

Regular City Council Meeting
April 6, 2022 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes

A. Call to order – **Mayor David Allison** called the Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm on April 6, 2022, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance – **Mayor Allison** led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

D. Approval of Regular Agenda – **M/Carpenter S/Jones** to approve the agenda. Hearing no objection, Mayor Allison 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 - none

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items: none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

PWS Regional Citizens Advisory Council, City Rep **Robert Beedle** reported on a safety concern at the Valdez Marine Terminal. There is snow and ice buildup on the tops of crude oil storage tanks causing valve damage. He will continue to keep City Council updated.

4. Student Council representative: no report

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Minutes of the March 2, 2022 Regular Council Meeting

5a. Minutes of the March 16, 2022 Regular Council Meeting

6. Minutes of the March 22, 2022 Special Council Meeting

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

H. Approval of Minutes – in consent calendar

I. Consideration of Bids

7. Council Approval of Contract Award for City Financial Audit Services

M/Carpenter S/Jones to direct the City Manager to negotiate a contract with Newhouse & Vogler Certified Public Accountants to perform City of Cordova annual audit for a three-year contract term (FY21, FY22, FY23) not to exceed \$262,344 with an option to extend for a two-year contract term (FY 24, FY 25) not to exceed \$186,411.

Howarth said we got two responses, this firm and the firm who does our audit now, BDO. Both came in higher than budgeted for 2022 (\$50K) – mostly because we have to do a federal single audit now based on a higher level of federal money coming in with all the Covid grants. This adds a third again to the audit costs. She liked that Newhouse and Vogler added in all their costs, travel, etc. and theirs came in over \$30K lower than the other. We evaluated the proposals, did reference checks, and feel confident they can do the work timely.

Carpenter said she appreciates staff going through the competitive process and she is comfortable with the choice, she thinks the firm has been around a while and has lots of experience. **Jones** agreed, said glad to see this out to bid every few years. **Meyer, Schaefer, Bailer** all spoke in favor, as did **Sherman**.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Bailer-yes; Jones-yes; Schaefer-yes; Carpenter-yes; Guard-absent; Meyer-yes and Sherman-yes. Motion was approved.

J. Reports of Officers

8. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Allison** said he'll submit written reports in the future, he is still getting up to speed. He's attended a few zoom meetings and will give comments on Friday at Senate Finance on the State budget.

9. Manager's Report – City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) full court press with Senate Finance because the \$7.5 million request – we want to ensure it gets in the Senate budget, then gets approved by the House and survives the Governor's veto pen. In Juneau we had key meetings and feel confident that there is broad support for that \$7.5 million request. She hopes the community will come out strongly in favor too. 2) An entourage from Cordova will be going to Anchorage for **Senator Murkowski's** infrastructure funding symposium – to make contacts and seek out other resources for Cordova (April 11-12).

a. South Harbor Rebuild update – presentation by City Team including **Mark Keller** and **Robin Reich** (Solstice Environmental) – reported by **Curtis, Mark, Sam, Robin**:

- **Curtis**: additional funding of \$670K – NOAA has approved use of 2016 Pink Salmon Disaster funds for the project – project cost estimate now: \$42.4 million, we have \$32.67 million secured, visit to Juneau went well, capital budget request of \$7.5 million needs support, Denali Commission has \$15 million available upcoming, we are keeping an eye on that, looking at a few options to cut costs, public feedback has had us reevaluate the scope to eliminate L float
- been working with R&M, trying to maintain as many slips in the design as possible, drive-down ramp, service float, want to pull together the conceptual soon so we can put out the RFP for design-build; **Mark's** been in touch with about 5 design-build firms who are interested in bidding the job – there will be very specific minimum performance requirements in the RFP – what we get from the design-build teams will be similar to our concept design but they will be better, they are talented and better at it than we are, they are working many issues with turning radius in certain locations, net mending float size, Harbor Commission is being very helpful; as project is modified, information needs to be relayed to MARAD – bulkhead is in the design, but not sure if we have funding for it – if we get the \$7.5 million from state, maybe we can do part of bulkhead
- on the environmental side **Robin** reported: she is handling the NEPA work on the project, all federally funded (MARAD) projects have to comply with NEPA, highest level would be EIS (environmental impact statements), ours is one level down, environmental assessment work needs to be completed – potential impacts on natural, economic and social – also endangered species, stellar sea lions and humpback whales, possible impacts on the animals needs to be assessed and mitigated; also potential impacts of the project on fish habitat needs to be done for NMFS; potential “take” of animals such as sea otters, sea lions, harbor seals needs to be assessed – may get approval for harassment of animals; she's working on all these approvals/authorizations simultaneously, most require same documentation, all should be completed by mid-June, then if no delays, she's worked in flex-time so that all permitting regarding Corps of Engineers and ADEC should be completed by end of 2022 so that project work could begin smoothly by fall of 2023
- **Mark** discussed the schedule, includes all these parts and pieces, environmental included, they are waiting to hear what state says on \$7.5 million so the RFP can be let with a higher number and all the components put back in that can be covered in the higher project cost

10. City Clerk's Report – **Bourgeois** reported: appeal period closes Friday for property assessment appeals, upcoming State elections are in a new format, citizens can call her or go to State Division of Elections website.

K. Correspondence

11. 03-21-22 USFS comments to DNR (agency review) regarding proposed tidelands lease in Simpson Bay – Wild Blue Mariculture

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

12. Resolution 04-22-10 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, reinvesting \$417,752.45 of FY2020 investment earnings from the General Reserve Fund (Permanent Fund) back into the fund

M/Jones S/Sherman to approve Resolution 04-22-10 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, reinvesting \$417,752.45 of FY2020 investment earnings from the General Reserve Fund (Permanent Fund) back into the fund

Jones said he is happy to see this, thanked staff for bringing this forward, he thinks it's the right thing to do with permanent fund earnings. **Sherman** agreed. **Bailer, Schaefer, Meyer** also said they were in support.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Sherman-yes; Guard-absent; Jones-yes; Schaefer-yes; Carpenter-yes; Bailer-yes; and Meyer-yes. Motion was approved.

13. Resolution 04-22-11 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Sole Source contract with Yukon Equipment, Inc. for the purchase of a 2006 used Vactor 2100 truck for the City of Cordova.

M/Sherman S/Carpenter to approve Resolution 04-22-11 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Sole Source contract with Yukon Equipment, Inc. for the purchase of a 2006 used Vactor 2100 truck for the City of Cordova.

Sherman said she had questions, but staff's memo provided all the answers, she learned a lot about vac trucks, she's glad we are purchasing used and keeping the old to use for Street's department. **Carpenter** echoed those. **Schaefer** is in support and also learned a lot. She did ask staff what kind of life expectancy this might have considering it is a 2006 truck. **Sam Greenwood** said that is a great question, all about maintenance and care and that is specifically why Street's will use the old truck instead of this newer one, the work they use the vac truck for, sucking out rocks and gravel, is very hard on the vehicle. She said she will continue to look for funding for a new one and then they'll give Street's the 2006 one; but, brand new these machines are \$460K, super expensive. She said she would hope it could last 10-15 years. **Jones** asked how much is in the depreciation fund being used to purchase this – **Greenwood** said \$700 - \$800K. **Jones** asked if we need a budget amendment for this. **Howarth** said about mid-year she'll come to them with a budget amendment incorporating a few things, this as well as the audit approval from earlier.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Jones-yes; Guard-absent; Meyer-yes; Sherman-yes; Bailer-yes; Carpenter-yes; and Schaefer-yes. Motion was approved.

14. Resolution 04-22-12 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Cordova and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local union #1547

M/Sherman S/Jones to approve Resolution 04-22-12 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Cordova and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local union #1547

Howarth reported that the IBEW union met last week and approved this agreement that is in front of Council tonight. It has been a long process, began last October. A year from now we will be negotiating again, this is only a 2-year contract – we are happy, union and staff worked well together. **Laura Cloward** highlighted that we were presumptive, and this was already built into the 2022 budget. A lot of changes were administrative tightening up processes and procedures that we were already performing. There are no COLA increases in this agreement, steps remain flat for the 2 years. **Sherman** said her questions have been answered, she is pleased that it is a 2-year, happy we are back on track, she is in favor knowing that the union has approved it. **Carpenter** said she is new to this, she wondered if the grievance procedure is similar for exempt vs. union. **Cloward** said they are similar but not exactly the same, union grievance procedure is in this document, exempt procedures are outlined in Title 4.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Meyer-yes; Bailer-yes; Guard-absent; Jones-aye; Sherman-yes; Carpenter-yes; and Schaefer-yes. Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business – none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

15. Discussion “Communicating with Local Industry on current Covid Status”

Mayor Allison led this item. Statewide there are no industry restrictions and he wanted us to communicate with the industry locally. **Jones** thanked him for this item, he had asked him to put this on, he feels strongly that a letter should come from the Mayor and City Council urging a return to normalcy, stressing mental health. **Sherman** agrees this is the new normal, she understands the importance of the seasonal employees to the local businesses, she'd like to see a sentence or two regarding guidance from the medical community, encourage vaccinations, say masks are a personal choice. **Carpenter** said she agrees, would like thigs reiterated such as: stay up to date on Covid vaccines, test if you have symptoms, basic CDC guidelines – remind folks to be as safe as possible. **Meyer** agrees with what has been said, be kind to one another, stress medical team opinions. **Schaefer** agrees with most of all that, a note from medical team emphasizing that we have tools now, we have tests, we have vaccines, we have our masks. **Bailer** agrees and keep the tone to personal choice. **Allison** said he will also stress that businesses may have their own policies, their own comfort levels, we encourage them and welcome them back to full participation in the community.

16. Council election of Vice Mayor – **Jones** nominated **Tom Bailer**. **Jones** moved to close nominations.

Upon unanimous voice vote, **Tom Bailer** was elected as Vice Mayor.

17. Council concurrence of Mayor's Appointment of Christy Mog to the Historical Preservation Commission. **M/Sherman S/Schaefer** to concur with **Mayor Allison's** appointment.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Motion was approved.

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

May 4 agenda – there will be an item from Sheridan Alpine Association, request for funding. **Jones** suggested a housing work session. **Jones** also suggested a joint work session with Harbor Commission when the team feels it is necessary. **Bailer** asked for an item on the sales tax cap issue. The Clerk would talk to School Board about a joint work session on April 20.

O. Audience Participation

Robert Beedle of 609 Spruce Street asked about addressing.

Howarth said it is ongoing – there will be communication with the community when we get to that point. Hopefully coming soon, before end of the summer. E-911 will be the next project after addressing is set.

P. Council Comments

Meyer written information in the packet was really useful, helpful tonight, thanks everyone for the meeting.

Schaefer thanked staff for the presentation, thanks for the union contract work.

Bailer welcomed **Mayor Allison**, **Councilman Jones**, and **Kristin**. Thanks for the different perspective.

Carpenter thanked the City Manager and staff on the work on the CBA, thanks for the welcoming and she is happy to be here.

Jones thanked everyone for coming tonight. He means it as no affront to staff or Council if he seems like the squeaky wheel.

Sherman applauded the attendance at the funding symposium. Glad about the audit. Encourages testimony for the harbor project, easy to do and really important to our community. Kudos to the staff especially the City Manager – a lot of stuff getting done.

Q. Executive Session - none

R. Adjournment

M/Sherman S/Jones to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection **Mayor Allison** adjourned the meeting at 8:53 pm.

Approved: April 20, 2022

Attest:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

