

**City Council Public Hearing
November 29, 2023 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms
Minutes**

A. Call to order

Mayor David Allison called the Council public hearing to order at 7:00 pm on November 29, 2023, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Roll call

Present for roll call were **Mayor David Allison** and Council members **Kasey Kinsman**, **Wendy Ranney**, and **Anne Schaefer**. Council members **Tom Bailer**, **Cathy Sherman**, and **Ken Jones** were present via zoom videoconference. Council member **Kristin Carpenter** was absent. Also present were Acting City Manager **Sam Greenwood** and City Clerk **Susan Bourgeois**.

C. Public hearing

1. Ordinance 1210 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska amending Cordova Municipal Code Section 5.40.010 to increase the sales tax rate from 6% to 7% and revising language to clarify the scope and application of Cordova's sales tax
2. Ordinance 1212 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska amending Cordova Municipal Code Section 5.40.030 to increase the cap on taxable sales and services from \$3,000 to \$5,000

Mayor Allison opened the hearing for public testimony on the ordinances.

Ezekiel Brown of Saddle Point Drive had two points to make: 1) he opined that City sales tax has a disproportionate effect on renters, essentially double taxing them because they must cover property tax and additionally sales tax on top of that; long term rentals should be exempt from sales tax. He also said it makes no sense to him that a 4-bedroom home pays the same City utility rates as a 1-bedroom apartment. 2) he does not think all City departments can be fully funded and does not think we can afford another police officer, he said maybe in the winter months we can adjust the schedule; he is in favor of funding the EMT's.

Barb Jewell mile 2.2 Whitshed Rd, agreed with the previous speaker about double taxation when sales tax is collected on rents – we already have a severe housing shortage. She is sad to see the sales tax rate go up to 7% in a community where people are already struggling. She would have preferred to see the cap go to \$10,000 rather than \$5,000. She also strongly supports hiring another officer and the need 24-hour coverage by the police department in our community.

Simone Nolan of 303 First Street wondered how increased taxes and increased City budgets are even sustainable. She worried for the children; the next generation.

D. Adjournment

Hearing no objection **Mayor Allison** adjourned the public hearing at 7:14 pm.

Approved: December 20, 2023

Attest:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

