

Session 15-06 a Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Brown at 6:00 p.m. on November 10, 2015 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN, MARKS, SPRAGUE, STANISLAW

ABSENT: SANSOM

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

AGENDA APPROVAL

MARKS/SPRAGUE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2015

MARKS/SPRAGUE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

A. Bryan Hawkins, Port Director/Harbormaster – Update on harbor activities and improvements

Harbormaster Hawkins opened his presentation with a historic overview of the development of the harbor. He reviewed ongoing and completed harbor projects, about 22 projects over the past two years totaling \$28 million worth of improvements. He explained most of the money came through grants and the burden to the enterprise was \$5.7 million.

He talked about the Deep Water Dock Feasibility Study and presented them with a copy the brochure titled *Homer, Alaska Deep Water & Pioneer Docks Marine Support, Business Begins Where Land Ends*. It's promotional material that will be sent out to shippers and people they work with throughout the year, and will be taken the trade shows as well. The Port teams up with the Marine Trades Association, which is made up of over 70 area businesses, at trade shows. They will be traveling to the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle, and also the Anchorage Spring Boat Show to promote port and harbor activities in the state and lower 48. They support the Chamber by assisting with the Winter King Deby, the Halibut Derby, and at the Seattle Spring Boat Show. They are a member of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) which has been meeting now for 42 years and has membership of over 40 state harbors. The association works to focus on the support, communication, and funding with a unified voice in government. This year he was elected as Vice President. AAHPA will be attending the upcoming Alaska Municipal League (AML) conference to promote ports and harbors as a lot of their project funding comes from the state so they need support for the Municipal Harbor Grant Program. One of the problems that AAHPA is working on that affects the state is abandoned and derelict vessels. The Port & Harbor is also involved with the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee which is formed by the Coast Guard Captain of the Port and focuses on marine transportation in Cook Inlet. Membership with this group also puts us in the conversation with the Alaska LNG project with the transportation of the carries that will be coming through Cook Inlet when that project comes together. The magnitude of the LNG project is something we've not seen before.

In response to questions there was discussion with the Commission on the sheet pile dock project, parking, the LNG project, budget and reserves, and marine repair haul out facility.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION REPORT/ COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORT

Councilmember Zak talked to the Commission about the open house that was held the previous night, the new online budget tool and online survey.

Karen Zak, Homer Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, and Tom Stroozas, Chamber Board President, presented on the Chamber's activities. The City and the Chamber entered into a three-year marketing agreement in 2014. The Chamber has a dual operation, both a business advocate and visitor information center. Services the Chamber offers include:

- Makes sales calls to potential tradeshow, convention, and conference prospects
- Participates in regional advisory committees engaged in business and industry development
- Exhibit at various conference shows and special events
- Conduct Homer familiarization tours and product development activities
- Oversight of special community-wide events
- Business after-hours, member luncheons, Small Business Development Center
- Host prospective meeting planners and clients to promote business and tourism
- Promote Homer for tourism and new businesses
- Operates a Visitor Information Center

The group discussed the proposed cut to the chamber funding provided in the 2016 budget and what that may look like for the chamber. They also addressed what other communities do to help fund

their chamber, for example, Seward has a bed tax, Soldotna has sales tax revenue from Fred Meyer and Kenai has revenue from Wal-Mart.

Nickie Knight gave a brief overview of InnovateHer 2016 the innovating for women business challenge taking place November 21st.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Pioneer Avenue Revitalization Project

This was postponed to the next meeting by consensus of the Commission.

- B. Economic Engines – Notes from Councilmember Zak & CEDS excerpt
 - i. EDC’s role in working toward shovel-ready projects
 - ii. Is shovel-ready the best way for our community
 - iii. Economic Development Director

This was postponed to the next meeting by consensus of the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Memorandum from City Clerk Re: Approval of Commission meeting schedule for 2016

ARNO/MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2016.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. City Manager’s Report October 26, 2015
- B. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: EDC Meeting Speakers Scheduled & Pending
- C. Memorandum 15-165 Appointment of Ken Sprague to the Economic Development Advisory Commission
- D. Commissioner Attendance list for City Council Meetings

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER10, 2015

Councilmember Zak commented the UAA Chancellor would be speaking at Lands' End, November 11th at noon.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Brown thanked everyone for participating tonight.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Arno said it was nice to see everyone tonight.

Commissioner Sprague said it was a very informative meeting.

Commissioner Marks asked about the December visitor and thanked everyone for their input tonight.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____