

Session 17-04 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on February 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Bryan Zak at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: ADERHOLD, ERICKSON, LEWIS, REYNOLDS, SMITH, STROOZAS (telephonic)

STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER
CITY CLERK JOHNSON
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
PORT AND HARBOR DIRECTOR HAWKINS
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MEYER

Councilmember Stroozas has requested telephonic participation.
Councilmember Smith has requested excusal. (Excusal not needed.)

Mayor Zak called for a motion to allow Councilmember Stroozas to participate by telephone.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Council met for a Worksession from 4:00 p.m. to 4:54 p.m. to hear from R&M Consultants, Inc. on the Deep Water Dock Feasibility Study Findings. From 5:00 p.m. to 5:53 p.m. Council met as a Committee of the Whole to discuss Ordinance 17-10 and Consent and Regular Meeting Agenda items.

Department Heads may be called upon from time to time to participate via teleconference.

AGENDA APPROVAL

(Addition of items to or removing items from the agenda will be by unanimous consent of the Council. HCC 1.24.040.)

The following changes were made: **CONSENT AGENDA - Ordinance 17-09**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2017 Operating Budget by Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$30,702.00 From Port and Harbor Reserves to Fund a Wireless Control System

for the High Mast Light Poles at the Harbor. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director. Written public comments. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS** - Notice from Kenai Peninsula Borough of Application for a Retail Marijuana Store license in the Diamond Ridge/Homer Area for Alaskan Cannabis Outfitters. **RESOLUTIONS - Resolution 17-019**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Stating That the City of Homer Adheres to the Principle of Inclusion and Herein Committing This City to Resisting Efforts to Divide This Community With Regard to Race, Religion, Ethnicity, Gender, National Origin, Physical Capabilities, or Sexual Orientation Regardless of the Origin of Those Efforts, Including From Local, State or Federal Agencies. Aderhold/Reynolds/Lewis. Written public comments.

Item 16 Resolutions, Resolution 17-019 was moved to follow Item 4 Public Comments on Matters Already on the Agenda. Visitor Recreation Manager Mike Illg, Community Recreation, was removed from the agenda (rescheduled for March 28, 2017).

Mayor Zak called for a motion for the approval of the agenda as amended.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Mayor's Recognition, Deputy City Clerk Melissa Jacobsen, Master Municipal Clerk Designation

Mayor Zak recognized Deputy City Clerk Melissa Jacobsen for her achievement of the Master Municipal Clerk designation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Speaking in support of Resolution 17-019:

Hal Spence, Homer resident
Kate Finn, Anchor Point resident
Lindsay Martin, city resident
Julia Person, Homer resident
Andy Haas, city resident
Catherine Knott

Lynn Spence, Homer resident
Jacob Onmick, Homer High School freshman
Ken Landfield, city resident
Marjorie Ringer, city resident
Robin McAllister, city resident
Amos Markin
Pedro Ochoa
Jeremiah Emmerson, city resident

Speaking in opposition of Resolution 17-019:

Dean Ravin, Homer resident
Frank Bauer, city resident
David Bitterman, city resident
John Butcher, city resident
Krystal Butcher, city resident
John Haskell
Christin Fankhauser, city resident
Kesha Etwiler, city resident
Tanise Latham, city resident
Dan Presley, Alaska resident
Gus Van Dyke, city resident
Mark Zeiset, city resident
Jerry Wood, Homer resident
Ray Kranich, city resident
Barnabas Firth, Homer resident
Joyce Turkington, Homer resident
Joy Overson, city resident
Shawn Presley, Homer resident
Palama Ramirez, Homer High School senior
Alisha Steiner, Homer High School senior
Beaver Nelson, city resident
Garrity Fabich, Homer resident
Brandy Super, city resident
Joni Wise, city resident
Tom Bos, city resident
Ben Firth, Anchor Point resident
Paul Hueper, city resident
Jessie Nelson, city resident
Pamela Hall, Anchor Point resident
Jan Goethreager, city resident
Dave Mastolier, city resident
Vicki Ogden
Diane Andress, Homer resident
Mark Cooper, city resident

Jon Faulkner, city resident
Ray Steiner, city resident
Merlin Cordes, city resident
Annalisa Cox, city resident
Tracy Ansell, city resident
Debra Brown, city resident
Julian Massey, city resident
Scott Adams, city resident

Mayor Zak called for a recess at 8:04 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Speaking in support of Resolution 17-019:

Jim Stearns, city resident
Joey Lothian, city resident
Dr. Melissa Gagnon
John Cowen
Ginny Espenshade, city resident
Erin Salzman
Kimberly Ketter, city resident
Carrie Harris, Homer resident
Brian Duffy, Homer resident
Kim Fine
Kammi Matson, city resident

Speaking in opposition of Resolution 17-019:

Christie Hill, city resident
Mark Edens, Homer resident
William Surdyka, city resident
Jared Bradshaw, city resident
Corbin Arno, city resident
Jerry Morrison
Ryan Cain, city resident
Kim Seymour, Homer resident
Dwayne Nustvold, Homer resident
Eric Bocky, Homer resident
Brad Drake
Brian Eisenberg
Renee Eidem, Homer resident
Larry Slone, city resident
Coletta Walker, city resident
Len Fabich, city resident
August Weber, city resident
David Prince
Pam Horazdovsky, Kachemak City resident

Cassie Lawver
Pete Nagle, Homer resident
Christine Szocinski, city resident
Melinda Erickson, city resident
Vernon Atkinson, Homer resident
Paul Riedal, city resident
Leon Smith, city resident
Sarah Vance, city resident
Libby Fabich, Homer High School junior
Tammy McKenna, city resident
Ben Tyrer

- A. **Resolution 17-019**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Stating That the City of Homer Adheres to the Principle of Inclusion and Herein Committing This City to Resisting Efforts to Divide This Community With Regard to Race, Religion, Ethnicity, Gender, National Origin, Physical Capabilities, or Sexual Orientation Regardless of the Origin of Those Efforts, Including From Local, State or Federal Agencies. Aderhold/Reynolds/Lewis.

Mayor Zak called for a motion for the introduction of Resolution 17-019.

REYNOLDS/LEWIS – SO MOVED.

Councilmember Lewis said he has been known to put his name on a resolution whether he supports it or not. If we had held a meeting at the college to discuss these issues it would have been poorly attended. We can move on. Everyone knows how they feel. This is no different than his family, the 56/44 split, who has great discussions. To the individual that said someone must have been paid, that has not happened. The cruise ship tax paid for the bathrooms. In the future when we have discussion on the drug and homeless problem he hopes we have this kind of turnout instead of empty chairs. While he supports Resolution 17-019, he probably won't vote for it because the majority of the people here are against it. He is not PC (politically correct), and is probably as far from that as an individual can get.

Councilmember Reynolds appreciates the comments made by Jenny Espenshade. We are in a lose, lose situation. She wholeheartedly supports everything in the Resolution 17-019 and will vote for it. It is easy for most people in this room to come and speak. There are a lot of people in the community that it is not that safe or that easy. She applauds the bravery of the people that came earlier. She believes in civil discussion and is seeing a lot of exhibit of non-civil discussion. People have been identified as targets in the community. She regrets how this came to be, but is glad to see people here participating.

Councilmember Aderhold appreciates everyone that has come out. This is our local government and everyone should participate. People had some really good things to say and she appreciates the constructive things people had to say. Based on the comments received

by email and heard this evening she summarized the main thoughts: the resolution is offensive, divisive and hateful, divides the community, takes away the free will of the people, demands that people love each other, it is important because it reaffirms the American value stated in our U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Alaska Constitution, it is too political, steps on first amendment rights, civil rights are for all and asks the City to follow the law and uphold these rights, establishes Homer as a sanctuary city, we need to take care of our own vulnerable populations before inviting new people to Homer, it is illegal, it is unnecessary as we are already an inclusive and tolerant community, it is unnecessary because laws are already in place to stop hate crimes, it stands up to intolerance, it will ruin our economy, it is intolerant. Citizens ask us to bring forth resolutions and that is what happened here. It is very much a part of our local government. Anyone can come to us with a proposed resolution; that is what we do. This resolution is like a Rorschach test, everyone looked at it and saw something different. That is a problem. When putting something out to our government everything needs to be clear. She supports the resolution for the basic things. She cannot support the resolution since it means too many different things to too many different people.

Councilmember Erickson said it has been an interesting few weeks. The Homer News is fun to read in January and February, but after the time change we are all real busy. This went viral, it is not just in the Homer News. It broke her heart. People saw a different place of Homer and who we are. She has been watching people that spew hate at each other on KTUU, Facebook, and all the different social media. It has turned friends to hating each other. Wonderful people are afraid to speak up to say what we believe. She thanked everyone for coming out and for all the letters. It is an important issue. Some resolutions come that are well meaning but controversial with consequences. The resolution that showed up on Facebook was filled with anger and disregard and contempt for our political process. We already include people that think differently than us. Most of us are peace-loving people. This resolution has taken the people and torn away from the issues we need to address. In the end we all want peace, joy, and to be loved and accepted. It has already had an economic impact as we have been negatively labeled. It has unleashed anger. She cannot vote for it in any form.

Councilmember Reynolds read the first two whereas clauses. People in the community have had to endure increased hate and bullying. When you aren't on the receiving end of profiling you don't see it. She sees the resolution as a recommitment ceremony. We are saying we are not going to accept bomb scares in synagogues.

Councilmember Stroozas commented over 100 people spoke making statements on both sides of the aisle. Anything he could say has already been said. He is not supporting the resolution and it won't get enough support to pass. In addressing the question this evening about federal funds, in 2016 the City of Homer received slightly over \$1M in federal funds. Those funds helped build the load and launch ramp, water and sewer improvements, and Homeland Security to help fund the standby generator at the library. Think of where we would be without those funds. We could not have come up with those funds on our own. He is glad we had an outpouring of citizens who expressed opinion and very thankful we have had civility during this lengthy conversation.

Councilmember Smith has known Hal Spence for a very long time. He is a good man. He doesn't think any less of him today. He hopes that Hal can say the same about him even those he opposes the resolution. Councilmember Smith is all for inclusivity, diversity, and acceptance of different walks of life. You cannot fight fear with fear and you cannot fight hate with hate. If you want reaffirmation look in the mirror each morning and promise yourself you are going to do right. He doesn't need a government to tell him that is the case. His expectation of his neighbor and community members will not change due to who sits in the oval office or at the council table, no matter what resolution is passed. Love is really the only answer. Let's be good neighbors and love each other. That's all we have to do.

Mayor Zak passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds.

Mayor Zak said he loves everyone in the community that came out to speak. Although there has been some good done, there has been a lot of damage done. His recommendation to the Council in going forward is to apply the Rotary's 4-way test before bringing anything before us: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all? Mayor Zak said in moving forward we should get onto the business we need to do. He would like to think the citizens will support us in funding the city and to work on the major project before us, the public safety building, and to support that committee. Be there when we ask you for your votes for that. Be with the State of Alaska when we focus on fixing our fiscal issue. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds returned the gavel to Mayor Zak.

VOTE: YES. REYNOLDS

VOTE: NO. LEWIS, SMITH, ADERHOLD, STROOZAS, ERICKSON

Motion failed.

Mayor Zak called for a recess at 10:04 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:14 p.m.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

(Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda at the request of a Councilmember.)

- A. Homer City Council unapproved Regular meeting minutes of February 13, 2017. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

- B. **Ordinance 17-08**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating an Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Grant for Soundview Pedestrian Safety Improvements. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended dates: Introduction February 27, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 13, 2017.
- C. **Ordinance 17-09**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2017 Operating Budget by Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$30,702.00 From Port and Harbor Reserves to Fund a Wireless Control System for the High Mast Light Poles at the Harbor. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director. Recommended dates: Introduction February 27, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 13, 2017.

Memorandum 17-030 from Port and Harbor Director as backup.

- D. **Ordinance 17-10**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Submitting a Ballot Question to the Voters at the October 3, 2017 Regular Municipal Election Inquiring Whether to Amend the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Program to Authorize the Use of Revenues From the Three Fourths Percent (3/4%) Sales Tax Levied to Support the HART Program for the Use of Road and Trail Maintenance and Amending Homer City Code 9.16.010(C) Accordingly Upon Approval by the Voters of Proposition No.1. Mayor. Recommended dates: Introduction February 27, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 13, 2017.

Moved to Ordinances, Item A. Erickson.

- E. **Ordinance 17-11**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2017 Operating Budget Authorizing the Expenditure of \$9,000 for the Purchase of a Pathway Sander Unit. Aderhold. Recommended dates: Introduction February 27, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 13, 2017.

Memorandum 17-031 from Public Works Director as backup.

- F. **Ordinance 17-12**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$110,000 From the Public Safety Building Fund to the Police Station Project to Fund Assessment and Design. Reynolds. Recommended dates: Introduction February 27, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 13, 2017.
- G. **Resolution 17-017**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Authorizing the Formation of the Frisbee Court Road Reconstruction and Paving Special Assessment

District and Authorizing the City Manager to Proceed With the Preparation and Construction of the Reconstruction and Paving Project. City Clerk.

- H. **Resolution 17-018**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Certifying That the Municipality Did Suffer Significant Effects During the Program Base Year From Fisheries Business Activities That Occurred Within the FMA 14: Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Area. City Manager.

Memorandum 17-032 from Port and Harbor Director as backup.

Item D was moved to Ordinances, Item A. Erickson.

Mayor Zak called for a motion for the approval of the consent agenda as amended.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

- A. R&M Consultants, Inc., DWD Feasibility Study Findings, 10 minutes

The presenters requested cancellation due to the late hour and their travel schedule.

- B. Recreation Manager Mike Illg, Community Recreation, 10 minutes

Removed from the agenda. Rescheduled to March 28, 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS (10 minute limit per report)

- A. Borough Report

- B. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission
3. Economic Development Advisory Commission
4. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commissioner John Sharp reported the commission met on February 16th. They had two visitors, Laurie Morrow, new Pratt Museum Director, on the Sister City Art Collection and Adele Person, Woodard Creek Coalition, presenting on the Woodard Creek Watershed. The commission discussed Mariner Park signage and the gates. They have a potential student member for the commission.

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission
6. Cannabis Advisory Commission

- C. Letter from Mayor Zak to University of Alaska Board of Regents, Re: Support for Option 6 of Strategic Pathways

Councilmember Aderhold asked that the letter be amended. She has heard from one of the regents that the Kenai Peninsula Campus has the third highest enrollment of the UA system. She asked for that to be included in the letter.

- D. Notice from Kenai Peninsula Borough of Application for a Retail Marijuana Store license in the Diamond Ridge/Homer Area for Alaskan Cannabis Outfitters

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- A. New Liquor License for Kannery Grill

Mayor Zak opened the public hearing. In the absence of public testimony, Mayor Zak closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCE(S)

- D. **Ordinance 17-10**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Submitting a Ballot Question to the Voters at the October 3, 2017 Regular Municipal Election Inquiring Whether to Amend the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Program to

Authorize the Use of Revenues From the Three Fourths Percent (3/4%) Sales Tax Levied to Support the HART Program for the Use of Road and Trail Maintenance and Amending Homer City Code 9.16.010(C) Accordingly Upon Approval by the Voters of Proposition No.1. Mayor. Recommended dates: Introduction February 27, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 13, 2017.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS – MOVED FOR THE INTRODUCTION.

Council requested an expanded definition of maintenance. City Manager Koester will provide more information as to allowable HART expenses for the next meeting.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. City Manager's Report

Hickerson Cemetery

Council requested additional information on the budget for Hickerson Cemetery expansion as it related to the \$1,000 per plot increase implemented in 2016. The City Council approved \$200,000 in the FY2016 budget for a phased expansion of Hickerson Cemetery (full expansion budget is \$328,000). At the same time, Council approved an increase from \$200 per plot to \$1,000 per plot to cover the capital cost of the development of the Cemetery. Since then, there has been substantial public input regarding the design of the cemetery resulting in additional landscaping, urn burial plots and consideration of future needs such as a walking path, equipment storage shed, and snow storage. While this has increased the visual appeal of the Cemetery, it results in less plots (106 2x5 burial plots and 60 2x2 urn plots) available for sale. At \$1,000 a plot the maximum amount the City will recoup on the project is \$166,000. Nevertheless, this is the first time the City has offered plots specifically for the interment of urns and Council could consider a separate and reduced fee for those plots. The City does allow burials 2 deep in one plot. As a point of comparison, burial plots at the Soldotna cemetery are anywhere from \$750-\$1,000 and urns are \$400. Wasilla charges \$1,000.

If Council would like to amend the cost of burial plots and add a separate price for urn interment, you would do so by Resolution amending the fee schedule. As a matter of course, the fee schedule is amended annually with the budget cycle. The Clerk's office is working on additional rules for managing the Cemetery. For example, when someone purchases a plot we currently deed it to the individual in perpetuity. This means there could be families who have

made other burial plans with reserved plots. These, and other recommendations, will be made by the Clerk's office which would be a good time to re-assess the cost of burial plots.

Boat House Pavilion Grant

I am pleased to announce that the Rasmuson Foundation recently awarded the City a Tier 1 grant to support construction of the Boat House Pavilion. The \$20,000 award for purchasing construction materials brings the project's fundraising to within \$5,000 of the project's overall \$230,000 goal.

Public Safety Communication Grant Applications

Homer Police Department recently submitted grant applications to the FY2017 Alaska State Homeland Security Program for three projects related to upgrading the City's radio communication system. These requests (to replace four repeaters, the emergency dispatch radio and HPD's mobile radio system) are part of the on-going process of completing communication system upgrades required because the system is aging out of manufacturer's support and will soon be out of compliance with new FCC regulations. Last year this grant program funded upgrades to two system components.

Finance Director Hired

I am pleased to announce the City has hired Elizabeth Walton as the next City of Homer Finance Director. Elizabeth is coming from Fairbanks where she works for the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities for the State of Alaska as an Accountant II. Elizabeth has also worked for the State's Department of Health & Social Services and the Department of Revenue. Elizabeth has a B.B.A in Finance, a B.B.A. in Accounting, as well as an M.B.A in Capital Markets. Elizabeth's first day is March 20th. Please welcome her to the City of Homer team when you see her at Council meetings.

Barge Mooring/Haul-Out Repair Facility

Last week, the City responded to a request from the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District for shovel-ready projects that benefit the operation and performance of the transportation network and the regional and national economy for submission to the Trump Administration. Staff submitted a combined Barge Mooring/Haul-Out Repair Facility project description, which ranked first out of the four priority projects for the Kenai Peninsula. Shirley Kelly, Alaska EDR for the Economic Development Administration then forwarded a list of these Alaska projects to the Trump Administration, providing background on Alaska's infrastructure funding needs.

Bryan Hawkins has communicated the combined scope of the project to the State of Alaska, which was approved, and I will share the project with Lisa Murkowski's office when we submit information on the City of Homer's Federal Priority projects.

City Manager Koester circulated the sign-up sheet for "Lunch With a Councilmember" held at the library each month.

B. Bid Report

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORT

- A. Employee Committee Report
- B. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

Councilmember Aderhold announced the upcoming meeting on Thursday. The webinar was not heard due to technical difficulties.

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. **Resolution 17-014**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Authorizing the Extension of City of Homer Water Services to Benefited Lots in Kachemak City and Nullifying the Statement in Resolution 04-42(A) With Regard to Extending City Water to Non-City Properties. Stroozas. Postponed from February 13, 2017.

Resolution 17-014(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Authorizing the Extension of City of Homer Water Services to Benefited Lots in Kachemak City and Nullifying the Statement in Resolution 04-42(A) With Regard to Extending City Water to Non-City Properties. Stroozas.

Motion on the floor from February 13th: MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 17-014 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS – MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 17-014(S) FOR RESOLUTION 17-014.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Councilmember Lewis explained we are not bringing water to the lots. There is already a water line running by the lots. If people want to hook up they will pay the \$16,000 assessment and then will be metered for both water and sewer.

VOTE: YES. LEWIS, STROOZAS, SMITH, ERICKSON

VOTE: NO. ADERHOLD, REYNOLDS

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Memorandum 17-029** from Deputy City Clerk, Re: New Liquor License Kannery Grill.

Mayor Zak called for a motion for the approval of the recommendations of Memorandum 17-029 to approve a new liquor license for Kannery Grill.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. REYNOLDS, ADERHOLD, ERICKSON, STROOZAS, SMITH, LEWIS

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

A. **Resolution 17-019**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Stating That the City of Homer Adheres to the Principle of Inclusion and Herein Committing This City to Resisting Efforts to Divide This Community With Regard to Race, Religion, Ethnicity, Gender, National Origin, Physical Capabilities, or Sexual Orientation Regardless of the Origin of Those Efforts, Including From Local, State or Federal Agencies. Aderhold/Reynolds/Lewis.

Heard following Public Comments Upon Matters Already on the Agenda.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Ginny Espenshade, city resident, announced the \$10,000 grant to continue the needle exchange program and asked Council to schedule a Worksession on the opioid epidemic.

Larry Slone, city resident, commented on Resolution 17-019. It was beneficial for him to see that Councilmember Smith has a side he never suspected and that Councilmember Reynolds stands by her convictions.

Tanise Latham commented on Resolution 17-019. There were all different opinions put forward and she would like to start to bridge the gap to come to a place of healing.

Christine Szocinski, city resident, thanked Councilmembers Lewis, Aderhold, and Reynolds for putting Resolution 17-019 forward as she would want them to sponsor something for her too.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Wells was not present.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Johnson congratulated Melissa. She has been a great help in our office and I very much enjoy working with her.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Koester echoed Jo's congratulations to Melissa. We are privileged to have a dedicated and hardworking staff who is always committed to continuing education and self-improvement.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Zak said he loves this town and loves everyone. People in this community work hard in so many ways. We heard a lot about jobs in the community and people reaching out and doing good things for others. We are great people and got through this. He is ready to move on to get to the work of the City. We are going to be asking the voters for use of the HART funds to balance the budget and support of the public safety building. We are going to work hard to bring the voters something reasonable.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Stroozas commented it was now 2:45 a.m. at his location. The Homer City Council comes through; we always do the right thing. He congratulated Melissa on her MMC certification. To our City Clerk Jo Johnson, this was a lot of work for you and you kept stuff coming. We had it in plenty of time to review the different opinions people wrote in about, in addition to listening to the 100+ people tonight. He is sorry he couldn't be here in person. He has tee time tomorrow afternoon.

Councilmember Reynolds thanked everyone for sending emails, coming, and spending time. A lot of people don't know how things move through the system. It is all set up for open meetings and public participation to make sure everyone has a voice. She has been here for 2 ½ years. The Council always has civil discussion. She thanked everyone that was vulnerable that came

and spoke. Councilmember Reynolds announced lunch at the library to chat and find out more. Your voice is meaningful and relevant. She kept her composure pretty well, but when her son sent her a supportive text that pushed her over the edge.

Councilmember Erickson said it has been a long, but good meeting. It is important moving forward that we undo any of the damage on social media to get people to realize we are a wonderful community. She encouraged us to be proactive in fixing this. Be honest and loving. We will get there and we'll all have a great summer.

Councilmember Aderhold congratulated Melissa. She works with Melissa on the ADA committee. Melissa's dedication to that committee and the community for ADA issues shows how dedicated she is. She thanked Jo and the Clerk's staff for all of their help over the last week on this resolution. She thanked the public and the people that stayed and listened to the rest of the meeting. One person talked about increased participation in city government. She applauds that and looks forward to people paying attention. We are here to represent you. We represent you best when we know how you feel about things. The more you are part of it, the better your government is.

Councilmember Smith said it is important we do move forward instead of being stuck in whatever may have been generated. We are still neighbors and community members. He hopes we can be accepting of differences no matter how we stand on issues. We have the power to dictate and do that positively by accepting the fact that we're different. He is confused with Mr. Sloan's comment since he doesn't know what he actually thought of him prior to tonight. He gave a shout out to the boys and the Best Western Riptide Team that won the championship.

Councilmember Lewis echoed what everyone else said about Melissa. For the past eight years he has missed every championship game. For those with a recall, do it quickly.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Zak adjourned the meeting at 10:54 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole 5:00 p.m., and Worksession 4:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: _____