

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 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 18, 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* and *Dave Reggiani*. Council Member *Tim Joyce* was present via teleconference. Council members *EJ Cheshier* and *James Burton* were absent. Also present were Student Council representative *Gabrielle Brown*, City Manager *Randy Robertson* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

D. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Burton, Cheshier). 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 - none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

HSB – Allison said there would be an HSB meeting before the next regular council meeting on January 2.

Parks and Rec – Carpenter said they haven't had another meeting since last Council report.

Planning and Zoning – Reggiani said P&Z had a meeting on December 10 and said there are a few items from that meeting in the consent calendar tonight (2 final plats). They also reviewed a letter of interest for a portion of ATS 220 by Ocean Beauty which was referred to staff as the commission needed more information. They also looked at a variance request.

School Board – Bradford said there was a meeting last week but he had to duck out early.

4. Student Council Representative's report: *Gabrielle Brown* said the holiday carnival was held at the elementary school and it was a great success. Deck the Halls competition was won by the juniors, seniors got second place and seventh graders got third. She said Christmas break is this week and next and school starts again January 6. The band concert was on Tuesday night. Three wrestlers: *Jed (Sapp), Cody (Howard)* and *Josh (Hamberger)*, went to state and there was a spirit week for them. They are having a coin drive for disaster relief for the Philippines. The school board voted to remain 3A. They will have elections for Student Council in January but they might be delayed because they are in search of an advisor currently.

G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

5. Resolution 12-13-68

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, approving the final plat of Whitshed Road-mile 3.8 SLUP Lot Tract A: a Subdivision of Eyak Corporation lands within USS 5103

6. Resolution 12-13-69

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, approving the final plat of Whitshed road-mile 5 SLUP Lots Tract A, Tract B, Tract C and Tract D: a Subdivision of Eyak Corporation lands within USS 5103

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

H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Reggiani S/Bradford to approve the Minutes.

7. Regular Meeting Minutes 11-20-13

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

I. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS - none

J. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

8. Mayor's Report – *Mayor Kacsh* said the Governor's budget is out and he has included a \$3 Billion infusion into the PERS, which would help keep municipalities

9. Manager's Report – *Robertson* reported on the following: 1) *Senator Stevens* still planning on being here second week in January – details to follow; 2) good news in the next few days we will hear if Providence has awarded the City a grant of up to \$50K for the purchase of exercise equipment; 3) NVE has purchased a rather expensive blood pressure monitor (cuff) for use at Bidarki – and they are almost certainly getting the \$35K+ for a new police car, wonderful cooperative spirit; 3) a mediation date has been set for mid-March; 4) at a budget work session you challenged us to come back with more info on LT2 – the first round of consultants (HDR) are here now and he wanted to introduce them; also *Robertson, Hallquist* and *Koplin* had a meeting this week and they are excited about piggy-backing with us to also benefit greatly. The other thing, *Josh Hallquist* will report back to you with the last bit of information on the baler project. *Robertson* mentioned that the grant was given to us in 1999 and we have received an email which states, you better start spending it and quick.

Hallquist had a handout for Council which had the baler project broken down into segments. He said it was material very similar to what they have seen in the past; the \$497K left in the grant is in jeopardy of being closed out if we don't start spending it. The plan is to match the \$497 with \$213K from the City (\$91K existing refuse depreciation acct balance, \$75K the 2014 depreciation contribution, \$47K from baler operations for 2014). *Hallquist* has it broken into 6 phases, 2 of which are under the "funded scope" (i.e. the \$710K will get us these completed), the rest are to be done later (i.e. unfunded scope of phases 3 – 6, which total another \$257,650). The first things are the drain system and floor repair, insulated building shell, roof, concrete knee wall and exterior doors. The unfunded things are also really important and consist of interior build out, interior water system, electrical upgrades and snow deflection at entry. *Susan Start* the grant manager with DEC will be coming in mid-January and it had previously been explained that the loan was tied to the wood-burner and the "getting rid of" the burn pile. As *Hallquist* has spent time talking to *Start*, he believes that it is not specifically tied to those things. *Hallquist* will therefore, bid these items out as being able to be paid with the loan too because we really don't want to have to spend down all of our depreciation account which was always intended to assist with the purchase of a new garbage truck which will be needed soon. *Hallquist* was explaining this as the route he will be taking – how he will charge forward. *Bradford* asked about using the loan funds for the phase 3-6 items. *Hallquist* said we will finesse these things and with her assistance will use the loan for as many of these as will fit the parameters (e.g. drain system – yes, exterior doors – probably not). *Bradford* asked if *Hallquist* needed Council concurrence to move forward and if so, what the time frame is. *Hallquist* said he already has DHi engineering working on the drain system, and he anticipates having an RFP out by mid-January which will be noticed for 30 days; he is getting *Brandon Dahl* trained up on RFPs etc. so he can be in charge of his own destiny. *Mayor Kacsh* asked what was and wasn't budgeted for this in 2014. *Stavig* said the \$710K is in the 2014 budget. *Robertson* explained that this is budgeted and that Council had asked that we come back with some more detail before we start spending the money (on this baler project and on LT2); he said that this is an advisory thing, it's in the budget and you asked for more information, unless there is a concern this is ripe for moving forward and we are. *Reggiani* said he would be interested in seeing that RFP.

Robertson continues with his report: 5) he introduced the two engineers from HDR who were in town to do some LT2 preliminary studies, *Wescott Bott* and *Brian Black*. *Robertson* reminded everyone about our unique problem, or opportunity here is the possibility of getting hydro as a by-product of this as well as a possibility of helping divert some water to the canneries to help with capacity issues (we have EPA's ok to send them untreated water). 6) *Robertson* took this time to introduce new City employees to Council: *Raena Kempe*, Finance Department, front desk; *Kevin Clarke*, Water-Sewer operator; *Joseph Sison*, Refuse department; *Jake Holley*, Streets department; he let the Chief introduce three new employees of the Police Department: *Kara Johnson*, dispatcher; *Derrickk Torgerson*, Police officer; *Greg Rubio*, Police officer.

10. City Clerk's Report – *Bourgeois* said that she has been advertising for requests for letters of interest to fill vacant positions on Parks and Rec, Planning and Zoning and Harbor Commission. She asked Council to please speak with constituents and drum up some interest so those vacancies can be filled soon. The qualification for those board and/or commission members is that the appointee must be a registered voter in Alaska with a Cordova address.

K. CORRESPONDENCE

11. Letter from DCCED in re National Forest Receipts 11-25-13

L. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

12. Resolution 12-13-67 A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, adopting service fees, rates and charges for the 2014 calendar budget

M/Reggiani S/Allison to approve Resolution 12-13-67 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, adopting service fees, rates and charges for the 2014 calendar budget.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Burton, Cheshier). Joyce-yes; Allison-yes; Reggiani-yes; Bradford-yes and Carpenter-yes. Motion passes.

13. Resolution 12-13-70 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, adopting an operating and capital budget for fiscal year 2014 and appropriating the amount of \$15,728,915, as summarized pursuant to the following table

M/Allison S/Reggiani to approve Resolution 12-13-70 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, adopting an operating and capital budget for fiscal year 2014 and appropriating the amount of \$15,728,915, as summarized pursuant to the following table.

Joyce asked about the \$10K that was being funded to the PWSCC. He said when we first took it out he remembered that we did take it out because then we said that was the extra \$10K we were giving to the Chamber of Commerce. So, now that we have put it back in, he feels like we are going against what we had first said when we decided to earmark that \$10K in savings towards the extra \$10K being given to the Chamber of Commerce. *Allison* said he realized it at the time Council gave it back to the College and he's ok with it. *Bradford* said he missed the meeting when we upped the Chamber amount to \$85K he wondered what we were getting for that. *Allison* said they had a budget that they presented and they were asking for \$100K and we went with the \$85K. *Reggiani* opined that what he is looking at is the transfer to GF reserve which is sitting at \$725K which is about \$100K lighter than what he had hoped it would be. *Joyce* reminded everyone that there is no streets money in this budget for road repairs. He brought up the college \$10K in an effort to find some money for a street repair budget to be added in. After a lengthy discussion about streets and road repair, *Robertson* reminded Council that they hope to know the snowpocalypse money amount soon and intend to come back to Council in February with a plan for streets. There was more Council discussion and some suggested putting a \$50K placeholder in for streets yet none of the Council members was forthcoming with where to raise revenue to account for that \$50K. *Robertson* mentioned that they budgeted a facilities contract in 2014 for \$48K and he was willing to part with some of that if they needed it. *Reggiani* said he was in favor of passing the budget as laid out in front of them including all of the contributions to outside entities knowing that the streets would be revisited at

a time no later than February when there also might be information on some unanticipated revenue. *Allison* said this is like Ground Hogs Day all over again, we have discussed this a few times in the past month, and he's in favor. *Bradford* agreed. *Joyce* opined that if there is a commitment by staff and certainly by Council that there will be some money dedicated to streets this summer then he will support this, although he will not be in support of taking it out of the General Fund reserve.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Burton, Cheshier). Carpenter-yes; Bradford-yes; Joyce-yes; Reggiani-yes and Allison-yes. Motion passes.

M. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N. NEW & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

14. Pending Agenda and Calendar

Bourgeois said the first meeting in January will be on January 2 because the Wednesday is a holiday and the next day that a quorum can be had will be January 2. HSB anticipates meeting on that day as well.

O. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Darrel Olsen spoke in favor of keeping Dr. Gear at CCMC, he praised him as being a great doctor and wanted to see the hospital keep him on as he is great with patients such as the long term care patients like his mother, *Barbara Olsen*.

Chris Hamilton spoke in favor of keeping Dr. Gear at CCMC he relayed a story of excellent patient care and wished Cordovans could have continuity of providers.

Altana Olsen also spoke highly of Dr. Gear; spoke to his professionalism and dedication to the profession, and wished there was something that could be done to keep him on at CCMC.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

18. Council Comments

Carpenter thanked *Josh (Hallquist)* for moving forward with the baler project. She also thanked the members of the public for coming out to speak to Council tonight.

Bradford offered kudos to *Josh* as well and thanked *Randy* for introducing the new City employees.

Reggiani thanked staff, department heads and *Jon (Stavig)* for the budget work; he looks forward to seeing the bound hard copies after they are printed.

Allison also thanked *Randy* for the introductions of new employees; he looks forward to celebrating the season on Saturday night with City staff; and he thanked *Josh* and *Randy* for all the extra time being spent in Public Works.

Mayor Kacsh appreciated the dedication of staff and council during and throughout the budget process. He said it was an interesting and fun year.

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

19. Cordova Center Finances

Robertson said this executive session was not needed

R. ADJOURNMENT

M/Allison S/Burton to adjourn the regular meeting at 08:58 pm
Hearing no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: January 15, 2014

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, City Clerk

