

Regular City Council Meeting
July 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 July 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 *Tom Bailer* and *Jeff Guard*. Council members *Melina Meyer* and *Anne Schaefer* were present via teleconference. Council members *Cathy Sherman*, *David Allison*, and *David Glasen* were absent. Also present were City Manager *Helen Howarth* and Deputy Clerk *Tina Hammer*.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

M/Bailer S/Guard to approve the agenda.

Vote on the motion: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Sherman, Allison & Glasen). 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: *Helen Howarth* reported currently there is a Covid-19 community outbreak in Cordova of 13 confirmed cases. She asked the community to be mindful that Covid-19 is not over. There will be a testing pod Friday, July 9th from 9 to 11 at CCMC.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions - none

4. Student Council representative - no report

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Resolution 07-21-31 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, accepting the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds award to Non-Entitlement Units of local government (NEU'S) from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (Department)

6. Minutes of the June 16, 2021 Council Public Hearing

7. Minutes of the June 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

8. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of unexcused absence of Council members *Anne Schaefer* and *Cathy Sherman* and excused absence of Council member *Melina Meyer* from the June 16, 2021 Regular Meeting

Vote the Consent Calendar: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent. Meyer-yes; Allison-absent; Bailer-yes; Guard-yes; Sherman-absent; Glasen-absent and Schaefer-yes. 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: He's getting updates from *John Bitney* regarding the legislature sessions, especially regarding the status of the Tier I harbor matching grant funds. *Representative Stutes* will be in Cordova for Salmon Jam events and she welcomes community feedback and engagement.

10. Manager's Report - City Manager *Helen Howarth* introduced the new City Planner *Kevin Johnson*. *Johnson* spoke to Council, said he is excited to be here, looks forward to next week's Planning Commission meeting with a conditional use permit item regarding a low-income housing project. He said he looks forward to presenting at Council meetings in the future as well.

Howarth said the one item that has come out of the state budget is the matching \$5 million harbor tier 1 grant which is funded to Cordova. Staff is actively seeking other grants for the harbor projects, RAISE, PIDP, etc.

a. *John Bitney*, legislative update: The Special session on August 2nd will take up budget items left unresolved which included power cost equalization, a portion of permanent fund dividend, school bond debt reimbursement and other projects around the state. These budget issues were set up in a way to make sure that all areas of the state felt the impact of the 3/4 vote failure. The governor vetoed several items that passed the general fund portion of the budget which included a PFD portion, school construction, major maintenance, remainder of funding for municipal assistance, capital projects,

legislature per diem, forward funding for marine highway and a host of other items. A special session is scheduled for August but may be delayed for more time to resolve issues to ensure the super majority ¾ vote required for passage. The special session is also to take up the balance of the federal relief funds that are available to the state. **Howarth** summarized the three items impacting Cordova are Federal Covid relief funds, a decrease from 50% to 33% in school bond debt reimbursement and a reduction in funding for municipal assistance. **Bitney** added the power cost equalization would the community in general.

b. 2021-2022 Liability Insurance renewal: **Helen Howarth** reported on coverage areas and premium costs. She discussed the increases from last year's premiums as outlined in the attached table. **Bailer** asked if payroll cost go up does the city's insurance cost go up. **Howarth** explained that there were some workman's comp liability claims included in the increase. **Mayor Koplín** reverted to report that **Representative Stutes** is working with the governor to encourage him to come to Cordova to sign the Alaska Marine Highway System bill and the bridge naming bill for **Irene Webber**.

11. City Clerk's Report - **Hammer** reported over 1,200 tax bills were mailed out on July 1.

K. Correspondence

12. June 15, 2021 Letter from CVFD Board of Managers

13. June 24, 2021 Letter from Pioneers Women re Fill Lot Proposal. **Bailer** commented that he still holds out that there will be some kind of business on that fill lot, but he'll see what happens.

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

14. Resolution 07-21-32 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, approving the license for a mobile restaurant for 'Soup or Seine'

M/Bailer S/Guard to approve Resolution 06-21-30 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska approving the license for a mobile restaurant for 'Soup or Seine'

Bailer stated he has no objections. **Guard** had no comments, it looks good.

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

15. Resolution 07-21-33 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, updating its encouragement to the State of Alaska and the US Secretary of Commerce to declare fisheries disasters for the Copper River and Prince William Sound management area as follows: 2018 Chinook and Sockeye salmon and 2020 Chinook, Sockeye, Chum, Pink and Coho salmon; and to encourage the same to declare a condition of economic disaster in Cordova as a result

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Guard stated this is housekeeping to correct the previous resolution. **Bailer** said he does not support and questioned how Covid-19 stopped the salmon return. **Howarth** explained this was not about Covid-19 that the pink salmon species was added as it had been overlooked in the prior resolution. **Guard** further explained that half the cost of seine fish, 25 cents, was due to Covid-19 processor cost which comes out of the bottom line to the fisherman.

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

16. Resolution 07-21-34 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, approving the license for a mobile restaurant for 'Vic-Ali'

M/Guard S/Bailer to approve Resolution 07-21-34 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, approving the license for a mobile restaurant for 'Vic-Ali'

Guard said he is in favor, nice to have more options for places to eat. **Bailer** questioned if the issue with the length had been resolved. **Mayor Koplín** said that language was added to the resolution that it exceeded the code length. **Schaefer** also stated she wanted to make sure the extra size was included in the resolution. **Mayor Koplín** stated the last paragraph of the resolution states the truck's length and width are slightly larger. **Bailer** would like to know the reason for the size specifications in code.

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

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

17. Council appointment of the Mayor or other individual to serve as a member of the CCMC Joint Administrative Negotiations Team

M/Guard S/Bailer to approve appointment of **Mayor Koplín** to serve as a member of the CCMC Joint Administrative Negotiations Team

Guard thinks he has the background and the will to see it through to represent the council's interests. *Bailer* questioned a possible conflict of interest of other members of the negotiation team, such as the CCMC administrator; ultimately he said he will support. *Howarth* said attorneys are involved and they have said there is no conflict in that arrangement. *Howarth* said the group will make recommendations to Council; Council is the ultimate decision-maker. *Meyer* and *Schaefer* both also spoke in support.

Vote on the appointment: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent (Sherman, Glasen & Allison). Appointment was approved.

18. Discussion of COVID-19 Emergency Response

Bailer said he heard someone mention they were quarantining because they were exposed, and they said they weren't able to get vaccinated. *Bailer* wanted clarification, he assumed anyone who wanted to get vaccinated could be. *Howarth* said absolutely, anyone who wants a vaccine can call CCMC or Ilanka and they will set up an appointment for vaccination. She encouraged people to do that now.

19. Pending Agenda, Calendar, CIP List and Elected & Appointed Officials lists - no discussion

O. Audience Participation

Victor Alday thanked Council for the approval of his mobile restaurant license tonight.

P. Council Comments

Schaefer welcomes **Kevin Johnson** to town and the City. Thanked **John Bitney** and staff on the hard work on Harbor project - good news and exciting. She encouraged anyone who has not gotten vaccinated yet to go and contact Ilanka or CCMC and get yourself vaccinated. She said if you are a close contact or you are not feeling well, we know what to do, get tested, quarantine, take care of yourself.

Guard also welcomed the new Planner, echoed *Schaefer's* comments and thanks to **John Bitney**.

Bailer thanked the harbor for fixing the north ramp; thanks to Public Works Department for fixing the roads.

Q. Executive Session - none

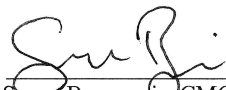
R. Adjournment

M/Bailer S/Guard to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection **Mayor Koplín** adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

Approved: August 4, 2021

Attest:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

