

**Regular City Council Meeting
May 6, 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 May 6, 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, Lee Collins, Aaron Hansen, Wendy Ranney,** and **Dave Zastrow**. Council members **Mike Mickelson,** and **Kasey Kinsman** were present via zoom videoconference. Also present were City Manager **Sam Greenwood** and Deputy City Clerk **Colette Gilmour**. City Clerk **Susan Bourgeois** was absent.

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 – **Debra Adams** declared that she works for the school district but she see no financial gain for herself personally as far as agenda item 10. **Mayor Smith** ruled that there was not a conflict of interest. Council concurred.

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speakers – **Charlotte Westing**, ADF&G Wildlife Biologist gave a talk about bear safety.

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

Alex Russin Superintendent of Schools commented on agenda item 10 and encouraged Council to give the School District their requested City contribution.

Henk Kruithof, School Board President commented on agenda item 10 and encouraged Council to give the School District their requested City contribution.

Pete Hoepfner, School Board member, commented on agenda item 10 and encouraged Council to give the School District their requested City contribution.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions: Superintendent **Alex Russin** reported: 1) CHS graduation is upcoming May 16 at HS at 5:30pm; 2) May 14, annual academic awards event at 7pm; 3) the district is in process of hiring staff to fill vacant positions – we are searching for special ed teachers; 4) he appreciates City Council's continued support.

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

4. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of unexcused absence of Aaron Hansen from the April 15, 2026, Regular Meeting

5. Council Minutes:

a. Minutes of the Council Regular Meeting of March 18, 2026; **b.** Minutes of the Council Public Hearing of April 1, 2026; **c.** Minutes of the Council Regular Meeting of April 1, 2026

Vote on the Consent Calendar: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Mickelson-yes; Collins-yes; Hansen-yes; Ranney-yes; Zastrow-yes; Kinsman-yes; and Adams-yes. 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 – **Mayor Smith** reported: 1) Innovate Cordova was this past weekend, spent time with Senator Murkowski, asked her staff if she returns for Copper River Nouveau if we can do a met and greet on the Sunday morning like we did last year; 2) she gave testimony on HB78 regarding defined contributions, sent to Governor awaiting his signature.

7. City Manager's Report – **Greenwood** reported: 1) **Kevin Johnson** looked into a FEMA BRIC (Building resilient infrastructure and communities) grant and we do not look very competitive until we have completed designs – we will be discussing this again as that has been a common occurrence as we continue to seek funding; 2) she handed it over to **Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider** for a pool update; 3) the museum has established scheduled walking tours for cruise ship passengers – have been very successful – she encouraged Council to participate in a tour.

8. City Clerk's Report – **Bourgeois** was absent, **Gilmour** reported: 1) certify the roll tonight, mill rate should be next meeting or one after that, bills in the mail by July 1; 2) she has refreshed the ad for PWSAC City rep, no applications received as of yet.

K. Correspondence

9. City Council correspondence primer: correspondence policies & procedures a. 04-10-26 Letter from Senator Sullivan regarding Children's mental health; b. 04-16-26 Email & letter from CLL requesting Council review of Substitute Ordinance 1221

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

10. Resolution 05-26-19 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, acknowledging the proposed budget of the Cordova Public School district for fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and determining the amount of local sources available for school purposes subject to modification before City Council final approval of the City's FY27 budget in December 2026

M/Zastrow S/Hansen to approve Resolution 05-26-19 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, acknowledging the proposed budget of the Cordova Public School district for fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, without the increased ask of \$362,000 and determining the amount of local sources available for school purposes subject to modification before City Council final approval of the City's FY27 budget in December 2026

Finance Director **Sheryl Glasen** gave an overview of the balancing act that exists due to the fiscal year discrepancy between the City and the Schools. She said due to this discrepancy, for 6 months we pay a certain amount monthly and the other six months of the year the amount is \$100,000 more in each monthly check, which is hard to manage for the City, as those months (Jan-Jun) are the ones where we have had cash flow concerns. **Greenwood** said that is why if Council opts to give the schools an increase, we are encouraging the increase to be out of the City's FY26 to close the gap on the discrepancy. **Adams** and **Zastrow** asked the superintendent to explain the School's fund balance and how that plays into budgeting for them. **Russin** came to the table to explain the state statute on that and how school funding works – a district is allowed to maintain 10% of it's annual budget as a fund balance (e.g. on an \$8M budget, \$800K is allowed to be in the fund balance at year end). There are allowable uses for the fund balance (prepaid expenses for future year's budget) to assist districts, i.e. to use the funds so as to maintain the 10% rule but not have to give money back. After lengthy Council discussions around how to pay for any increase to the district...

M/Ranney S/Mickelson to amend the resolution to approve increasing the City contribution by half the amount being asked for, i.e. by \$181,000 and to fund that in the City's 2026 budget.

Ranney said she would like to fund the full request but does not want to raise the mill rate to make up the difference – thinks we can do the \$181K in 2026. **Mickelson** agrees and does not want to pull money from the permanent fund, thinks Cordova is resilient but knows there are many in Cordova struggling financially.

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

Vote on the main motion as amended: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Adams-yes; Collins-yes; Zastrow-yes; Kinsman-yes; Ranney-yes; Hansen-yes; and Mickelson-yes. Motion was approved.

11. Resolution 05-26-20 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City to enter into a lease with an option to purchase for one police vehicle with Community Leasing Partners in an amount not to exceed \$54,445, appropriating \$10,556 for the 2026 payment of that lease with option to purchase, and approving the use of sole source procurement through the innovative procurement method **M/Ranney S/Zastrow** to approve Resolution 05-26-20 a resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, authorizing the City to enter into a lease with an option to purchase for one police vehicle with Community Leasing Partners in an amount not to exceed \$54,445, appropriating \$10,556 for the 2026 payment of that lease with option to purchase, and approving the use of sole source procurement through the innovative procurement method

Ranney asked staff about this leading up to tonight's meeting as she wondered if we could get away with not replacing this vehicle. She was told this vehicle was specifically adapted to the canine officer. **Acting Chief Hayden** addressed the question by confirming it was a canine-specific truck that was purchased along with the other 2023 Silverados in the fleet. Eyak, the City's canine officer, retired in summer 2025, no plans to get another canine but this truck gives us that option into the future. We will be demobilizing the destroyed vehicle – putting those parts into this truck. **Greenwood** said we are not spending any more than we had originally spent. **Hayden** said the insurance company has given us back the totaled vehicle which will be great to use to service the new vehicle and 2 other vehicles we already have, same model.
Vote on the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion was approved.

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

12. Council certification of the accuracy of the 2026 Property Assessment Roll

M/Zastrow S/Adams to certify the accuracy of the 2026 Property Assessment Roll of all the real property within the City of Cordova valued as of January 1, 2026.

Zastrow said we have a very competent City Assessor, there are a lot of opportunities for the public to ask questions of him, of City staff or of the Council throughout the assessing process. **Adams** simply stated this is a necessary task for us to complete at this point.

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

13. Mayor Smith's appointment and Council concurrence to fill a vacancy on the Cordova Trails Committee
With no objection, Mayor Smith asked for Council concurrence to appoint Tyler Tulloch to fill the vacancy on the Trails Committee. Council concurred.

14. Mayor Smith's appointment and Council concurrence to fill all the seats on the Housing Supply Accelerator Committee

With no objection, Mayor Smith asked for Council concurrence to appoint the following community members to fill all the seats on the Housing Supply Accelerator Committee: Diana Riedel, Sheridan Joyce, Sheldon Barnes, Shae Bowman, Nicole Songer, Ken Jones and Barb Jewell. Council concurred.

15. Pending Agenda, CIP List, Calendar, Elected & Appointed Officials lists – nothing significant was changed or added.

O. Audience Participation

Pete Hoepfner thanked Council for their support of the schools tonight. He appreciates that they had a difficult decision tonight.

Jeremiah Beckett of 317 First Street said he appreciates that Council is getting an update in executive session tonight, item 18.

P. Council Comments

Adams recognized that it was **Bill Webber Sr.'s** 90th birthday today – a remarkable Cordova citizen. She said tonight they all had difficult discussions/decisions; she believes in public education with every part of her being.

Collins thanked his fellow council members for good discussions tonight. He said we should celebrate that the student numbers are growing, but that requires teachers/funding.

Mickelson said we all look forward to the day we can fully fund education to the level they ask for, looking forward to a day when our State decides that is a priority. He appreciated public comment tonight.

Kinsman thanked **Alex Russin** for his thankless years of service, what he has done and provided for the community. Congratulations on well-earned and deserved retirement. He will remain a proponent of a slight raise to the mill rate to fund everything we need to fund.

Zastrow offered congratulations to **Alex Russin** on his retirement. Thanked all those stepping up on committees.

Ranney thanked **Alex Russin** for his years of service. She appreciated those appointed to committees, she appreciated **Charlotte Westing's** insight tonight.

Q. Executive Session

16. Council discussion with City Manager regarding land sale negotiation with PWSEDD for the Shared Seafood Processing Facility, a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the City

17. 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

18. Council discussion with City Liability Insurance Company's Attorney regarding Copper Star Travel Lift incident, a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the City

M/Adams S/Zastrow to go into an executive session for a Council discussion with City Manager regarding land sale negotiation with PWSEDD, recommendations from City Manager regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations, and Council discussion with City liability insurance company's attorney regarding Copper Star Travel Lift incident, all three are matters the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the City.

Hearing no objection **Mayor Smith** declared the motion approved.

Mayor Smith was conflicted on item 16 and did not participate in that e.s.

Mayor Smith recessed the meeting at 9:34 to clear the room for the executive session.


Council entered the executive session at 9:39pm and was back in open session at 10:48pm.

At that time, **Mayor Smith** said Council directed staff to proceed as was discussed in the executive session and Council thanked staff for the updates and information.

R. Adjournment

Hearing no objection **Mayor Smith** adjourned the meeting at 10:48 pm.

Approved: June 3, 2026

Attest: 
Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

