

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 5, 2013 @ 12:00 PM
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM
MINUTES**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor James Kacsh called the Council Special Meeting to order at 12:02 pm on April 5, 2013 in the Library Meeting Room.

B. ROLL CALL

Present for roll call were *Mayor James Kacsh* and Council members *David Allison*, *Brett Bradford*, *EJ Cheshier*, *David Reggiani*, and *Robert Beedle*. Council members *Kristen Carpenter* and *Tim Joyce* were absent. Also present were Interim City Manager *Don Moore* and Deputy City Clerk *Tina Hammer*.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/Reggiani S/Bradford to approve the agenda.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Carpenter and Joyce). Motion carried.

Carpenter arrived at 12:03 pm.

D. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – None.

E. COMMUNICATIONS BY AND PETITIONS FROM VISITORS

1. Audience Comments regarding agenda items – None.

Joyce arrived at 12:05 pm.

F. NEW BUSINESS

2. Legislative Update and Strategy in re Cordova Center Funding

Teleconference Discussion with Lobbyist *John Bitney*

Mayor Kacsh stated that the City would like an update for the Cordova Center funding, as well as advice on how to plan a community effort to let *Representative Austerman* know how important the Cordova Center was to the City. *Bitney* stated that the Capital Bill was Senate Bill 18, and it is now on the third reading on the Senate floor. That generally means that they are not going to make any more amendments to it in the Senate, and it will now pass over to the House. *Bitney* stated that the Senate put in \$1M for the completion of the Cordova Center, although they had put in a request for \$7.7M for completion. That was prior to the EVOS Trustees Council meeting, where they had approved an addition \$1.3M, which is only allowable for one-third the costs of reimbursements. Part of the reason for the reduction in the amount they thought they were going to get, was because negotiations with the Governor and Senators had been whittled down from \$20M per Senate District to \$9M as of last week. *Senator Stevens* put in \$1M for Cordova, and spread the remaining \$8M to the rest of the District. With that being said, there were other entities that were also expecting to receive more money, so there is pressure on the House to add more money to the Capital budget. However, the Governor would like to keep the budget down, so there is a bit of a dispute. *Bitney* affirmed that he had spoken with *Representative Austerman* a few times, and *Rep. Austerman* is aware that funding for the Cordova Center is a top priority. *Bradford* questioned if the bill was still named SB18 now that it was in the House. He also wanted to know if *Rep. Austerman* would have to time to speak with *Mayor Kacsh* if he went to Juneau. Lastly, he wanted the Council to come up with a specific message to give *Rep. Austerman* if they were given the chance to speak to him. *Bitney* replied that it would be SB18 through completion, but was commonly referred to as the Capital Budget. As for his other question, he

did think *Rep. Austerman* would be extremely busy, and would most likely not take an appointment with them, but rather just a few minutes. He thought their statement in those few minutes should include something about needing matching funds in order to receive money from EVOS, as well as being Council's top priority. *Bitney* recommended that if they were going to go to Juneau, Monday would be the best day. *Mayor Kacsh* asked if the House would be taking public testimony. *Bitney* said that they probably would have a little, but that he didn't think it would have much impact. *Mayor Kacsh* stated that he was planning on going to Juneau, and if the Council agreed, to have *Carpenter* go as well. *Carpenter* asked if they should mention a dollar amount to request in the statement to *Rep. Austerman*. *Bitney* suggested that they request \$5M.

G. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jennifer Gibbens stated that the Chamber of Commerce would be happy to provide a letter of support.

Cindy Appleton stated that the EVOS grant expires in December 2015.

H. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Bradford asked if *Kacsh* and *Carpenter* were going to meet and discuss what to say before Juneau. *Carpenter* replied that the statement would consist of being the top priority; they needed the matching funds, and were requesting \$5M.


I. ADJOURNMENT

M/Allison S/Bradford to adjourn.

Hearing no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 pm.

Approved: June 5, 2013

Attest:


Erika Empey, Minutes Clerk

