

Session 17-13 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on May 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor 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, SMITH, STROOZAS  
  
ABSENT: REYNOLDS (excused)  
  
STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER  
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON  
POLICE CHIEF ROBL

Councilmember Reynolds has requested excusal.

Council met as Committee of the Whole from 5:00 p.m. until 5:50 p.m. to discuss 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 2.08.040.)

The following changes were made: **CONSENT AGENDA** – Memorandum 17-077 from City Clerk Re: New Liquor License for Homer Spit Oyster Bar, Letter from Kenai Peninsula Borough Clerk stating non-objection; Memorandum 17-078(S) from Deputy City Clerk Re: Confirmation of Election Judges for the City of Homer June 13, 2017 Special Election; **NEW BUSINESS** Memorandum from Councilmember Stroozas Re: Operational Cost Reductions at the Homer Public Library, Written Public Comment.

Mayor Zak asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

LEWIS/ADERHOLD SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

#### **MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

A. Mayor's Proclamation, Mary Epperson Day, June 6<sup>th</sup>

Mayor Zak read the Proclamation recognizing Mary Epperson Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Former Councilmember Howard read a recognition for retiring City Clerk Jo Johnson. Mayor Zak called for a 15 minute recess to have cake. The meeting resumed at 6:21 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

Scott Adams, city resident, commented in support of Ordinance 17-23 and using a portion of the funds for the police station project and paying off the library loan. He also appreciates looking at the operation of the library, but we also need to look at the rest of the city as well.

Wendy Wayne, city resident, commented in support of the library and opposes Memorandum 17-081 that request that they find ways to reduce their budget, it seems odd to single them out. Everyone is supporting public, private, and home schools and can agree we need a decent library in town.

Deb Lowney, city resident, commented in support of the library. She thinks there are serious issues next year with the changes in the bus schedule and timing of school opening and closing. The library offers programs for the kids and she's concerned about taking funds from the library.

Kate Finn, non-resident, commented in support of the library. She has been an area resident and is moving into Homer. As a non-resident she has used the library a lot and it is a core piece of the community. She encouraged reading the book *Dewey*, it will help people understand partly why it's important.

Sarah Vance, city resident, commented in support of Ordinance 17-23 and paying off the library loan and funds for the police station. She supports Memorandum 17-081 for the library to look at ways to reduce it's cost, and that any department in the city should be looking at that.

Rachel Lord, city resident, supports the library and questions the role of Library Advisory Board in taking this on. Would ask the Planning Commission to look for ways to reduce the Planning Department's budget? She supports everyone looking for ways to reduce cost, but doesn't understand the process component of the request as that's what department heads and staff do in their annual budget process.

### **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 Special Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2017 and Regular Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2017. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 17-076** from Mayor Zak, Re: Reappointment of Susan Fallon to the Library Advisory Board and the Appointment of Grant Garrouete to the Cannabis Advisory Commission.

- C. **Memorandum 17-077** from City Clerk, Re: New Liquor License for Homer Spit Oyster Bar.
- D. **Ordinance 17-21**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2017 Operating Budget by Appropriating \$8,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Program (HART) in Addition to In-Kind Contributions to Build the Woodard Creek Upper Trail at Karen Hornaday Park. Smith. Recommended dates: Introduction May 30, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading June 12, 2017.
- E. **Ordinance 17-22**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code 19.04.090 to Allow Upright and Flat Memorial Markers at the Hickerson Memorial Cemetery and Defining Their Dimensions and Composite. City Manager/City Clerk. Recommended dates: Introduction May 30, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading June 12, 2017.
- F. **Ordinance 17-23**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$2,344,784 from the Homer Permanent Fund to Pay Off the Library Construction Loan and Help Fund a New Police Station, and Repealing HCC Chapter 3.12, Permanent Fund. Lewis. Recommended dates: Introduction May 30, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading June 12, 2017.
- G. **Resolution 17-050**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Confirming the Appointment of Melissa Jacobsen as City Clerk. City Manager. Recommend adoption.
- H. **Resolution 17-051**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Confirming the City Manager's Appointment of Rick Abboud as Acting City Manager for Calendar Year 2017. City Manager. Recommend adoption.
- I. **Resolution 17-052**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Designating Signatories of City Accounts and Superseding Any Previous Resolution So Designating. City Manager. Recommend adoption.
- J. **Resolution 17-053**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Establishing the Property Tax Mill Levy Rate at 4.5 for 2017. City Manager. Recommend adoption.
- K. **Resolution 17-054**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Establishing a 2017 Mill Rate of 9.962541 Mills for the Ocean Drive Loop Special Service District. City Manager. Recommend adoption.
- L. **Resolution 17-055**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Electing to Participate in the AMLJIA Loss Control Incentive Program for the City of Homer for the 2016-2017 Policy Year. City Manager/Finance. Recommend adoption.
- M. **Resolution 17-056**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Adopting the Policies and Guidelines for the Hickerson Memorial Cemetery. City Manager/City Clerk. Recommend Public Hearing June 12, 2017.

- N. **Resolution 17-057**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Approving an Assignment of Lease at the Airport Terminal and Awarding Heather Temple and Amanda Moran, dba Flying Whale Coffee, a Lease Ending July 31, 2020, With One, Five-Year Option to Renew, at an Annual Base Rent of \$3,876 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend adoption.
- O. **Resolution 17-058**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council in Support of the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Continued Commitment to Fund K-12 and Post-Secondary Education. Aderhold. Recommend adoption.
- P. **Memorandum 17-078(S)**, from Deputy City Clerk, Re: Confirmation of Election Judges for the City of Homer June 13, 2017 Special Election.

Mayor Zak asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as read.

LEWIS/ADERHOLD SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

#### **VISITORS**

- A. Tim Dillon, Executive Director, Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, 10 minutes.

Tim Dillon, Executive Director, Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, gave a summer update from the KPEDD, including goals, projects, programs, and partnerships. He reviewed their website updates and provided information on demographics, and wages and income trends.

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

- A. Borough Report

Kelly Cooper, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly member commented that the Borough Assembly is will be holding their final budget hearing on June 6<sup>th</sup> as well as an ordinance changing the seasonal sales tax exemption on non-prepared foods from 9 months to 6 months. She reported the Mayor has proposed a general fund a mil rate increase from 4.5 to 5 percent. They are in the process of Board of Equalizations meetings and some will be held in Homer to accommodate our area. The Assembly set the floor for the school district funding at their last meeting. She commented about the complicated process of setting the floor for school district funding and the issue with maintaining the positions for the qualified teachers. There will be a presentation from the School District at the next meeting and she encouraged people to send comments and testimony to the Assembly. The Borough held their

first online surplus auction sale and it was very successful with net receipts of approximately \$122,000, double from last year, and a 50% reduction in employee wages. A one-year pilot program for a composting project in the Homer area has been proposed to target up to 20 businesses in the Homer city limits that would provide food products for the composting site. The goal is to divert enough food waste to make the project financially feasible, thus saving taxpayer money and reducing the amount of food waste deposited at the landfill. Gregoire Construction will operate the composting operation. What's exciting about the project is that it was produced by a high school student several years ago on Caring for the Kenai. Lastly she reported the ordinance passed creating the Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Service Area, and was also passed at the State legislature the same night. They are looking for board members and there will be a couple of at large seats. The service area will be paid for by PILT funds.

B. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board

Mark Massion, Library Advisory Boardmember, commented that previous Councils reduced the Board's meeting schedule so they won't be meeting again until August and then again in October. The library is functioning, people have signed up for the summer reading program and there is a computer program going on this week for 15 kids to learn programming. The cruise ship visitors enjoy the library and we're happy to have them here. Most importantly they library will continue to have it's doors open and will continue to be a place for the kids to be when the school schedules change.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission

3. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Karin Marks, Chair, and Rachel Lord, Commissioner, of the Economic Development Advisory Commission commented to the Council about the work the group is doing on the Business Retention and Expansion Program survey. They have encompassed feedback from the council and updates to the mailing list, expanding it to include not only business license holders in the city, but also fishing permit holders. Their budget should remain the same with the addition of the fishing permit holders and their goal is to notify as many people as possible regarding the survey.

4. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Deb Lowney, Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commissioner, reported the Commission is working to complete ongoing tasks on their agenda to get them off the table. There has been some work done in parks but some has to be done again because of vandalism. They have talked about getting the Main Street Sidewalk on the top three of the CIP list and are looking at ways to move it forward. They are also looking at how to best represent arts and culture in the community. They are working on a report for council and ways to bring it to the attention of the community.

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

6. Cannabis Advisory Commission

Councilmember Lewis commented the Commission met for discussion and there are no new applications at this time.

- C. Thank You from Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic for City of Homer Grant via The Homer Foundation.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

- A. **Ordinance 17-19**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a Commercial Vessel Passenger Tax Program Pass Through Grant from the Kenai Peninsula Borough for Calendar Year 2016 in the Amount of \$27,630.00 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Introduction May 8, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading May 30, 2017.

Mayor Zak opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Zak asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 17-19 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/ADERHOLD SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- B. **Ordinance 17-20**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting a Business Retention and Expansion Program Proposed by the Economic Development Advisory Commission and Appropriating Funds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,400 from the General Fund Balance for Public Outreach to Promote Business Participation in the Program. Smith. Introduction May 8, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading May 30, 2017.

Memorandum 17-074 from Special Projects and Communications Coordinator as backup.

Mayor Zak opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Zak asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 17-20 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/ADERHOLD SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

## **ORDINANCE(S)**

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### A. City Manager's Report

City Manager Koester touched on the FAA Public Meeting being held on June 8<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers.

Councilmember Lewis asked who owns Beluga Lake, and City Manager Koester responded DOT has jurisdiction because it is a functional airport.

Mayor Zak commented they had a great meeting with the Coast Guard and commended City Manager Koester for doing a great job representing our community and sharing key information with them.

Councilmember Lewis expressed his support for the City assisting SPARC in extending the sewer line.

#### B. Bid Report

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

#### A. Employee Committee Report

#### B. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

Councilmember Aderhold commented the committee met earlier this month and discussed Community Recreation and accessibility of the programs.

#### C. Police Station Building Task Force

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. **Memorandum 17-079**, from City Clerk, Re: Travel Authorization for Mayor Zak and Councilmember Smith to Attend the Alaska Municipal League Summer Legislative Conference August 16 – 17, 2017 in Haines, Alaska.

Mayor Zak asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of Memorandum 17-079 Travel Authorization for Mayor Zak and Councilmember Smith to Attend the Alaska Municipal League Summer Legislative Conference August 16 – 17, 2017 in Haines, Alaska.

LEWIS/ADERHOLD SO MOVED

There was brief discussion regarding the purpose of the AML Summer Legislative Conference.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- B. **Memorandum 17-080**, from City Clerk, Re: Councilmember Aderhold Request to Send Letter from Mayor and Council to Alaska Command Requesting a Debriefing on Northern Edge Training Exercises.

Mayor Zak asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of Memorandum 17-080 to send a letter from Mayor and Council to Alaska Command requesting a debriefing on the Northern Edge Exercises.

LEWIS/ADERHOLD SO MOVED.

Question was raised whether a letter would suffice or if this is asking Alaska Command to talk to Council directly.

Councilmember Aderhold commented they have addressed the Commission before and this is an invitation for them to come and they can decline or respond with a letter.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- C. **Memorandum 17-081**, from Councilmember Stroozas, Re: Operational Cost Reductions at the Homer Public Library.

Mayor Zak asked for a motion for the approval of Memorandum 17-081 and the recommendation that the Library Advisory Board work collaboratively with Homer City Council in coming up with innovative measures on how to achieve a 5-15 percent reduction in the operating budget of the Homer Public Library with the least amount of impact to patrons.

STROOZAS/SMITH SO MOVED

STROOZAS/SMITH MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO STRIKE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD AND INSERT LIBRARY DIRECTOR AND STAFF.

Councilmember Stroozas commented in light of the information that the Library Advisory Board is not meeting in the summer, he proposes this amendment.

Councilmember Erickson expressed her appreciation of the work the Library Advisory Board did in their presentation regarding the income side of the library, and thinks this process would look at the other side of the picture.



Councilmember Stroozas noted that he and Councilmember Reynolds met with the group before they did their presentation to the Council and encouraged them to come up with suggestions for reductions that would have the least impact.

Councilmember Smith added that no one would challenge the value of the library, but in looking at the budget over the last 10 years, theirs has increased 200% and no other department had done that. When asking them to dial it back 5-10% it isn't a loss, it's something that needs to be looked at creatively.

Councilmember Lewis questioned if the 200% budget increase reference encompasses the time that the library was in the old building located on Pioneer Avenue. Comparing the budget of the old and new library is like comparing apples and oranges and doesn't think it's a fair comparison. He added if they are going to look at the library, then let's look at everything. For example if we raise the cost to people outside the city for the library service, then we need to look at the same thing for community recreation.

Councilmember Aderhold added that we are getting ready to enter the budget cycle where each department will be going through this process and the Council will be giving the City Manager direction on how we want the budget to go, across the board. That is the place to have this discussion, not in a memo targeting one department.

VOTE: (amendment): YES: SMITH, STROOZAS, ERICKSON  
NO: LEWIS, ADERHOLD

Motion failed.

Question was posed to the City Manager regarding the budget schedule. City Manager Koester responded Council will be approving the budget schedule at their next meeting and begin discussion of budget priorities at the Committee of the Whole in August. She reminded them that she presents the Council with a draft budget the first meeting in October.

There was brief discussion touching on the budget process, budget cuts of approximately \$725,000 in 2015 through the City Manager working with staff and the public, and briefly reiterating some of the concerns raised on both sides.

VOTE: (main motion): YES: STROOZAS, SMITH  
NO: ADERHOLD, LEWIS, ERICKSON

Motion failed.

D. **Memorandum 17-082**, from Police Station Building Task Force, Re: Recommendations for the New Police Station Project.

Mayor Zak noted there are several recommendations from the Task Force and started by asking if there is a motion to approve the site selection at the Waddell parcel at the confluence of Grubstake, Heath and Snowbird.

STROOZAS/SMITH SO MOVED

Councilmembers acknowledged the work done by the Task Force and recognized the limited time the group had to review the information and prepare their recommendations for this meeting. They also recognized benefits of a new building at a new location and also points raised in previous public comments that if we build a new building, it leaves two empty buildings the city has to continue to maintain.

There was further discussion that the Task Force didn't have time to delve into the HERC site and give a recommendation on that option and that the Council needs to spend more time considering the best way to move forward. It is unlikely they'll have an answer timely to take this to the voters in October.

LEWIS/ADERHOLD MOVED TO POSTPONE THIS TO THE NEXT AVAILABLE TIME FOR MORE DISCUSSION.

City Manager Koester encouraged that Council communicate what additional information they would like so she can ensure staff has provided what they need before they dive into this.

Councilmember Erickson suggested having information from other communities in Alaska that have or have plans to build a \$6 million facility to see what their plans look like and if they are comparable to our needs. Maybe three different options would be helpful.

Councilmember Smith suggested the Police Chief look at the Petersburg floor plan and give some feedback on how that would comparatively work with his space needs. He also suggested conversation with the Chair of the former Public Safety Building Review Committee, Ken Castner, about the reality of who in our community might be available and willing to be investors in the project.

Councilmember Lewis added if we are looking at Petersburg, we need to know their stations use and statistics as compared to ours. He noted Petersburg is a lot smaller than Homer and don't have to deal with the surrounding area as we do.

They briefly reviewed the schedule for upcoming worksessions and agreed to schedule on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

VOTE: (motion to postpone): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

## **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Deb Lowney, city resident, appreciates the support for Public Works assistance to SPARC. It's a great facility and the amount of volunteer effort from the community is phenomenal. She commented that having served on the Police Station Task Force, decisions were made quickly, partly due to the time constraint. Things were taken off the list quickly, she agrees with discussing the potential of the HERC site because of the time that's already gone into it, and a \$9 million option could have been considered for that site. It gets tricky when considering what the community can support. They looked at Petersburg, but their community situation is different from ours in population and caseload. In looking at essential and urgent needs for our department, the City really needs to think

about what we'll lose with a \$2 or \$3 million building. Even a \$6 million building doesn't meet the essential and urgent needs, especially without time to creatively consider ways to do so. The community can't be asked what they can afford until they understand what they'll be giving up.

Julie Carlson, city resident, commented briefly regarding the recall. As a mother, grandmother, former teacher and counsellor in Alaska she's appalled at some of our government representatives advocating breaking the law. Sanctuary cities foster protecting criminals that have broken the law. Do we want our town and citizens to suffer as other countries? Our constitutional rights ensure that there can be recalls if our representatives are working contrary to the good of the citizens. Government is supposed to protect it's citizens. If a person wants to offer support to help illegal aliens there are other ways, without having to impact citizens with a lack of law and order.

Karin Marks, city resident and Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Commission, thanked the council for their support of Ordinance 17-20. She looks forward to coming back with progress reports and a finished project.

Mark Massion, city resident, commented on his own behalf and thanked them for there even handed discussion of the library. He heard pros and cons and appreciates both sides. He asked to point out that the library is not a business, libraries live on tax dollars and donations, and business rules can't be applied. He added that saying the library budget has increased by 200% may be mathematically correct, but we have to realize the increases over that time including books and building size, while the staffing has remained minimal. He thinks they have the best interest of the library at heart, and if they are asking for cuts, that they be across the board for all departments, rather than continual focus on the library. He thanked the Council, encouraged them to continue to do good work, and acknowledged they have a lot on their plate right now.

Larry Slone, city resident, commented about retiring City Clerk Jo Johnson. Professionals are a dime a dozen and it's expected in our civil servants, as it's what they are paid for. To rise to the next level requires personal qualities that aren't always existent like character, demeanor, and a proper temperament. In the 7 or so years he has been around Jo Johnson in her profession capacity, he's never seen her be less than civil, friendly, knowledgeable, impartial, open, and communicative; nor has he seen her abuse her knowledge and position as City Clerk to interject herself unnecessarily or unwanted in any Council discussion. He would categorize her as an excellent Clerk and an outstanding civil servant. Regarding the library, he commented he is still confused of the core purpose of the library. When he was growing up it's purpose was to broaden a person's knowledge of the world and encourage thinking skills. Now he sees it utilized as a day care and entertainment center. It may be considered progress, but it's different. It might be wise to clarify it's function.

Rachel Lord, city resident, thanked Council for passing Ordinance 17-20, she's excited it as a commissioner and as a business owner. On her own behalf, she supports the conversation regarding looking at all departments and at creative ways to cut costs. Asking city staff to look at ways to reduce their budget isn't a new idea. She agrees that city, state, or federal government should not be run like a business, any more than you'd run a business like a government. We operate with different bottom lines. Government has a lot of other nuances and pieces that you don't find in the private sector. It's why it exists as you can't quantify in a dollar/bottom line the value of our police department, our library, recreation department, public works and so forth, on a city wide level. It's easy to underestimate and underappreciate when the idea of "run it like a business" is pushed a little too hard. She is excited about the Summer Reading Program this year. Every program at the library has

increased her and her family's knowledge in some way or another. Lastly, she shared her appreciation for the Summer Soccer Program.

Matt Shadle, former city councilmember, city resident who travels a lot, acknowledge City Clerk Jacobsen, retiring City Clerk Johnson, and retired City Clerk Mary Calhoun. Regarding the library, there is another one not too far up the road that would probably like to run this one for us. Regarding the boardwalk down Main Street, bring your checkbook, it's needed and should have been put in long ago. Lastly, he got a disruptive call asking if he'd put up a sign about the recall. We all make mistakes, no one is perfect, and the councilmembers who are up against the wall probably wished they hadn't brought it upon themselves or the city. It's sad to see the city workers put in the middle. They don't need this, they are getting inundated with piles of garbage brought on by this. He mentioned George Soros, and evil man who supports sanctuary cities.

Hal Spence, city resident, commented that the so called sanctuary city resolution never was a sanctuary city resolution, the people who brought this forward did so on behalf of some people in the city, including him, they did an honorable thing, it was defeated, it should have been over. The recall is the divisive part of this. He urges everyone to vote no on the recall.

Sarah Vance, city resident and spokesperson for Heartbeat of Homer who initiated the recall, stated the sanctuary city resolution never came to the surface and that's not what the recall is about. It's about broken trust. Oaths of office were broken and we can no longer trust the councilmembers who we feel mislead us. She said she'll be speaking on KBBI tomorrow at the round table discussion and would love to have the discussion with the public. It is something that is close to their hearts and she doesn't want to continue debating about something they've been kicking around for four months with a lot of high emotion. She wants to bring it to the table with some reason of what the real issue is about. We are all going to continue to be neighbors and carry on in this community together.

Julia Person, non-resident, commented that attending these meetings is interesting in seeing which members share her values and beliefs and which ones don't. What she likes about the work all of the council is doing, is that it balances each other and together they can make good decisions for the community. She doesn't expect any elected official to completely agree with her or anyone else's values, but expects to see a balance. That is what she see's and appreciates with this existing council. She hopes the can all continue in their offices.

Lannie Raymond, non-resident, commented that the city is important to those who live outside the city. For them, this is also their city. She thanked all the councilmembers for their work. The enormous amount of time spent on city matters, and for their commitment to all city residents and indirectly to those outside the boundary, we appreciate you also.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Wells was not present.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Jacobsen had no comments.

Mayor Zak welcomed City Clerk Jacobsen on board and said on behalf of the council and residents we're grateful she stepped up from Deputy City Clerk to Clerk because that's a big step but she'll do a great job and look forward to working with her.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Koester reflected on how much she enjoyed working with City Clerk Jo Johnson. She used her as a mentor and sounding board and was able to talk through things with Jo and Jo always brought her back to the core values including transparency, integrity, public participation, and whether the process is being honored. Jo is his such a wonderful moral compass in that regard. Another telling thing about Jo is she was able to train and bring up an excellent replacement that she is just as confident Melissa will do a great job and she's looking forward to the next chapter.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Zak reiterated what's been said agreed the next chapter is starting tonight. We wish Jo Johnson a wonderful future in her retirement and commented about her future service in other ways. Larry Slone did a wonderful job of summarizing all the attributes of the City Clerk and he was so pleased to see former Councilmembers Gus Van Dyke and Barbara Howard here while we recognized Jo for her years of service. We will miss Jo and her steadfast guidance for the Council and for the Mayor in preparation of the packet. She was Alaska's Clerk of the Year in 2014 but in our hearts, she'll be City Clerk for the millennium. Good luck to you Jo.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilmember Stroozas acknowledged a lot of nice things were said about Jo tonight and will for a long time to come, this will go down in his memory as Jo Johnson night. He is looking forward to working with Melissa again, as when he served on the Planning Commission. He ended his comments saying Jo Johnson, thank you and we love you.

Councilmember Erickson congratulated the Homer High school teams that have done well in region and state tournaments. The cruise ships have started coming in, two small ships have started us off bringing in people from many other countries, and today started the Holland America ships coming in with 1200 visitors every other week. They had a wonderful time and it's nice to hear them talk about how they enjoyed being in Homer and she applauds the citizens for their part in the experience. She also thanked Jo, she's appreciated working with her, and she looks forward to the upcoming years working with Melissa.

Councilmember Aderhold extended her congratulations and thanks to Jo for her many years of service to the community. We were very lucky to have her as our clerk. Also congratulations to Melissa on moving into the clerk position. She said she has enjoyed working with Melissa on the ADA Compliance Committee and looks forward to working with her here as well.

Councilmember Smith thanked all the men and women who have served our country, especially those who gave their lives in the pursuit of protecting our country and our freedoms, in recognition of Memorial Day. Jo is wonderful, it's been a pleasure to work with her and he is confident that Melissa will do wonderfully. He recognized the girl's track team took state again, the girls softball team won the inaugural regional tournament that was hosted in Homer and wished them good luck at state.

Regarding the police station, we're looking at increasing the capacity of what our police station can do. When talking about increasing the space, you aren't losing but gaining. What we are giving up is potential, possibly, but gaining a lot more than what we have now. He hopes they don't lose perspective in that. He wants us to plan for the future, but be able to afford whatever we do.

Councilmember Lewis commented Jo will be missed but Melissa can carry on at the same high level. He commented we are losing our #1 track and cross-country coach Bill Steir who has coached for seven years and taken teams to state. He is leaving and will be sorely missed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Zak adjourned the meeting at p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, June 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole 5:00 p.m. A Special Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 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.

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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