

**Regular City Council Meeting
November 16, 2022 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes**

A. Call to order – *Acting Vice-Mayor Anne Schaefer* called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on November 16, 2022, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance – *Acting Vice-Mayor Schaefer* led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll call - Present for roll call were Council members *Anne Schaefer*, *Kristin Carpenter*, and *Ken Jones*. Council members *Tom Bailer*, *Jeff Guard* and *Melina Meyer* were present via zoom teleconference. *Mayor David Allison* and Council member *Cathy Sherman* were 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.
With no objection, *Acting Vice-Mayor Schaefer* declared the agenda approved as presented.

E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications - none

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speakers – *Cathy Renfeldt*, Executive Director of the Cordova Chamber of Commerce reported on activities at the Chamber of Commerce. She presented the Chamber's 2023 budget request, an increase from last year and an extra amount for 3 initiatives that the Chamber has planned for 2023.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items:

Tommy Sheridan of 610 Spruce Street spoke in support of the Chamber of Commerce.

Christy Banks of 905 Center Drive spoke in support of the Chamber of Commerce.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions

Dr. Hannah Sanders, CEO of CCMC reported: 1) there are respiratory illnesses affecting the state and could affect our community because the hospitals in Anchorage are nearing capacity for pediatric cases and they are understaffed – her advice is to get flu shot, encourage others to get flu shots this year and keep vigilant about staying home when sick; 2) hospital is doing great, expended all of the Covid money in 2021 and in 2022 they are surviving just on Cordova, we are a vulnerable resource though and we need everyone in town to support us; 3) across the country and in Cordova there has been an increase in acute psychiatric emergencies – we are working on how best to manage these – assistance from the state – locally we are working with Ilanka, Police Department and others to have conversations to work together to better handle these cases.

Barb Jewell, School Board member, reported: 1) they are so proud of their students – several will be attending the state music competition; Volleyball team is going to regionals for a chance at the state tournament and JH basketball teams have traveled quite a bit, have been to Nome and this week are heading to Houston and we are so proud because the reports always come back at how respectful and well-behaved they are when they are out and around the state representing Cordova; 2) the School's budget request is \$2.3 million this year and the board has discussed it in depth and it is really the amount needed, she hopes council will consider supporting that request.

4. Student Council Report – no report

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

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

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

H. Approval of Minutes - in consent calendar

I. Consideration of Bids/Proposals/Contracts - none

J. Reports of Officers

6. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Allison** was absent – no report.

7. Manager's Report – City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) staff has been extremely focused on budget; 2) we've been paying really close attention to our investments in order to maximize our return – we've added funds to AMLIP – AML's investment pool.

a. South Harbor Rebuild update – **Howarth** said the deadline for RFP submittal was over the weekend; we have received 2 responses. Team is reviewing the proposals now – Council will have a special meeting upcoming for approval of the contract.

Questions for Manager: **Bailer** asked for an update on the letter in correspondence, item 11. **Howarth** said staff researched, the Planner looked at Code and the Police Chief has communicated with the residents. **Carpenter** asked about the Alaska Airlines application for EAS that was in the packet. Her comment was that they get subsidized quite a bit and she wondered if Council could comment that the freight service is inconsistent as she hears often that groceries got bumped, etc. **Bourgeois** said over the years she's never seen anything but the Mayor writing a letter of support for Alaska Airlines; this year they are the only applicant. **Howarth** said this is in the public record if individual businesses wanted to comment they could quantify their experiences with freight service. **Schaefer** suggested a letter of support that emphasized the importance of consistent freight service.

8. City Clerk's Report – **Bourgeois** reported that the City Election would be upcoming on March 7, 2023 and the advertising would be starting up in December. Most notably the declaration of candidacy would open on December 23, 2022. There will be two Council seats, one School Board seat and two CCMC seats on the ballot for the March 7, 2023 City Regular Election.

a. **Parks & Rec Director Duncan Chisholm**, Parks & Rec 3Q 2022

K. Correspondence

10. 11-04-22 US DoT notice to comment on Alaska Airlines proposal to provide EAS (essential air service) to Cordova and other AK communities

11. 11-07-22 Letter from *Eighth St. residents* about visibility issues at intersection

12. 11-09-22 Letter from *Osa Schultz* regarding Chamber grant in 2023 budget

13. 11-09-22 Letter from *T. Sheridan* regarding Chamber grant in 2023 budget

L. **Ordinances and Resolutions** – in consent calendar

M. **Unfinished Business** – none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

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

Next budget work session is noon on **Nov 22**. **Greenwood** has suggested a special meeting on **Nov 30** for award of the contract for the Harbor project – probably would be a noon meeting. **Jones** asked that we add a joint Harbor Commission and City Council work session and put it on for first quarter 2023.

O. Audience Participation

Barb Jewell of Mile 2.2 Whitshed Rd added her support for the Chamber of Commerce, she appreciated Cathy's presentation. She opined that the chamber with its events enhances the quality of life of those who live in Cordova and that helps businesses/entities here recruit employees. She encourages Council support of them.

P. Council Comments

Carpenter appreciates everyone's commitment to this budgeting process; she understands there are essential needs and services like utilities but what metrics should be used on the soft services like library/museum which have a huge benefit to citizens. But even the enterprise funds don't fully pay for themselves when you consider the infrastructure that we have to get grants or low interest loans to replace and upgrade. Expenses like the Cordova Center or Pool and other soft services, can we afford not to have them and fund them, we need to attract and retain citizens and recruit people for key positions. She keeps

coming back to how much she wants all these things for all of us and she wants to pay for them, and she hopes other people do too.

Jones said the Harbor doesn't necessarily pay for itself, but the City didn't have control of the Harbor until 2005, when the state gave it to us there was a lot of deferred maintenance already. Also, the General Fund takes 15% of the revenue. He would like to see the increased Chamber contribution at the next meeting, with a metric for performance on marketing the Center.

Bailer first a huge shout out to whoever fixed the zoom/YouTube system, he can hear everyone great tonight – much appreciated. He can sum up the last few comments in this way, he is looking for performance and accountability. What are we doing, what are the costs, how are we doing? He'd like to maybe tie the chamber contribution to how many members they have, i.e. performance.

Guard he'd echo the thanks for the technology success tonight. As far as budget and spending money, the Harbor may or may not pay for itself and some might think only the users of the Harbor get benefit from it, but that is not true, the money spent by those using the Harbor flows all throughout the businesses in town. Raw fish tax brought in by Harbor users benefits all of Cordova. Likewise, it is really hard to measure the benefits to the whole community of some of the positions we are considering funding.

Meyer thanked everyone for the comments and thanked Council member **Schaefer** for running a great meeting.

Schaefer thanked everyone who came to the meeting tonight and everyone who has been working so hard on the budget and on the South Harbor project. Appreciated the Chamber presentation and does believe they bring a lot of value to the community and our local businesses – she would support trying to meet their funding request, especially to include marketing expectations.

Carpenter had a second comment to say she fully supports the Harbor.

Q. Executive Session – none

R. Adjournment

M/Bailer S/Carpenter to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection **Acting Vice-Mayor Anne Schaefer** adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Approved: December 7, 2022

Attest:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

