

Session 16-08, a Regular Meeting of the Homer Advisory Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Stead at 6:30 p.m. on May 18, 2016 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS BOS, BRADLEY, HIGHLAND, STEAD, STROOZAS

ABSENT: ERICKSON, VENUTI

STAFF: CITY PLANNER ABBOUD  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

### **Approval of Agenda**

Chair Stead called for a motion to approve the agenda.

STROOZAS/HIGHLAND SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

The public may speak to the Planning Commission regarding matters on the agenda that are not scheduled for public hearing or plat consideration. (3 minute time limit).

### **Reconsideration**

### **Adoption of Consent Agenda**

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Planning Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Planning Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

- A. Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Time Extension: Foothills Sunset View Estate Add. No. 2

Chair Stead called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda.

BOS/STROOZAS SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

### **Presentations**

## **Reports**

### A. Staff Report PL 16-26, City Planner's Report

City Planner Abboud reviewed the staff report.

There was brief discussion about the Main Street intersection and Pioneer Avenue improvements; and Commissioner Highland said she would report at the June 27<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

## **Public Hearings**

Testimony limited to 3 minutes per speaker. The Commission conducts Public Hearings by hearing a staff report, presentation by the applicant, hearing public testimony and then acting on the Public Hearing items. The Commission may question the public. Once the public hearing is closed the Commission cannot hear additional comments on the topic. The applicant is not held to the 3 minute time limit.

## **Plat Consideration**

## **Pending Business**

## **New Business**

### A. Staff Report 16-27 Hickerson Memorial Cemetery

City Planner Abboud reviewed the staff report.

Commissioner Highland said she spoke to Grant at Peninsula Memorial Funeral Home who explained that about 70% of bodies in Homer are cremated and 30% buried. Of that 30%, half are embalmed. He said a niche wall would run about \$25,000. In relation to vaults, he suggested either require them or don't because if you only require bodies that are embalmed to be vaulted, there may be people who try to get around it. She also talked about working with volunteer groups to help clean up and maintain the cemetery.

The Commission addressed the benefits of a niche wall and agreed that when considering the number of urns it could hold and minimization of space use and environmental impact, \$25,000 doesn't seem like an unreasonable expense.

STROOZAS/BRADLEY MOVED THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVES THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN STAFF REPORT 16-27 FOR THE HICKERSON MEMORIAL CEMETERY AND FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

Brief discussion ensued regarding question five in the staff report and considered if putting out do we want to be in the cemetery business was the best way to phrase it. Commissioners felt that the City has been maintaining it since 1970 and it wouldn't be appropriate to just let it go. If someone did decide they wanted to take it over and manage it, it could be risky given the financial climate and the

amount of work needed at the cemetery. If it is the direction the city wants to go, a better strategy would be to take care of the improvements first for nicer exit from the responsibility.

HIGHLAND/BRADLEY MOVED TO AMEND NUMBER FIVE AND CHANGE THE TITLE TO “PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE?”.

There was brief discussion.

VOTE (Amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

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

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

### **Informational Materials**

A. City Manager’s Report – May 4, 2016

### **Comments of the Audience**

### **Comments of Staff**

### **Comments of the Commission**

Commissioner Stroozas commented that May 21<sup>st</sup> is Armed Services Day and the Homer Elks Lodge will be bringing some service people from Fort Wainwright for a glacier tour and out fishing. On Saturday there will be a picnic that is open to the public from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. He also advised he will be absent on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Bradley commented about her love of cemeteries throughout different countries and continents that she’s been to. It’s exciting to see how we are planning for the future and she hope we can make Homer’s cemetery great.

Commissioner Bos and Highland had no comments.

Chair Stead thanked everyone for their work tonight.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers. A worksession will be held at 5:30 p.m.

HOMER ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 18, 2016

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_