

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 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 December 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*, *David Allison*, *Bret Bradford*, *EJ Cheshier*, *Dave Reggiani* and *James Burton*. Council member *Tim Joyce* was present via teleconference. Also present were City Manager *Randy Robertson* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

**D. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

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

Vote on motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passes.

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

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

1. Guest Speaker - none

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

*Gabriel Scott* of 612 Fourth Street and representing Cascadia Wildlands spoke in support of Council passing Resolution 12-34-64. He also appreciated that Council had placed it on tonight's agenda.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

*Harbor Commission – Burton* said they had met a little while back and the commission voted for the rate increases of 21%. They also looked at an RFP for G float.

*HSB – Allison* said there is nothing new since last report.

*Parks and Rec – Carpenter* said they haven't had another meeting since last Council but she and some commissioners attended last night's comprehensive plan training session – it was very informative.

*Planning and Zoning – Reggiani* said that last night he and the planning commission were also at the comprehensive plan training, put on by the Planning Department. He said they will be ready to jump into the comp plan next year.

*School Board – Bradford* said they meet next week.

4. Student Council Representative's report: *Sarah Hoepfner* said the Student Council is having a carnival on Saturday December 14 from 11am – 1pm at Mt. Eccles. "Deck the Halls" competition is underway for each of the classes to decorate their hallways for Christmas – the winning class to get an ice cream party. The judging for that is December 13. Next week there will be a spirit week for the wrestlers as they will be going to districts and then the State tournament. There is a penny drive for the typhoon victims in the Philippines and that is also a competition between the classes and that will go up until Christmas break. Latest news is that the committee has recommended to the School Board that we move to 2A and the School Board will vote on that and then it will go to ASAA.

**G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

*Reggiani* called out item 5. It was placed after item 14 on the agenda.

~~5. Ordinance 1113 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing a lease for a portion of Lot 2, Block 7A, Tidewater Development Park, Plat 93-2, specifically a building known as the Prince William Sound Science Center and the south-west 50 feet of the dock to the Prince William Sound~~

~~Science and Technology Institute, an Alaska nonprofit corporation, doing business as Prince William Sound Science Center for the operation of the Prince William Sound Science Center—1<sup>st</sup> reading~~

6. Resolution 12-13-65 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the renewal of the line of credit with UBS Bank USA in a principal amount of not to exceed \$2,793,918.60 for the purpose of borrowing in anticipation of the receipt of revenues of the city to finance part of the cost of the Cordova Center project, and providing for related matters.

7. Record excused absences of Mayor Kacsh and Council members Cheshier and Burton from the November 20, 2013 regular meeting.

Vote on Consent Calendar: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Carpenter-yes; Bradford-yes; Joyce-yes; Cheshier-yes; Burton-yes; Reggiani-yes and Allison-yes. Consent Calendar was approved.

## **H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

8. Regular Meeting Minutes 11-06-13

Vote on motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passes.

## **I. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS - none**

## **J. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

9. Mayor's Report – *Mayor Kacsh* had attended the Alaska Conference of Mayors and the Alaska Municipal League Conference in Anchorage. Before those conferences began he also met with Anchorage *Mayor Dan Sullivan* and his Chief of Staff to discuss how important the rural communities in Alaska are to Anchorage's economy. They discussed broken ferries as well as ADF&G issues and other things we have in common. Further meetings were had with Anchorage legislators; both from the House and Senate – more discussion regarding the importance of the rural communities to Anchorage's economy.

10. Manager's Report – *Robertson* said that Friday afternoon the City would be conducting an exercise where we will close City Hall and re-deploy to the Forest Service, testing our capabilities up there for emergency preparedness. *Robertson* also reminded all of the Christmas tree lighting at the chamber and the bazaar to follow. *Joel Azure* of NVE has said they are getting a police cruiser for the City. *Senator Stevens* will be coming to Cordova on January 8 - 9. Mt. Eccles playground is moving along – we have our own project manager up there now, should be done by December 31.

a. *Paul Trumblee*, City Fire Marshal – Report on Ambulance Fund – *Trumblee* had been tasked with researching the ambulance billing and whether that revenue stream was intended to go into a specific account to fund vehicle replacement (i.e. new ambulances). This had come up during capital items discussion at a recent budget work session because a Council member had asked whether or not the AED's that were requested could be funded from the same "vehicle replacement" fund – because these were items that would be placed on the ambulance. *Trumblee* said there is a resolution speaking to what that fund is for, but Code does not say so as specifically. In discussions, Council thought code should say that if that is how we are doing it in practice. *Trumblee* said he would work on a code change and bring it forward. *Fire Chief Mike Hicks* was present and he requested that the ambulance billing be put in the ambulance replacement fund and that fund be tapped only for the purchase of new ambulances. He said most ambulances will come with all that equipment and these small equipment purchases being asked for now would be better to be capital items that the Council funds from elsewhere.

11. City Clerk's Report – *Bourgeois* had no report.

## **K. CORRESPONDENCE - none**

## **L. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

12. Resolution 12-13-63 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, designating capital improvement projects

*M/Carpenter S/Burton* to approve Resolution 12-13-63 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, designating capital improvement projects.

**Mayor Kacsh** mentioned that this was Council putting a more timely date on this resolution as session will be starting in January.

Vote on motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passes.

**13.** Resolution 12-13-64 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, requesting a public hearing and extension of the comment period, regarding Cordova oil spill response facility project **M/Bradford S/Carpenter** to approve Resolution 12-13-64 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, requesting a public hearing and extension of the comment period, regarding Cordova oil spill response facility project.

**Joyce** said he will oppose this because it has been on the table for a number of years. **Bradford** said he will support it – a project of such magnitude deserves a longer comment period. **Allison** said he is ok with the public hearing but is somewhat tired of hearing people continually making comments requesting more time to make comments. **Reggiani** wondered if it the intent of the maker of the motion, or of the person(s) who got this put on the agenda that the City will be weighing in on this, hence the ask to extend the period. **Bradford** said it is simply the City asking for an extension of the comment period; because of such a request of us from some of the citizens we represent. **Carpenter** said she will support this because it is money from the Exxon Valdez settlement being used and it is meant to benefit the entire community and a request for a public hearing here is not an outrageous request. **Reggiani** wanted to hear from Council members as to whether they do want to comment or not because he thinks it's disingenuous to ask the army corps for an extension if we do not intend to use that extension. **Bradford** said it has nothing to do with that it is simply placing it on the agenda because our constituents asked us to.

Vote on motion: 2 yeas (Carpenter, Bradford), 5 nays (Reggiani, Cheshier, Allison, Joyce, Burton).

Motion fails.

**14.** Resolution 12-13-66 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, appropriating \$10,811.85 from the general fund reserve to Sheridan Alpine Association to reimburse Sheridan Alpine Association for the cost of general liability insurance purchased on March 18, 2013

**M/Reggiani S/Bradford** to approve Resolution 12-13-66 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, appropriating \$10,811.85 from the general fund reserve to Sheridan Alpine Association to reimburse Sheridan Alpine Association for the cost of general liability insurance purchased on March 18, 2013.

**Reggiani** said this had been discussed at a budget work session and it was something we have always paid for, just a formality as things were done differently this year and the ski hill paid it themselves.

Vote on motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Joyce-yes; Allison-yes; Burton-yes; Cheshier-yes; Reggiani-yes; Bradford-yes and Carpenter-yes. Motion passes.

**14a.** Ordinance 1113 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing a lease for a portion of Lot 2, Block 7A, Tidewater Development Park, Plat 93-2, specifically a building known as the Prince William Sound Science Center and the south west 50 feet of the dock to the Prince William Sound Science and Technology Institute, an Alaska nonprofit corporation, doing business as Prince William Sound Science Center for the operation of the Prince William Sound Science Center – 1<sup>st</sup> reading

**M/Reggiani S/Allison** to adopt Ordinance 1113 an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing a lease for a portion of Lot 2, Block 7A, Tidewater Development Park, Plat 93-2, specifically a building known as the Prince William Sound Science Center and the south west 50 feet of the dock to the Prince William Sound Science and Technology Institute, an Alaska nonprofit corporation, doing business as Prince William Sound Science Center for the operation of the Prince William Sound Science Center.

**Reggiani** said he pulled this from the consent calendar because he believes the City Manager has new information. **Robertson** said yes, he does. He provided a draft contract (which had been vetted through the City Attorney) to the Director of the PWSSC about three or four weeks ago. There is one issue that is a

sticking point. City Planner *Greenwood* handed out copies of the marked up draft, with the PWSSC's suggested edits. *Robertson* wondered if Council wanted to go into an executive session about this and give him some direction regarding negotiating the lease terms. *Reggiani* said he agreed.

*M/Reggiani S/Bradford* to postpone until after item 19.

Vote on motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passes.

## **M. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **15. Discussion of 2014 budget**

*Mayor Kacsh* suggested that a line item be created that shows the transfer to the general fund reserve so that it is understood what happened to the surplus that is shown at the bottom of the budget. *Reggiani* agreed he would like the intent to be clear. *Mayor Kacsh* also asked about the PWSCC \$10K. It was removed during a discussion at the last budget work session and then it was inadvertently left in at the \$10K level. *Reggiani* said the investment into the general fund has been whittled down after the hospital EHR request and some other capital items and it is at approximately \$760K which he thinks is somewhat light. *Stavig* answered a question about the snowpocalypse reimbursement which we are still anxiously awaiting from the state department of homeland security. That is in the \$300K range and he inquires daily about it but it is in the process of being audited before we see the money. *Robertson* reiterated that the \$10K for the college was inadvertently left in and he said that *Dr. Ng*, the PWSCC President was here tonight to address Council. He also said that another change that was made was that he wanted to reorganize the Public Works Director position and go after a PE (professional engineer) for that job which it seems a lot of communities are changing to (an extra \$30K has been added in). *Robertson* also put a little more (\$3,000) in for the cemetery maintenance because he went there on Veteran's Day and knows we need to do a heck of a lot better than that. There is an extra \$2,000 for the avalanche mitigation contract that we split with the state too. There is \$35K in for a new police vehicle (replacing an old one). *Robertson* said this police cruiser is almost certainly being purchased with grant money for us by NVE. *Azure* said it is very definite and he just doesn't have a time frame for it yet. *Robertson* said if it somehow doesn't happen, we will come back to Council, but for now why don't we just take it out. *Reggiani* said, with some quick math that drops the contribution to the general fund reserve down to about \$725K which is as low as he would want to go with that. *Reggiani* asked about process; he said, when we pass the budget are we also appropriating the money. *Stavig* said yes, those things get done within the one resolution that passes the budget. *Reggiani* went on to say that there are 2 big projects that he would be in favor of passing in the budget but not yet appropriating the money for them. That would be the LT2 compliance project and the Baler project. *Mayor Kacsh* asked *Robertson* his opinion on that. *Robertson* said absolutely on the LT2 project because we have already made some big changes to that recently and we are not even close to being ready to spend money on that one yet. On the Baler, I don't know what else I can show you to make you have confidence in what we are doing there. I think there is a dire sense of emergency and we should be starting that process as quickly as we can. *Josh Hallquist* is just about ready to release and begin the drainage part of the project.

After lengthy Council discussion and a presentation from *President Ng* of PWSCC, *Mayor Kacsh* went around the table and asked Council how they each felt about keeping the money on for the college (i.e. the \$10K). *Burton*, *Carpenter*, *Bradford*, *Allison* were all for keeping it in. *Reggiani* said he was not in favor of the \$10K to the college. *Joyce* said he was ok with giving the \$10K to the college. *Mayor Kacsh* said that seems to be the majority of Council.

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

### **16. Discussion on potential bonding**

*Mayor Kacsh* said that he's not sure of the timing of the bonding if we put it on the March 2014 election, it might interfere with our ask in Juneau for Cordova Center funding. *Bradford* agreed with bonding but he doesn't think it's a good idea to do it in March. *Mayor Kacsh* said that we didn't necessarily have to wait an entire year but we could put it off a few months and have a special election. *Reggiani* agreed that

getting this ready for the March election would be too rushed for staff and a special election in say November might be smarter. **Carpenter** said that also with a new Public Works Director that will be coming on, perhaps a bond for street repairs should wait for that as well. **Mayor Kacsh** reminded Council that we have nothing in the 2014 budget at this point for street repair and if we are waiting until the fall to bond for streets, then we will get nothing done during the 2014 summer construction season. **Mayor Kacsh** said we could come back with a budget amendment in the spring, he wondered if staff had a priority list. **Robertson** said he does have a list – he said it depends on which way they go, regarding chip & seal or actual paving. He said he would come back to them in about February at the latest in order to ensure the lead time necessary to order the materials. He said if they don't put an amount in as a placeholder now, they will have to revisit this in the not too distant future. **Reggiani** said this is what made him come to the realization that they cannot afford to take care of roads a little bit each year. Instead the bonding idea came up where we can enjoy the amortization and get a lot of the infrastructure fixed at once. **Carpenter** asked about the snowpocalypse money we were anticipating. She wondered if we could earmark some of that for street money.

#### 17. Pending Agenda and Calendar

**Bourgeois** said that there will be a regular meeting on December 18, where the budget and the fee resolution will be before Council. The next Regular meeting after that will be January 2 due to the holiday on January 1.

#### O. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

**Theresa Keel**, superintendent of schools thanked Council for keeping the \$10K in the budget for the PWSCC.

**Susan Harding** said that Cordova High School has had 4 students graduate from High School with an AA degree; she said we are the only community that has had that occur.

#### P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

18. Council Comments – there were no council comments

#### Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

19. ~~Cordova Center Finances Ordinance 1113~~

**M/Bradford S/Burton** to enter into an executive session to discuss a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect on the finances of the government, specifically the lease with the PWSSC.

Vote on motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passes.

With no objection, **Mayor Kacsh** said the meeting would be recessed for 5 minutes at 9:37 pm.

Council entered executive session at 9:42 pm and regular session was reconvened at 10:02 pm.

**M/Allison S/Reggiani** to refer Ordinance 1113 to staff.

Vote on motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passes.

#### R. ADJOURNMENT

**M/Allison S/Burton** to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:03 pm

Hearing no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: January 02, 2014

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Susan Bourgeois, City Clerk

