

**Regular City Council Meeting
November 17, 2021 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes**

A. Call to order – Vice Mayor Cathy Sherman called the Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm on November 17, 2021, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance - Vice Mayor Sherman led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

D. Approval of Regular Agenda – M/Allison S/Guard to approve the agenda.
Hearing no objection, Vice Mayor Sherman declared the agenda approved as submitted.

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: no report

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

CCMCA Board – no report

School Board – no report

4. Student Council representative – no report

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

~~5. Resolution 11-21-43 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska confirming application for the ARPA local government lost revenue relief program (hereinafter “LGLRRP”) from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development to offset significant revenue loss due to the COVID-19 public health emergency~~

~~6. Resolution 11-21-45 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska approving the sale of the East portion Lot 10, Block 6, USS 3345 A&B, Eyak Addition to Kim Hager~~

7. Minutes of the November 3, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

8. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of unexcused absences of Mayor Koplín and Council member Glasen from the 11/3/21 Regular Meeting

Vice Mayor Sherman declared the consent calendar as before Council; Council member **Allison** called out items 5 and 6. **Vice Mayor Sherman** placed the items as items 13a and 13b respectively.

Vote the Consent Calendar: 4 yeas, 0 nays, 3 absent. Meyer-absent; Allison-yes; Bailer-absent; Guard-yes; Sherman-yes; 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 – no report

10. Manager’s Report – City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) we received great news – City has been awarded a RAISE grant of \$20 million for the harbor project – no documentation from DoT yet but our Washington DC delegation, all three of them, called to congratulate us on the award. Coupled with the State Tier 1 grant and City match it will bring us to a \$30 million project – for the South Harbor rebuild. She thanked/applauded the entire team: **Sam, Tony, Curtis**, and others. 2) she is working on the budget – tonight’s packet has a res accepting more ARPA funds, which will help with 2022 – before Thanksgiving you’ll get the next budget draft and then the last budget work session will be Dec 1.

Council questions – **Schaefer** congratulated and gave thanks to **Helen** and staff for the grant. **Guard** echoed that and asked about the EDA grant. **Howarth** said at this point we have to manage our match – EDA – we may have to consider other projects for that instead of Harbor.

11. City Clerk’s Report – **Bourgeois** commented on the board & commission vacancies.

a. Public notice - Board and Commission Vacancies and how to apply

K. Correspondence - none

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

12. Resolution 11-21-42 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska placing a ballot proposition before the voters at the Regular Election on March 1, 2022 amending City Charter Sections 2-1 entitled “Mayor and City Council: number and qualifications, designated council seats,” and Section 10-2 entitled “three-year terms—election at large—nonpartisan elections,” to remove designated seats for City Council members and clarify that council members and the mayor serve three year terms of office

M/Allison S/Schaefer to approve Resolution 11-21-42 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska placing a ballot proposition before the voters at the Regular Election on March 1, 2022 amending City Charter Sections 2-1 entitled “Mayor and City Council: number and qualifications, designated council seats,” and Section 10-2 entitled “three-year terms—election at large—nonpartisan elections,” to remove designated seats for City Council members and clarify that council members and the mayor serve three year terms of office

Allison said he is in favor of changing it – he thought there was an error on page 30 – there was another part where the 40% language would have to be removed. **Schaefer** said she had been in favor of this initially, but after reading the memo, she sees that this may create additional complications that she hadn’t considered. City Attorney **Holly Wells** joined the meeting via teleconference to help explain to Council. She said the challenge of changing something like this, is that it is a domino effect and there are many more things that will in turn need to be looked at. **Wells** said you could strike the rest of that paragraph and get rid of runoff altogether, but she didn’t know if that was Council’s intent, there still could be interest in maintaining a runoff but structuring it differently. She also mentioned that there had been recent significant changes to Election Code, and she wondered if it would cause vulnerability if we created voter confusion by making more changes again so soon. **Allison** opined that voters would not be confused; they vote this way for School Board and CCMCA Board. He said it is frustrating that to undo something all of a sudden it’ll take hundreds of hours. He is willing to give staff time to work out the details, he thought if we remained with designated seats, we should have them representative of different parts of town.

After more Council discussion...

M/Allison S/Guard to refer this to staff until a comprehensive plan can be made.

Sherman said she is not in favor of this change, but she’d prefer to wait at least until 2022. She’d like to see elections settle out after ranked choice gets worked out. **Schaefer** was also in favor of referring to staff.

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

13. Resolution 11-21-44 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska authorizing the City of Cordova to issue general obligation debt, consisting of a loan from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, in the principal amount of not to exceed \$2,000,000 to finance the removal and replacement of the creosote pilings with steel pilings and the installation of a waste handling system, and submitting the question of the issuance of such debt to the qualified voters of the City at the March 1, 2022 Regular City Election

M/Schaefer S/Sherman to approve Resolution 11-21-44 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska authorizing the City of Cordova to issue general obligation debt, consisting of a loan from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, in the principal amount of not to exceed \$2,000,000 to finance the removal and replacement of the creosote pilings with steel pilings and the installation of a waste handling system, and submitting the question of the issuance of such debt to the qualified voters of the City at the March 1, 2022 Regular City Election

Schaefer had a few clarifying questions about whether these specific projects were already included in the RAISE grant we were awarded, and this was to protect us against increased costs and is this a \$2 million loan or up to \$2 million. **Sherman** replied that it is not to exceed \$2 million – she said that the Public Works Director

and she spoke this week, and this is a safeguard against increased costs. **Allison** said he is in support – he asked that staff and Council do a good job ensuring the public/the voters are educated on this issue before the election. **Greenwood** said they fully intend to do exactly that.

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

13a. 5. Resolution 11-21-43 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska confirming application for the ARPA local government lost revenue relief program (hereinafter “LGLRRP”) from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development to offset significant revenue loss due to the COVID-19 public health emergency

M/Allison S/Guard to approve Resolution 11-21-43 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska confirming application for the ARPA local government lost revenue relief program (hereinafter “LGLRRP”) from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development to offset significant revenue loss due to the COVID-19 public health emergency

Allison said he pulled this from the consent calendar because there is a whereas that says Council attests to the accuracy of the attached worksheet, and there isn’t an attached work sheet. He is in support and he understands that we haven’t been able to fill in the blanks yet. **Howarth** explained that this is a short timeline and the answers, the figures we will be plugging in will come from our 2020 audit. She said it is formula based, so the Council should not be concerned about incorrect numbers going into the worksheet. The state is driving the calculus. **Allison** asked that the record be clear explaining this. **Bourgeois** said she would ensure the minutes reflect this discussion accurately. **Guard** and **Schaefer** said they were in support. **Sherman** agreed as well, and she appreciated Council member **Allison’s** comments.

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

13b. 6. Resolution 11-21-45 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska approving the sale of the East portion Lot 10, Block 6, USS 3345 A&B, Eyak Addition to Kim Hager

M/Allison S/Guard to approve Resolution 11-21-45 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska approving the sale of the East portion Lot 10, Block 6, USS 3345 A&B, Eyak Addition to Kim Hager

Allison said he had pulled this from the consent calendar because he just had a few clarifying questions to ask about the purchase agreement. He said we talked about a payment plan – are we doing a payment plan? He wanted to ensure that we wouldn’t deed the property until the full amount of the sales price was paid in full. Staff, Planner **Kevin Johnson** was available to answer questions – he said absolutely the property would not be deeded over until full payment is received. **Guard, Schaefer, Sherman** were all in favor.

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

M. Unfinished Business – none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

14. Discussion of COVID-19 Emergency Response – **Howarth** said we are moving along well, outbreaks have been happening usually within family units, all three vaccines are available to people at both clinics – we encourage people to get boosters. Vaccines are available to those 5 and older. People should continue to be careful in large groups. **Sherman** added that a few events have occurred at Cordova Center without incident: Electrify Alaska, 75 attendees, the Play was held, and 2 different concerts have been held – no outbreaks or spread.

15. Pending Agenda, Calendar, CIP List and Elected & Appointed Officials lists – discussion with Planning Commission regarding land sales will be after the first of the year – to coincide with the Commission’s annual review of Land Sale Maps.

O. Audience Participation - none

P. Council Comments

Allison thanked staff and **Helen** – great work getting the grant – excellent news. He stressed again the good plan, that the public is made well-aware of the project and what we are spending money on. Thanked **Cathy** for leadership in the meetings – doing a fantastic job filling in.

Guard kudos to the staff also and **Helen** – we were competing against way bigger entities with a lot bigger staffs and way more horsepower than we've got, so it's quite an accomplishment. He'd like to sit down at some point next year and do some long-term financial planning for Cordova.

Schaefer hearty congratulations and thank you to staff for the great work on grant packages – very exciting for Cordova – will be a really good project all around.

Sherman said she is really excited; she is a harbor user and is on that side and she looks forward to great new improvements – **Helen** has put together a great staff that did an awesome job.

Q. Executive Session - none

R. Adjournment

M/Allison S/Schaefer to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection **Vice Mayor Sherman** adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Approved: December 1, 2021

Attest:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

