

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 01, 2013 @ 7:30 PM  
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM  
MINUTES

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor James Kacsh* called the Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 pm on May 01, 2013, in the Library Meeting Room.

**B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*Mayor James Kacsh* led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. ROLL CALL**

Present for roll call were *Mayor James Kacsh* and Council members *Tim Joyce*, *David Allison*, *Bret Bradford* and *David Reggiani*. Council member *Kristin Carpenter* was present via teleconference. Council members *EJ Cheshier* and *James Burton* were absent. Also present were Interim City Manager *Don Moore*, City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*, Deputy City Clerk *Tina Hammer* and Student Council Representative *Gabrielle Brown*.

**D. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

*M/Reggiani S/Bradford* to approve the Regular Agenda.

*Mayor Kacsh* added *Paul Swartzbart*, representing Sheridan Alpine Association, as a guest speaker.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passes.

**E. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - none**

**F. COMMUNICATIONS BY AND PETITIONS FROM VISITORS**

1. Guest Speaker – *Paul Swartzbart* gave an overview of the workings of the ski hill which is a partnership including the ski club, a few telecom companies, the City of Cordova and the State of Alaska. The state owns the land that the ski hill is on – the City owns the chairlift and the buildings and leases the land from the state. The ski club, Sheridan Alpine Association, has a contract with the City to operate the ski area. Cordova Telephone Cooperative and Copper Valley Telecom with GCI have a contract with the State, City and Ski Club to lease land for their cell phone towers at the top of the ski hill. The ski club is a non-profit with one part-time permanent employee, *Dave Branshaw* – manager. A Board of Directors, all volunteers, runs the ski club. Lift ticket sales alone do not support the ski hill – there are other revenue sources; gifts and donations, cell phone tower leases, fund raisers, pull-tab sales, and the City’s annual contribution to the hill. All the income goes directly back into ski hill operations, maintenance and improvements. City plows, pays for electricity and provides liability insurance. One meter box runs the ski hill as well as the towers – with all the equipment up there now the electric bill has skyrocketed. We are in the process of working with City staff to remedy this problem. In 1992 the lift was in serious disrepair. *Mike O’Leary* and *Mike Anderson* mortgaged their homes to get enough money to redo the lift. In the last five years a great deal of improvements has occurred – new chairs, foundations and bottom, midway and top station. Unbelievable volunteer work by people such as: *Jerry Blackler*, *Rob Brown*, *Wilson Construction*, *Jeff Thelen*, *Mike Smith*, *Steve Barnes* and many others. Points North has been a great ski hill supporter. Our mission is to provide safe, dependable and affordable skiing for Cordova. He will come forward in the future asking for support for maintenance and capital projects. *Swartzbart* then presented a short slide show of pictures from the ski area.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

*HSB* representative *Allison* said that during Pending Agenda he would mention that the hospital needs an agenda item for the second May meeting.

*P&R* representative *Kristin Carpenter* reported that there hadn’t been a meeting since she was appointed to the commission.

*P&Z* representative *Reggiani* and School Board representative *Bret Bradford* reported that each will meet next week.

4. Superintendent's Report - *Theresa Keel* said she had no report this evening.

5. Student Council Representative's Report

*Brown* reported that over 500 teens were in Cordova for the regional band fest – it went really well. Spring AASG was in Healy and 5 Cordova kids went. Prom was this last weekend and the theme was Mardi Gras. Oscar talent night is coming up – where students can show their edited movies or live acts. Graduation is on May 18.

#### G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

*Mayor James Kacsh* informed Council that the consent calendar was before them.

*Bradford* called out item 9 and it was placed after item 20 on the agenda.

6. Resolution 05-13-22 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, appropriating \$2,000 from the general fund to sponsor pilot lodging and fuel costs for the 100<sup>th</sup> Alaska anniversary flight

7. Resolution 05-13-24 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the purchase of a new caterpillar 140M2 AWD road grader for the amount of \$378,613.00 plus shipping

8. Resolution 05-13-25 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the purchase of new dumpsters in a variety of sizes for the amount of \$36,554.20

~~9. Resolution 05-13-26 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to contract with Northern Lights Electrical to furnish in whole the electrical upgrades to the City's street maintenance shop for the price of \$98,810~~

10. Council approval of restaurant in bar per ABC board application

11. Cordova Volunteer Fire Department confirmation of 2013 election of officers

12. Proclamation of Appreciation to Robert Beedle

Vote on Consent Calendar: 4 yeas, 0 nays, Carpenter-inaudible; Cheshier-absent; Joyce-yes; Allison-yes; Burton-absent; Reggiani-yes and Bradford-yes and Brown-yes. Consent Calendar was approved.

*Mayor Kacsh* read the proclamation under item 12 into the record. Item 9 was moved to after item 20.

#### H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*M/Reggiani S/Bradford* to approve the Minutes.

13. Special Meeting Minutes 01-23-13

14. Special Meeting Minutes 02-08-13

15. Regular Meeting Minutes 04-03-13

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Cheshier, Burton). Motion passes.

#### I. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS - none

#### J. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

16. Mayor's Report

*Mayor Kacsh* said that he attended a PIO training over the weekend. Also, he had a written report in the packet.

17. Manager's Report – *Moore* had submitted a written report. Title 4 (personnel) has been submitted by the attorney and he wants a thorough staff review of that before it comes to Council. The attorneys also have Title 11 (ports & harbors) set for staff review. The first part of the independent evaluation of the window issue at the Cordova Center is complete. There was a supplemental report sent around – he signed the MOA for the match for the Whitshed Rd pedestrian and bike path – this year's amount had not been budgeted he will bring that back to Council. Auditor's had spent 8 days here – they expect a clean and unqualified audit with a few findings. The Cordova Center accounts are of particular concern – some coding errors had occurred and the auditors have reviewed that to assist us with corrections. He intends to bring an omnibus resolution to Council to fix all that perhaps at the next meeting or after that. *Zamarron* had discovered that the state subsidy for the loan we just bonded for has increased significantly. We thought it would be a

hundred thousand or so and instead it will be approximately \$800K (awesome). PWSSC breakwater filled lot information – **Moore** has been looking into this. Appraisal of the lot came in at \$300K but the difference between the value and the cost to fill is \$700K – however, since the PWSSC is a non-profit, Council can sell that lot to them for whatever it wants.

Council questions – **Joyce** wanted to clarify for those listening that the cost of the Whitshed project was much more than just a bike path – it included realigning a big portion of that road which is why it costs so much. **Joyce** questioned moving the fill from the South Fill to the burn pile area in case we were to need it back for the Saw Mill Avenue extension project. Staff quickly responded that unfortunately, the quality of the material would not make it suitable for use as fill.

**18. City Clerk's Report – Bourgeois** said that the Deputy Clerk has been working on the Caselle conversion. She said the property tax roll is ready to be certified – at second May meeting or at a special meeting in May. The taxable value now would lead to a collection of \$1.542M in property taxes for 2013 and \$1.5M was the budgeted amount. **Bourgeois** stated that there have been many meetings and she is playing catch-up with minutes. She has recently hired a temp to help in that regard **Erika Empey** a previous Deputy Clerk is working on minutes. **Bourgeois** mentioned also that Friday was **Tracy Merritt's** last day with the City she has been here 15 years and has been a great asset to the Finance Department as well as to the City overall and she will be greatly missed.

Staff Reports

- a. John Bitney, Legislative Lobbyist
- b. Moe Zamarron – PWD 1Q report

#### **K. CORRESPONDENCE**

**19.** Letter from EVOSTC 04-16-13 in re additional funding for Cordova Center

#### **L. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**20.** Resolution 05-13-23 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, establishing local government contribution of National Forest Receipts for the Cordova public school district for the school fiscal year ending June 30, 2014

**M/Joyce S/ Reggiani** to approve Resolution 05-13-23 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, establishing local government contribution of National Forest Receipts for the Cordova public school district for the school fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

**M/Bradford S/Joyce** to amend the resolution to include the edits as stated in handout

Vote on motion to amend: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Cheshier, Burton). Motion passes.

Vote on main motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays. Joyce-yes; Allison-yes; Burton-absent; Cheshier-absent; Reggiani-yes; Bradford-yes and Carpenter-yes and Brown-yes. Motion passes.

**9.** Resolution 05-13-26 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to contract with Northern Lights Electrical to furnish in-whole the electrical upgrades to the City's street maintenance shop for the price of \$98,810

**M/Allison S/Reggiani** to approve Resolution 05-13-26 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to contract with Northern Lights Electrical to furnish in-whole the electrical upgrades to the City's street maintenance shop for the price of \$98,810.

**Bradford** said he pulled this from the consent calendar because he had a few questions. He was concerned that we keep digging into the general fund for more and more money that was unbudgeted. He wondered if there was another place we could look, or should we keep this as split between two years. After some discussion, others had recalled that they had directed staff to come back with a one-year project instead of splitting it between two years.

Vote on motion: 4 yeas, 1 nay. Cheshier-absent; Bradford-no; Burton-absent; Joyce-yes; Carpenter-yes; Allison-yes and Reggiani-yes and Brown-yes. Motion passes.

#### **M. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**21. Liquor License renewal Cordova Hotel and Bar**

**(may be discussed in executive session)**

*M/Allison S/Bradford* to waive Council's right to protest the ABC Board's approval of the application for renewal of the Cordova Hotel & Bar Beverage Dispensary Lic. #277 and Cordova Hotel & Bar – Package Store Lic. #278.

*Moore* said that his recommendation to Council would be to not protest the renewal. *Joyce* asked if we knew the current listed owner – *Schinella* said the Harbor is the current listed owner.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Cheshier, Burton). Motion passes.

**N. NEW & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**22. Recommendation from the Harbor Commission in re impoundments**

*M/Reggiani S/Allison* to APPROVE the recommendation to dispose of impounded property by maximum bid and if there are no interested bidders, to dispose of impounded property in a responsible manner.

*Mayor Kacsh* asked if it would be difficult to dispose of these – i.e. are they documented vessels?

*Harbormaster Schinella* was present and answered disposal would not be a problem.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Cheshier, Burton). Motion passes.

**23. Pending Agenda and Calendar**

Council discussed and concurred to not have a second May Regular meeting and instead planned to ensure that time-sensitive items were handled at Special meetings.

**O. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

*Theresa Keel* of 1013 Whitshed Rd. – thanked Council for the resolution tonight. She thanked Don and Jon for a collaborative and easy process; was quite painless and the funding will be well-used next year. She commented on the ski hill presentation as well – she mentioned that the ski hill is one of the reasons she decided to come to Cordova and she would like to see the schools get involved with the ski hill as part of a PE program.

*Luke Borer* mile 49 CRH said the April report for bridge 339 is out and it says 2016 before construction and it mentions “unbuildable”. He said we have to be the squeaky wheel if we want the grease – must stay vocal on this or we will lose the draw. He said some people hauled tourists out there but it is not cost effective and affordable (he had to charge \$150 per head).

*Barbara Beedle* of 910 Ingress wanted to bring up kids riding bicycles on the sidewalks. She hopes someone can get it across to the school age kids – i.e. that they shouldn't be riding on sidewalks. She thanked the City Manager for getting a light on the flag and/or raising and lowering it.

**P. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**28. Council Comments**

*Joyce* commented that maybe the superintendent could ensure that the kids heard about the bicycles on sidewalks and were encouraged not to do so.

**Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**25. Sales Tax issues**

**26. Cordova Center Finances – Attorney advice**

*M/Joyce S/Reggiani* to enter into executive session to discuss Sales Tax issues and Cordova Center finances attorney advice which are matters the immediate knowledge of would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the City government specifically sales tax issues and Cordova Center finances.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Cheshier, Burton). Motion passes.

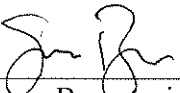
With no objection, Council recessed for 5 minutes at 8:50.

Council entered executive session at 8:55 pm; Council came out of executive session at 9:35 pm. *Mayor Kacsh* said they discussed sales tax issues and Cordova Center finances and took no action.

**R. ADJOURNMENT**

*M/Allison S/Reggiani* to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:36 pm; with no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: June 5, 2013

Attest:   
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Susan Bourgeois, City Clerk

