

Regular City Council Meeting
August 21, 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 August 21, 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**, **Dave Zastrow**, **Kristin Carpenter**, and **Ken Jones**. Council members **Tom Bailer** and **Cathy Sherman** were present via zoom videoconference. Council member **Wendy Ranney** was absent. Also present were City Manager **Samantha Greenwood** and Deputy City Clerk **Tina Hammer**.

D. Approval of Regular Agenda

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

E. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest and ex parte communications

Council member **Kinsman** declared a conflict on agenda item 14 because his employer would be directly affected by it. **Mayor Allison** ruled that it was a conflict.

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speakers - none

2. Audience comments regarding agenda items

Mark Frohnafel of 813 Woodland Drive spoke about some points to consider concerning Ordinance 1220. He spoke against the approval of the ordinance.

Steve Richards of 101 Bluff Trail spoke against the aircraft landing tax ordinance.

Bob Rodrigues of 509 Fifth St. asked for more clarity on ordinances 1219 and 1220 – he would have liked to see fiscal notes attached to each ordinance.

Barb Jewell of 3101 Whitshed Rd. spoke against both ordinances she would prefer we provide incentives to businesses to come here instead of making it cost more money.

3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions: **Barb Jewell**, Chair of School Board said that today was the first day of school. The superintendent asked her to mention a few big events that we are hosting this year – a Volleyball Tournament in September, Basketball Conference tournaments in March. The National Guard that was here for the Shepard Point Road Project did an enormous amount of work for the School District – moved the elementary school library downstairs, power-washed and painted the High School, refinished the high school kitchen and cafeteria floors, cleared brush at elementary school, replaced water fountains, patched walls, helped finish the gym floors. Thanks to the City Streets department for getting crosswalks painted before the first day of school and for coordinating the flashing lights for the speed zones. The District is fully staffed for the first time in several years.

4. Student Council Report – none

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Minutes: **a.** August 7, 2024, City Council Public Hearing Minutes; **b.** August 7, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

6. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of excused absence of Council member **Cathy Sherman** from the August 7, 2024, Regular Meeting

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

H. Approval of Minutes – in consent calendar

I. Consideration of Bids/Proposals/Contracts - none

J. Reports of Officers

7. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Allison** reported: 1) working on a letter about the king salmon issue; 2) September 7 NVE is having a substance abuse and domestic violence event for teens; 3) 2 events this fall – Pioneers Convention and Alaska Historical Society Conference; 4) Board of Fish this winter.

8. City Manager's Report – **Greenwood** reported: 1) 95% plan review for the Eyak Lake weir happened last week – we are working with DNR, we are not taking ownership of the weir, we are taking ownership of the weir to be built and the land underneath it; will work with DoT on an MOU for maintenance; 2) we have a lot of jobs posted been conducting interviews, have a few offers out; 3) finance department is fully into Caselle; waiting for a date for completion of the audit; 4) we received a MARAD reimbursement for \$5M; electrical and drive down are the 2 big remaining pieces; 5) she has been working on a budget schedule – she'd like to have a work session before next regular meeting to talk about finances; 6) charter change on the March 2025 ballot to allow for Finance Director and other positions to be remote – will be working on getting the language drafted; 7) North Fill abandoned cars and impound lot cars are being moved – new Chief taking this on, cleaning things up; 8) DMV still down due to lack of staff – computer is fine, just no staff.

9. City Clerk's Report - **Hammer** reported: 1) first installment of property tax is due end of August; due to a weekend and holiday the actual due date is September 3.

K. Correspondence

10. 08-01-24 Letter of interest from Sorenson's for remnant of USS 3345

11. 08-01-24 Email from K Hayden regarding impound lot disposal

12. 08-07-24 Email from J Rude of CDFU regarding Fisheries Committees and Disaster declaration

Bailer commented on item 10 – he thought staff was directed to tell neighbors when a property was available.

Carpenter commented on item 12 wondered the process for the declaration of a disaster. **Jones** commented that on the last 2 were initiated by CDFU but the City approved resolutions that were then sent on to the Governor. **Jones** also said it would be better to wait until the season is over.

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

13. Ordinance 1219 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska amending Chapter 5.38, Biennial motor vehicle registration tax, to increase the motor vehicle registration tax levied on registered vehicles within the city – 2nd reading

M/Carpenter S/Kinsman to adopt Ordinance 1219 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska amending Chapter 5.38, Biennial motor vehicle registration tax, to increase the motor vehicle registration tax levied on registered vehicles within the city

Carpenter said the main reason this is before us is because it hasn't been updated since 1999. Greenwood explained this is a revenue generation idea and the increased revenue will be general fund revenue which funds street maintenance. She is trying to get a sense of the actual increase in revenue, she has calls and emails in to DMV.

M/Carpenter S/Kinsman to amend the Table contained in 5.38.020 subsection A as follows:

Increase the levy rate assigned to vehicles specified in AS 28.10.421(b)(1)(A) or (3)(A): Noncommercial passenger vehicles, motor homes, and low speed vehicles that are two years old from \$140 to **\$150**

Increase the levy rate assigned to vehicles specified in AS 28.10.421(b)(1)(B): Taxicabs that are two years old from \$140 to **\$150**

Increase the levy rate assigned to vehicles specified in AS 28.10.421(c)(1)- (4): commercial vehicles for hire based on unladen weight of 5,000 pounds or less that are two years old from \$140 to **\$150**

Increase the levy rate assigned to vehicles specified in AS 28.10.421(c)(1)- (4): commercial vehicles for hire based on unladen weight of 5,001-12,000 pounds that are two years old from \$210 to **\$220**
 Increase the levy rates assigned to vehicles specified in AS 28.10.421(c)(1)- (4): commercial vehicles for hire based on unladen weight of 12,001-18,000 pounds for all ages of vehicles as follows:

| 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th | 5 th | 6 th | 7 th | 8 th or over |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 450 467 | 390 467 | 350 457 | 300 447 | 260 437 | 230 427 | 200 417 | 170 407 |

Increase the levy rates assigned to vehicles specified in AS 28.10.421(c)(1)- (4): commercial vehicles for hire based on unladen weight of 18,001 pounds and over for all ages of vehicles as follows:

| 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th | 5 th | 6 th | 7 th | 8 th or over |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 550 556 | 460 556 | 420 546 | 340 536 | 300 526 | 260 516 | 220 506 | 190 494 |

Vote on the motion to amend: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ranney). Motion was approved.

Jones said he is not in support of this – it does not broadly hit enough people. He prefers we try to institute revenue measures that hit the non-profits also. **Bailer** asked a question: if someone comes in to register say a 2022 Ford F-150, what does it cost today and what will it cost when this goes into effect? He asked if that number could be brought to the next meeting.

M/Kinsman S/Zastrow to refer to staff

Vote on the motion to refer: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ranney). Motion was approved.

14. Ordinance 1220 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska amending Cordova Municipal Code Title 5 “Revenue and Finance” to add Chapter 5.08 “Property tax of aircraft” removing the exemption for property tax on aircraft stored or landed in Cordova with a fair market value of two million dollars or more and amending CMC 5.05.030 to clarify that personal property is exempt from property tax except as otherwise stated – 1st reading

M/Carpenter S/Zastrow to approve Ordinance 1220 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska amending Cordova Municipal Code Title 5 “Revenue and Finance” to add Chapter 5.08 “Property tax of aircraft” removing the exemption for property tax on aircraft stored or landed in Cordova with a fair market value of two million dollars or more and amending CMC 5.05.030 to clarify that personal property is exempt from property tax except as otherwise stated

Greenwood said she appreciates the public comment and intends to get the answers; the intent was not to single out only Alaska Airlines. Helicopters, medivac flights, these are good things that we hadn’t thought of, we will look into those. She advised the Council to refer it to staff if they need more info, she’d prefer they didn’t vote it down altogether unless they really don’t want to discuss this again.

Carpenter said she appreciates the public comment, and she gets that people are concerned but we may lose \$500-600 thousand in next year’s budget based on the fisheries disaster, and how will we make that up. She realizes this won’t make that much up. The council struggles with closing revenue gaps every year and people come in when a new idea is discussed and of course speak against it. **Zastrow** said with the comments heard tonight and that there is so much we don’t know, perhaps referring to staff is the way to go. **Jones** said he wants to vote it down; doesn’t want any more staff time spent on this. **Bailer** said he commends staff for bringing this forward, it was the right thing to do, we asked them to bring us options, he does not support this any longer.

Vote on the motion: 0 yeas, 6 nays, 1 absent (Ranney). Motion failed.

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

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

Greenwood asked for a work session on September 4 before the regular meeting. She wants to get a head start on discussing finances. **Kinsman** asked if the sales tax exemption on food items could be brought to this meeting also. **Bailer** said he’d like to know how you’ll replace that revenue? **Jones** thought the fisheries disaster declaration should be put on the first Oct. meeting.

O. Audience Participation - none

P. Council Comments

Sherman good meeting, thanked manager for good comments and information on the ordinances.

Jones said he is in the camp of we raised quite a bit of revenue these past couple of years and he'd be more interested in looking at some cuts like we did back in 2016.

Bailer said he doesn't know where cuts would come from; we haven't had the money in the past couple of years to chip seal, which is too bad, that was one of the best things we ever did.

Zastrow appreciated the effort from the staff. Community input is great and appreciated. Happy to hear the weir project is moving ahead.

Carpenter echoed the thanks to **Sam**. Echoed the thanks to the National Guard – they also helped her with the Salmon Runs.

Kinsman said he was glad to see public coming out tonight. Thanks to **Sam** and the staff for bringing the ideas to the table.

Mayor Allison expressed appreciation to some retiring City employees: **Tina Hammer**, **Barb Webber** and **Denis Keogh** – all are finishing up at the end of this month, he thanked them for their service to the community.

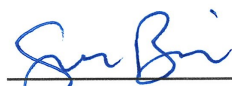
Q. Executive Session - none

R. Adjournment

Hearing no objection **Mayor Allison** adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Approved: September 4, 2024

Attest:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

