

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 04, 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 September 04, 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 *Kristin Carpenter, Tim Joyce, David Allison* and *Bret Bradford*. Council members *David Reggiani, EJ Cheshier* and *James Burton* were absent. Also present were City Manager *Randy Robertson* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

**D. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

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

Vote on motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Reggiani, Cheshier and Burton). Motion passes.

Council member *Cheshier* arrived at 7:32 pm.

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

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

1. Guest Speaker – none

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

*HSB - Allison* said that the Board has nothing scheduled until its regular quarterly meeting in October.

Council reps to Harbor Commission, Parks and Rec, Planning and Zoning and School Board either had no meetings to report on or were not present at the Council meeting.

**G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

4. Resolution 09-13-48

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Appraisal Company of Alaska for tax year 2014 assessment services in the amount of sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000)

5. Resolution 09-13-49

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the disposal of City records that have no legal or administrative value or historical interest

6. Record excused absence of Council member *Bradford* from the August 21, 2013 regular meeting.

7. Record unexcused absence of Council member *Carpenter* from the August 21, 2013 regular meeting.

Vote on Consent Calendar: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Bradford-yes; Reggiani-absent; Allison-yes; Cheshier-yes; Carpenter-yes; Joyce-yes and Burton-absent. Consent Calendar was approved.

**H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*M/Joyce S/Cheshier* to approve the Minutes.

8. Public Hearing Minutes 08-21-13

9. Regular Meeting Minutes 08-21-13

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

**I. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS - none**

**J. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

10. Mayor's Report - **Mayor Kacsh** said he had heard earlier today from City lobbyist, **John Bitney** who said he is heading to Juneau in the next week or two to start discussions with Governor's office (OMB – management & budget) concerning the Cordova Center. He is still trying to get the Cordova Center on the Governor's budget and he is still hearing that the Governor is interested in funding projects that are beyond shovel ready (i.e. we would fit the bill). **Carpenter** asked the **Mayor** about the email we got concerning SRS reauthorization. **Mayor Kacsh** said he and the Clerk are on it and **Bourgeois** will be drafting a letter for his signature.

11. Manager's Report – **Robertson** said 1) he has sent an email to **Bitney** to better understand the Forest receipts program; 2) he is still hoping to get individual meetings scheduled with Council – to get their goals and objectives – **Cindy Appleton** will call to set appointments; 3) newcomers briefing scheduled for tomorrow night – lots of prep has gone into it, should be a good turnout; 4) streets department has begun patching but has been delayed with weather; 5) City Hall – there have been great improvements and he wanted to recognize **Richard Bingham** a temporary employee who has done the majority of the work, painting, power washing, etc. he asked **Mayor Kacsh** to recognize him with a token of appreciation from the City for a job very well done; 6) Cordova Center news, testing on Aug 27 & 28 – went relatively well, but some of the windows were compromised – they have come up with a plan – they is **Trinity** in partnership with **Capital** in partnership with **Dokoozian** in partnership with the **City** – there is a Trinity approved way forward which they are working on now, we hope to have Dokoozian completed and off-site by 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week in October; 7) there is good news on the Mt. Eccles playground, he has spoken with our insurance broker, **Doug Brown** and he is taking over the case and the playground can possibly be fixed and usable by January 2014; 8) budget has been discussed and next session we will bring you a schedule; 9) he met with Arctic IT today and he challenged them to look at a way we can use the cloud maybe, or do things differently IT wise because our server is 10 years old – which causes him great concern; technology has moved a lot in the last ten years and maybe we can catch up a bit by looking at a different platform; 10) PWSSC – he has received a letter from them, a proposal dated today on the lease – he'd like to look through it however; 11) **Robertson** handed out some professional readings that he has been using at staff call and he would like Council to read as well if they wanted to.

He asked **Jon Stavig** to speak briefly: **Stavig** said that as we are entering budget prep, he did mention that Council should be thinking along the lines that there is a strong likelihood that Forest Receipts program will not be reauthorized for this next year and that the formulas will change and there could be a lot less funding from that source. **Stavig** also said that snowpocalypse final report is in and we are hoping for a reimbursement in the amount of \$341K or so.

a. Parks & Recreation Director, **Susie Herschleb** gave a presentation about Bidarki day camp – she presented a little white paper regarding the costs, “hours away from tv”, demographics of campers, locations visited, etc. and then she showed a 5 minute slideshow with pictures from camp. It was very well-received by the Council and the audience present. **Tammie Altermott** was an audience member present who spoke about how great Bidarki day camp has been and how important it is for her and her family.

b. Legislative Lobbyist, **John Bitney** had a written report in the packet

c. City Planner, **Sam Greenwood** said she had a report in the packet concerning a recent P&Z action. She said the Clerk's report has a mention of this as well.

**Robertson** asked if there were any questions about his report or any of the staff reports. **Carpenter** said that she had missed the August 21 meeting but she wanted to discuss Cordova Center funding and moving forward with the local funding efforts, etc. She is hoping that we will see some discussion over the next couple of meetings about how that is moving forward. **Robertson** said he and **Jon** had met with **Cathy Sherman** and there's a three month calendar to be presented. **Robertson** also said that maybe the snowpocalypse money that we are about to receive could help jump-start the local fundraising (act as the

City's further contribution to the project). *Carpenter* asked about the Cordova Center Committee and how active they are. *Joyce* mentioned that the committee met two or three weeks ago. *Allison* had a question about the memo from planning department – is that the next step forward for the baler facility? Or is it going forward. Planner *Greenwood* said it is moving forward but we are trying to solidify a process. *Zamarron* said they are preparing the RFP now and as each of the components of the project move forward, we will come to Council for approval but will show the backing of the Planning and Zoning commission.

12. City Clerk's Report - *Bourgeois* said that in her report she made mention of seeking Council direction on what to do regarding "consideration of bids" and contract approval. At the August 21 Council meeting there was discussion regarding whether an item should have been placed under the header "consideration of bids" when it had been a contract approval placed under new business. *Bourgeois* had cited two code references in her report. CMC 3.12.060 tells her the agenda item headers and one of those required is "consideration of bids". Chapter 5.12 Purchases makes it very clear that Council does not consider bids (i.e. choose the winning bidder) but the Manager does and then lines out a memo to Council stating who he recommends and why and asking for Council to approve the contract with chosen bidder. *Bourgeois'* question is whether Council wants to do away with the "consideration of bids" part of the agenda, or possibly change it to read consideration of contracts or consideration of bids and approval of contracts, or something more in line with the action that is being undertaken by the Council. *Carpenter* said she trusts the judgment of the Manager and Department heads, she would like to see a written summary explaining the decision but she doesn't feel like its Council's job to evaluate all the bids. *Joyce* and *Bradford* mentioned that the Manager does put forward a recommendation but then Council approves the bid. *Bradford* doesn't recall what point in time we started moving away from that. *Mayor Kacsh* said that this is why *Bourgeois* brought this up – she wanted direction from Council to offer a code change; if Council wants to be included in the choosing a bid or leave it the way it is when the Manager chooses and then Council approves the contract. *Allison* said that government does not need to be slowed; Council involved in bids would slow the process. *Allison* would be in favor of changing "consideration of bids" to "approval of contracts". He would agree that staff should bring not only the contract but how they arrived at that and if Council so chose, they could not approve the contract. *Bradford* said along with approving the contract he would like to see a summary of the competing proposals. *Joyce* said that Council has to answer to their voting public – he would feel very uncomfortable voting on these last few without knowing anything about the competing bids. *Carpenter* said maybe "consideration of bids" could be changed to "consideration of contracts". *Mayor Kacsh* said this will be on a future agenda laying out options. *Cheshier* said in the past he has been satisfied with a one page summary of what happened during the bid process. *Mayor Kacsh* said this would be on the next agenda.

## K. CORRESPONDENCE

## L. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

### 13. Resolution 09-13-47

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska appropriating an additional \$3,000 to purchase a used 2007 Ford Expedition police vehicle in the amount of \$13,000

*M/Bradford S/Joyce* to approve Resolution 09-13-47 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska appropriating an additional \$3,000 to purchase a used 2007 Ford Expedition police vehicle in the amount of \$13,000.

Council discussed where the money was coming from. \$10K had been budgeted and the extra \$3K would come from the 401 fund, general projects fund. Council seemed interested in understanding the fiscal note better in the future, i.e. what was taken from 401 fund already this year. *Joyce* said that in the past, the department could just find the extra money in a different line item instead of requesting a small amount such as \$3K; just do an interfund transfer.

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

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

##### **14. Capital Projects/Priorities List/Resolution review**

*Joyce* said he has no problem with our first priority, but we are seeing the potential in the next agenda item to go out for a special election for a loan for something that isn't even on the list. *Joyce* was of the opinion that in order to pursue grants these things need to be on our list.

*M/Joyce S/Bradford* to table this item until after agenda item 15.

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

#### **N. NEW & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

##### **15. Discussion of loan to upgrade sewer system**

*Zamarron* said it is his job as the Public Works Director to keep these things in front of you. There have been a lot of alleged violations in the wastewater arena and we have been able to keep in compliance but it is costly and manpower consuming. We continually put in for grants and loans and we score a lot higher for the loans. Often the grants go to the communities trying to treat drinking water. Voters would have to approve this loan just like the two that were just approved in March 2013 for water and refuse. *Zamarron* is therefore asking for a special election sometime in November for this ballot prop, concerning a loan for a sewer project. There was Council discussion and they came up with a list of things they want answered by next meeting if *Moe Zamarron* will bring it back to them for approval. Questions are: will there be a rate increase, how much? How much debt is there in the sewer and water fund? What other loans are outstanding, what are the repayment schedule like?

*Allison* asked the interest rate and term – *Zamarron* said 1 ½ percent for 20 years. *Allison* asked about the subsidy, *Zamarron* said it is a 10% subsidy, meaning we pay back 90% of principle. The LT2 loan we got had a 15% subsidy which turned into an 80% subsidy. *Allison* asked if we are in compliance without doing this. *Zamarron* said yes. *Joyce* mentioned that we still seem to have many leaks which cause us such grief and he wonders if fixing those before automating the whole system wouldn't be more prudent. *Zamarron* said about 25% of the water we treat is stormwater – we have made strides using crickets, that number used to be 35%. *Bradford* added to the list of questions and wants to know the enterprise fund balances. *Carpenter* said she doesn't think we should keep "cheaping out" and ignoring our facilities, like recently when we realized the conditions that existed at the baler; we should not allow conditions that make it a place people won't work. She realizes this is a loan we would have to pay back and it is a big number but she doesn't want us to be penny wise and pound foolish. *Joyce* mentioned that we have upgraded that facility several times – we have sunk money into that place. *Allison* said that this is also cheap economic development. *Zamarron* did say that it is important to have this on the CIP list and especially if it were number one. *Cheshier* said he is not convinced of having this go without the further information that has been requested.

At this time Council returned to discussion of agenda item 14.

##### **14. Capital Projects/Priorities List/Resolution review**

*M/Joyce S/Allison* to postpone review of capital projects list to the next regular Council meeting on September 18.

*Bradford* said he would be reluctant to change the top three or four entering a new legislative session in January.

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

##### **16. Pending Agenda and Calendar**

*Allison* mentioned an email Council had received from the hospital regarding finances and that there may need to be an agenda item next time regarding this – i.e. deeper than just a request for a draw.

On the Pending Agenda page, it was mentioned that the "City Manager Assessment Committee" could be removed as the City Manager has been hired; **Mayor Kaesh** asked for letters to be written thanking all the members.

**O. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

**Cindy Appleton** spoke about summer camp and how much it has meant to her family and what a great program the Parks and Recreation Department puts on year after year.

**P. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

17. Council Comments

**Joyce** said he wanted to thank everyone who participated tonight; we had some really good discussions.

**Carpenter** thanked **Darlene Robertson** for putting the event together for tomorrow night.

**Bradford** said he echoed that.

**Cheshier** said he had never thought of such a newcomers briefing and it seems like a great idea. He also wished he could have gone to summer camp.

**Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

~~18. Cordova Center Finances—Attorney advice/update~~

**City Manager Robertson** said we were not in need of this executive session.


**R. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/Allison S/Bradford** to adjourn the regular meeting at 09:18 pm

Hearing no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: September 18, 2013

Attest:

  
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Susan Bourgeois, City Clerk

