

**City Council Public Hearing
December 19, 2018 @ 6:30 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes**

A. Call to order

Vice Mayor David Allison called the Council public hearing to order at 6:30 pm on December 19, 2018, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Roll call

Present for roll call were Council members *Ken Jones, Jeff Guard, Melina Meyer, Anne Schaefer, David Allison* and *James Wiese*. *Mayor Clay Koplín* and Council member *James Burton* were present via teleconference. Also present were City Manager *Alan Lanning* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

C. Public hearing

1. Resolution 12-18-33 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, adopting an operating and capital budget for fiscal year 2019 and appropriating the amount of ~~\$15,181,260~~ **\$15,288,342** as summarized pursuant to the following table
2. Resolution 12-18-34 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting City service fees, rates and charges for the 2019 calendar budget
3. Resolution 12-18-36 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, reinstating the e-911 surcharge implemented in Resolution 08-10-49 and repealing Resolution 03-12-20, which suspended the surcharge pending the acquisition and activation of an enhanced 911 system

Vice Mayor Allison opened the hearing up for public testimony on any of the three resolutions. He mentioned that the budget number will be amended in the regular meeting before approval. The actual amount of the 2019 appropriation should be \$15,288,342.

Dave Glasen of 609 Cedar Street commented that the schools should be a top priority when budgeting; he opined that the city manager bonus is, from a citizen's standpoint, a direct slap in the face; he thinks we should take advantage of alcohol, marijuana and tobacco taxes and maybe should increase bed tax to 12%.

Alex Russin of 675 second street, his office address, superintendent of schools, commented on Resolution 12-18-33. He said that the district asks for only what they need and they've been told to come back after the fund balance has been drawn down and that is now the case. He sees where the City received an extra \$630,000 in Secure Rural Schools funding, the district is asking for an extra \$400,000 next year.

Sheryl Glasen of 609 Cedar Street spoke about the draft budget and said the school needs the extra \$400,000 and she said it would be a devastating effect if they had to do without this funding.

Bret Bradford of 402 Railroad Row commented on the budget, said that the \$750,000 in bond payments could be paid from the permanent fund, when he was on Council there was extra timber receipts put into the permanent fund just for that purpose. He said then the Schools could be funded to the ask (\$400K more), not to the cap. This solution could give the City some breathing room in its own budget to also fund some capital items.

Julie Reynolds of 210 Boardwalk Way asked Council to fund the schools at 100% of what they are asking for.

Lynn "Butch" West said the working people of the City have trouble when the City Manager gets a \$20K bonus then shows up at negotiations to say, "we're broke" and then he gets another \$10K bonus, and when negotiations begin this year, we'll hear the same thing, the City has no money.

Pete Hoepfner of Orca Circle said he is a relentless advocate for school funding at the legislature and he used to be able to tell them that the City fully funds the schools and he can't say so any longer. The BSA (base student allocation) from the State has increased 8.7% over the last 10 years which doesn't even keep up with inflation.

Wendy Ranney of 2500 Orca Road spoke in support of school funding being increased in the budget. She also said she would be attending School Board meetings to help them in their budgeting; was of the opinion that they could look to other sources for money to come into the district, not just to the City. She commented that all the people advocating for schools here tonight should pledge to do the same.

Brad Reynolds of 210 Boardwalk Way spoke in favor of more school funding, he said the school district is a great asset and it keeps people in town as a great place to raise kids.

Alyssa Kleissler of 301 Railroad Row spoke in favor of more funding to the Cordova School District. She urged Council to use the other funding sources that were mentioned as options tonight to fund the schools at what they are asking for.

Tammy Altermott of 811 Woodland Drive spoke in favor of increasing the school funding in the budget. She said the district has been responsible in budgeting and they are only asking for what they need.

Kara Johnson of 701 Lake Avenue #4 spoke about the budget, she was glad to see training and maintenance and equipment levels in the budgets back at realistic levels, these had been zeroed out in the past. As far as the fee schedule, she said the increases may be hard for those on limited budgets to handle all at once and with E-911 she suggested maybe a level of something less than the \$2/line that is being proposed. She advocates for the school as well and said that there are holes in our codes that could bring in more revenue as far as business license and sales tax codes. She thinks Council should also reconsider sin taxes.

Barb Jewell of mile 2.2 Whitshed Road said she agreed with a lot has already been said, she said she and her family moved here 10 years ago primarily for the schools. They had lots of options about where to move and she did some research and picked Cordova.

Eric Sanders of 101 Henrichs Loop echoed a lot of comments and said his experience is similar in that there were lots of opportunities of where to move and they researched and picked Cordova because of the schools when they moved here about 3 years ago.

Tommy Sheridan of 610 Spruce Street said he too looked into the school system in Cordova when he moved here 9 years ago, then a few years ago there was another opportunity to move but they chose to stay based on Cordova Schools.

William Deaton of 524 Second Street showed his support for the school district and asked Council to fully fund the district.

Mike Hicks asked Council to fully fund the E-911 resolution.

Becky Niles of 503 First Street said she supported funding the schools to the amount they have asked.

D. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, **Vice Mayor Allison** adjourned the public hearing at 7:06 pm.

Approved: February 6, 2019

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

