

Session 17-12 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on May 8, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tempore Catriona Reynolds 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, REYNOLDS, SMITH, STROOZAS

ABSENT: LEWIS (excused)

STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER
CITY CLERK JOHNSON
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON
IT MANAGER POOLOS
LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
POLICE CHIEF ROBL
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MEYER

Mayor Zak has requested telephonic participation.
Councilmember Lewis has requested excusal.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds ruled Councilmember Lewis' absence as excused. There was no objection from the Council.

Council met from 4:06 p.m. to 4:49 p.m. to hear Library Advisory Board – Library Revenue Sources. From 5:00 p.m. to 5:24 p.m. the Council met as a Committee of the Whole 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: **MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS** – Safe Boating Week, May 20-26, 2017. **CONSENT AGENDA - Resolution 17-048**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Maintaining the Water and Sewer Fees at the 2017 Rate and Updating the Homer Fee Schedule Accordingly. Water Storage/Distribution Improvements, Phase 2 (CIP 2017-2022) as backup. **RESOLUTIONS - Resolution 17-049(S)**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Awarding the Contract for the Construction of the Hickerson Memorial Cemetery Expansion Project to the Firm of Paul's Services, of Anchor Point, Alaska, in the Amount of \$67,662.50 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate

Documents. City Clerk/Public Works Director. Memorandum 17-075 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds called for a motion for the approval of the agenda as amended.

ADERHOLD/ERICKSON – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

A. Mayor's Proclamation, Municipal Clerks Week, May 7-13, 2017

Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds read and presented the proclamation to City Clerk Jo Johnson.

B. Mayor's Proclamation, National Hospital Week, May 7-13, 2017

Councilmember Stroozas read and presented the proclamation to Bob Letson, Chief Executive Officer, South Peninsula Hospital.

C. Mayor's Proclamation, Public Service Recognition Week, May 7-13, 2017

Councilmember Erickson read the proclamation.

D. Mayor's Proclamation, Police Officers Memorial Day, May 15, 2017 and National Police Week May 15 – 21, 2017

Councilmember Smith read and presented the proclamation to Police Chief Mark Robl.

E. Mayor's Proclamation, National Public Works Week, May 21-27, 2017

Councilmember Aderhold read and presented the proclamation to Public Works Director Carey Meyer.

F. Mayor's Proclamation, May 2017 as Bike Month

Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds read the proclamation.

- G. Mayor's Proclamation, Kids to Parks Day, May 20, 2017

Councilmember Erickson read the proclamation.

- H. Mayor's Proclamation, Elks National Youth Week, May 1-7, 2017

Councilmember Stroozas read and presented the proclamation to Homer Elks Chaplain John Mink.

- I. Mayor's Proclamation, Safe Boating Week, May 20-26, 2017

Councilmember Aderhold read and presented the proclamation to Marshall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Randi Somers, city resident, said Home Sweet Homer is the best town on the planet and is full of wonderful and talented people. She loves it here and is not moving to California.

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 and Regular meeting minutes of April 24, 2017. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 17-069** from Mayor Zak, Re: Appointment of Avram Salzman to the Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission as Student Representative. Recommend approval.
- C. **Memorandum 17-070** from Special Projects and Communication Coordinator Carroll Re: 2018-2023 CIP; FY 2019 Legislative Request Schedule Update. Recommend approval.
- D. **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. Recommended dates: Introduction May 8, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading May 30, 2017.

- E. **Resolution 17-045**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the Kachemak Drive Phase III Water and Sewer Special Assessment District Roll by Exempting Government Lot 9, Township 6 South, Range 13 West, Section 23, Seward Meridian, Kenai Peninsula Borough Parcel No. 17915012, Owned by Kachemak Moose Habitat, Inc. Mayor. Recommend adoption.
- F. **Resolution 17-046**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Awarding Contracts for the 2017, 2018, and 2019 Public Works Gravel Supply to the Firms of R/C Land Improvement and Paul's Services, both of Anchor Point, Alaska and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 17-073 from Public Works Superintendent as backup.

- G. **Resolution 17-047**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, in Support for SB 54, an Act Relating to Crime and Criminal Law; Relating to Violation of Condition of Release; Relating to Sex Trafficking; Relating to Sentencing; Relating to Imprisonment; Relating to Parole; Relating to Probation; Relating to Driving Without a License; Relating to the Pretrial Services Program. Mayor/City Council. Recommend adoption.
- H. **Resolution 17-048**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Maintaining the Water and Sewer Fees at the 2017 Rate and Updating the Homer Fee Schedule Accordingly. City Manager/Finance Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 17-072 from City Manager as backup.

ADERHOLD/ERICKSON - MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

A. Eric Pederson, Principal of Paul Banks Elementary, Boys and Girls Club Survey

Eric Pederson, Paul Banks Elementary Principal, provided an update on the school bussing change for the 2017/18 school year. They have switched to a tier two bussing system. Students at Paul Banks Elementary will start school at 7:45 a.m. and end at 2:20 p.m. Families may not yet know the impact the new schedule will have on work schedules and childcare. The superintendent has urged Mr. Pederson to figure out solutions for families. A survey was created and sent to parents from Paul Banks, Fireweed, McNeil Canyon, and West Homer. It accounts for 700 students; responses to represent 234 students were received with the following results:

- 19 do not need afterschool care or Boys and Girls Club
- 31 responses (equating to 54 students) are not sure of their needs yet
- 99 will need afterschool care (equating to 161 students)

In brainstorming, Paul Banks Elementary has a gym, storage closet, and one classroom available. Teachers would have to be displaced to accommodate 161 students for afterschool programs. It is too big of a risk since most teachers remain in their classroom late in the evening. Mr. Pederson met with school representatives and with key community members who have similar concerns. He learned the Boys and Girls Club costs a lot of money and they will only run out of one building. They do not offer any programs for pre-K. There is a need for a Boys and Girls Club here in a separate location from the school. Different options are being explored to accommodate families.

Asked if Boys and Girls Club was looking anyplace else besides the schools, Mr. Pederson does not think they are looking. We need to be reaching out to them or come up with something for our kids. The survey included concerns as to how the Boys and Girls Club had been run in the past at the HERC building.

B. Rachel Lord, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Business Retention and Expansion Program

Rachel Lord, Economic Development Advisory Commissioner, presented the Business Retention and Expansion Program. Existing businesses are our best investment since 76% of job growth comes from existing businesses. It is much better to retain a client than to be seeking out new ones. The commission wants to know how existing businesses are doing. They want to look at solutions if businesses are seeing barriers to their growth and success and develop that dialogue.

Business Retention and Expansion is done nationally, statewide through Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, and borough-wide through the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) has been working on a Business Retention and Expansion Program. The EDC has been in communication with the KPEDD to have them provide the EDC with more training.

Many times communities will hire a consultant with a robust process that is both thorough and expensive. The EDC is looking at a smaller version to include a direct planning to action process of survey distribution and response analysis. The three main goals are to better understand Homer's business community, identify needs and red flag issues for local businesses, and to develop and sustain open communication, support, and relationships between businesses and the City of Homer.

The primary tool the EDC will be using is an online survey developed by Google forms. It is completely confidential and will be easy for all since it just requires 10 to 15 minutes to complete. A paper survey that is a duplicate of the online survey will also be available.

The commission has developed an outreach plan to engage the community. Commission members will be reaching out to local organizations and contacting business owners to encourage participation. Ordinance 17-20 before the Council requests \$1,400 to send a postcard to Alaska businesses in the City of Homer. Additionally the outreach will include social media, KBBI's Coffee Table, Chamber of Commerce, and Chris Story radio.

The commission will collect and analyze the data collected to better understand the business community. In December the survey results will be presented to the Council. The EDC wishes to start 2018 with a work plan that is developed from the communication with the city business owners to know what the City can do to help encourage business development and growth with our existing businesses.

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

- A. Letter from US Navy Commander JD Gainey, Commanding Officer, USS Hopper (DDG70)
- B. Borough Report
- C. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board

Mark Massion, Library Advisory Board Member, thanked the Council for listening to their presentation at the Worksession. In April the LAB created a wish list for books and there were twenty people that bought books for the library. This year there has been a 22% increase in the number of items checked out from last year at this time. Mr. Massion expressed appreciation for the Friends of the Homer Library. The LAB will meet again in August.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission

3. Economic Development Advisory Commission

4. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds welcomed student representative Avram Salzman to the commission.

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

6. Cannabis Advisory Commission

Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds reported the commission elected new officers. Chair Tim Clark stepped down from the commission and Don Stead was elected as Chair.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

ORDINANCE(S)

- A. **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. Recommended dates: Introduction May 8, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading May 30, 2017.

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

ADERHOLD/SMITH - MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 17-20.

Council expressed support for the project that will develop comprehensive data on businesses.

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

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

A. City Manager’s Report

HEA Capital Credits

The City of Homer received \$13,425 from Homer Electric Association, Inc. (HEA), as part of its distribution of capital credits to members. The capital credit checks are being distributed to people who were members of HEA during 1986 and 1987. The amount of each check is determined by the quantity of electricity purchased during each of those years. The equity retirement plan calls for \$1.5 million in 1986 and 1987 margins, or earnings, to be distributed to HEA members who purchased electricity during those years. Capital credits are based on margins, which are the difference between total expenses and total revenues of the cooperative. Each year, HEA allocates margins to its members in proportion to the amount they paid for electric service. While the allocation is done annually, the return of margins in the form of a capital credit check occurs at the discretion of the Board of Directors, based on the financial health of the cooperative. As the \$13,425 in unanticipated revenue, it will be added to General Fund fund balance unless other direction is given by Council.

City Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Mark Whaley,	Port	12	Years
Pike Ainsworth,	Port	9	Years
Don Huffnagle,	Port	9	Years
Ann Dixon,	Library	6	Years
Mike Gilbert,	Public Works	3	Years
Jackie McDonough,	Library	3	Years
Sean McGrorty,	Port	1	Year

Trooper Coverage on the way to Anchorage

Many of you have expressed concerns about the reduction in Alaska State Trooper (AST) coverage on one of the busiest and most dangerous stretches of Highway between Anchorage and Girdwood. Beginning May 1st AST will not be the primary responder for law enforcement related calls along Turnagain Arm. This area is within the City of Anchorage. The Anchorage Police Department will be responsible for responding to calls within their city. The Municipality of Anchorage has contracted with Whitter Police Department to provide this service. AST has

three remaining Bureau of Highway Patrol units that will continue to patrol the Seward Highway while also covering other highways in the state.

USS Hopper

I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the success of the visit by the USS Hopper April 29 – May 2. The Homer Chamber of Commerce took the lead and did an excellent job coordinating a warm welcome. The community of Homer came out to welcome the sailors, tour the ship and even put on a fish fry for hundreds (rumor has it the fish fry involved 5 gallons of tartar sauce!). The Port and Harbor worked on the landing for weeks leading up to Saturday and pulled off a difficult docking. Thank you to everyone involved. It was a heartwarming experience to be part of.

Bulk Water to Private Customers

Council has received inquiries as to why the City of Homer does not provide bulk water to private customers when we do provide potable water for RVs at the RV dump station. The RV dump station was built many years ago (it has been here over 18 years, the tenure of the Public Works Director) to provide a service to RVs and encourage the sanitary disposal of RV waste. The RV dump station only operates around 4 months out of the year. The honor system \$5 is likely just enough to cover the minimal operating expense. Currently, Safeway provides water to the public, which is metered and paid for by Safeway. The City gets the revenue without having to maintain the infrastructure. However, I can see how they may frown upon large volumes of water being drawn from their system. If Council would like to provide bulk water service to the public, there are associated costs and risks that need to be analyzed. Providing year round access would require some sort of heated structure and way to meter and charge for sales. Ideally, it would be at an alternate site to mitigate traffic flow, security, and safety issues.

The primary reason the City of Homer does not provide bulk water sales to the public is so as not to compete with private businesses. There are at least 3 private business in town that provide bulk water. The City has left the cost of providing the infrastructure and management of bulk water to the public up to these local businesses. If Council would like to look into providing public access bulk water, Public Works can draw up a couple of different options and the associated costs and impacts for consideration at the second meeting in May.

City Manager Koester reported the Department of Natural Resources and Alaska Department of Fish and Game will host a listening session May 15th on the net pen aquaculture development in Tutka Bay. It is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Islands and Ocean Visitor Center.

The Kachemak Bay branch of Kenai Peninsula College has requested that the Council weigh in on the budget issue before the Borough Assembly. The Assembly will be discussing the allocation to the local college at their May 16th and June 6th meetings. Councilmember Aderhold requested a resolution in support of education in general for the May 30th meeting.

Councilmember Smith inquired on the status of the RFP for a fish pump on the north trestle of the harbor. City Manager Koester reported Council requested that the RFP go through the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission. She is not sure if it was on the commission's agenda last month or if it will be before the commission this month. The RFP is to go before the commission to make sure we are clear in asking what we want in the proposal.

B. Bid Report

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Employee Committee Report

B. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

Councilmember Aderhold reported the committee didn't meet this past month, but they do have movement. Committee members got together with city personnel and completed measurements at city hall and the airport for ADA compliance to determine what is good and what doesn't meet compliance. They had a number of questions that will go to Northwest ADA, who is helping with the transition plan. The committee will continue measurements at city buildings.

C. Police Station Building Task Force

Councilmember Smith reported the task force has a challenging time line, but they are working diligently. Public Works Director Carey Meyer has been tasked with tall orders; hopefully there will be a recommendation for the Council later this month.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. **Resolution 17-044**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Re-adopting the Established Investment Policy for the Permanent Fund. City Manager.

Memorandum 17-066 from Finance Director as backup.

Memorandum 17-071 from City Manager as backup.

Postponed from April 24th: Motion on the floor: MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 17-044 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Smith appreciates City Manager Koester's effort to provide options for the Permanent Fund if the Council chooses to dissolve the fund and redistribute it. He hopes Council discusses it in the near future.

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

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

A. **Resolution 17-049**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding the Contract for the Hickerson Memorial Cemetery Expansion 2017 Project to the Firm of _____, of _____, _____ in the Amount of _____, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk/Public Works Director.

Resolution 17-049(S), A Resolution of the Homer City Council Awarding the Contract for the Construction of the Hickerson Memorial Cemetery Expansion Project to the Firm of Paul's Services, of Anchor Point, Alaska, in the Amount of \$67,662.50 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk/Public Works Director.

Memorandum 17-075 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 17-049 by reading of title only.

STROOZAS/ADERHOLD - SO MOVED.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds called for a motion to substitute Resolution 17-049(S) for Resolution 17-049.

ADERHOLD/STROOZAS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: (substitute) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE: (as amended) YES. REYNOLDS, ADERHOLD, ERICKSON, STROOZAS, SMITH

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Rachel Lord, city resident, supports Eric Peterson and the school district for being proactive for the community's childcare needs. The adjustment of school schedules and childcare is an ongoing conversation. It takes someone helping to explore larger facilities for childcare.

Sarah Vance, city resident, thanked everyone who is trying to deal with childcare with the Borough cuts. It is not the City's job to find an answer. We need to put it back in the Borough's seat. Mrs. Vance thanked everyone in Homer that welcomed the USS Hopper. She read the thank you letter from Commander Gainey.

Kimberly Ketter, city resident, commented on the closure of the Boys and Girls Club in Homer. The grant ran out and we couldn't find a way to fund it. She supports the business plan the EDC is pursuing. Ms. Ketter commented on the \$125 she spent for pet licenses that disappeared and she had to pay again.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Wells was not present.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Johnson had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Koester thanked the Library Advisory Board for their great presentation and thoughtful consideration of the pros and cons on how non-residents can support the library. The presentation was made at the Worksession.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Zak said it is City Clerk Johnson's final meeting and at the next meeting we will thank her for her service to our community. He greatly appreciates how much work the Clerk puts in

behind the scenes to make the Council look good at the public meetings. It was refreshing for him to listen to the council meeting as Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds led the meeting. He feels real good about the Council and the community. Sarah Vance did a good job explaining in detail how wonderful the support was from the community when the USS Hopper visited. As the Mayor, he couldn't be more proud of the community to see everything working so well.

Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds thanked all the visitors to Homer for the recent Shorebird Festival. She thanked Robbi Mixon and the rest of the crew for their work on the festival. There were a lot of visitors in town. The weather was nice Thursday and Friday and then got a little windy and cold over the weekend. The activities were well attended. She was pleased to have the opportunity to read the clerk recognition. She thanked Jo for helping her before and after she was on the council. She thanked all the volunteers on the commissions and everyone that commented tonight.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Stroozas thanked Jo for her years of service to the community. We appreciate her work on behalf of the City of Homer and the community. He had the distinct honor and pleasure to have lunch with Commander Gainey and his XO (executive officer) from the USS Hopper. They sort of teared up when they talked to him about how Homer pulled out all the stops. In his 24 years of Naval service, Commander Gainey has never been to any place that has had such an outpouring of respect and reception that Homer presented. The people in Homer ought to be commended for their respect to our military and welcoming people here when they come.

Councilmember Erickson said she was really proud of her town when the USS Hopper came in. It was great to see the reception the people on the ship received. When they got off the ship they had the first fresh Alaska halibut they'd ever eaten. They were so amazed by the food. She had a great time hauling them around and felt really safe with the big guns and missiles here for three days. We went from winter to summer. It started with Shorebird and now we're into graduation time. She congratulated the graduates from the college and high school. From there we jump into cruise ships, with May 30th being the big start. She thanked the LAB that presented today. It was very informative and they put a lot of hard work into looking at the details. She is excited to see what comes out of the EDC survey. She really appreciates Jo and will miss her. She thanked Jo for teaching her along the way.

Councilmember Aderhold said the birders have gone, but shorebirds and other migrating birds are still around. You can go to the local birding hotspots and appreciate the natural wonder that is Kachemak Bay and the Homer area. She congratulated Jo on her very last meeting.

Councilmember Smith thanked Jo who has been awesome and a great asset for the City and its residents. The City is left in capable hands with Melissa since Jo has been a great mentor and teacher for her. He issued kudos, congratulations, and a thank you to Phil Needham and all the effort he put into helping organize the welcoming party for the USS Hopper. It was born

out of an idea and grew into something beautiful. It was a great outpouring of the Homer spirit that we really do have here.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro Tempore Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole 5:00 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: _____