

Regular City Council Meeting
March 6, 2024 @ 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 March 6, 2024, 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 **Kasey Kinsman**, **Wendy Ranney**, and **Ken Jones**. Council members **Tom Bailer**, **Cathy Sherman**, and **Kristin Carpenter** were present via zoom videoconference. Council member **Anne Schaefer** was absent. Also present were Interim City Manager **Samantha Greenwood** and City Planner **Kevin Johnson**.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

Mayor Allison stated that the executive session tonight was not necessary.

Hearing no objection to approval of the agenda less the executive session, **Mayor Allison** declared it 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: **Dr. Hannah Sanders** reported on the Hospital: 1) CCMC closed out the year in the black, audit is almost complete; 2) encouraged community to come in and work with business office if they have trouble with the beginning of the year and not having met deductible yet, often health care has a tough time at beginning of the year due to this; 3) today they de-installed the CT scan, might be a month without one while they prep the room for the new machine; they are excited to have the new and functional machine, should be up and running beginning of April.

Barb Jewell spoke about how School Board has a couple of tough items on their plate right now: 1) where to house the 6th grade next year and into the future – there is a growing population of elementary school students – they had a site council last night that was well-attended, basically there are 13 classrooms at the elementary and they need 15 or 16; 2) they have an unprecedented budget deficit – if no increase to the BSA, they will have a \$1.5 million deficit, if the BSA is increased by \$680, the deficit will be about \$900 thousand, to maintain as is we would need \$1,440 added to BSA. She asked if City Council would write a letter or a resolution communicating with the Governor and the legislature about how dire this is for Cordova. She also invited Council members to come to the School Board’s next budget work session, March 22.

4. Student Council Report – none

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Minutes:

a. 12-06-23 Regular Meeting Minutes

b. 12-20-23 Public Hearing Minutes

c. 12-20-23 Regular Meeting Minutes

d. 01-03-24 Public Hearing Minutes

e. 01-03-24 Regular Meeting Minutes

6. Council concurrence of **Mayor Allison’s** appointment of **David Janka** as City representative to the PWSRCAC Board of Directors

7. Council action to waive protest for renewal of liquor license #40, for Dave Chipman dba Alaskan Hotel & Bar, beverage dispensary
 8. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of unexcused absence of Council member **Cathy Sherman** and excused absence of Council member **Ken Jones** from the Feb 7, 2024 Regular Meeting
 9. Resolution 03-24-12 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska approving the license for a mobile restaurant for Lance Webb, dba Hideaway
 10. Council concurrence of **Mayor Allison's** appointment of **Sean Den Adel** as City representative to the Alaska Mariculture Alliance
- Vote on the Consent Calendar: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Bailer-yes; Sherman-yes; Kinsman-yes; Ranney-yes; Schaefer-absent; 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

11. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Allison** reported that he participated in the Alaskex exercise this last week – a lot was learned, everyone did a great job; he thinks we should continue our efforts of replacing and moving the public safety building to a safer location. He said the Governor and the legislature continue their battle over school funding.

12. City Manager's Report – **Greenwood** reported: 1) drill went off well, **Collin, Kevin, Paul**, all did well and we learned some things – learned how we can do better; 2) Finances, contractors are working on 3 month and 6 month forecasts so we can better know where we stand, the \$3.9 million hit to GF was substantial; 3) Permanent Fund monies are moved over; audit prep is ongoing, it is scheduled for May 20 – 1 week; 4) water plan and wastewater plan – all the documentation has been sent to the state – hopefully a quick turnaround and we'll get that RFP out the door.

a. South Harbor Rebuild, project update, **Collin Bronson** updated Council on the project to date, including funding, MARAD reimbursements, construction progress.

b. Mile 4 Substation update, Fire Marshal **Paul Trumblee** – there are issues with settling of the building, the plan is to hire an engineer to draw up a fix and then hire a construction firm to do the work. There is \$150,000 from ARPA funds allocated to this project and we should be able to do the project within that amount.

13. City Clerk's Report - **Bourgeois** was not present but had a written report in the packet including information on: 1) Election wrap up; 2) property assessment appeals timeline; 3) Council attendance statistics. **Kevin Johnson** was sitting in for the Clerk and reported on the Election results from yesterday: all incumbents have won re-election for School Board (**Henk Kruithof & Pete Hoepfner**) and Health Services Board (**Diane Ujioka & Elizabeth Senear**) and **Wendy Ranney** won her Council seat and write-in **Dave Zastrow** won seat E and the proposition was approved.

Bailer commented that as we maybe look at limiting Council remote attendance in the future, we should remember that one seat had no declared candidates except for a write-in and the other seat was one person running unopposed. Perhaps we should be careful to limit attendance as we have so little interest already.

K. Correspondence - none

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

14. Resolution 03-24-10 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska abolishing all previous investment policies and adopting a revised investment policy to provide guidelines for all investments of the City

M/Carpenter S/Ranney to approve Resolution 03-24-10 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska abolishing all previous investment policies and adopting a revised investment policy to provide guidelines for all investments of the City

Carpenter said she will support – this was brought to us by the investment advisor we have hired after having had an RFP out for investment of City funds. She said this is recommended language and she is in favor of having an investment policy, so she supports this. **Ranney** agreed and thought it looked prudent and didn't see anything in the policy that needed to be changed. **Carpenter** wondered if we should maybe have the City Attorney look this over just for another safeguard – she will vote yes tonight but maybe we can have that done. **Bailer** agreed with **Carpenter**, but he'll vote yes as long as we get it looked over by Attorney before implementing it. **Sherman** is in favor and agrees with the points made before her. **Kinsman** also agreed. **Jones** agreed.

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

15. Resolution 03-24-11 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska designating asset allocation for the investment of the City's General Reserve (Permanent) Fund

M/Ranney S/Kinsman to approve Resolution 03-24-11 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska designating asset allocation for the investment of the City's General Reserve (Permanent) Fund

Ranney said we looked at this and discussed it as a group – she is ready to move forward with it. **Kinsman** agrees, is in favor of approval. **Bailer, Sherman, Carpenter** agreed to support.

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

M. Unfinished Business – none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

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

Council asked the **Mayor** to write letters as was suggested by **Barb Jewell**, then also to follow up with a resolution concerning school funding and an increase to the BSA. **Kinsman** asked about the Council attendance item, he'd like to see 2 motions on an upcoming agenda about Council remote attendance for regular meetings being 50% allowed and Council remote attendance for executive sessions and any quasi-judicial roles being at 100% in person required attendance.

O. Audience Participation

Barb Jewell thanked the Mayor and Council for recognizing the need to reach out to support School Funding to the Governor and legislature. She appreciates that Council is looking at attendance and she understands Council member **Bailer's** mention of unfilled positions. As a community we need to look at how we increase participation in these roles. She said she understands that every person on this Council is doing so with the best of intentions, but she would like to be represented by people who are in the community at least 50% of the time. She knows it is a hard conversation to have amongst yourselves – she appreciates that they are taking a look at it.

P. Council Comments

Ranney said it was a good meeting, she is once again impressed by our EMS crew, local emergency responders. She realizes the need at the School district and knows how important the extra-curriculars are for Cordova kids and those could be gone.

Kinsman praised **Heather Brannon's** role in the Alaskex exercises and all who participated. He looks forward to doing work toward a new Public Safety building. Thanked **Samantha Greenwood** for her work filling in – he knows it is no small task.

Jones thanked those who ran for seats and won election – he appreciates them stepping up to serve. He appreciates the community supporting the ballot proposition – he thinks it might encourage participation in elections. As far as the 50% attendance, he tends to agree but thinks it is a double-edged sword as he is someone who is out on his boat fishing so may not be able to meet that threshold. He wouldn't want to adversely impact fishermen and their ability to serve.

Bailer thanked staff, thanked **Sam Greenwood**. Appreciates everyone for being here tonight, thanks to the Mayor for running a good meeting.

Carpenter said she appreciates **Kinsman's** comments about Alaskex – Cordova's preparedness has always enhanced our reputation. Pleased to hear that CCMC is operating in the black for 2023, great news. She thinks we and coastal communities should be concerned about drop-off in raw fish tax and what we can do about that. Perhaps that is something we should discuss with **Stevens** and **Stutes**.

Sherman commended CCMC for being in the black and its great what they are doing with the new CT scanner. Thanked **Barb Jewell** for reporting tonight – hard conversations but hopefully we can help. To **Collin Bronson**, she said I feel your pain on the grants and I admire your perseverance so please keep at it. She welcomes **Dave Zastrow** to the council, thinks he will make a nice addition to the group.

Mayor Allison echoed that and welcomes **Dave Zastrow** to the City Council. He also thanked **Dave Janka** for willingness to re-up as PWSRCAC rep for the City – he keeps us well-informed.

Q. Executive Session

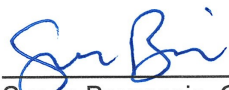
The e.s. was removed at approval of agenda

~~17. Council discussion of Interim City Manager Applicants, a subject that tends to prejudice the reputation and character of a person(s); provided that the person(s) may request a public discussion~~

R. Adjournment

Hearing no objection **Mayor Allison** adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Approved: May 15, 2024

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

