

**Regular City Council Meeting
December 20, 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 December 20, 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 David Allison* and Council members *Cathy Sherman*, *Wendy Ranney*, *Anne Schaefer* and *Kristin Carpenter*. Council members *Tom Bailer* and *Ken Jones* were present via zoom videoconference. Council member *Kasey Kinsman* was absent. Also present were Interim City Manager *Sam Greenwood* and Deputy City Clerk *Tina Hammer*.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

Hearing no objection to approval of the regular agenda, *Mayor Allison* declared it approved as submitted.

E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications – *Carpenter* said she heard from someone about the harbor float disposal, she informed them that Council would be discussing it tonight. *Mayor Allison* did not see that as a conflict.

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

CCMC CEO, *Dr. Hannah Sanders* reported: 1) the hospital continues to struggle with staffing – we have kept up on salaries and are still only at about the 80% mark of the median of Alaska hospitals - that makes it really difficult to recruit; 2) she thanked Council for continuing to support the hospital and for encouraging everyone in the community to continue to support the hospital – that is how we keep our revenue up; 3) last week we had our long term care survey – no results yet – but nothing glaring was noticed.

No school board report.

4. Student Council Report – none

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Council concurrence of Mayor’s appointments to fill vacancies on City Boards and Commissions – HPC, Library Board

6. Resolution 12-23-37 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, acknowledging the November 2023 surplus of a City vehicle and the sale result

7. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of unexcused absence of Council member Anne Schaefer and excused absence of Council member Ken Jones from the December 6, 2023 Regular Meeting.

8. Minutes: **a.** 10-25-23 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes; **b.** 11-08-23 Special City Council Meeting Minutes; **c.** 11-29-23 Council Public Hearing Minutes; **d.** 11-29-23 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
Vote on the Consent Calendar: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Bailer-yes; Sherman-yes; Kinsman-absent; Ranney-yes; Schaefer-yes; Carpenter-yes; and Jones-yes. Consent Calendar was approved.

H. Approval of Minutes - in consent calendar

I. Consideration of Bids/Proposals/Contracts – none

J. Reports of Officers

9. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Allison** had a written report in the packet – AML meetings went well, good information, governor's budget came out, but we will have to keep an eye on that, we all know it changes over the next few months.

10. Interim City Manager's Report – **Greenwood** said we finished up budget and fee schedule – both are before Council tonight. She is still working on filling some positions, has a Finance Director interview this week.

Collin Bronson gave an update on the Harbor Project.

11. City Clerk's Report – notice of voter registration, offices to be filled how to declare candidacy for the March 5, 2024 Regular City Election – Deputy Clerk **Hammer** said that declaration of candidacy period is now open and closes on Monday February 5: voters will be deciding 2 council seats, 2 school board seats, 2 hospital services board seats and on the charter change ballot prop. So far no declared candidates. The seats on Council are Anne Schaefer's (she is termed out) and Wendy Ranney (she is not termed out).

K. Correspondence

12. Open review and comment period for Aquatic Farmsite Lease ADL 234198 Chugach Regional Resources Commission 20.66 acres in Latouche Passage

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

13. Ordinance 1213 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska authorizing the transfer of \$132,233 from the General Reserve Fund (Permanent Fund) to the Refuse Enterprise Fund for the purchase of a Refuse Roll On / Roll Off Hook Truck – 1st reading

M/Sherman S/Schaefer to adopt ordinance 1213 an ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska authorizing the transfer of \$132,233 from the General Reserve Fund (Permanent Fund) to the Refuse Enterprise Fund for the purchase of a Refuse Roll On / Roll Off Hook Truck

Sherman said that staff made it very clear on the need and necessity for this – she is in support. **Schaefer** is also in favor – she appreciates us paying ourselves back with interest. **Ranney** and **Carpenter** also spoke in support. **Bailer** supports it and said his usual comment will be to ensure we do maintenance on this to keep it rolling.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Kinsman). Motion was approved.

14. Ordinance 1214 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska amending Cordova Municipal Code Section 6.05.040 by removing the cost of business licenses from the City Code and clarifying that those will now be found in the City fee schedule – 1st reading

M/Carpenter S/Schaefer to adopt ordinance 1214 an ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska amending Cordova Municipal Code Section 6.05.040 by removing the cost of business licenses from the City Code and clarifying that those will now be found in the City fee schedule

Carpenter said this is sort of a housekeeping measure, clearly an annual business license fee should be in a fee schedule not in City Code. She, therefore, supports this.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Kinsman). Motion was approved.

15. Resolution 12-23-34 Adopting FY24 Operating Budget A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, adopting an operating budget for fiscal year 2024

M/Carpenter S/Sherman to approve resolution 12-23-34 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, adopting an operating budget for fiscal year 2024

Carpenter said Council and staff have spent a lot of time working through this, we have had several work sessions and wrestled through tough decisions – staff has done a really good job at bringing us this balanced budget. She will support it. **Sherman** said it has been a really good process – without Helen here she said staff has done a really good job. She doesn't think it is perfect, but it is what we have.

Schaefer said we (Council and staff) have spent a long time working on this and she is in support. **Ranney** said she said **Sam** and **Tina** and **Susan** need to get a pat on the back for taking this on, she appreciates the work sessions that helped take it apart piece by piece. **Bailer** echoed the comments and says he will support it. **Jones** said he will vote in favor.

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

16. Resolution 12-23-35 City Fees, Rates, & Charges for FY24 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting City service fees, rates, and charges for the 2024 calendar budget

M/Ranney S/Schaefer to approve resolution 12-23-35 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska adopting City service fees, rates, and charges for the 2024 calendar budget

Ranney said she thinks there may be push back on the credit card fees but as long as we have options for other methods of payment to avoid fees we will be ok. She will support. **Schaefer** and **Carpenter** spoke in support. **Sherman** will support but has also heard a lot of complaints already about credit card fees. **Bailer** said he is in support and feels like credit card fees are normal part of business, he deals with it with vendors. The alternative would be to raise property taxes to cover the credit card fees or charge the fees and spread it out over the users.

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

17. Resolution 12-23-36 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska authorizing the City Manager to enter into a sole source contract with RWC International to purchase an HV613 roll on/roll off hook truck

M/Carpenter S/Sherman to approve resolution 12-23-36 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska authorizing the City Manager to enter into a sole source contract with RWC International to purchase an HV613 roll on/roll off hook truck

Carpenter said staff has provided a really good summary of what is going on and the need for the truck. She supports the sole source reasoning. **Sherman** agrees with **Carpenter's** summary. **Ranney, Schaefer, Jones** and **Bailer** also spoke in support.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Kinsman). Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business – none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

18. Council action on disposition of old Harbor Floats - South Harbor Project

After lengthy discussion of pros and cons all Council members and staff seemed aligned and **Mayor Allison** asked for a motion to formally take care of this item.

M/Sherman S/Ranney to continue with the contract that has been in place since December 2022 and the demo will continue with disposal of and no recycling of items taken out of South Harbor.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Kinsman). Motion was approved.

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

Mayor asked for the CIP list resolution at first January meeting. **Schaefer** mentioned that Manager's eval should be happening in January and the Clerk's in February. First January meeting will also have public hearing and second readings of ordinances 1213 and 1214.

O. Audience Participation

Galen Meyer of 709 Railroad Avenue said that some of the main floats do have more life in them; there is potential for using them. He thought we were doing more damage taking them out of the water than handling them and moving them around in the water. He thinks there is an opportunity that doesn't come around very often.

P. Council Comments

Ranney thanked everyone for the work on the budget and fee schedule. She thinks we are asking for trouble if we do anything other than dispose of the floats, though she wishes we'd have heard from **Galen** earlier. She wished everyone a great holiday and new year.

Schaefer thanked staff for all the work on budget and on the snow management these past few weeks.

Carpenter ditto on thanks – also she appreciates the volunteers who stood up for HPC and Library Board.

Sherman complimented crews on snow clearing – thanked **Dr. Sanders** for her update. Happy Holidays to all.

Bailer said he is so excited that we are finally moving on with our Permanent Fund and investment advisors.

Mayor Allison congratulated staff on the budget and fee schedule approvals tonight. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Q. Executive Session

20. Recommendations from Interim City Manager regarding RFP’s for City properties, a subject the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government **M/Carpenter S/Ranney** to enter into an executive session to receive recommendations from Interim City Manager regarding RFP’s for City properties, a subject the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent (Kinsman). Motion was approved.

Regular meeting was recessed at 7:55 pm to clear the room.

Council entered the executive session at 7:58 pm, and invited the Interim City Manager, City Planner and Deputy Clerk.

Council came back into open session at 8:18 pm.

Mayor Allison stated that no actions were taken in executive session.

R. Adjournment

Hearing no objection **Mayor Allison** adjourned the meeting at 8:19 pm.

Approved: March 6, 2024

Attest:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

