

**Regular City Council Meeting
December 15, 2021 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Relocated to the North Star Theater
Minutes**

A. Call to order – Mayor Clay Koplín called the regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm on December 15, 2021, in the North Star Theater.

B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance

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

D. Approval of Regular Agenda – M/Allison S/Meyer to approve the agenda. **M/Sherman S/Allison** to amend the order of items by moving item 17 to item 14a.

Vote on the amendment: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Sherman-yes; Glasen-yes; Guard-yes; Allison-yes; Bailer-yes; Meyer-yes and Schaefer-yes. Amendment was approved.

Hearing no objection, Mayor Koplín declared the agenda approved as amended.

E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications – Allison said for transparency he stated that his wife is employed by the school district. **Mayor Koplín** ruled that was not a conflict of interest. **Sherman** declared she had ex parte email communication when she replied to a constituent that asked her a historical information and a procedural question about the brewery decision.

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speaker

a. Incident Management Team, COVID-19 Update: **Dr. Sanders** reported: 1) today marks the one year anniversary of Alaska having the Covid vaccine available; 2) she continues to encourage everyone to get vaccinated and get their booster – Cordova has vaccines available for everyone five and older; 3) there are 0 cases locally, we are celebrating that by lower our alert level and lowering our reporting to once weekly now.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

Molly Mulvaney of 1000 Pipe Street spoke about agenda item 17 – she recommended that Council not vote to recommend one brewery license over the other.

Sarah Kathrein of 828 Woodland Drive spoke in favor of No Road Brewing – asked Council to support this license application.

Barb Jewell of 2.2 Mile Whitshed spoke about the school district's contribution in the 2022 proposed City budget, it is \$100K less than what was asked for previously. She urged that the school be funded to its request.

Shae Bowman of 5.5 Mile Power Creek Rd. spoke in support of No Road Brewing and asked Council to vote to recommend their application for a brewery license.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

CCMCA Board – Dr. Sanders reported: 1) draft budget was submitted to the City – the CCMCA Board will see that tomorrow for approval; **CFO Eric Price** is also on the line; they can answer budgetary questions. There were no Council questions.

School Board – School Board Chair Barb Jewell reported: 1) School is out for holiday break this Friday and back in session January 3 – several wrestlers will be going to the state tournament, Girls volleyball took fourth at State – very impressive since they didn't compete last season; 2) they met last week and masks will be optional when school is back in January – based on Medical Team recommendations – unless conditions here change; 3) they had a work session on flexible Fridays and there was support from students and staff to keep those in place

Robert Beedle, RCAC representative spoke about item 14 and asked for a Council resolution giving comments to ADEC. PWSRCAC staff would be able to work with City staff to get that resolution written.

4. Student Council representative – no report

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Council action to waive the right to protest renewal of “package store” liquor license # 3410 for Alaska Commercial Company
6. Council action to waive the right to protest renewal of “beverage dispensary” liquor license # 2587 for The Moose Caboose
7. Minutes of the December 1, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Koplín declared the consent calendar as before Council.

Vote the Consent Calendar: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Sherman dropped off the line for this vote). Schaefer-yes; Sherman-absent; Glasen-yes; Bailer-yes; Guard-yes; Meyer-yes and Allison-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) underlying problem in Cordova – drug use and CCMC has a focus group working in that – legislators on state and federal level are recognizing this – keep it on our radar, there needs to be recognition and awareness that there are resources out there for assistance; 2) participated in SE Conference transportation committee – there are funding sources available, discussions revolved around a regional approach – Feb. 10 day long work shop in Juneau.

9. Manager’s Report – City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) progress in union negotiations – hopeful to be completed end of January; 2) audit should be available mid-January; 3) gave recognition to City employees moving snow, dealing with snow, navigate berms, etc.

a. Public Works Director **Sam Greenwood** gave a snow report on what work has been done, is being done – she praised the staff. Streets crew, **Malvin** at City hall, snow shovelers, etc.

10. City Clerk’s Report – **Bourgeois** reported: 1) March 1, 2022 Election – head to City website, bottom there’s a tab that says Election Information.

11. Staff Quarterly Reports

- a. Parks and Rec, 2Q and 3Q reports, Department Director, **Duncan Chisholm**

K. Correspondence

12. 11-24 through 12-08-21 Letters of Support for No Road Brewing

13. 11-24 through 12-08-21 Letters of Support for Witches Brew

14. 11-29-21 Email from PWSRCAC regarding ADECs Regulatory Reform Package

During approval of agenda, this item was moved here:

14a. 17. a. **Witches Brew** “Startup & Three-Year Business Plan” and 10-minute presentation

b. **No Road Brewing** “Business Overview” and 10-minute presentation

c. Council action regarding 2 Brewery License Applications submitted to AMCO

M/Glasen S/Bailer to recommend that Alaska ABC Board approve the application of No Road Brewing for a Brewery liquor license in the City of Cordova.

Glasen said he liked both presentations – he likes No Road because they already have brewing going on right now. He thinks Council does have the responsibility to choose the business they think will serve the community best. When we sell land, we get proposals, we vote for the best proposal and sell them the land, this is similar. **Glasen** also noted that if we don’t choose one, AMCO (ABC Board) will draw out of a hat. **Bailer** agreed with **Glasen**. He agrees with how this is similar to the land sales. **Meyer** is not in favor of the motion; she doesn’t think Council should choose one over the other. She would prefer to lobby for 2 licenses in Cordova. **Allison** said he supports the motion because he doesn’t want it to come down to a coin flip when it is clearly evident that No Road is on a faster more organized path. He does like the idea of telling ABC Board that we should decide how many brewery licenses Cordova should have. **Schaefer** said as a resident she may have an opinion about which one she prefers but as a City we don’t know what criteria they might weigh even if Council makes a recommendation to them. **Schaefer** therefore was speaking in opposition to the motion. **Sherman** said this is a difficult decision, she doesn’t like to choose but she will support this motion because of the business plan presentations. **Guard** is willing to personally support No Road Brewing but will

not support the motion based on the information they have received – he can't decide which would be most advantageous to the City of Cordova.

Vote the motion: 4 yeas, 3 nays. Guard-no; Schaefer-no; Glasen-yes; Meyer-no; Bailer-yes; Allison-yes and Sherman-yes. Motion was approved.

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

15. Resolution 12-21-47 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting an operating budget for fiscal year 2022 and appropriating the amount of \$17,008,584

M/Allison S/Glasen to approve Resolution 12-21-47 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting an operating budget for fiscal year 2022 and appropriating the amount of \$17,008,584

Allison said we worked on this for a couple of months – Manager has done a reasonable job – he still has concerns that there is \$1M in this budget that is non-continuing funds, also \$100K from PF earnings that we haven't used in the past. He thinks that the manager and Council will have a few years to remedy that, he trusts they will be able to do that. **Glasen** said we are leaving the 2023 Council in the lurch but knowing our manager said she'd remedy it by then, he trusts that – he is supportive of this. **Bailer** thanked the manager for coming up with this being short-handed, she did a heck of a job. He won't support this knowing about the \$1M, and that the school district is short. He is not prepared to pass a budget that we can't afford. **Sherman** said that 2 people commented on this budget, she will support this, she applauds the City Manager for all she has done to get us this budget. If you want to live here, you need to pay taxes, people need to speak up and tell us where they want their money spent. She wants to live here; she is willing to pay what it takes to support living here because it is worth it. **Schaefer** said the manager did a really good job on this budget, we've spent meetings, work sessions going over it, nothing new to add. She looks forward to some long-term financial planning early next year. **Guard** said with trepidation, he will support this budget. We don't have a lot of other options.

Vote the motion: 6 yeas, 1 nay. Bailer-no; Guard-yes; Schaefer-yes; Allison-yes; Glasen-yes; Meyer-yes and Sherman-yes. Motion was approved.

16. Resolution 12-21-48 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting fees, rates, and charges for the 2022 calendar budget

M/Allison S/Meyer to approve Resolution 12-21-48 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting fees, rates, and charges for the 2022 calendar budget

Allison said he assumes staff went through this line by line; he appreciates **Duncan's** revamp of the recreation fees. **Meyer** commented that she is glad that staff is looking at these and that Parks and Rec Commission is also being consulted. **Schaefer** asked about Cordova Center fees/rates. **Sherman** said she and **Mimi Briggs** have a plan to revisit all of the Cordova Center rates early in 2022 and bring it back to Council.

Vote the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Allison-yes; Sherman-yes; Bailer-yes; Meyer-yes; Schaefer-yes; Guard-yes and Glasen-yes. Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business

This item was handled earlier in the meeting, see item 14a.

~~17. a. **Witches Brew** "Startup & Three-Year Business Plan" and 10-minute presentation~~

~~—— b. **No Road Brewing** "Business Overview" and 10-minute presentation~~

~~—— c. Council action regarding 2 Brewery License Applications submitted to AMCO~~

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

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

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

January 2, 2022 meeting – resolution supporting the RCAC ask that **Robert Beedle** reported about tonight.

O. Audience Participation

Robert Beedle 609 Spruce Street commented that your sound guy has to work on this audio at meetings. He will get with PWSRCAC to work on that resolution.

Christiana Fincher of No Road Brewing thanked Council for their consideration and time spent tonight – she mentioned they would be upstairs outside giving out samples.

P. Council Comments

Bailer thanks to City Manager, PW department for snow removal.

Sherman thanked the City Manager for the great job with short staff, thanked Duncan for his informative report, she said Council made a tough decision, thankful for PW staff and snow plowing.

Meyer said she thought long and hard about that agenda item and didn't feel comfortable supporting one over the other, would be nice if we could fix the audio.

Allison thanked Duncan for his participation. Nice to see people willing to invest in our community – good indicator of the future, he wishes them success.

Glaser thanked the guys plowing snow, keeping us safe, doing a great job. Not an easy decision earlier but he is willing to make that call.

Q. Executive Session - none

R. Adjournment

M/Allison S/Glaser to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection **Mayor Koplín** adjourned the meeting at 9:46 pm.

Approved: February 2, 2022

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

