

Regular City Council Meeting
May 3, 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 May 3, 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 **Kasey Kinsman**, **Anne Schaefer**, and **Kristin Carpenter**. Council members **Cathy Sherman** and **Ken Jones** were present via teleconference. Council members **Tom Bailer** and **Melina Meyer** were absent. Also present were City Manager **Helen Howarth** and City Clerk **Susan Bourgeois**.

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 – none

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speakers: **Barry Hooper**, ROW Lead ADOT&PF and **Norman Gutcher**, PE, Lead Design Engineer Shepard Point Road Project gave a presentation about Shepard Point Road ROW acquisition – this will be an agenda item before Council at a future meeting and this was their time to explain it to the Council members.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items: none

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions: President **Barb Jewell** reported for the School Board: she said graduation is a week from Saturday; 3 CHS students have been nominated for a statewide spirit of youth award (**Kate Flores**, **Shelby Glasen** and **Yagnesis Mejia**) – students who are engaged in their community – volunteering. They continue to work on their budget, May and June meetings, also curriculum decisions to be made at those meetings.

a. PWSRCAC City Rep **David Janka** report – written report regarding a draft report just completed entitled “Assessment of Risks and Safety Culture at Alyeska’s Valdez Marine Terminal”

4. Student Council Report: none

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Minutes: a. 04-19-23 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** from the April 19, 2023 Regular Meeting

Vote on the Consent Calendar: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Bailer-absent; Kinsman-yes; Schaefer-yes; Carpenter-yes; Jones-yes; Meyer-absent; and Sherman-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 – hasn’t heard back from them yet on a date. T-Ball should have 6 teams this year, games getting started this month.

8. Manager’s Report – City Manager **Helen Howarth** reported: 1) shout out to staff who completed Denali Commission application and PIDP grant application – all harbor related – both North and South Harbor, hoping to be successful – shout out to **Collin**, **Kevin**, **Tony**, others; 2) next week she will begin IBEW

negotiations, in hopes to have a final agreement before 2024 budget approval; 3) week of May 15 – audit – staff is plenty busy; 4) Cordova covered spaces initiative – first effort is for a covered space at Hartney Bay – they’ll be applying to the state collaborating with Eyak Corp. and USFS – we will have a resolution supporting that at the next Council meeting. Questions: **Kinsman** asked the status of IT – **Howarth** said we did offer the job, he had committed to gillnet for the summer, hope to have him on later in summer/fall. We have folks coming down to discuss the equipment we have; they will now wait until he is on board – we are still a bit away from a solution but getting there.

9. City Clerk’s Report – **Bourgeois** reported: 1) current protocol for Council meeting audio is that by 11 or noon on a Thursday, the audio of Regular meetings is uploaded (**Emily**) so citizens are still getting that capability to listen to Council – we will be excited to have IT on to get us back to live video; 2) will discuss lots of items coming forward at Pending Agenda, including as **Howarth** mentioned, a resolution supporting the ATAP grant that Cordova Covered Spaces Project is working on – resolution will be before Council on May 17, 2023.

10. Staff Quarterly Reports:

a. Cordova Historical Museum & Cdv Center, 1Q 2023, **Dept. Director Mimi Briggs**

K. Correspondence

11. 04-05-23 Membership letter from United Fishermen of Alaska

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

12. Resolution 05-23-16 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, placing a ballot proposition before the voters at the Regular Election on March 5, 2024 amending City Charter Sections 2-1 entitled “Mayor and City Council: number and qualifications, designated council seats”; Section 10-2 entitled “Three-year terms—Election at large—Nonpartisan elections”; and section 10-4 entitled “Voting—Who elected” to remove designated seats for City Council members, to clarify that Council members and the Mayor serve three year terms of office, remove 40% vote threshold for prevailing City Council candidates, and remove requirements regarding run-off elections

M/Carpenter S/Schaefer to approve Resolution 05-23-16 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, placing a ballot proposition before the voters at the Regular Election on March 5, 2024 amending City Charter Sections 2-1 entitled “Mayor and City Council: number and qualifications, designated council seats”; Section 10-2 entitled “Three-year terms—Election at large—Nonpartisan elections”; and section 10-4 entitled “Voting—Who elected” to remove designated seats for City Council members, to clarify that Council members and the Mayor serve three year terms of office, remove 40% vote threshold for prevailing City Council candidates, and remove requirements regarding run-off elections **Carpenter** thanked staff for getting this put together at Council’s request. She is of the opinion that this will make for easier elections, more straightforward. Cordova does not elect seats by district, she believes at-large is appropriate, she doesn’t believe this will make for a disadvantage to anyone in anyway.

M/Carpenter S/Schaefer to amend the resolution by adding “Mayoral and” between the words prevailing and City Council in 2 places, first in the second to last line of the title of the resolution on page 50 of the packet and in the third line of the Proposition question, top of page 51 of the packet.

Carpenter said this is just adding in a couple of words to clarify that the 40% threshold will be going away for Mayor and Council – these words were just inadvertently left out. **Schaefer** had no comment except that she agrees with the amendment.

Vote on the amendment: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Sherman-yes; Jones-yes; Kinsman-yes; Carpenter-yes; Bailer-absent; Meyer-absent; and Schaefer-yes. Motion to amend was approved.

Schaefer asked about what happens with a tie. **Bourgeois** said tie language in charter had already been in there, and in Code ties are discussed too – automatic recounts are triggered and then if still a tie, drawing from a hat, just like this charter says. No other Council members commented, others seemed in favor of putting this in front of voters to decide.

Vote on the main motion as amended: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Schaefer-yes; Sherman-yes; Jones-yes; Bailer-absent; Kinsman-yes; Meyer-absent; and Carpenter-yes. Motion was approved.

13. Resolution 05-23-17 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City to lease with an option to purchase one vehicle from Community Leasing Partners for an amount not exceeding \$72,370.26 and to appropriate \$16,992.17 for the 2024 payment of that lease with option to purchase and approving the use of sole source procurement through the innovative procurement method to lease the vehicles with the option to purchase

M/Carpenter S/Schaefer to approve Resolution 05-23-17 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City to lease with an option to purchase one vehicle from Community Leasing Partners for an amount not exceeding \$72,370.26 and to appropriate \$16,992.17 for the 2024 payment of that lease with option to purchase and approving the use of sole source procurement through the innovative procurement method to lease the vehicles with the option to purchase

Carpenter said we approved this capital expense, and this is now us implementing the purchase.

Schaefer said based on the staff report, we definitely need to upgrade from the old van they are using.

Sherman said she is in support. **Kinsman** said he'll support – he would like to see a great maintenance record followed on this and all new vehicles and equipment. **Jones** said he will support but he is not a big fan of this whole lease-option method and doesn't like us paying interest.

Vote on the motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Carpenter-yes; Sherman-yes; Bailer-absent; Meyer-absent; Schaefer-yes; Kinsman-yes; and Jones-yes. Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

14. Pending Agenda, CIP List, Calendar, Elected & Appointed Officials lists – **Bourgeois** said the Property Tax Assessment Roll will be in front of Council for certification at the 5/17/23 meeting, now that the appeals have all been handled and adjusted notices have been sent to all appellants whose values changed. Several other items for 5/17/23 – 2 ordinances (cemetery, refuse), liquor license renewal, mobile restaurant approval. Resolution supporting the Covered Spaces Project grant application, will be on 5/17/23 agenda as well. **Johnson** will get the ROW/easement approval resolution (per the guest speaker talk tonight) on the 6/7/23 agenda. Mill rate setting resolution will be on 6/7/23 agenda. School budget approval will be second June meeting (6/21/23).

Council member **Kinsman** wanted to add a couple of items to the pending agenda – he would like Council to discuss Council member teleconference attendance at meetings, perhaps to put limits on it. He met with **City Attorney Wells** when she was in town and she added that we might consider excluding the ability to attend any executive sessions or quasi-judicial deliberations via teleconference. There was Mayor and Council member support to add those both to pending agenda.

O. Audience Participation

Natasha Casciano of 406 Front Street – she thanked City Council members for their time commitment she greatly appreciates them. She mentioned the Cordova Covered Spaces Project – an initiative to create covered spaces along the roadway from Hartney Bay to Orca Bay with a spur out Power Creek. They are raising money under the Cordova Historical Society, there will be a big fundraising push in May and June – an art show at the Reluctant – they will receive 50% of funds raised. During shorebird they will have a table set up to explain the project, answer questions, and take donations – also they will receive the registration revenue from the Bay to Bay Bicycle/Run/Walk event. They are working on the ATAP grant with DoT – they will be bringing a resolution for Council to support their first project – located at Hartney Bay.

P. Council Comments

Sherman thanked the School Board for the work session, very helpful and informative – she is excited about the covered spaces – great idea.

Kinsman agreed with **Jones**' comments earlier about Community Leasing Partners – he just wants us to keep up with these purchases, ensure we maintain the equipment and then hang onto the vehicles long after they are paid off through the lease program.

Carpenter thanked staff for the hard work on the Harbor grant applications – those are tedious applications and thanks to the School Board as well.

Schaefer thanked staff for the quarterly report – museum, cordova center. She reminded people to check out the shorebirds, they have arrived out at Hartney Bay.

Mayor Allison said his opinion on the leasing is that if we are paying more interest than we are earning, we should be our own bank.

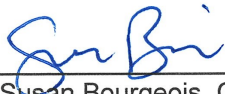
Q. Executive Session - none

R. Adjournment

Hearing no objection **Mayor Allison** adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Approved May 17, 2023

Attest:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

