

Regular City Council Meeting
August 2, 2023 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes

A. Call to order – **Acting Vice Mayor Tom Bailer** called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on August 2, 2023, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Invocation and pledge of allegiance – **Tom Bailer** led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll call - Present for roll call were Council members **Tom Bailer, Cathy Sherman, Kasey Kinsman, Wendy Ranney,** and **Kristin Carpenter. Mayor David Allison** and Council members **Ken Jones** and **Anne Schaefer** were absent. Also present were City Manager **Helen Howarth** and City Clerk **Susan Bourgeois.**

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

M/Carpenter S/Kinsman to approve the agenda.

Vote on the motion to approve: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Schaefer, Jones). Motion was approved.

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

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speakers - none
2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none
3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions - none
4. Student Council Report – summer vacation

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Minutes: a. 07-05-23 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Vote on the Consent Calendar: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent. Sherman-yes; Schaefer-absent; Kinsman-yes; Carpenter-yes; Bailer-yes; Ranney-yes; and Jones-absent. 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 – none

7. City Manager's Report – **Howarth** reported: 1) we've been in negotiations for the past 3 weeks with the IBEW – will discuss in executive session later tonight; 2) we are well into the Accounting Program transition – **Laura Cloward** has been contracted to oversee that; 3) financials through 6/30/23 – we are tracking fairly well – beginning budget process – will use a community engagement tool to reconnect with the public to understand where the priorities are and where to focus our efforts; 4) City investments RFP out – have heard from 3 or 4 interested firms – deadline is August 18; 5) NVE leadership changes have occurred, **Darrel Olsen**, Chair of Tribal Council asked for City's patience while they transition – they have folks in interim roles – might be 6 months or so before we hear from them about where they are on hospital/clinic/healthcare; **Bert Adams** has remained and will continue his leadership on Shepard Point Road Project.

a. Financials through 06-30-23

Howarth introduced resigning Chief **Andrew Goss** to share his experiences in the department.

b. Police Chief Andrew Goss – he said the officers now with Cordova Police Department are hard-working, loyal and never complain. He said they need help though, they are getting tired, they work around the clock. There are only 3 officers and 1 in training who doesn't finish training until October. For the 2024 budget he suggests at least 2 more officers, he thinks 4 more would be ideal.

c. South Harbor Project Update, Special Projects, **Collin Bronson** gave an overview of the project to date. We have received \$750K from the Denali Commission. There is still hope for a Congressional appropriation – we put in for \$4M with Representative Peltola’s office – it might look like we are in there for \$1M – nothing is guaranteed and might not know until November or December.

8. City Clerk’s Report - none

9. Departmental Quarterly Reports

a. Cordova Center 2Q, Cordova Center Coordinator **Marina Briggs**

b. City Investments 2Q, UBS Financial Services, **Chad Adams**

c. Cordova Public Library 2Q, Library Director, **Debbie Carlson**

d. Cordova Chamber of Commerce 2Q, Executive Director, **Cathy Renfeldt**

e. Cordova Historical Museum 2Q, Museum Director, **Ashley Bivin**

f. Cordova Police Department 2Q, **Police Chief Andrew Goss**

g. Parks & Rec Department 2Q, Parks & Rec Director, **Duncan Chisholm**

K. Correspondence

10. 07-06-23 ADN Opinion Piece regarding Hatcheries in AK

11. 07-26-23 Letter from NVE regarding Interim Executive Director

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

12. Ordinance 1208 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a twenty-year lease with the United States Forest Service (USFS), for a portion of property described as a roughly 4,500 square foot Portion of Lot 3, Block 7A, Tidewater Development Park – 2nd reading

M/Carpenter S/Sherman to adopt Ordinance 1208 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a twenty-year lease with the United States Forest Service (USFS), for a portion of property described as a roughly 4,500 square foot Portion of Lot 3, Block 7A, Tidewater Development Park

Carpenter – this is a second reading of an issue we’ve talked about quite a bit. The minutes from our last meeting reflect the support for this, the USFS is a key community partner, she will support this again.

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

13. Resolution 08-23-27 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, Accepting Ownership and Maintenance of 3,100 feet of Sewer Main and a Lift Station

M/Carpenter S/Sherman to approve Resolution 08-23-27 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, Accepting Ownership and Maintenance of 3,100 feet of Sewer Main and a Lift Station

Carpenter said this is a project that has been in the works a long time, was undertaken to increase capacity with the addition of the new Science Center facility and will allow for future expansion along that corridor. **Sherman** is in support and this benefits the City – PWSSC worked with the City while constructing this – will benefit us into the future. She is in favor.

Vote on the motion to approve: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Schaefer, Jones). Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business – none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

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

Council opted to cancel the second August meeting on August 16. Special meeting will be called if there is pressing business.

O. Audience Participation

Cameron Hayden of 1.7-mile Whitshed supported the comments made by **Chief Goss** earlier and asked for Council support of the department at budget.

Daniel Fiser police officer in Cordova for 3 years, supported what **Chief Goss** had spoken about earlier in the meeting.

Ryan McMicken police officer in Cordova – agreed with what was said by **Chief Goss** and the officers before him.

Blake Reece newest officer in Cordova, still in training, had been a dispatcher since 2014. Agreed with the **Chief** and asked Council to consider increasing the police department staffing.

Sharin Leppert of 405 Adams Ave, admin for the police department. She said the officers need help, she urged the council to listen to them and get more officers.

Kelsey Hayden her husband has been a police officer for seven years. She suggested a certain scheduling scenario that would require 6 officers and the Chief. The officers' quality of life is lacking, they are always on call. It makes it hard to continue to live here.

Kadee Goss wife of the Police Chief talked about being on-call and how they miss out on family time to respond, but they do so because their fellow officer needs their support.

Aaron Hansen of 600 Alder is a good friend of Officer Hayden's and discussed his sacrifice and missing out on Moose hunts, family events.

Andy Morse of 101 Whiskey Ridge Rd agreed with the Chief and thinks the police department needs at least another couple of officers. He said it is an incredible team right now with high morale.

P. Council Comments

Sherman said she appreciates the comments tonight. Kudos on the Denali Commission award. Was happy to see the Steelhead and Hana Cove go away on the barge that was here recycling metal.

Carpenter appreciated all those who commented tonight – knows it is not always easy to get up in public to speak and share strong emotions. She echoed comments about DC grant and Harbor/shipyard cleanup.

Kinsman thanked the CPD for their service to our community. He said the contract at the airport is lost revenue, we have the ability to earn \$6,600/month and it seems we are only averaging \$1,700/month.

Ranney said she appreciates the officers and their families – thanked **Chief Goss** – sad to see him go. She looks forward to trying to work this out at budget.

Bailer said he echoed a lot of the comments. He recalls that we found money for one more officer a few budget cycles ago, he is surprised now to hear that we need two more again.

Q. Executive Session

15. Recommendations from City Manager regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations, a subject which is a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government

M/Sherman S/Carpenter to enter executive session to discuss recommendations from City Manager regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations, a subject which is a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government

Vote on the motion: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 absent (Schaefer, Jones). Motion was approved.

At 8:15 **Bailer** asked for a short recess to clear the room. Human Resources Manager **Sheryl Glasen** and City Attorney **Will Earnhart** were invited to attend the Executive Session.


Council entered the executive session at 8:18 pm and was back in open session at 8:42 pm.

Bailer stated that Council discussed the CBA with the Manager and staff and no decisions were made.

R. Adjournment

Hearing no objection **Bailer** adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.

Approved: August 17, 2023

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

