

Regular City Council Meeting
November 18, 2020 @ 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 7:05 pm on November 18, 2020, 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, David Allison,* and *David Glasen.* Council members *Cathy Sherman, Jeff Guard, Melina Meyer,* and *Anne Schaefer* were present via teleconference. *Mayor Clay Koplín* was absent. Also present were City Manager *Helen Howarth* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois.*

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

M/Bailer S/Glasen to approve the agenda.

Hearing no objection, the motion was approved.

E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications

Council member *Meyer* disclosed a conflict on items 13 and 16 as her father is the one who wrote the letter of interest. *Allison* concurred with the conflict and asked her to recuse herself for those items. There was no Council appeal on the ruling of the chair.

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speaker

a. Incident Management Team, Covid-19 update – CCMCA CEO, *Dr. Hannah Sanders* reported: 1) we had our first Covid case in the hospital, we had our first case at a school – we’ve handled both fine; 2) testing capacity is ok but we are trying to preserve our testing capabilities; 3) news on vaccines is promising and those should be coming soon, hopefully within one month.

Council questions: *Guard* asked if we’d be getting the Pfizer vaccine, if so do we have the capability to store it, i.e. very low temperature threshold. *Dr. Sanders* said that we’ve been advised that the numbers of vaccines we will get which are required to be used (injected) within three days and we feel like we will be able to do that without need for the deep freeze storage requirement.

b. 2019 Financial Audit presentation, BDO, USA, LLP, *Bikky Shrestha* reported to Council about the audit.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

CCMCA CEO, *Dr. Hannah Sanders* reported: 1) we’ve had a lot of success recruiting this year and our traveling staff is down; 2) we are working on our 2021 budget and 2021 is a re-basing year for our cost-report, we are waiting for information on that to come back so we can confirm our rates for 2021, also making changes to our chargemaster; 3) a major project upcoming is the closure of the underground storage tank – we are awaiting bids now – so keeping us in the City budget in some way will help with that as it is not able to be funded by CARES.

Alex Russin, Superintendent, reported for the Schools: 1) we are in the final stretch of first semester, there is a short survey out to parents and staff about winter break travel plans so we can decide how to reopen the schools come January 4 – should make a decision by December school board meeting; 2) we had a positive case in a student earlier this week – medical response team has no information to lead us to believe it was transmitted at the schools – med team did well to work with teachers/staff/families, all went well in this first case; 3) school district received Rural Utility Services Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant of \$600,000 we are utilizing it to purchase technology infrastructure – upgrading student devices and buying Promethean boards for the classrooms – also partnering with clinic and CCMC to buy equipment for delivery services via technology – also working with PWSC to setup a CNA program and using some of these funds for technology for that; 4) thanks to Council for the funding approval for the HVAC repair at the HS – well underway and will meet the end of year deadline.

4. Student Council representative – vacant

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Resolution 11-20-41 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska in support of full funding (\$14,049,988) for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2021 state capital budget

6. Minutes of the 11-04-2020 Council Public Hearing

7. Minutes of the 11-04-2020 Council Regular Meeting

8. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of excused absences of the following: Council members Cathy Sherman and Melina Meyer from the November 4, 2020 Regular Meeting

Vote on the consent calendar: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Glasen-yes; Meyer-yes; Sherman-yes; Schaefer-yes; Bailer-yes; Allison-yes and Guard-yes. Consent calendar was approved.

H. Approval of Minutes - in Consent Calendar

I. Consideration of Bids - none

J. Reports of Officers

9. Mayor's Report - *Mayor Koplín* was not present.

10. Manager's Report - City Manager *Helen Howarth* reported: 1) Cordova Cash cards will be in PO boxes on Friday. Our hope is that residents will use these at local businesses, maybe even exploring new businesses. We look forward to seeing people spending them and contributing to our local economy.

11. City Clerk's Report - *Bourgeois* had nothing to report.

K. Correspondence

12. 10-31-20 Thank You note from Brian O'Leary of Ocean Beauty

Bailer commented that he'd like us to thank the processors for what a great job they did this summer keeping Cordova safe.

L. Ordinances and Resolutions - none

M. Unfinished Business

13. Disposal and method of disposal of ASLS 79-258

There was a concurrence of Council to take this item up after the executive session.

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

14. Discussion of COVID-19 Emergency Response

Sherman said she was traveling recently, and she wanted to commend the ambassadors at the airport. She watched them handle some less than cooperative people and they informed me exactly what I needed to do for testing. The testing this week went smoothly. Instructions for quarantine were very clear. She is so impressed with how our community is handling this and how people who must be so tired and fed up with this already are still being so professional. *Schaefer* also thanked medical staff, school staff, city staff for the quick and professional way they got all the information out on the positive cases. *Allison* said the cash cards getting out will be a great boost to the local businesses, he's excited for that and appreciative.

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

Council canceled the December 2 regular meeting and opted to have only a work session that night - this way they could really figure out budget and spend a few hours if necessary.

O. Audience Participation - none

P. Council Comments

Glasen thanked *Helen* and staff for all the hard work on budget.

Bailer echoed that and asked staff to look at the Bidarki situation, could we save \$300K by shutting that down for a year? Also, what do we bring in at Bidarki, if it is a break-even proposition then by all means keep it open?

Meyer thanks to medical staff and IMT and to the manager and staff it is a challenging year, for budget, etc.

Guard thanks and let's get through these trying times, be it disease, budgetary, we will get through it.

Schaefer echoed all the thanks.

Sherman said that *Bailer* has a good point and that closing entire departments is an option, and she hopes the community will pay attention and start to give Council feedback. She complemented Public Works and Parks and Rec on all the work they've been able to get done with the CARES funding - very impressive what they were able to get done in such a short time.

Allison also expressed appreciation to the staff – also thanks to Public Works for extra work *Sam* and others have done with all these little projects.

Q. Executive Session

16. Disposal of ASLS 79-258 in executive session because it is a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government

M/Glasen S/Bailer to go into executive session to discuss disposal of ASLS 79-258 which is a topic for executive session because it is a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government

Vote on the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion was approved.

Council member *Meyer* did not participate in the executive session.

Acting Vice Mayor Allison recessed the meeting at 7:58 pm to clear the room.

Council entered the executive session at 8:01 pm and came back into open session at 8:27 pm.

Acting Vice Mayor Allison said no decisions were made in the executive session and now they would take up item 13 from earlier in the agenda.

13. 17. Disposal and method of disposal of ASLS 79-258

M/Bailer S/Glasen to table the disposal of ASLS 79-258.

Vote on the motion: 5 yeas, 1 nay, 1 conflict. Guard-no; Schaefer-yes; Meyer-coi; Allison-yes; Sherman-yes; Glasen-yes and Bailer-yes. Motion was approved.

R. Adjournment

M/Glasen S/Bailer to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection *Acting Vice Mayor Allison* adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Approved: December 16, 2020

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

