A. Call to order - Mayor David Allison called the Council Special Meeting to order at 12:00 pm on May 9, 2022 in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

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

Mayor Allison mentioned that 3 Hospital Board members were present: Linnea Ronnegard, Chris Iannazzone, and Kelsey Hayden as well as CEO of CCMC Authority Dr. Hannah Sanders. He said the Hospital Board, NVE Tribal Council and NVE staff were all invited, many of the NVE members were en route to Washington DC and couldn’t be here.

C. Approval of agenda - M/Meyer S/Guard to approve the agenda.
Hearing no objection, Mayor Allison declared the agenda approved.

D. Disclosures of conflicts of interest and Ex Parte Communications - none

E. Communications by and petitions from visitors
1. Audience Comments regarding agenda items
Barb Jewell urged Council to include something in the letter explaining the City’s wish for a Critical Access Hospital and a Long-Term Care facility.

F. New Business
2. Council approval of letter of support for NVE’s Federal infrastructure funding request
M/Carpenter S/Meyer to approve the letter of support for NVE’s Federal infrastructure funding request
Carpenter said she supports this but wondered if Council would be interested in amending it. She offered adding something along the lines of how this is support of a planning process and what we want to wind up with is a Critical Access Hospital as well as a Long-Term Care facility. She appreciated the executive summary that NVE has provided. Meyer said she supports the letter as written; she thinks this is a request to start the process. Dr. Sanders was available to answer questions but first she said, this is a request for infrastructure money. A lot of the planning has already been done by NVE – they have spent a lot of money looking into the acquisition of the Critical Access Hospital. We have a long way to go to on what the integration and partnership and collaboration is going to look like. NVE is looking into Joint Venture and that is separate from the infrastructure funding. The executive summary encompasses what we need and shows what the goals are to get there. She emphasized that for the community, we cannot let this infrastructure money that is available right now pass us by; this is an opportunity for modern health care facilities and potentially if we go that route to get Joint Venture – that would be a big asset for Cordova. The letter doesn’t spell out the details because we just don’t know those yet. Schaefer says she appreciates the executive summary and Dr. Sanders comments – she is in support of the letter as written. Guard said he still has concerns but not enough to stop this process – he is in favor of the letter as written. Jones said if this is good enough for Dr. Sanders it is good enough for him. Bailer said he supports the letter. Carpenter said after hearing Dr. Sanders comments, hearing that she is comfortable with it, then she’s ok with it too. Mayor Allison asked the Hospital Board members in attendance for comments. Ronnegard said she supports Dr. Sanders. Iannazzone said he still has questions, but he thinks this is the best opportunity for the community to bring our resources together for the best health care. Hayden said it does seem daunting because there are a lot of unknowns but as things play out, good communication and strategic planning will be important for the collaboration to be most effective for Cordova.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Meyer-yes; Carpenter-yes; Bailer-yes; Guard-yes; Sherman-absent; Jones-yes and Schaefer-yes. Motion was approved.
G. Audience participation - none

H. Council comments
Bailer as this goes on from year to year, he wonders if we can’t archive these meetings that specifically pertain to Health Services and the hospital in one area so they can be available.
Meyer agreed with Bailer – all in one place so they could refresh their memories, or new Council members can get up to speed.
Carpenter thanked everyone for the group process with this.
Guard echoed that.
Jones thanked everyone for supporting this; it’s good to do what we can to leverage outside dollars being brought to the community.

Dr. Sanders mention that the joint administrative negotiations team was put together for this purpose, it is not a group of elected officials though. She thinks it would be a good place for such an archive of information.

I. Executive Session - none

J. Adjournment
M/Carpenter S/Meyer to adjourn.
Hearing no objection, Mayor Allison adjourned the meeting at 12:22 pm.

Approved: May 18, 2022

Attest: 

Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk