

**Regular City Council Meeting  
December 1, 2021 @ 7:00 pm  
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B  
Minutes**

**A. Call to order** – **Mayor Clay Koplín** called the regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm on December 1, 2021, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

**B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance**

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

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

**E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications** – **Bailer** mentioned that he does not have a financial interest but he did briefly assist the No Road Brewing team by looking at a building for them and advising if it was suitable for a brewery. He did not get paid for that and no promises were made for future benefits or money. **Mayor Koplín** agreed that he does not see a conflict of interest. Council did not object to that ruling.

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

**1. Guest speaker**

a. Incident Management Team, COVID-19 Update: **Dr. Sanders** reported that the medical response team has started to slow down, in terms of how often they are meeting, currently 0 active cases, boosters are offered to any adult that would like one, vaccines are available to anyone 5 and older, the booster and vaccine clinics are going well, they continue to attend state meetings and they are monitoring variants as they have been coming up – currently they are confident with community vaccination rate. **Guard** asked what the local vaccination rate is. **Dr. Sanders** said if you look at the state’s information – we are right at 59-60% but if you add in natural immunity she thinks it’s more like 70-75% immunity to the variants currently in Alaska. She said during these outbreaks – small clusters are not becoming large clusters which speaks to the community immune status. Overall, she said they are being cautious and monitoring but are also reassured that things are finally looking good.

**2. Audience comments regarding agenda items**

**John Whissel** spoke in support of No Road Brewing.

**Micah Renfeldt** of 308 Railroad Row spoke in support of No Road Brewing.

**Stephen Phillips** of 100 Gandil Road spoke in support of No Road Brewing.

**Skye Steritz** spoke in support of No Road Brewing.

**Aaron Muma** of 113 Mt. Eccles Estates spoke in support of No Road Brewing.

**Christiana Fincher** of 323 First Street spoke in support of her application for a brewery license, No Road Brewing.

**Kenneth Jones** of 514 Sunnyside Drive spoke in support of No Road Brewing.

**Becky Chapek** spoke in support of Witches Brew.

**Chessa Brooke Stewart** of 175 Eyak (6.5 mile) spoke in support of her application for a brewery license, Witches Brew.

**Jeremiah Beckett** of 301 First Street spoke in support of No Road Brewing.

**Curtis Fincher** of 323 First Street spoke in support of his application for a brewer license, No Road Brewing.

**3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions**

**CCMCA Board** – **Dr. Sanders** reported: 1) CCMC looking like a tight margin but the draft 2022 budget should be able to cover operational expenses; 2) occupational therapy, physical therapy are both available at CCMC, community members are able to return to Cordova after surgeries elsewhere for skilled in-patient rehab – this is a very important revenue source for the hospital; 3) they are anticipating more relief funds, not sure how

large the distribution will be – they are asking for an appropriation from the City – a portion for operational expenses and the rest for capital improvements of deferred maintenance – the most important of those is moving the generators outside of our mechanical rooms so they are not sharing the same space as our air handlers (rough estimate of this is \$300k); 4) **Dr. Sanders** reported that they are no longer using an outside agency for collections and if anyone is receiving demand letters from those agencies please contact CCMC directly.

**School Board** – School Board Chair **Barb Jewell** reported: 1) semester will be ending December 17 – school back in session on January 3; 2) girls volleyball is at State tournament; 3) mitigation measures at school – guidance from the MRT and our practice which has served us well has been to take advice from our local team, state Department of Education and the CDC – our next meeting we will again discuss the MRT's recommendations to the Board will go from there – she is hopeful that they can start backing down from some of the protections they've had in place.

4. Student Council representative – no report

### **G. Approval of Consent Calendar**

~~5. Resolution 12-21-46 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting an alternative allocation method for the FY22 Shared Fisheries Business Tax program and certifying that this allocation method fairly represents the distribution of significant effects of fisheries business activity in FMA 15: Prince William Sound~~

6. Minutes of the November 17, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

7. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of excused absence of **Mayor Koplín** and unexcused absences of Council members **Bailer, Meyer,** and **Glaser** from the 11/17/21 Regular Meeting

**Mayor Koplín** declared the consent calendar as before Council; Council member **Allison** called out item 5.

**Mayor Koplín** placed the item as item 14a.

Vote the Consent Calendar: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Meyer-yes; Allison-yes; Bailer-yes; Guard-yes; Sherman-yes; Glaser-yes; and Schaefer-yes. Consent Calendar was approved.

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

**I. Consideration of Bids** - none

### **J. Reports of Officers**

8. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Koplín** reported: 1) he extended the apologies of **Representative Stutes** who had intended to be here for Board of Fish, her plane was canceled; 2) he said that the conference he held at the Cordova Center, Electrify Alaska, was a good amount of money spent at the Cordova Center as well as throughout the community and he believes there is a need for a conference planner position – it is necessary to have someone locally be able to do that – have all the connections and understand the community, etc. 3) attended and made comments at Board of Fish today.

9. Manager's Report – City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) kudos to the community, to the City staff, to the chamber of commerce for all the hard work that is going into this successful Board of Fish – we are capable and able to do conferences here and people are pleased with their experiences; 2) ongoing IBEW negotiations for the union contract – no significant progress, breakthroughs are hopeful soon – we have an accord, we have a relationship, we are all trying.

10. City Clerk's Report – **Bourgeois** reported: 1) March 1, 2022 Election is upcoming – declaration of candidacy opens December 17, Mayor, 3 Council seats, 2 school board seats, 2 CCMCA board seats, \$2 million harbor loan proposition.

### **K. Correspondence**

11. 11-15-21 Mayor Koplín letter to Board of Fish, opposing hatchery proposals

12. 11-16-21 Letter from A. Beedle regarding preschool funding

13. 11-17-21 Email from J. Burton regarding PWSSC-leased bldg. in harbor

14. 11-18 through 11-23-21 Letters of support for No Road Brewing

### **L. Ordinances and Resolutions**

**14a. 6.** Resolution 11-21-45 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting an alternative allocation method for the FY22 Shared Fisheries Business Tax program and certifying that this allocation method fairly represents the distribution of significant effects of fisheries business activity in FMA 15: Prince William Sound

**M/Glasen S/Sherman** to approve Resolution 11-21-45 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting an alternative allocation method for the FY22 Shared Fisheries Business Tax program and certifying that this allocation method fairly represents the distribution of significant effects of fisheries business activity in FMA 15: Prince William Sound

**Glasen** asked if we should consider not splitting this 3 ways equally. After some discussion Council understood that this was investigated several years ago and any other split would get Valdez more of a share but Cordova would probably stay around the same since the state splits half by population and half according to documented significant effects. **Allison** supported the resolution but said the true injustice is the model of the entire program. Dutch Harbor and Kodiak get the bulk of the money from the shared fisheries tax program. Vote the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Bailer-yes; Glasen-yes; Schaefer-yes; Allison-yes; Guard-yes; Meyer-yes and Sherman-yes. Motion was approved.

#### **M. Unfinished Business – none**

#### **N. New & Miscellaneous Business**

**15.** Mayor appointments and Council concurrence to City Boards and Commissions

**Mayor Koplín** recommended the following appointments: **Chris Bolin** to the Planning Commission for a term through November 2024; **Wendy Ranney, Aaron Hansen** and **Kirsti Jurica** to the Parks & Rec Commission for terms through November 2024 and November 2023; **Christa Hoover** to the Harbor Commission for a term through November 2024; **Wendy Ranney** and **Nancy Bird**, to the Historic Preservation Commission for terms through November 2024 and **Debra Adams** to the Library Board for a term through November 2024.

**M/Allison S/Schaefer** to concur with the recommendations of **Mayor Koplín** and to appoint: **Chris Bolin** to the Planning Commission for a term through November 2024; **Wendy Ranney, Aaron Hansen** and **Kirsti Jurica** to the Parks & Rec Commission for terms through November 2024 and November 2023; **Christa Hoover** to the Harbor Commission for a term through November 2024; **Wendy Ranney** and **Nancy Bird**, to the Historic Preservation Commission for terms through November 2024 and **Debra Adams** to the Library Board for a term through November 2024.

**Allison** said we have to encourage more participation, thanks for those appointments and thanks for all who applied. **Schaefer** agreed with **Allison**.

Vote the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion was approved.

**16.** Council option to protest or waive protest for new liquor license application with AMCO (Witches Brew # 6005)

**M/Schaefer S/Sherman** to waive Council's right to protest the approval of liquor license #6005, Witches Brew, Brewery.

**Schaefer** said she sees no reason to protest and it's exciting that there is interest for this in Cordova. **Sherman** said she thinks it's great to see all this interest. She thinks we could support 2 breweries and wishes AMCO would allow that. **Sherman** encouraged everyone in the community to share their opinion with AMCO prior to their meeting in January. She opined that the governing body should remain neutral. **Bailer** thought this was not a well-written business plan, but he didn't know how much weight the City's recommendation holds with AMCO. After some discussion Council agreed to not protest, therefore, they all agreed with the motion.

Vote the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion was approved.

**17.** Council option to protest or waive protest for new liquor license application with AMCO (No Road Brewing # 6008)

**M/Glasen S/Schaefer** to waive Council's right to protest the approval of liquor license #6008, No Road Brewing, Brewery.

For all the same reasons as discussed for the previous applicant, Council agreed not to protest.

Vote the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion was approved.

**18.** Discussion of COVID-19 Emergency Response - none

**19.** Pending Agenda, Calendar, CIP List and Elected & Appointed Officials lists – **Meyer** asked for a brewery license discussion – support letter, number of licenses, etc. Others concurred and it would be brought to the

December 15 meeting. After January 1 – financial discussion, long term financial planning, revenues, sales tax cap issue, etc.

**O. Audience Participation**

**Curtis Fincher** understood Council was bound by procedure but asked them individually to write letters of support for his license to ABC Board if they believed it was the better fit for Cordova.

**Chessa Brooke Stewart** said she wants an opportunity to brew really good beer for the community.

**P. Council Comments**

**Bailer** said back when he was a planning commissioner, they did look in depth at businesses – he’s curious what we will discuss next time if that isn’t Council’s role in this. He does look forward to the sales tax cap discussion – outside money is leaving this community.

**Guard** he is hesitant to support either brewery as a Council – he will do so personally though.

**Meyer** said she thinks multiple licenses should be allowed in Cordova – doesn’t think Council should support one or the other. It’s a tough spot to be in.

**Allison** thinks as an individual he can support or not support – as a Council member he feels there is a conflict because they are at a minimum 12% partner with either business. He likes **Meyer’s** idea behind petitioning ABC Board to allow 2 in Cordova. He appreciates all the participation at tonight’s meeting.

**Schaefer** agrees that as a Council she’s not comfortable supporting one or the other. Also thanked people for all the positive support tonight. Thanked all the new Board and Commission members.

**Glaser** having to choose between 2 breweries is a dilemma – would be nice if we could allow for 2. He thinks we have to go with what is best for the City. He appreciates the reports tonight, school board and Dr. Sanders and all the public comment tonight.

**Sherman** shout out to **Zachary Snowden** – congratulations and thanks for all the work you’ve done here as editor.

**Q. Executive Session - none**

**R. Adjournment**

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

Hearing no objection **Mayor Koplín** adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Approved: December 15, 2021

Attest:   
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

