



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

## Memorandum Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: MAYOR WYTHE AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK 

DATE: JANUARY 27, 2014

SUBJECT: AGENDA CHANGES AND SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

### CONSENT AGENDA

**Ordinance 14-06**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Appropriating \$300,000 from the General Fund Balance for the Purpose of Providing a Loan to the Port and Harbor Enterprise Fund to Complete the Financing Package for the New Port and Harbor Building. City Manager.

Memorandum 14-026 from Port and Harbor Advisory Commission as backup **Page 1**

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Ordinance 14-03**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council, Amending HCC 9.16.040, and Repealing and Reenacting HCC 9.16.100, to Repeal the Exemption From City Sales Tax of Sales of Nonprepared Foods From September 1<sup>st</sup> Through May 31<sup>st</sup>; Amending HCC 9.16.010 to Dedicate a Sales Tax of One-Quarter Percent (.25%) to Fund a Parks and Recreation Department; and Submitting the Question of Repealing Such Sales Tax Exemption and Such Sales Tax Dedication to the Qualified Voters of the City at the October 7, 2014 Regular City Election. Burgess.

Written public comments

**Page 2**

### RESOLUTIONS

**Resolution 14-023**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving and Accepting the Donation of a Life-Size Bronze Bust of Brother Asaiah Bates by an Anonymous Donor and Created by Homer Artist Leo Vait for Permanent Placement in WKFL Park. City Clerk/Public Arts Committee.

Written public comments

**Page 3**

RECOMMENDATION:

Voice consensus to changes under Agenda Approval.

Fiscal Note: N/A



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## Memorandum 14-026

**TO:** MAYOR WYTHE AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

**DATE:** JANUARY 23, 2014

**SUBJECT:** PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR  
ORDINANCE  
14-06 APPROPRIATING \$300,000 FOR THE PORT AND HARBOR BUILDING PROJECT

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At the January 22<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission the Commissioners received an update on the Port and Harbor building project. They reviewed the drawings and discussed funding that is available including legislative monies and matching funds from harbor reserves, and also addressed the \$300,000 shortfall for the project.

The Commission recognized the key role that the Port and Harbor facility plays in city revenue and that it is appropriate for the City Council to grant the \$300,000 for the project.

- The general fund receives money from the port and harbor through tax revenue and administrative fees
- The project benefits the City of Homer, not just the harbor
- There is \$500,000 committed from the harbor reserves
- There is lot of catching up to do with harbor maintenance and additional payments slows that progress
- It is an expensive infrastructure so building reserves for continued maintenance and replacement is needed

ZIMMERMAN/STOCKBURGER MOVED THAT THE PORT AND HARBOR COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE CITY COUNCIL GRANT MONEY TO THE PROJECT FOR THE NEW PORT AND HARBOR BUILDING TO MAKE UP THE SHORTFALL AFTER THE STATE FUNDING AND THE FUNDS FROM THE HARBOR RESERVE.

VOTE: YES: STOCKBURGER, ULMER, HARTLEY, ZIMMERMAN

Motion carried.

Commissioners were pleased with the design and emphasized support of maintaining the overslope development and the garage to allow for onsite maintenance that Harbor Officers perform on a regular basis. They expressed their appreciation to Staff and the Task Force for their work, consideration of space needs, and attention to costs.

**Recommendation to Council:** Amend Ordinance 14-06 to amend the FY2014 Operating budget by appropriating \$300,000 from the General Fund for the purpose of providing a grant to the Port and Harbor Enterprise fund to complete the finance package for the New Port and Harbor Building.



# Homer Arts and Culture Alliance

JAN 23 2014

January 21, 2014

Dear Mayor Wythe and City Council Members,

Thank you for your service and dedication to Homer's vibrant culture, economy and government. In view of the current discussion around reinstating a seasonal sales tax to directly support Homer's arts, recreation and culture, we ask for a collaborative solution to raising more funds for the City.

Non profits are supported by a membership that we support and represent. The arts in particular cross all political, religious, ethnic and economic groups. Much of our funding comes from sources that are fed by tax dollars. Many non-profits collect sales tax to pass onto the City. It is very clear that more revenue is needed in order to support the direction we are taking by combining Arts and Culture with Parks and Recreation since all such activities support the health and well-being of our community, and pursuing a community - wide, comprehensive formal needs assessment. As public charities with members, governed by boards of directors, we have limits to what each organization can do regarding specific legislation. As a coalition and collective of various organizations, the Homer Arts and Culture Alliance contributed funds towards the needs assessment and would like to continue to work with the City and find ways to meet our shared goals.

As a coalition, we think that the public needs to be educated as to the options for more revenue in order to make an informed vote. We would like more information on options, so our staff and Boards can make an informed decision about how we can support this community's goals as an Alliance, as organizations and individuals. What are the revenue options available through the City and the Borough? Food taxes that exclude staples, bed tax, and service areas are all options. We'd like to examine the viability of a KPB service district for arts/rec/culture so people living outside city limits can help support what they use. Seldovia approved such a service area two years ago.

We'd like to request someone from the City and Borough provide information, materials and meetings so the voters can have several opportunities to learn about this complex topic before making a decision and voting. Councilwoman Barbara Howard recently obtained Council support for workshops to engage and inform our citizenry about our government. A workshop open to citizens of Homer and City Council could be a great opportunity to build more collective support for increasing revenue for the City of Homer.

Sincerely,

Homer Arts and Culture Alliance  
Bunnell Street Arts Center, Homer Council on the Arts, Kachemak Bay Campus, Pier One



JAN 23 2014

Honorable Mayor and members of our Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea Council,

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts about the bust of Brother Asaiah created by our own fine artist Leo Vait. **This is a great opportunity for the City to honor the spirit of one of our great compassionate leaders, and bring value to our community.**

Nelson Mandela saw the suffering soul of his people, and he saw a solution. He endured years of prison to fulfill that dream. As others saw his soul truth in their own souls, the government of South Africa changed. Now with Mandela's passing, statues, photos, poetry, word stories and other reminders appealing to all of the senses are sprouting up around the world to keep Mandela's life purpose alive: Forgive & love all.

Homer has its own call to soul leadership in Brother Asaiah. Some who knew Brother Asaiah's great love for our community have been sad lately; newcomers to Homer have not had the opportunity to be inspired by him as we were, and we are sad for what appears to be their loss. You see, Brother Asaiah loved us so much that we could see ourselves, and see ourselves as community. A very dear friend of Brother Asaiah's, John Nazarian, has been travelling Alaska and talking to Alaskans. He discovered that unlike other communities, Homerites are outspoken and proud of their community and their connection with their community, whereas those from other towns are not. This image that Homer projects draws tourists and travelers alike to want to come and be connected to it.

Council has been chosen by Homer residents to handle city value issues like money. Paradoxically, though greed repels spirit, money ultimately is drawn to spirit. This free gift is given out of a deep love for our community, and created by one of our outstanding Homer artists. I, for one, am filled to the brim with thankfulness. You are not being asked to spend one penny of our treasured tax-payer's dollars.

Years ago, while Brother Asaiah was alive, he asked Leo Vait to sculpt a bust of him. (See photo of this in the book "Brother Asaiah" in the library.) Photos of Bro are also in the hospital welcoming room, doctor's offices, etc. etc. They help me to remember Brother's love and care for us in all walks of our community life. In his great devotion to Brother Asaiah and the community that loved Brother Asaiah, John Nazarian has given us a bronze statue of Brother Asaiah.

I am visually oriented. I once spent an hour with Michaelangelo's Piata, so absorbed that I did not realize crowds had gathered behind me, waiting to see. In the eyes of Leo Vait's bronze statue I see Bro's pain of war, sadness for what might have been that was not, incredible kindness, wisdom, peaceful still deep waters, soul love and sustainable dedication to his and my "Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea."

If you cannot see Bro's soul through the durability and easy care of bronze, please allow space for those of us who do. Thank you.

Martha Ellen Anderson, January 2014

