

Regular City Council Meeting
April 7, 2021 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes

A. Call to order

Mayor Clay Koplín called the Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm on April 7, 2021, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance - *Mayor Koplín* led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll call

Present for roll call were *Mayor Clay Koplín* and Council members *Anne Schaefer*, *David Allison*, and *David Glasen*. Council members *Tom Bailer*, *Cathy Sherman*, and *Melina Meyer* were present via teleconference. Council member *Jeff Guard* was absent. Also present were City Manager *Helen Howarth* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

M/Allison S/Schaefer to approve the agenda.

There was one correction made, item 6 on the agenda should say liquor license #s 60 and 61 for Anchor Bar & Grill and Anchor liquor store - the details in the packet are correct.

Hearing no objection, Mayor Koplín declared the agenda approved.

E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speaker

a. Incident Management Team, COVID-19 Update - *Dr. Hannah Sanders* reported: vaccinations going well, we are almost to the point of being able to say that anyone who wants a vaccine has the ability to get one. We just recently completed a big group for their first dose, so in 6 weeks they will all be fully vaccinated too. We are currently at zero cases. Medical response team and IMT are starting to map out de-escalation, hopefully we'll deescalate toward the beginning of summer. Council questions: *Glasen* asked what the processors have setup for this summer. *Sanders* replied that most of the processors have a goal of 100% vaccination for employees, we have a supply and are able to give them vaccines if they need. *Schaefer* asked if she could explain the recommendation for vaccinated people as far as travel protocols. *Sanders* replied that fully vaccinated (2 weeks after second dose of Moderna or Pfizer or 2 weeks after single J&J dose), do not require testing unless they have symptoms. Some employers will be requiring testing though - especially those with congregate living situations like processors.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

Dorne Hawxhurst commented about the removal of the so-called "police memo" from the packet two weeks ago. She said Council said that citizens should go to the City Manager with concerns. She relayed 3 incidents she was concerned about and directed that to the City Manager and said she has 100% confidence in *Howarth* to review the department and guide it back onto a correct course.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

CCMC report - *Dr. Hannah Sanders* reported: 1) CCMC continues to work to improve their revenue cycle; 2) they have implemented a sliding scale and have improved their charity policy; 3) they will be ready within the next couple of months to have a work session or invite Council to one of their meetings to learn a little bit more about what they are doing; 4) financials over the past two months only show small losses attributable to our depreciation - we've actually had small positive cash flow - things are looking up for us.

School Board report - no report

4. Student Council representative - no report

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Resolution 04-21-15 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska approving the final plat of Pettingill Subdivision

6. Council action to waive right to protest renewal of liquor licenses #60 and #61 (beverage dispensary and package store) for Anchor Bar & Grill and Anchor Liquor Store

7. Minutes of the 01-20-21 Council Regular Meeting

8. Minutes of the 02-03-21 Council Regular Meeting

9. Minutes of the 02-17-21 Council Regular Meeting
10. Minutes of the 03-03-21 Council Public Hearing
11. Minutes of the 03-03-21 Council Regular Meeting
12. Minutes of the 03-17-21 Council Regular Meeting
13. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of excused absence of the following: Council member Anne Schaefer from the March 3, 2021 Regular Meeting
Vote on remainder of the Consent Calendar: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Schaefer-yes; Sherman-yes; Glasen-yes; Bailer-yes; Guard-absent; Meyer-absent and Allison-yes. Consent Calendar was approved.
Council member **Meyer** had lost her connection and was absent for this portion of the meeting.

H. Approval of Minutes - none

I. Consideration of Bids - none

J. Reports of Officers

14. Mayor's Report - **Mayor Koplín** reported: 1) Bill Thomas, special assistant to the Governor will be in Cordova April 16; 2) Friday April 9, from 1:30 - 3:30 opportunity to testify on the state budget - CFRC has seen a major cut to their program and are asking for support; 3) he handed out more information on the aviation museum that he would like support for, there is a resolution later in the packet; 4) channel 16 extended outages - **Don Young's** office sent us a questionnaire to fill out regarding this so we can comment to the USCG about the importance in maintaining that coverage, so they can get support; 5) **John Muller** a special assistant to the Governor who has been helping on fisheries and ferry issues, recently appointed to the Denali Commission; 6) Japanese film crew April 18 - 22 will be in Cordova to film battery projects at CEC, he's not sure if he will be able to chair the BOE on April 19 and the next Regular Meeting on April 21.

Council questions: **Schaefer** asked if there are any updates on the State's capital budget. **Mayor Koplín** deferred to **Howarth**.

15. Manager's Report - City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) all of a sudden the state is in much better shape, oil prices up, federal stimulus coming to the table, still an unknown as to what state capital budget will look like though - our priority is still the Harbor - we have **John Bitney** advocating in Juneau for that - we are looking into the possibility of getting out of the \$5 million match and that would free up the \$5 million we can bond for; 2) federal stimulus package - assumption is a lot of infrastructure funding will be available and for the first time in years looks like there will be earmarks at federal level - we are applying to **Don Young** - reminding his office that we are shovel ready; 3) **Dean Baugh** has finished year end 2020 and she will have that report for the next packet - audit is scheduled for June.

16. City Clerk's Report - **Bourgeois** reported: 1) Council should address the questions she asked in her written report at the Pending Agenda discussion tonight if they so choose; 2) appeal period for assessments closes Friday April 9 - so far not too many and Assessor has been resolving them.

K. Correspondence

17. March 17, 2021 letter from **M. Hicks** regarding March 17, 2021 packet agenda item
18. March 17, 2021 **Mayor** letter to Senate Finance regarding FY22 State budget
19. March 31, 2021 letter from **M. Bishop** regarding "News from City Hall" use

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

20. Ordinance 1195 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, amending Cordova Municipal Code chapter 3.10 "conflicts of interest" to update conflict of interest declaration processes, incorporate the common law "rule of necessity" that permits conflicted officials to vote when necessary, and defining substantial financial interests and official actions and amending CMC chapter 18.90 "Historic Preservation Commission" and CMC chapter 3.52 "Advisory Parks and Recreation Commission" to streamline conflict of interest commission requirements and update formatting and language - 1st reading

M/Schaefer S/Sherman to adopt Ordinance 1195 an ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, amending Cordova Municipal Code chapter 3.10 "conflicts of interest" to update conflict of interest declaration processes, incorporate the common law "rule of necessity" that permits conflicted officials to vote when necessary, and defining substantial financial interests and official actions and amending CMC chapter 18.90 "Historic Preservation Commission" and CMC chapter 3.52 "Advisory Parks and Recreation Commission" to streamline conflict of interest commission requirements and update formatting and language

Schaefer said this is a good idea, she would be willing to discuss the dollar amount if others had opinions on that. **Sherman** said she is in favor of this because it clarifies and streamlines. **Allison** said he supports this, on first reading he'll go with the dollar amount in there and see if there is any public comment on it. **Glasen** said he supports this.

Vote on motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Sherman-yes; Glasen-yes; Guard-absent; Allison-yes; Bailer-yes; Meyer-absent and Schaefer-yes. Motion was approved.

21. Resolution 04-21-16 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska supporting development of an aviation history museum in Cordova, Alaska

M/Allison S/Schaefer to approve Resolution 04-21-16 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska supporting development of an aviation history museum in Cordova, Alaska

Allison and *Schaefer* said they support this. *Bailer* said he did not support taking a piece of commercial property off the tax rolls. *Sherman* said she is in favor, she is willing to give it a good try and support it, she thinks we have to be careful about how many museums the community can support. We need a champion for this. *Glasen* said he is in favor of the idea but not the location.

After further discussion and concern with the sixth whereas, Council opted to strike that whereas.

M/Glasen S/Schaefer to amend the resolution by removing the sixth whereas.

Vote on amendment: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Guard-absent; Schaefer-yes; Glasen-yes; Meyer-absent; Bailer-yes; Allison-yes and Sherman-yes. Motion was approved.

Allison said this is a long process, this is not us committing resources, this just says we are interested in the prospect.

Vote on the main motion: 4 yeas, 1 nay, 2 absent. Bailer-no; Guard-absent; Schaefer-yes; Allison-yes; Glasen-yes; Meyer-absent and Sherman-yes. Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business

22. Council direction to staff regarding Impound Lot

M/Sherman S/Bailer to direct the City Manager to draft an ordinance to transfer \$100,000 from the permanent fund to finance the chain link fence and security upgrades at the impound lot.

Vote on motion: 4 yeas, 1 nay, 2 absent. Allison-no; Sherman-yes; Bailer-yes; Meyer-absent; Schaefer-yes; Guard-absent and Glasen-yes. Motion was approved.

Sherman said we asked staff to make this a priority, they did the work and came up with a good plan. She thinks this would be money well-spent. *Bailer* said he echoes those comments and staff did a good job researching options and he will support it. *Schaefer* said she would support it as well. *Glasen* was also in support. *Allison* said he will not support this he still believes there is a better location for the impound lot; he will not support taking money from the permanent fund for this. He said this was in the budget and staff removed it from the budget, if it was a priority why was it removed from the budget?

Vote on motion: 4 yeas, 1 nay, 2 absent. Allison-no; Sherman-yes; Bailer-yes; Meyer-absent; Schaefer-yes; Guard-absent; and Glasen-yes. Motion was approved.

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

23. Council election of a Vice Mayor

Council member *Glasen* nominated *Cathy Sherman* to serve as Vice Mayor until the first meeting after the beginning of the terms of those elected in the 2022 regular City election.

Hearing no other nominations, *Mayor Koplín* closed the nominations.

By unanimous voice vote of those in attendance, Council member *Cathy Sherman* was elected to serve as Vice Mayor.

24. Discussion of COVID-19 Emergency Response - there were no council comments on this item

25. Pending Agenda, Calendar and Elected & Appointed Officials lists

Glasen asked for an actual written policy about correspondence written to the Council, so the public understands why their letters sometimes don't get published. *Bourgeois* said she would get something written up and include it in packets from now on to clarify correspondence policies for the public. Council directed the *Mayor* to submit comments opposed to Board of Fish appointments - UFA had sent correspondence to Council asking for letters to be sent to legislators who'd be voting on the Governor's appointments. *Allison* asked if we could consider that if we continue the emergency again after June, if there is a way to mention in the extension that it is strictly for the economic relief involved in the emergency.

O. Audience Participation

Helen Howarth made a comment as a member of the public and a very grateful City Manager, she expressed her appreciation for *Leif Stavig* who is tonight attending his last Council meeting as a City employee, he will be missed. There was a round of applause from all of those in attendance.

P. Council Comments

Bailer echoed the appreciation for *Leif Stavig*.

Sherman thanked all the medical providers for the vaccine clinic, such a wonderful job. She also thanked *Leif* for his service - she is sad for the City to lose him. She is glad *Helen* is back and is happy that the snow is melting.

Schaefer appreciate the hard work of CCMC, Ilanka, the IMT and all of those involved in the vaccinations - she had her second dose today and it was a well-run clinic. She echoed the thanks to *Leif* - appreciated his always answering her questions, he was a great resource for council members. State budget comments Friday - can be in person or written.

Glaser thanked *Leif* for his service, he really appreciates *Leif*.

Allison echoed the comments about *Leif Stavig* - great asset for the community. He expressed appreciation to the Council members on the phone, he knows it's difficult and he appreciates their participation.

Q. Executive Session

26. Council discussion of City Clerk's evaluation, in executive session because it is a subject that may prejudice the reputation or character of a person; the person may request a public discussion

M/Allison S/Glaser to go into executive session to discuss the City Clerk's evaluation, in executive session because it is a subject that may prejudice the reputation or character of a person; the person may request a public discussion, *City Clerk*

Bourgeois has not requested a public session.

Hearing no objection, *Mayor Koplín* said they would enter the executive session.

Council took a brief recess to clear the room at 8:22 pm.

Council member *Meyer* rejoined the meeting via teleconference and participated in the executive session.

Council entered the executive session at 8:25 pm and came back into open session at 8:32 pm.

Mayor Koplín stated that they discussed the Clerk's evaluation, and no action was taken in the executive session.

R. Adjournment

M/Glaser S/Schaefer to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection *Mayor Koplín* adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Approved: April 21, 2021

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

