

**Regular City Council Meeting
January 7, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B
Minutes**

A. Call to order –Mayor **Kristin Smith** called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on January 7, 2026, in the Cordova Center Community Rooms.

B. Pledge of allegiance –Mayor **Smith** led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll call – Present for roll call were **Mayor Kristin Smith** and Council members **Debra Adams, Aaron Hansen, Kasey Kinsman, Wendy Ranney, Cathy Sherman,** and **Dave Zastrow**. Council member **Mike Mickelson** was present via zoom videoconference. Also present were Public Works Director **Kevin Johnson** and Deputy City Clerk **Colette Gilmour**.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

Hearing no objection to approval of the agenda, **Mayor Smith** 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 – none

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

4. Council action to waive protest for Liquor License renewal for Baja Taco, LLC dba Baja Taco, Restaurant Eating Place license #5653

5. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of unexcused absences of Council member Aaron Hansen from December 3, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council member Sherman from December 17, 2025, Regular Meeting

Vote on the Consent Calendar: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Ranney-yes; Hansen-yes; Kinsman-yes; Adams-yes; Sherman-yes; Mickelson-yes; and Zastrow-yes. Consent Calendar was approved.

H. Approval of Minutes – none

I. Consideration of Bids/Proposals/Contracts - none

J. Reports of Officers

6. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Smith** reported: 1) does not look like the Aurora will be back in service timely for tip-off tournament; 2) she will work on 2026 ferry summer schedule comments – being solicited now by AMHS; 3) SRS legislation has been signed – in 40 days the money should be to the states and then we will see what we've been allocated; 4) CSD in the middle of a superintendent search – they'll be bringing candidates to town – Jan. 18-20; 5) fishing disaster funding through PSMFC will be coming – City will have a share – this is for 2020; 6) Cordova is a USCG City – she has reached out to the Commander locally, to see what we can do about celebrating that; 7) she is working on setting up a housing working group; 8) she sees 2026 as a rebuilding year – she wants us to support staff in their endeavors, especially being mindful that they are being asked to continue working with fewer staff members due to budgetary cuts – hopeful we can carry new year energy into the rest of the year; 9) she wanted to acknowledge the loss of a community member today – we lost **Barbara Dowd** – the mother of our City Manager and a long-time resident of the long term care facility at CCMC.

7. City Manager's Report – **Greenwood** was not present.

8. City Clerk's Report - **Gilmour** reported: 1) declaration of candidacy closes Feb. 2 – currently no declared candidates; 2) applications are out for absentee by mail for the election – can apply for those until Feb. 25; 3) property tax exemption applications are due by Jan. 15 – all available on website under City Clerk: property tax information.

a. March 3, 2026, Regular City Election notices (how to register, declare, vote absentee); **b.** 2025 City Council attendance report

K. Correspondence

9. City Council correspondence primer: **a.** 12-01-25 **J. Gold** email regarding library funding cuts; **b.** 12-14-25 Email from **J. Harry** of ARVO (AK rural vet outreach) regarding 2026 Cordova clinic; **c.** 12-18-25 Public & Agency review period for amendment to Aquatic Farmsite Lease near Cdv; **d.** 12-23,29,30-25 Emails btw **Mayor Smith** and DoT Commissioner **Anderson** regarding Aurora; **e.** 12-30-25 DoT & AMHS notice of public review period for summer '26 ferry schedule

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

10. Resolution 01-26-01 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska authorizing the conveyance of approximately 750 usable square feet of storage space located on the North Harbor loading dock and referred to as the Old Sea Grant building at 224 Breakwater Ave Cordova, Alaska

M/Kinsman S/Ranney to approve Resolution 01-26-01 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska authorizing the conveyance of approximately 750 usable square feet of storage space located on the North Harbor loading dock and referred to as the Old Sea Grant building at 224 Breakwater Ave Cordova, Alaska

Kinsman sees no red flags – CPI is built into the lease, he likes that – he will support this. **Ranney** said the PWSSC needs a footprint in the harbor – this is the place they have been using, seems to work well for them, she sees no reason not to renew this.

Vote on the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

11. Pending Agenda, CIP List, Calendar, Elected & Appointed Officials lists – **Ranney** asked for an update on the Copper Star case – **Johnson** said he'd pass that along to the City Manager – executive session will be on Feb. 4 meeting to handle that request. Council opted to cancel Jan. 21 meeting and fill in with a special meeting if necessary.

O. Audience Participation

Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider gave a pool update.

P. Council Comments

Adams is looking forward to the rebuilding as mentioned by the Mayor – she is cautiously optimistic about the pool.

Zastrow echoed those comments about rebuilding, the importance of having a multi-year plan. He put in a plug for citizens to encourage participation by thinking about running for Council, School Board, or HSB.

Mickelson appreciates all the effort that has been put into the pool. Kudos to Parks & Rec department and to the local businesses that have assisted.

Ranney said she is hopeful and encouraged for the new year. She asked people to check with seniors in their lives to ensure they have submitted appropriate property tax exemption applications.

Sherman said she is cautiously optimistic for a new year – hopeful that the pool news will have be good news.

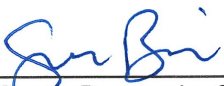
Kinsman relayed a comment from his 10-year-old son who said on a recent trip the water in Utah was awful and Cordova's water is just delicious in comparison – even straight out of the tap.

Q. Executive Session - none

R. Adjournment

Hearing no objection **Mayor Smith** adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Approved: March 4, 2026

Attest: 

Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

