ok to sole source so he will get that on the next agenda. He said the clock is ticking on some of these opportunities.

14. City Clerk's Report - **Bourgeois** reported: 1) she'd like to talk at Pending Agenda about a possible joint work session with school board, otherwise has a written report in the packet tonight.

K. Correspondence

14a. Letter from USCG re Cordova being named a "Coast Guard City"

15. 09-02-19 DNR letter to City-comment period for shore fishery lease extensions

16. 09-11-19 CDFU letter in support of CRWP drafted Resolution 09-19-39

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

17. Ordinance 1177 An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska amending Cordova Municipal Code 5.12.200 by increasing the local bidder preference from 5% to 15% - 1st reading

M/Glasen S/Allison to adopt Ordinance 1177 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska amending Cordova Municipal Code 5.12.200 by increasing the local bidder preference from 5% to 15%

Glasen said he is in favor of giving the local businesses a helping hand to be more competitive. **Allison** said it keeps more money locally. **Bailer** said he agreed with the comments and he is also in support of this, money goes around and around when we contract with a local business. **Allison** asked the Clerk if it would be ex parte if we asked local contractors their opinion of this ordinance. **Bourgeois** said no, this is a law, a piece of code, legislation, so it is a legislative act of Council they should seek citizen input, ex parte is when it is quasi-judicial, about one person. **Bailer** didn't realize until just now that he might have a conflict on this item. **Vice Mayor Meyer** and council concurred that there was no conflict because any one of them might bid on City jobs or items for sale, etc. so by necessity they are all ok to vote.

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

18. Resolution 09-19-39 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, stating support for Area E salmon fisheries and opposition to exploration or drilling for oil or gas in the Gulf of Alaska

M/Glasen S/Jones to approve Resolution 09-19-39 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, stating support for Area E salmon fisheries and opposition to exploration or drilling for oil or gas in the Gulf of Alaska

Glasen said it is a no brainer, it is right in the middle of the area where the first salmon come in and it could be devastating to the fishing fleet if something were to happen there. **Jones** agreed.

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

19. Resolution 09-19-40 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing amendment to the FY19 harbor CIP budget in the amount of \$200,000 to fund repairs to the PWSSC dock and the loading dock

M/Jones S/Glasen to approve Resolution 09-19-40 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing amendment to the FY19 harbor CIP budget in the amount of \$200,000 to fund repairs to the PWSSC dock and the loading dock

Jones said if staff has brought us this as a necessary repair and this was their finding, then we need to approve this and stay on top of our maintenance. **Glasen** concurred. **Jones** also commented that this is money being spent out of Harbor reserves which is collected from users of the Harbor; an enterprise fund paying its own way, doing its own maintenance. Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Meyer-yes; Jones-yes; Schaefer-absent; Guard-yes; Allison-yes; Glasen-yes and Bailer-yes. Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

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

Bourgeois said she would get with the School Superintendent and discuss and get back to Council with a date for a joint work session with the School Board soon.

Council also added these items to the Pending Agenda:

- 1) joint wksn with Harbor Commission - after Jan 1, 2020;
- 2) UBS, decision on switch to institutional consulting after Jan 1, 2020;
- 3) land sale proceeds - permanent fund/general fund - after Jan 1, 2020;

Bourgeois said she'd be getting Board and Commission vacancies advertised soon and those run through November, Council will make appointments in December. **Mayor Koplín** asked Council based on the letter he had written, were they ok with him staying focused on AMHS in a more aggressive manner to push to get some ferry service restored. There was council concurrence. **Mayor Koplín** asked **Meyer**, **Allison** and **Bailer** to get together as the negotiating committee to work on a draft contract before the interviews next Saturday - they set that for noon on Thursday Sept. 26 - **Bourgeois** would get with Human Resources staff to get Council copies of previous manager's contracts for review.

O. Audience Participation

Barb Jewell of mile 2.2 Whitshed Rd. wanted to clarify her comments from earlier - she said she wasn't commenting that anyone had any intent to not be transparent, she says there has been that impact though. She said there are no CCMC Board minutes posted since April. She said hospital employees at meetings were told on 2 different occasions that NVE takeover of the hospital was a "done deal". She said at the last CCMC Board meeting, board members said that NVE would be taking over the clinic within 2-3 months and they expected the hospital within 9 months. She also said that as a hospital employee she cannot just pick up the phone and call the chair of the hospital board, there's a policy about that.

Keith Kroll of 9 Alpine Falls, also an employee at CCMC - he was also under the assumption, like **Barb** said, that the takeover was within a few months, he has lived here 3 years, invested in the community, built a home here. He said it's hard to judge how well the hospital could be doing because the billing is so poor, he thinks it is doing a much better job than when he first got here. He's proud of the work they do there - he's proud of the hospital.

P. Council Comments

Guard thanked the audience for their participation and holding our feet to the fire.

Mayor Koplín thanked Greg Meyer for his hard work.

Bailer thanked everyone for their attendance.

Glasen said personally, the reason we engaged in this was because we care about you as employees, as citizens, the hospital might wind up costing this town almost \$2 million this year. We have **Greg**, great with numbers and **Bert** with NVE will look into every detail and not jump into it if it doesn't work. This isn't willy-nilly, we are doing this for Cordova, we are not trying to sandbag the employees or anything. He apologizes if you are not as informed as you want to be. He also thanked the advocates for the Copper River and the Delta and thanks for all the public comments.

Allison thanked the caring individuals that come with comments. He wanted to make it clear that we are way early in the process to be portraying a takeover or a handoff or anything like that yet. All that is happening so far is organizations are gathering information. He cautioned the Council and the CCMC Board members to be careful what they say so employees and citizens don't get the wrong idea. Everyone's goal is good affordable healthcare for everyone in Cordova.

Jones echoed the comments before him.

Meyer said that since she's been on council the hospital has been a big area of discussion. She is sorry there has been a disconnect, she did not realize the policy in place that doesn't allow staff there to talk to board members.

Q. Executive Session

21. Council discussion on potential losses and liabilities of CCMC - in executive session because matters the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government.

M/Bailer S/Glasen to go into executive session to have Council discussion on potential losses and liabilities of CCMC - in executive session because 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.

Vice Mayor Meyer recessed the meeting at 8:34 pm to clear the room before the executive session.

Council entered executive session at 8:38 pm and came back into regular session at 9:04 pm.

Vice Mayor Meyer commented that in the executive session they discussed the liabilities and potential losses at CCMC and no decisions were made.

R. Adjournment

M/Allison S/Bailer to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection Vice Mayor Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Approved: October 2, 2019

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

