

Regular City Council Meeting
October 23, 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 October 23, 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 **Cathy Sherman, Kasey Kinsman, Wendy Ranney,** and **Kristin Smith**. Council members **Tom Bailer, Dave Zastrow,** and **Ken Jones** were present via zoom videoconference. Also present were City Manager **Samantha Greenwood** and City Clerk **Susan Bourgeois**.

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 - none

F. Communications by and Petitions from Visitors

1. Guest speakers - **Jim Newhouse** of Newhouse & Vogler, gave the 2023 audit presentation and answered questions.
2. Audience comments regarding agenda items - none
3. Chairpersons and Representatives of Boards and Commissions - none
 - a. PWSRCAC highlights from the September 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
4. Student Council Report – vacant

G. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Minutes: Sept 18, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
 6. Per Charter Section 2-8 and Cordova Municipal Code 3.12.022, recordation of excused absences of Council members Wendy Ranney and Ken Jones and unexcused absence of Council member Cathy Sherman from the October 2, 2024, Regular Meeting
 7. Proclamation for the 29th annual Native Village of Eyak Sobriety Celebration
- Vote on the Consent Calendar: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Bailer-yes; Smith-yes; Ranney-yes; Jones-yes; Sherman-yes; Zastrow-yes; and Kinsman-yes. Consent Calendar was approved.

H. Approval of Minutes – in consent calendar

I. Consideration of Bids/Proposals/Contracts - none

J. Reports of Officers

8. Mayor's Report – **Mayor Allison** reported: 1) both recent conferences in town went well, Pioneers and Alaska Historical Society; 2) NVE Sobriety celebration is on Nov. 8-9, he will read the proclamation at the opening of the event; 3) JH home basketball games are Nov. 1-2; 4) upcoming Board of Fish in December.
9. City Manager's Report – **Greenwood** reported: 1) she has been crunching numbers and living and breathing budget with **Sheryl Glasen**, who has been great; 2) they should have something out this Friday afternoon for next week's budget work session; 3) she pointed out that the audit gives an important number that explains the cash flow issue, general fund ended 2023 at \$128k; 4) Deputy Clerk position is filled, also Head Librarian, Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider has filled the Parks & Recreation Director position.
10. City Clerk's Report **a.** notice of upcoming board & commission vacancies.

b. November 5, 2024, General Election information

Bourgeois reported: 1) state is running the early voting at the Cordova Center and it has been extremely busy, Clerk's office helping where they can; 2) boards and commissions, please get the word out; 3) **Colette Gilmour** new Deputy Clerk – doing great so far and will attend a Council meeting soon; 4) AML conference upcoming in December, Colette will reach out to Council and can assist with registration and travel arrangements.

K. Correspondence

11. 10-03-24 Letter to Governor with Res 10-24-31 requesting fishery disaster declaration
12. 10-04-24 Letter from USFWS regarding Marine Mammal Protection Act eligibility
13. 10-07-24 MARAD request for comments regarding ferry terminal improvement projects
14. 10-08-24 PWS ferry terminal projects environmental assessment newsletter
15. 10-09-24 Beckett letter to City regarding Copper Star incident
16. 10-15-24 Email from Trident recipient of Large Business of the Year Award
17. 10-16-24 Mayor Allison letter of support for NVE Shepard Point Road

L. Ordinances and Resolutions

18. Substitute Ordinance 1221 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska enacting Chapter 5.01 “disbursement and investment of city funds”; amending and renaming Chapter 5.04 “warrants” to “signature requirements” and clarifying the signature process on city fund disbursements; amending, renumbering, and renaming Chapter 5.44 “Cordova general reserve fund” to Chapter 5.02 “Cordova permanent fund (general reserve fund)”; repealing Chapter 5.40 “sales tax” and enacting Chapter 5.10 “sales tax” to adopt a registration process for sellers; update the sales tax return, implementation, enforcement, protest, and collection procedures; remove the sales tax exemptions for travel agencies, professional services commissions and fees, and recreational flights; to clarify the exemption for nonprofit entities and expressly exclude rentals from the exemption; and to require purchasers to file a refund application for the sales tax exemption on construction materials and services and limit the exemption to properties with at least one dwelling unit – 1st reading

M/Kinsman S/Smith to adopt Substitute Ordinance 1221 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska enacting Chapter 5.01 “disbursement and investment of city funds”; amending and renaming Chapter 5.04 “warrants” to “signature requirements” and clarifying the signature process on city fund disbursements; amending, renumbering, and renaming Chapter 5.44 “Cordova general reserve fund” to Chapter 5.02 “Cordova permanent fund (general reserve fund)”; repealing Chapter 5.40 “sales tax” and enacting Chapter 5.10 “sales tax” to adopt a registration process for sellers; update the sales tax return, implementation, enforcement, protest, and collection procedures; remove the sales tax exemptions for travel agencies, professional services commissions and fees, and recreational flights; to clarify the exemption for nonprofit entities and expressly exclude rentals from the exemption; and to require purchasers to file a refund application for the sales tax exemption on construction materials and services and limit the exemption to properties with at least one dwelling unit

Kinsman said we have discussed this at length, he re-listened to the recent work session. He is in favor. **Kinsman** said the attorney memo is very insightful and explanatory. **Smith** explained that there were significant changes to the first draft of this ordinance at first reading which is why it is before us tonight for another first reading as a substitute ordinance. **Sherman** said this has been a lengthy process we did some soul searching here, took our time making these changes but it needed to happen she's glad we are finally at the end. **Bailer** said he is good with it. **Zastrow** said he is happy with all the work we've done, looks good to him.

Vote on the motion: 6 yeas, 1 nay (Jones). Motion was approved.

19. Ordinance 1222 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska enacting Title 7 “City property” and relocating and renumbering CMC Chapters 5.12, 5.14, 5.16, 5.22, 5.23, 5.24, 5.28, and 5.29 to Chapters 7.10 through 7.80 of title 7 of the Cordova Municipal Code – 2nd reading

M/Ranney S/Sherman to approve Ordinance 1222 An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska enacting Title 7 “City property” and relocating and renumbering CMC Chapters 5.12, 5.14, 5.16, 5.22, 5.23, 5.24, 5.28, and 5.29 to Chapters 7.10 through 7.80 of title 7 of the Cordova Municipal Code

Ranney said this is housekeeping, mostly just renaming and renumbering parts of code, putting things in better places within the code. **Sherman** this is separating property issues from tax issues and makes it more clear for those looking at code. All other Council members said they were in support.

Vote on the motion: 7 yeas, 0 nays. Jones-yes; Bailer-yes; Kinsman-yes; Smith-yes; Zastrow-yes; Ranney-yes; and Sherman-yes. Motion was approved.

20. Resolution 10-24-33 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, recognizing veterans memorial historical use as park space and supporting the improvement of this space

M/Ranney S/Sherman to approve Resolution 10-24-31 A resolution of the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska, recognizing veterans memorial historical use as park space and supporting the improvement of this space

Ranney said she supports the covered spaces project, and she is excited to see the potential for including the Veterans memorial in that project. **Sherman** said she thinks this is an appropriate space, letter of support form CDFU gives support of fishing fleet. **Zastrow** likes the idea of the harbor having recreational spaces for those wanting to come and enjoy the scenery there. **Jones** supports – echoes comments ahead of him. **Bailer** said item 3, that no City funds are being requested, therefore he will support it. **Kinsman** thanked covered spaces for their work on this. **Smith** also wanted to thank **Dotty** and **Natasha** and covered spaces for all their work.

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

M. Unfinished Business - none

N. New & Miscellaneous Business

21. Remote City Officers and Employees – Council discussion of charter change possibility

Council members discussed and each weighed in with their opinions on this proposed charter change and in the end the decision was made to direct staff to bring a resolution forward that would place a charter change on the ballot to make the finance director position one that could be held by a non-resident. Council also asked staff to find the right way to word a charter change to fix assessor since that is not a resident position currently, it is a contract.

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

Council requested the CIP List Resolution come to them at the December 18 meeting for a look and possible changes to it.

O. Audience Participation

Dotty Widmann updated City Council on her First St. development. She said they took a tree down that affected the Council Ave. sidewalk which they will replace with new sidewalks as they get ready to start building. They should begin around April 2025 with a goal of completion by April 2026.

P. Council Comments

Zastrow gave a shoutout to the covered spaces project, he is happy to see this moving forward.

Bailer commented that Alaska is no longer the huge opportunity and pay scales, lower 48 has caught up and cost of living so much less down there. That can hinder the ability to fill jobs.

Kinsman said he is in favor of options for the finance director position; he has navigated the state elections website, agrees it is very intuitive and user-friendly. Urged the public to look at ordinance 1221, sales tax changes. He would like to have public input/opinions.

Ranney thanked staff for their hard work, she knows a lot of time and effort go into these packets.

Smith commented on the PWSRCAC report in the packet – DEC has removed RCAC from the review process which is troubling because they are our advocate. Seems like more dismantling of the protections that were put in place for good reason.

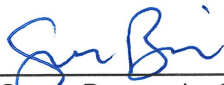
Sherman said the PWSRCAC report was great also because there are links to many studies, and she got lost reading some of the fascinating science going on. Complimented staff on the hirings that have happened recently, promoting from within is always a great practice.

Q. Executive Session

R. Adjournment

Hearing no objection **Mayor Allison** adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm.

Approved: December 4, 2024

Attest: 

Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

