

**City Council Public Hearing
December 4, 2019 @ 6:45 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes**

A. Call to order

Vice Mayor Melina Meyer called the Council public hearing to order at 6:51 pm on December 4, 2019, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Roll call

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

C. Public hearing

1. Ordinance 1178 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, amending Cordova Municipal Code section 5.40.012 to add marijuana, marijuana concentrates, marijuana products, cigarettes, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages to the list of sales subject to a six percent surtax and amending 5.40.020 to add definitions of each

2. Ordinance 1179 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, amending Cordova Municipal Code section 5.40.010 to impose seasonal sales tax rates of five percent in winter and eight percent in summer of each year

3. Ordinance 1180 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, amending Chapter 5.40.010 to adopt a one percent increase to the general sales tax imposed by the City of Cordova

Vice Mayor Meyer recused herself due to a conflict of interest on item 1, she would be making public comment on that item, so she turned the gavel over to **Council member David Allison** to chair the Public Hearing.

Allison opened the hearing up for public testimony on the three ordinances.

Bob Rodrigues of 509 Fifth Street said that Council needs to consider the comments they hear tonight but they also must think of the best long-term interest of Cordova, some comments tonight might be a person's specific vested interest. He would lean toward the seasonal sales tax option which would tap the summer visitors and help the year-round residents. He likes the sin tax - on a \$10 six pack it's an extra 10 cents per beer. He is firmly on the side of the sin taxes and the seasonal. He thanked Council for their dedication and commitment.

Robert Beedle of 609 Spruce Street spoke against any new or increased taxes.

Melina Meyer of 500 Cannery Row spoke against taxing marijuana because it is a new industry, a new business, she hoped Council would remove marijuana from the surtax ordinance.

Barb Jewell of mile 2.2 Whitshed Rd appreciates Council's deep conversations about budgeting. When people say live within your means that doesn't take into account inflation. There would be cuts to services if revenues remained the same. That is not what she is hearing from community members. She is a proponent of spreading the burden, she thinks the seasonal sales tax does that.

Ezekiel Brown of 601 Spruce Street spoke against the alcohol, tobacco, marijuana tax. He said if there is a \$500 thousand gap - something major would have to be cut. He would be more in favor of a seasonal sales tax.

Bill Fisher of 605 Cedar Street spoke against a split sales tax - he said last time it didn't go back. He'd want them to guarantee that it wouldn't go to 8% year-round.

Mark Frohnapfel of 813 Woodland Drive has changed his attitude after speaking with other employees, businesses, he is still concerned that we do what we say we're going to do - he supports the seasonal.

D. Adjournment

Hearing no objection *Acting Vice Mayor Alliosn* adjourned the public hearing at 7:08 pm.

Approved: December 18, 2019

Attest:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

