

Session 12-06 a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Ulmer at 6:00 p.m. on June 27, 2012 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS CARROLL, HARTLEY, HOWARD, STOCKBURGER, ULMER, WEDIN

ABSENT: STOCKBURGER, ZIMMERMAN

STAFF: PORT AND HARBOR DIRECTOR HAWKINS
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

RECONSIDERATION

There was no reconsideration scheduled.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 23, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented by consensus of the Commission.

VISITORS

No visitors scheduled.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Port and Harbor Director's Report for June 2012

Harbormaster Hawkins reviewed his written staff report.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Memorandum dated June 15, 2012 to Port and Harbor Advisory Commission from Harbormaster
Re: Funding for a New Harbor Office

HOWARD/HARTLEY MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO TASK THE PORT AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WITH TRYING TO RESOURCE MONEY FROM VARIOUS SOURCES TO UPGRADE THE HARBOR OFFICE.

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Question was raised as to what sources of funding might be available. Commissioner Howard indicated they will likely be looking toward state and federal funding through grants and matching funds of some sort. There was some discussion of a general obligation bond, but that will probably go from the Commission saying no, to the public saying no. They will have to work with the legislative elements for assistance. There is time to continue looking for money, but for now we need to understand the condition of the facility regarding safety.

Commissioner Wedin commented that he heard the lobbyist report to Council and was distressed to find out that the port didn't get any funds from Juneau. He said he did some research on the lobbyist and expressed his concern that she is spread thin as Homer is one of twelve clients. He feels the Commission should take a more active role in lobbying for port funding. He has had some experience with it and thinks for a little bit of money a few of them could travel to Juneau to meet with some key people. The port does have a need and he thinks this group is passionate about it and represents themselves better than someone who doesn't know their needs. Commissioner Hartley commented about the importance of support from our delegation and this year part of the delegation didn't follow through for us. The group discussed the benefits of being the squeaky wheel and being better involved in the process. They acknowledge the need to have a design plan in place for a building appropriate for harbor staff before looking for funding in Juneau and how to budget for that.

Harbormaster Hawkins commented that he doesn't know what design cost would be or what level of design would be required. There was discussion about advertising a request for proposals and also that there is an engineering firm under contract for harbor related projects who may be able to help.

HOWARD/HARTLEY MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD REQUESTING THE COUNCIL FUND AN ENGINEERING EVALUATION OF THE HARBOR FACILITY THAT WE NEED TO HOUSE OUR STAFFING.

Commissioner Carroll raised issue regarding the cost. There was discussion that this is money that will be spent and it won't need to be done a second time. It will need to be done within the next four to five years, starting now should put us in the window of a 2016 to 2017 completion timeframe for the building. It was also noted that when working with the legislature, requests have to be in the first two weeks of the session or its pretty well dead in the water. Hopefully it can happen in 2013, but more likely not until 2014. Lastly, point was raised that they can't get grant funding without a building plan in place.

VOTE: (Amendment): YES: ULMER, WEDIN, HARTLEY, HOWARD
NO: CARROLL

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion as amended.

VOTE: (Main Motion as Amended): YES: HOWARD, ULMER, WEDIN, HARTLEY
NO: CARROLL

Motion carried.

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There was discussion noting the recommendation in the staff report includes that the Port Improvement Committee would bring the results from their work to the Port and Harbor Commission for a joint worksession.

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Monthly Statistical & Performance Report May 2012
- B. Weekly Crane and Ice Report
- C. Deep Water Dock Report
- D. Pioneer Dock Report & Ferry Landings Report
- E. Water Usage Report
- F. National Fisherman Article "Coast Guard Cutter ends Japanese Ghost Ship's Journey" dated July 2012
- G. Memorandum dated June 18, 2012 to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission from Harbormaster Re: Daniel D Incident
- H. Lease Expirations updated 5/24/12
- I. Commissioner Attendance Schedule for City Council Meetings 2012

Harbormaster Hawkins did a slide presentation with photos from the Daniel D. incident, fender damage on the Deep Water Dock, the damaged dolphin at Pioneer Dock, the broom for the maintenance crew's forklift, John Crandall's barge project, the R and S float sleeving project, the float at the bottom of ramp 3, the covering at the ramp 4 fish cleaning tables to keep the birds out, concrete patch project on P float, and the winter ice in the harbor.

The Commission talked briefly about the laydown items and the CIP. Harbormaster Hawkins said he has a new CIP project for water on the float system 2. He sees it an economic benefit as it has ninety, 24' slips in a location with great floats and nice ramp access, but people swap away from it to get to where there is water. He believes if they put water there, the float system will fill up. Another project he is proposing is restrooms where the outhouses are.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There were no audience comments.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

Harbormaster Hawkins commented regarding funding for their projects and that they do need to start beating the drum. The municipal harbors grant program may not get full funding in the next go around, because from what he sees, it is not the Governor's first priority. They need to do what they can to make sure there is funding in the program so they and other harbors can get the grant funds. He thinks it will never hurt for them to work to educate the state and federal delegates as to the benefits of ports and harbors to the state. It seems to him there is a thinking error that municipalities are supposed to maintain the infrastructure of ports and harbors solely on user fees. Federal and state government saw a reason to build them in the first place and it is because they build communities and the state. Now they act as though they can back away from it and he doesn't think they can. We need to work to help them understand the port and harbors contribution is huge.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Ulmer said she feels good about the work that is being done, and it feels good to see progress. She gets a little heartburn about spending money, however it is progress and we can't stop it, but need to plan for it. Homer is on the map and we have to be ready for the growth. She thinks they have the best Director she has seen in her tenure on the Commission. She is pleased to see all that is happening out there and tired of talking about things that don't get done. Overslope is the next thing.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Hartley thanked Harbormaster Hawkins for the work on the on the landing craft.

Commissioner Howard had no comments.

Commissioner Wedin thanked staff for the reminder call and apologized for missing the last meeting, he didn't get off the boat until after 6:00.

Commissioner Carroll commented that they would have been home an hour ago if the meetings were still at 5:00.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 25, 2012 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: _____