

Regular City Council Meeting
April 19, 2023 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes

A. Call to order – **Mayor David Allison** called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on April 19, 2023, 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 Allison** and Council members **Cathy Sherman, Kasey Kinsman, Anne Schaefer**, and **Kristin Carpenter**. Council members **Melina Meyer** and **Ken Jones** were present via teleconference. Council member **Tom Bailer** was absent. Also present were City Manager **Helen Howarth**, City Clerk **Susan Bourgeois**, and City Attorney **Holly Wells**.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

Hearing no objection **Mayor Allison** declared the agenda approved as submitted.

E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications – Council member **Schaefer** said that she works for the PWSSC and wanted that on the record as far as approval of item 15 a City lease to the PWSSC – she does not have a financial interest but wanted to be transparent. **Mayor Allison** agreed and ruled no conflict.

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speakers: **Representative Louise Stutes** Juneau Legislative Session update.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items:

Katrina Hoffman of 301 South Second Street spoke in support of PWSSC lease approval, item 15; said she is on the chamber board and spoke in appreciation of City funding for the chamber – they are doing great things as expressed in the quarterly report, item 10f, they do awesome work bringing money to town and keeping money circulating in town; and she spoke to item 13 correspondence about the USPS – hoped Council could advocate with the USPS to protect citizens and employees from unnecessary injury by putting the bay door policy back in place.

Wendy Ranney of 2500 Orca Road – also spoke in hopes Council could advocate in support of the USPS service for Cordova. Hoped there could be a public meeting put on by the USPS to explain it all to people.

Mayor Allison mentioned that a representative from the USPS was in town and she'd be coming back the first week in May for a meeting with community leaders.

April Beedle of 609 Spruce Street spoke to the USPS letter in the packet – she encouraged people to reach out to **Anica Estes** – who is willing to gather letters.

Steve Namitz of the USFS Federal Bldg. on Second Street – he reiterated what others said about the USPS – changing the way they do business has put USPS employees and his employees at risk – busy season for USFS packages is coming. He could also answer concerns that the Harbor has regarding item 11 in correspondence.

Remie Lasangre representing Trident Seafoods talked about the USPS issue and expressed Trident's concern with 600+ employees they have that receive packages in the summer, 20 tenders and logistical support for hundreds of fishermen – it will cause a lot of extra work for them and their employees and will put USPS and Trident employees at risk of injury.

Tyler Dillon representing Camtu's Alaska Wild Seafoods said he has the same concerns as everyone else – the business that is coming for the USPS this summer will be too hard to manage without that back-door access for package pickup.

Toni Godes of 105 Bluff Trail said this USPS problem is much bigger than just the package pickup at the back parking lot. She said there is a lot of tension at the Post Office, unfair to the hard-working staff there.

Anica Estes of 1329 Crest Circle also spoke about the concerns at the Post Office and said it is much more than just the bay-doors.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions: no reports

4. Student Council Report: report in the packet mentioned that Cordova Cleanup was this coming Saturday, and they are looking for projects around town to help with.

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Minutes: **a.** 03-22-23 City Council Special Meeting Minutes; **b.** 04-05-23 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

6. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of unexcused absences of Council members **Tom Bailer** and **Melina Meyer** from the April 5, 2023 Regular Meeting

Vote on the Consent Calendar: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Meyer-yes; Bailer-absent; Kinsman-yes; Jones-yes; Sherman-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

7. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Allison** said he had a written report in packet, and he'll have the USPS mtg upcoming.

8. Manager's Report – City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) she will email council the instructions on how to testify to Senate Finance tomorrow morning as they discuss budget – vitally important for the community to weigh in – hopefully show support for the increased BSA; 2) on housing – there are scams afoot – a new hire almost got caught, someone is on Facebook posting Cordova listings but they are just trying to dupe people into paying first/last security deposit, so people should beware, also she said some of the housing is being pulled off the market because people are waiting to see if they can't rent to a construction outfit coming in for projects, which can pay more – that is self-defeating, we have need and we have reductions in availability – the housing crunch will keep the community from growing.

9. City Clerk's Report – no report.

10. Staff Quarterly Reports:

a. Cordova Police Department, 1Q 2023, **Police Chief Andrew Goss**

b. Cordova Volunteer Fire Department, 1Q 2023, **Fire Marshal Paul Trumblee**

c. Parks & Rec Department, 1Q 2023, **Parks & Rec Director Duncan Chisholm**

d. Cordova Public Library, 1Q 2023, **Library Debbie Carlson**

e. Finance Department, 1Q 2023, **Comptroller Barb Webber**

f. Cordova Chamber of Commerce, **Executive Director Cathy Renfeldt**

K. Correspondence

11. 03-15-23 CDFU Board of Directors input on Harbor improvements

a. PIDP Grant Letter of Support

b. Concerns for USFS Dock Lease in Harbor

12. 04-11-23 NVE Flier regarding Electronics Recycling Event Apr. 24-30

13. 04-12-23 Letter from A. Estes regarding Cordova Post Office

14. Digital Equity Listening Session Flier – Connect AK Project

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

15. Resolution 04-23-12 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, supporting the 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Application for the "Cordova North Harbor Efficiency and Resiliency Project"

M/Schaefer S/Sherman to approve Resolution 04-23-12 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, supporting the 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Application for the "Cordova North Harbor Efficiency and Resiliency Project"

Schaefer said she appreciated the detail in the packet – the considerations discussed for the scope of the application. She had one question – which was already answered, she asked if other companies were given the opportunity to put in a floating fuel dock and the answer was yes, other companies were given notice. **Sherman** said her questions have been addressed, she read through Harbor Commission minutes as well. **Kinsman, Meyer**, no additional comments/questions. **Jones** said he is a little disappointed that the net-mending float got cut from the plan because it was such a high priority. He is still in support. **Schaefer** asked for a timeframe if we are awarded this. City Planner **Johnson** said with grant award, permitting, planning, the construction window could be late 2025 and then a 2026 completion.

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

16. Resolution 04-23-13 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a three (3) year lease with Prince William Sound Science Center, for the “Old Sea Grant Building” located within a portion of Lot 3, Block 7A, Tidewater Development Park

M/Carpenter S/Schaefer to approve Resolution 04-23-13 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a three (3) year lease with Prince William Sound Science Center, for the “Old Sea Grant Building” located within a portion of Lot 3, Block 7A, Tidewater Development Park

Carpenter said the materials in the packet are explanatory, we heard from the PWSSC about how they use the building, it is a short-term lease allowing for modification of use of that building if the PID grant comes through – she is in support. **Schaefer, Meyer, Kinsman, Sherman, Jones** all agreed, all said they support.

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

17. Resolution 04-23-14 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with SeaWestern, Inc., for the purpose of acquiring 25 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and masks for the Cordova Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD)

M/Schaefer S/Kinsman to approve Resolution 04-23-14 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with SeaWestern, Inc., for the purpose of acquiring 25 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and masks for the Cordova Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD)

Schaefer said we discussed this when we had a capital items discussion, we approved it in the capital budget. **Kinsman** asked **Howarth** if this was using the same entity as was for the Police vehicles. **Howarth** said yes, Community Leasing Partners allows us to make reasonable payments over time that can be budgeted in operations annually. Others echoed the comments and said they support. **Sherman** said the Community Leasing Partners is a good way to go, she will support.

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

18. Resolution 04-23-15 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing City Manager to negotiate with Oracle America Inc. for a three-year \$78,872.44 contract for NetSuite for government cloud-based accounting software and authorizing one-time implementation and transition costs not to exceed \$107,000

M/Sherman S/Carpenter to approve Resolution 04-23-15 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing City Manager to negotiate with Oracle America Inc. for a three-year \$78,872.44 contract for NetSuite for government cloud-based accounting software and authorizing one-time implementation and transition costs not to exceed \$107,000

Sherman said the City Manager discussed this with Council at budget time. This will improve the functions in the finance department, she is in favor. **Carpenter** said this is an upgrade that has been talked about for a long time, so the City can get real-time financial management. **Schaefer** said it will help the City and will help the Council understand better where we are financially. **Kinsman** asked what the terms are after 3 years. **Howarth** said because of the cost of implementation, we are somewhat committing ourselves to

Oracle. They promise an acceleration not to exceed 3% for the next 3-year contract term. **Meyer** said she supports; she knows staff has done lots of research to come up with this.

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

M. Unfinished Business

19. Council Decision regarding Ballot Prop for next Election to Change the Method of Council Seat Election to Undesignated

M/Carpenter S/Schaefer to direct staff to prepare a resolution for Council's consideration that would approve ballot language to amend the charter to change the way Council members are elected to undesignated Council seats.

Carpenter said when she first came to Cordova this is how we elected Council members; we don't have districts, we just randomly assigned seats. Sometimes it is hard to field candidates and she doesn't see the benefit of designated seats as often there are candidates running unopposed. She thinks undesignated could lower the barrier to candidates running at all. **Schaefer** said she doesn't have strong feelings either way; isn't sure if having undesignated seats would increase the number of candidates because School Board and CCMC Board are undesignated and we still seem to have trouble getting multiple candidates for those boards. **Kinsman** said he thinks if we go with non-designated we would have to remove the 40% threshold. He doesn't see it creating additional obstacles to those who consider running. **Sherman** has spoken previously against this but really she is fine either way. She just wants to ensure the language is clear for the ballot prop. **Jones** said he supports this. **Meyer** said she supports allowing the people to vote on this. **Mayor Allison** said when this was voted on, he thought there were too many items together in the one proposition so that maybe people were more in support of one of those items, not necessarily all. **Carpenter** said she thinks even if it may not get more people to run per se, it would make it so we weren't always looking for at least 2 people to run for each seat. She asked City Attorney **Holly Wells** if she thinks ranked choice is worth considering. **Wells** said she does not see any reason to add ranked choice voting to a local election. She thinks it is just as effective to remove the 40% and add code language that is very clear regarding the counting of the ballots and the determination of the prevailing candidate.

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

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

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

Council scheduled the Joint Work Session with the School Board for 6 pm on May 3, before next regular meeting.

O. Audience Participation - none

P. Council Comments

Carpenter thanked Representative Stutes for the Juneau update, thanks to Planning Department for working on that PIDP application, that is a big chunk of work. Thanks also for all the staff reports.

Kinsman thanks for the staff reports he appreciates them highlighting what they are working on. Also agrees great to hear from Representative Stutes.

Schaefer echoed all the thanks and also appreciated the public comment tonight. She gave another plug for and encouraged people to help with the cleanup day on Saturday.

Sherman echoed the thanks and reminded people that all the facility assessment reports are online, easy to read, good information. She thinks we should all go back and look at the comp plan also – that is a recent look at what the community really values. Good to see a student council report. Thanked the Clerk and Attorney for a very organized Board of Equalization Meeting on Monday – she learned a lot.

Mayor Allison thanked everyone for participating tonight. He also wanted staff to know that Council doesn't always discuss or ask questions about reports, but they are read and are very much appreciated.

Q. Executive Session - none

R. Adjournment

Hearing no objection **Mayor Allison** adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Approved May 3, 2023

Attest:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

