

**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**June 16, 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 June 16, 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 member *David Glasen*. Council members *Tom Bailer*, *Jeff Guard*, and *David Allison* were present via teleconference. Council members *Cathy Sherman*, *Melina Meyer*, and *Anne Schaefer* were absent. Also present were City Manager *Helen Howarth* and City Clerk *Susan Bourgeois*.

**D. Approval of Regular Agenda**

*M/Glasen S/Guard* to approve the agenda.

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Sherman, Meyer & Schaefer). Motion was approved.

**E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications** - none

**F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors**

1. Guest speaker

a. Incident Management Team, COVID-19 Update: *Dr. Sanders* was on the line and had no report.

b. ~~*Dave Reggiani* and *Heath Kocan*, Sheridan Alpine Association~~

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

*Brooke Stewart* spoke in support of her application for a mobile kitchen and said she could answer questions and would be willing to make adjustments if necessary.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

CCMC report - *Dr. Sanders* reported: 1) they've been making big improvement to their billing cycle at CCMC, they currently average 60 days on billing, a good benchmark; 2) they continue to have very thin margins, very vulnerable to small fluctuations in hospital utilization which impacts their ability to stay solvent; 3) as pandemic response winds down they are concentrating on things that were missed last year and on improving processes at the hospital; 4) opiate crisis - very high on their priority list - leadership will continue to work together to respond to the crisis - 3-pronged approach: prevention, harm reduction, emergent or crisis response; they are working to educate providers on their prescribing practices; also working with community members on education, Narcan distribution, fentanyl testing strips.

School Board report - Superintendent *Alex Russin* reported: 1) school year over but administration continues to work on grants and federal programs reporting; 2) last school board meeting they adopted next year's budget, pending Council's decision tonight, they will see if they have to make any adjustments before they send it to the state by July 15; 3) short summer school session happening now and then in July there will be another session; 4) summer maintenance work is underway, thorough cleaning and indoor and outdoor maintenance progress being made.

4. Student Council representative - no report

**G. Approval of Consent Calendar**

5. Minutes of the May 19, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

6. Minutes of the June 2, 2021 Council Public Hearing

7. Minutes of the June 2, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

8. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of excused absence of Council member *David Glasen* from the May 19, 2021 Regular Meeting

Vote the Consent Calendar: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent. Meyer-absent; Allison-yes; Bailer-yes; Guard-yes; Sherman-absent; Glasen-yes and Schaefer-absent. Consent Calendar was approved.

**H. Approval of Minutes** - in consent calendar

**I. Consideration of Bids** - none

**J. Reports of Officers**

9. Mayor's Report - *Mayor Koplín* reported: 1) ADF&G Commissioner *Douglas Vincent-Lang* visited and he participated along with very many community members and fishermen - also present was Director of Commercial Fisheries *Sam Rabung*; many people expressed concerns over the management of the season thus far, balance of the upriver and down river management - he gave testimony on these things.

10. Manager's Report - City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) she's been working closely with **Bitney** and the legislature did just pass the State's 2022 budget - for us that means: \$5 million harbor grant is in, school bond debt reimbursement is in at 33% which equates to -\$200k to our budget, revenue sharing is eliminated which is a \$75k hit to our budget, and 2 things that affect the community members directly - PCE is eliminated, PFD will be at \$500/person. There will be another special session in August when some of these will be revisited, politically it's big on the agenda to get school bond debt reimbursement back up to 50%. She gave kudos to **John Bitney** who lobbied on behalf of that Harbor Grant - she is fairly confident that without his efforts that number would not have made it into this budget.

**Howarth** deferred to **Paul Trumblee** who had a Fire Department report for Council. **Trumblee** spoke as Deputy Fire Chief of the CVFD. He said Council received a letter from the Board of Managers about the condition of the CVFD's membership - numbers are down quite a bit. He thinks the letter was premature, he'd prefer to discuss with the City Manager and see what can be done. EMS numbers are extremely low, maybe 5 people that can cover ambulance for the next three months. He suggested a Council work session on this matter. **Mayor Koplín** said we will look at that during Pending Agenda.

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

## K. Correspondence - none

## L. Ordinances and Resolutions

12. Ordinance 1198 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, repealing chapter 5.42 "Alaska remote seller sales tax code" and amending CMC 5.40.010 to clarify when sales tax is levied on remote and local sales, repealing and reenacting CMC 5.40.011 to adopt by reference the Alaska remote seller sales tax uniform code ("uniform code") and amending CMC 5.40.020 to revise and add definitions to ensure consistency with that code, amending CMC 5.40.130 to revise late filing and payment penalties and interest to mirror those imposed in the uniform code, adding CMC 5.40.135 to permit repayment plans for delinquent taxes in the same manner as the uniform code, repealing and reenacting CMC 5.40.110 to mirror the audit process and liability for failure to submit returns adopted in the uniform code and adopting an audit protest appeal process for sellers

**M/Glasen S/Bailer** to adopt Ordinance 1198 an ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, repealing chapter 5.42 "Alaska remote seller sales tax code" and amending CMC 5.40.010 to clarify when sales tax is levied on remote and local sales, repealing and reenacting CMC 5.40.011 to adopt by reference the Alaska remote seller sales tax uniform code ("uniform code") and amending CMC 5.40.020 to revise and add definitions to ensure consistency with that code, amending CMC 5.40.130 to revise late filing and payment penalties and interest to mirror those imposed in the uniform code, adding CMC 5.40.135 to permit repayment plans for delinquent taxes in the same manner as the uniform code, repealing and reenacting CMC 5.40.110 to mirror the audit process and liability for failure to submit returns adopted in the uniform code and adopting an audit protest appeal process for sellers

**Glasen** said he is in favor has no comments. **Bailer** said he supports this.

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent. Bailer-yes; Glasen-yes; Schaefer-absent; Allison-yes; Guard-yes; Meyer-absent and Sherman-absent. Motion was approved.

13. Resolution 06-21-28 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, approving the license for a mobile restaurant for 'Witch Kitchen'

**M/Bailer S/Glasen** to approve Resolution 06-21-8 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, approving the license for a mobile restaurant for 'Witch Kitchen'

**Bailer** and **Glasen** both expressed their approval of this. **Allison** said he supports it; he appreciates the extra effort the applicant went through to provide the detail on where she would be; he wishes her well.

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Sherman, Meyer & Schaefer). Motion was approved.

14. Resolution 06-21-30 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, establishing the level of local funding and approving the budget of the Cordova Public School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022

**M/Allison S/Bailer** to approve Resolution 06-21-30 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, establishing the level of local funding and approving the budget of the Cordova Public School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022

**M/Allison S/Bailer** to amend the resolution to change the cash portion of the funding to \$1,700,000.

**Allison** said we really don't know where City finances are at this time and he said the school's ending fund balance (at least since he's been doing this for 12 or 13 years now) has always ended real close to the maximum allowed even though it is always expressed to us that it will be so low or even will be negative at year end. He said he thinks if we reduce by \$200k they can still keep to their budget; they have a survey out now about community priorities; we can't tell them what to spend it on, but they will take that into account and they can get by. He supports \$1.7 million and won't support anything more

than that at this time. *Bailer* said he thinks *Allison* makes some good points especially having heard the budget news today from the City Manager. He supports the amendment. *Glaser* spoke against the amendment; he said it is not the school's fault that the state is reneging on its agreement with the City. *Guard* spoke in favor of the amendment. He opined that after September or later when things settle out and we see where we are financially we can always kick in more dollars later.

Vote on the motion to amend: 3 yeas, 1 nay, 3 absent. Sherman-absent; Guard-yes; Glaser-no; Schaefer-absent; Allison-yes; Bailer-yes and Meyer-absent. Amendment was approved.

*Allison* said he wanted to give kudos to the district for their management of their budget through the years. He wants to assure the board that we would not allow them to not have enough money to pay their bills.

Vote on the main motion: 3 yeas, 1 nay, 3 absent. Glaser-no; Guard-yes; Meyer-absent; Sherman-absent; Bailer-yes; Allison-yes and Schaefer-absent. Main motion was approved.

#### M. Unfinished Business - none

#### N. New & Miscellaneous Business

15. Discussion of COVID-19 Emergency Response – no discussion

16. Pending Agenda, Calendar, CIP List and Elected & Appointed Officials lists

Council tentatively scheduled a work session with CVFD on July 21.

#### O. Audience Participation

*Alex Russin* superintendent thanked Council for the local contribution; he knows that number is quite a bit more than the minimum. It is a little less than what we were hoping for. He said he will have to go back to the drawing board and make some considerations/reductions to programs/staffing. He said that part of the reason they end their fiscal years with healthy fund balances is because they decide during the year to not do things. He said they make decisions every year to cut programs/cut offerings and reduce spending, so we have operational funds to pay all our bills/payroll, etc.

*Brooke Stewart* thanked Council for the approval of her mobile restaurant license tonight.

#### P. Council Comments

*Bailer* gave a shout out to the Harbor staff for getting the ramp fixed over by AML. He suggested that the harbor issue is keeping/maintaining employees, right now they are short-staffed. Maybe we can think outside of the box and hire contractors to build gabions or do other maintenance work, so we don't fall behind. Especially after fishing, there may be some talent that has the time to rebuild some of these floats.

*Allison* thanked staff, thanked the Clerk she was quick to answer a question he posed by email and he appreciates the research she's been doing for the City and the Council.

*Glaser* thanked the *Mayor* for his comments at the meeting with ADF&G Commissioner – they were good comments. He thanked *Susan* and *Helen* for all their work; thanked *Paul* for coming to the meeting.

*Mayor Koplín* commented, and he wanted to underscore *Helen's* kudos to *Bitney*.

#### Q. Executive Session - none

#### R. Adjournment

*M/Glaser S/Allison* to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection *Mayor Koplín* adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Approved: July 7, 2021

Attest: *Tina Hammer*  
Tina Hammer, Deputy Clerk

