

**Regular City Council Meeting
September 15, 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 September 15, 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 Council members **Jeff Guard**, **Anne Schaefer**, and **David Glasen**. Council members **Tom Bailer**, **Cathy Sherman** and **David Allison** were present via teleconference. Council member **Melina Meyer** was absent. Also present were City Manager **Helen Howarth** and City Clerk **Susan Bourgeois**.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda – M/Guard S/Schaefer to approve the agenda.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Guard). 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. Hannah Sanders** reported: 1) there are currently 8 active cases locally – medical response team is meeting slightly less regularly, continue to offer testing 6 days/week – encourage the community to test after travel – particularly unvaccinated should test after travel. Vaccinated can get covid and can transmit covid but the period of time that they shed virus is much smaller; 2) the hospitals in Anchorage are in crisis standards of care – the larger hospitals, like Providence have notified all Alaskans that they are at the point where they are having to ration care – she stated it is time for everyone to be extra cautious not only with Covid but with anything – we should try to minimize hospitalization; locally our health care facility is intact.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

CCMCA Board – Dr. Sanders reported: 1) finalizing the 2020 audit this week – will be presented to the board at the end of this month; 2) hospital priorities are meeting the demands of Covid including testing and helping the rest of the state with capacity.

School Board – no report

4. Student Council representative - no report

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Minutes of the August 18, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

6. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of unexcused absence of Council member **Jeff Guard** from the September 1, 2021 Regular Meeting

Vote the Consent Calendar: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Schaefer-yes; Sherman-yes; Glasen-yes; Bailer-yes; Guard-yes; Meyer-absent and Allison-yes. Consent Calendar was approved.

H. Approval of Minutes – in consent calendar

I. Consideration of Bids - none

J. Reports of Officers

7. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Koplín** reported: 1) he's been discussing redistricting with **Bitney** – looks like we remain with Kodiak and it will probably ride out that way – he would like to write a letter with Council's ok to the redistricting board asking them to hold a public hearing in Cordova – Council was in concurrence; 2) he'll be in DC Oct 4-8 and NVE will be there advocating for healthcare, Shepard Point Rd and they have agreed to advocate for waterfront development and harbor projects and grants applications the City has in – the problem is he doesn't feel comfortable advocating for healthcare until the committee that Council formed has had a chance to meet with NVE – he wanted to let **Dr. Sanders** know since she is on that committee as well.

8. Manager's Report – City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) on redistricting – Yakutat is being moved to Southeast as it stands – Kodiak and Cordova will be together but no other PWS communities – instead the district is picking up 3 small Russian communities out East End Rd in Homer (collectively population of about

350); 2) last week **Drs. Zink, Cutchins** and **Sanders** gave some great information to the community – answered a lot of community questions around Covid 19, vaccinations, etc. – the recording is on the City YouTube page available for anyone to watch; 3) last night we sponsored another community forum, this time on substance abuse – the panelists were **Chief Taylor, Dr. Sanders**, representatives from the Ilanka Clinic and Sound Alternatives – gave out great information about the resources available in Cordova and the steps being taken to help mitigate substance abuse problems in our community; it is also recorded and available on City's YouTube.

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

K. Correspondence - none

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

10. Resolution 09-21-39 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, extending the City's declaration of a local emergency arising from COVID-19

M/Schaefer S/Guard to approve Resolution 09-21-39 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, extending the City's declaration of a local emergency arising from COVID-19

Schaefer said we are still experiencing Covid, the state is at the highest hospitalizations yet, now isn't the time to let up; we need the flexibility to respond quickly and be eligible for funding support as well. **Guard** said this gives us more tools to be quick to respond – he is in favor. **Sherman** said she is fully in support – the state is not in good shape, if you look at the numbers and listen to **Dr. Sanders** and **Dr. Zink** it's a no-brainer, she is in favor. **Glaser** said he is in favor. **Bailer** said he supports this. **Allison** said he does not support this – he doesn't think we need to be under an emergency order at this time.

Vote on the motion: 5 yeas, 1 nay (Allison), 1 absent (Meyer). Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

11. Discussion of COVID-19 Emergency Response

Glaser stated that just because we continued the emergency order it doesn't mean there are any mandates.

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

O. Audience Participation

P. Council Comments

Sherman expressed her thanks to **Dr. Sanders** – she thanked the Clerk for the board and commission updates. She thanked all the City staff working on the harbor grants.

Bailer gave a shout out to the medical staff at Ilanka and CCMC – he appreciates them.

Schaefer thanked **Dr. Sanders** for managing the hospital, the medical response team for the emergency and assisting with these 2 recent community forums on Covid and substance abuse. She wants to spread the word about board and commission seats available for people to get involved.

Guard encouraged people to read the letter put out by the Providence Hospital Chief of Staff – it is in the ADN – let's you know that state of health care in the state.

Glaser echoed the comments before him and wanted to thank his fellow Council members, this is not an easy job, been a rough year and he appreciates them for sitting in these seats.

Q. Executive Session - none

R. Adjournment

M/Glaser S/Guard to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection **Mayor Koplun** adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm.

Approved: October 6, 2021

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

