

Session 17-19 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on August 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Zak at the 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

STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS
LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON

Council met for a Worksession from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. to discuss the new Police Station Building Project; and from 5:00 p.m. to 5:28 p.m. as a Committee of the Whole to discussion 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: **Resolution 17-075**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Committing to Continual Work Towards Becoming a City that is Universally Accessible to All, Written Public Comment; and **Resolution 17-076(S)**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting House Resolution 2748 Save Our Seas Act of 2017, Sponsored by Congressman Don Young, and Senate Bill 759 the SOS Act, Sponsored by Senator Dan Sullivan. Aderhold.

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

LEWIS/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

A. Mayoral Proclamation Recognizing Longtime Homer Resident Margaret Anderson
Mayor Zak read the proclamation into the record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Roberta Highland, city resident, commented in support of 17-076(S), Save our Seas, she is excited to see this coming up nationally. Regarding the Navy's presentation, she said "please never" to Naval training exercises during migration again, please respect all life. Lastly she supports Resolution 17-075 for accessibility for the elderly, disabled, and anyone. It's a good thing for our city to be doing that for everyone.

Dan Boone, city resident, commented in support of Resolution 17-075. He is facing mobility challenges from a hip replacement. He will heal and regain his mobility, but there are others who deal with these issues on a daily basis. It is important for Homer to become fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Roxie Lawver, city resident, commented she is disabled and supports ADA. She is confused by reference in Resolution 17-075 to be able to give visitors the same access to the city, like Juneau does, and involving the city with the World Health Organization. She doesn't support dealing with the World Health Organization, they are part of the UN. Her liking of the UN went down when they started ordering our soldiers around in Desert Storm, and that is the job of the President of the United States. She questioned why the city hasn't become ADA accessible before, they should be the example for others.

Susan Drathman, city resident, commented in support of Resolution 17-075. She noted the ADA went into effect 27 years ago and it is concerning that we are talking about it now, all these years later, but she does support it strongly. Mobility isn't something we think about until someone we love can't use the stairs or get off the curb. When we are healthy and mobile it isn't at the forefront of our mind, but we are all just an illness or accident away from needing support. She urged them to support helping our city become more accessible and helping people get in the doors of our businesses so they can spend money.

Tess Dally, non-resident and member of the City's ADA Compliance Committee, commented in support of Resolution 17-075. Becoming a universally accessible city will improve the quality of life in our community and result in increased visitor numbers. It is a central element of any responsible and sustainable community. Universally accessible infrastructure increases access for families with small children, the aging, individuals with disabilities, and persons who are temporarily rendered immobile. These people bring with them the people they love and who love them, it's important to remember that's a large portion of the community and of people who visit Homer.

Ron Keffer, city resident, commented in support of Resolution 17-075. He remembers what things were like for people before the ADA was passed. He recalled that it isn't an act that says you have to be compliant tomorrow, but that you have to phase into compliance, an issue that we are still dealing with it. Becoming complaint is the right thing to do.

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 July 24, 2017 City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Resolution 17-075**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Committing to Continual Work Towards Becoming a City that is Universally Accessible to All. Lewis. Recommend adoption.

Moved to Resolutions. Erickson.

- C. **Resolution 17-076**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting House Resolution HR 2748 Save Our Seas Act of 2017 and Senate Bill 759 the SOS Act Sponsored by Senator Dan Sullivan in the Senate and Congressman Don Young in the House. Lewis. Recommend adoption.

Moved to Resolutions. Aderhold.

- D. **Resolution 17-077**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Awarding Sportman Supply and Rental a New 20-Year Lease for Approximately 12,500 Square Feet that Includes Tract 1-C The Fishin Hole Sub. No. 2, KPB Parcel No. 18103119, with an Annual Base Rent of Approximately \$11,375.00 and Authorizing the City Manager to Move Forward with Lease Negotiations and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 17-111 from City Manager as backup.

Item C, Resolution 17-076 was moved to Resolutions, Item A. Aderhold.
Item B, Resolution 17-075 was moved to Resolutions, Item B. Erickson.

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

LEWIS/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

- A. Exercise Northern Edge Brief - Chip Johnson, U.S. Pacific Fleet for the Navy and Tim Croft, Alaskan Command

Tim Croft and Chip Johnson presented on Exercise Northern Edge 17 that was held May 1-12, 2017. They reviewed the timeline and community economic impact of the exercise; as well as the Navy maritime goals and activities that were conducted, the environmental planning for the exercise, an environmental summary, and protective mitigation measures that were used. They also addressed the training ordnance and materials expended, and the lack of impacts to marine species.

Mayor Zak called for a recess at 6:44 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 6:51 p.m.

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

- A. Borough Report

Kelly Cooper, Assembly President, reported the Borough received \$426,000 for community purposes through the State's community assistance program. There are 27 unincorporated communities that are eligible to participate this year and receive \$15,479 to support services and projects in the communities. She also reported the final public hearing on the bed tax ordinance is August 15th. The ordinance was amended from 8% down to 6%. She explained that her constituents do not support the bed tax, but have expressed support of a tourism tax, which could be considered in the future. She has a substitute ordinance for an increase to the sales tax cap and if the bed tax ordinance passes she will pull the substitute. If neither of these pass at the polls there could be a mil levy increase that can be imposed with approval of the Assembly. Ms. Cooper commented on the upcoming ballot question to opt out of commercial marijuana outside of the city limits. She doesn't support the initiative and believes commercial marijuana should be treated the same as alcohol. She encouraged the community to become educated, do research, check with the medical community. Nowhere in the ordinance is it being promoted to people under 21. Lastly she commented the Homer Volunteer Fire

Department needs 20 volunteers for an upcoming airport disaster exercise. The exercise is a requirement for the FAA for the airport to be in compliance and encouraged people contact Fire Chief Painter to sign up.

There was lengthy discussion between Councilmembers and Assembly President Cooper regarding the bed tax, tourism tax, and sales tax issues.

B. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board

Mark Massion, Library Advisory Boardmember, commented the Library had a successful summer reading program this year with 379 people participating and reading over 6000 hours combined. He acknowledged the support from the local merchants for the program. He thanked council for the appropriation to pay off the library loan and requested they maintain the current budget for the library, without that payment. The board won't meet again until October.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission

Roberta Highland, Planning Commissioner, commented about the upcoming FEMA Resilience meeting on August 28 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. She also listed Commission actions that were taken at their July meeting.

3. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Rachel Lord, EDC, commented regarding the Business Retention and Expansion Survey the Commission is working on. They are pleased with the response so far and will continue to do do periodic promotion through the end of the survey time period to encourage continued feedback.

4. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

6. Cannabis Advisory Commission

Councilmember Lewis reported the Commission will meet on Thursday.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- A. **Ordinance 17-28**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending HCC 4.30.070(a) to Include a Commissioned Officer in the Armed Forces, as an Attesting

Official and Change the Requirement for Two Attesting Witnesses who are at Least 18 Years of Age to One Attesting Witness who is at Least 18 of Age for an Absentee by Mail Ballot. City Clerk. Introduction July 24, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 14, 2017.

Mayor Zak opened the public hearing. There was no public testimony and the hearing was closed. He opened the floor for discussion by Council and there was none. When asked, Councilmembers stated no objection to approval of Ordinance 17-28, however no motion was made for the adoption.

Clerk's note: This will be scheduled for August 28th under pending business.

B. **Ordinance 17-29**, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of Homer, Alaska, Accepting And Appropriating An FY 2015 State Homeland Security Program Reallocation Grant From The Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management (DHS&EM) In The Amount Of \$110,000 For A Backup Generator At The Port And Harbor And Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Introduction July 24, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 14, 2017.

Memorandum 17-106 from Special Projects & Communications Coordinator as back up.

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

Mayor Zak asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 17-29 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

There was brief discussion confirming city emergency generators are fueled with diesel.

Councilmember Stroozas suggested this generator should be run with natural gas, since gas is out there, it's the least expensive fuel we could use, and would alleviate any issue with fuel spills.

City Manager Koester said she would bring it to the project manager as an option and report back.

Councilmember Smith noted that one potential problem is in the event of a natural disaster, gas could be shut down. The diesel is on site and it could run independently.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- C. **Ordinance 17-30**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer Alaska, Approving a Contract with Homer Real Estate for Real Estate Services to Market and Sell Lot 1 Harry Feyer Subdivision, Section 14, Township 6 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, KPB Parcel No. 179-110-05 And Authorizing the City Manager to Adjust the Sales Price, the Balance of the Assessments, and the Realtor's Commission to Facilitate a Sale. City Manager. Introduction July 24, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 14, 2017.

Memorandum 17-110 from City Manager as backup.

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

Mayor Zak asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 17-30 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. City Manager's Report

Councilmember Aderhold thanked the City Manager, Mayor Zak and former Councilmember Barbara Howard for their a great job on the KBBI Coffee Table. She also thanked City Planner Abboud for the update on the Temporary Cold Weather Shelter for the Homeless and appreciates the work staff and the Commission did on the issue.

Councilmember Reynolds also appreciated the memo from the City Planner.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Councilmember Aderhold commented on the upcoming visit from David Barton from Northwest ADA Center to assist with the work on the surveys for the city's transition plan.

- C. Police Station Building Task Force

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. **Resolution 17-074**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Authorizing Stantec Architecture to Prepare 10% Concept Design Including Preliminary Cost Estimates for Three Options for Construction of a New Police Station and Scheduling a Facilitated Worksession with Council. Aderhold.

Resolution 17-074(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Authorizing Stantec Architecture to Prepare 10% Concept Design Including Preliminary Cost Estimates for Three Options for Construction of a New Police Station an Scheduling a Facilitated Worksession with Council. Aderhold.

Resolution 17-074(S-2), A Resolution of the Homer City Council Directing the City Manager to Hire a Local Skilled Facilitator and Schedule a Worksession to Build Consensus Among Councilmembers Regarding the Site and Building Concept for a New Police Station. Aderhold.

Motion on the floor from July 24th:

Lewis/Reynolds So moved to Substitute Resolution 17-074(S) for 17-074.

ADERHOLD/REYNOLDS MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE 17-074(S-2) FOR 17-074(S)

Councilmember Smith commented in opposition to 17-074(S-2) and suggested amendments to 17-074(S) specifying a \$6 million option would be a better option.

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

Motion failed.

There was no further discussion on the motion to substitute Resolution 17-074(S) for 17-074.

VOTE (substitution): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

REYNOLDS/LEWIS MOVED TO AMEND TO REMOVE LINES 97,99, AND 100, AND ADJUST THE TITLE TO SAY INCLUDING PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW POLICE STATION.

ADERHOLD/LEWIS MOVED TO ALSO CHANGE LINE 104 BE REVISED TO SAY THE AVAILABLE OPTIONS.

Councilmember Aderhold briefly clarified that this is in line with the changes in the first amendment, and since we have the existing HERC site cost estimate and conceptual design, it would allow for a comparison of the two sites.

VOTE (secondary amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was brief discussion clarifying the amendments on the floor.

VOTE (primary amendment as amended): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

SMITH MOVED TO AMEND LINE 102 TO CHANGE INDEPENDENT FACILITATOR TO LOCAL SKILLED FACILITATOR.

Councilmember Stroozas questioned why we need to pay someone to facilitate this when we've already decided what we're going to do.

Councilmember Reynolds replied that there are several areas that haven't been decided; and we'd pay a facilitator because they are skilled in breaking apart people's concerns, building back toward consensus, and finding what needs to be negotiated so we can end up with something everyone can agree on and move forward as a unified body with a unified message.

Councilmember Smith added if the Chief works with an architect and engineer and come back with what has been outlined, we may not need one.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE (main motion as amended): VOTE: YES: ADERHOLD, REYNOLDS, LEWIS, STROOZAS, SMITH, ERICKSON

Motion carried.

Mayor Zak called for a break at 7:55 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 8:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 17-076**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting House Resolution HR 2748 Save Our Seas Act of 2017 and Senate Bill 759 the SOS Act Sponsored by Senator Dan Sullivan in the Senate and Congressman Don Young in the House. Lewis. Recommend adoption.

Resolution 17-076(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting House Resolution HR 2748 Save Our Seas Act of 2017, **Sponsored by Congressman Don Young**, and Senate Bill 759 the SOS Act, Sponsored by Senator Dan Sullivan ~~in the Senate and Congressman Don Young in the House~~. Aderhold.

Mayor Zak asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 17-076 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

ADERHOLD/LEWIS MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 17-076(S) FOR 17-076.

Councilmember Lewis commented the Senate Bill passed last week with wide bi-partisan support.

VOTE (substitution): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- B. **Resolution 17-075**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Committing to Continual Work Towards Becoming a City that is Universally Accessible to All. Lewis. Recommend adoption.

Mayor Zak asked for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 17-075 by reading of title.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

LEWIS/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND TO CHANGE THE WORD HANDICAP TO DISABILITY THROUGHOUT THE RESOLUTION.

There was no discussion.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

SMITH/LEWIS MOVED TO AMEND LINE 42 AND INSERT "CONTINUE TO" WORK TOWARD

There was no discussion.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Erickson expressed concern about lines 34-37 regarding tourism and advertising as universally accessible, but not able to fulfill it, because it sets us up for failure. She shared some of the issues with cruise ship passengers wanting refunds when their expectations aren't met.

Councilmember Lewis explained we aren't going to turn around and start advertising as universally accessible. This is bringing up, as we move along and businesses become more aware that they are losing business, that we may see we can advertise as universally accessible in the future. He cited an example of a business owner in town whose wife is in a wheel chair and there are many restaurants they can't go to because it's impossible to maneuver.

Regarding comments about the World Health Organization, Councilmember Lewis noted the language says "to explore the possibility of joining". In looking at their website there is an

elaborate application, but there are hundreds of cities, both in the U.S. and around the world, that are advertised.

Councilmember Reynolds noted Homer was recognized by Google as being one of the leaders as a connected city. It's the same kind of accolade from a renowned organization if you meet their criteria.

Councilmember Stroozas noted Resolution 16-057 and suggested this is redundant as they established an ADA Compliance Committee. He also noted they appropriated \$25,000 in this year's budget to help with the first step of developing a transition plan and he'd like to see what they are getting for their money before voting on anything like this.

Councilmember Smith likes that this resolution because it points out what progress we have made and where we're moving as a city in recognizing ADA compliance as something that's important. He looked at the World Health Organization website and thinks it might be a stretch to say it's going garner economic development or more visitors, but what struck him was the application process. He doesn't agree with the idea that you have to apply to get information and share it, and that certain standards have to be maintained to continue the membership.

There was brief discussion that membership with the World Health Organization seems more about meeting criteria and then maintaining standards and that the resolution says we will explore joining. This is something to work toward.

Councilmember Erickson commented in looking into the requirements of the World Health Organization, she questions if business owners will feel like this is another layer of regulations being put upon them. She asked what the comparison is for the World Health Organization's rules on ADA.

Councilmember Lewis explained the ADA is rules the Federal Government imposed on government and businesses for accessibility such as door width, ramps, and number of accessible parking spaces. The World Health Organization Age Friendly just addresses whether there are certain services within a community, like Meals on Wheels and Senior Centers for example.

VOTE: YES: REYNOLDS, ADERHOLD, SMITH, LEWIS
NO: ERICKSON, STROOZAS

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Debbie Speakman, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, extended a hand and say they are making resolutions to the business community that is open minded and wants to hear, so of some of the \$25,000 can be pushed toward educating chamber members and businesses in town, that would be important. When talking about things that effect the business community, her door is open and she's happy to get the word out. She noted there are forums for Borough Assembly candidates on September 14th and City Council candidates on the 28th both at 5:00 p.m. Regarding the bed tax, she commented that yes, people will come and pay the extra \$30, but they won't have that \$30 to spend on other things. 90% of our visitors are Mat-Su and Anchorage, our neighbors, and they will pay the bed tax, but we'll see it on the other end of the trickle down. Looking at the Borough, Homer will be paying the most, as we have the most lodging.

Dwayne Nustvold, city resident, questioned what cuts the borough has done or if they just want the taxes. He also questioned if the building exempt cards are still going on. The first time he built a house here, for a year he could be exempt from the supplies to build his home, and wonders if that will be affected in the future with these new tax laws.

Tess Dally, non-resident, thanked Council for taking time to address Resolution 17-075 and clarified that the ADA is the Americans with Disabilities Act and it's a law. A lot of things we can do are very simple like having accessible websites, some of the changes with accessible sidewalks, transportation services, and making information available. One thing that's very important is when she goes to a business that's not accessible, it's a barrier. To say it's good business to remodel is correct, but often it's necessary to educate people. There are many things she didn't realize until she became disabled. It's a difference between an either/or situation and a both/and situation. She would like Homer to be a both/and city not an either/or city.

Kimberly Ketter, city resident, thanked Council for passing resolution 17-075, she was shocked there was so much discussion on it. A good majority of the citizens are our senior citizens and those with limitations and disabilities. A lot of places aren't accessible. She supports the bed tax, it works in states in the lower 48. A lot of the costs already fall on the citizens who live here.

Rachel Lord, city resident, commented on July 29th the Certified American Grown effort held one of their seven field to vase dinners around the country, here in Homer at Scenic Place Peonies. 116 people came and ate dinner, a majority from out of state. There was an article in Edible Alaska online edition that really highlighted our growing peony industry. She expressed appreciation of city staff and previous councils that have really looked at third party certification programs as opportunities to see how they cannot just meet the bare minimum, but go above and beyond. The Clean Harbor's program is an example of that. Most certification programs are non-regulatory, but voluntary. They are people who are experts in their field working together with many stakeholders to come up with a set of criteria that don't just meet bare bones regulatory requirements, but take that extra step. It's a service to give communities

the opportunity to strive a little higher. She's thankful the city has taken that step to strive to be the best in a number of instances.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Wells was not present.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen commented the candidacy filing period ends Tuesday at noon, along with the time to withdraw if anyone has filed and changed their mind. She also commented that she is available to give a report to the Council as ADA Coordinator on the status of the work being completed.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Koester had no comment.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Zak thanked the council for their work tonight, being prepared, and working together. There was great discussion at all three meetings.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Stroozas commented how proud he is of Homer's budding and blooming peony industry. It has made Homer a special place and he thanked Rita Jo Shultz for keeping the Chamber of Commerce supplied with peonies every day so all of our chamber visitors can have a peony as a token of favor and esteem. When you see Rita Jo, thank her.

Councilmember Lewis congratulated the Homer Mariner Football team for winning their first game of the season against Kodiak. He commented Juneau is now in discussion whether to raise their bed tax from 7% to 9%. Whether you are for or against it, if the Borough doesn't allow the people to vote, it's going to keep coming back. They should allow the opportunity to vote yes or no.

Councilmember Smith commented a majority of the state that has no problem charging us bed tax when we go to visit them, so keep that in mind. We are residents of the state and we travel, and they don't seem to have a hang up when it comes to bed tax. He congratulated the Mean Machine, the city league softball winners. Lastly he said he attended the memorial service for Carla Moss Freeman. She contributed a tremendous amount to our community, especially the art community, and her daughter Asia continues to do the same.

Councilmember Aderhold commented she had visitors in town recently and that it was fun to see Homer and Kachemak Bay through the eyes of a visitor. It was very rewarding and reminded her of the amazing local businesses, artists, and people who produce goods here in Homer. She expressed her appreciation to our local businesses for all they do and their incredible customer service.

Councilmember Erickson reminded everyone that August 22nd is the first day of school with new bus routes, and also cruise ship visit. If you're riding around town and see all kinds of school busses and kids, be careful. She thanked Donna and her group for all the ADA work they are doing. It is a big job getting our town in compliance and she appreciates the work. These are important issues we need to deal with. She's proud of our town and loves being able to show it off.

Councilmember Reynolds welcomed the students back to school and noted the next Cannabis Advisory Commission is next Thursday, August 24th. She read a prepared statement:

A few days ago, neo-Nazis and other white nationalists descended on Charlottesville, Virginia, to rally for hate. They came carrying torches and assault rifles. One of them used an automobile as a weapon, and now thirty-four peaceful protestors have been injured and one woman is dead. Amidst the confusion of that day, a helicopter crash also claimed the lives of two police officers.

I have prepared a statement about this weekend's incident, which itself was just one instance of a type of terrorism that has been exponentially increasing over the last year or two. Some of these phrases and thoughts I have borrowed from other people's writing; I hope that I do them honor by including spin offs of their words here, and I thank them for their eloquent bravery.

This is not a partisan issue. This is not a political issue. To demonstrate that, here are some quotes about the terrorism in Charlottesville.

It's not hard to spot the wrong side here. They're the ones with the torches and the swastikas.
Kamala Harris

White supremacists and neo-Nazis are, by definition, opposed to American patriotism and the ideals that define us as a people and make our nation special.

As we mourn the tragedy that has occurred in Charlottesville, American patriots of all colors and creeds must come together to defy those who raise the flag of hatred and bigotry. *John McCain*

Racism is evil. And those who spread violence in the name of bigotry strike at the very core of America. *Donald Trump*

We must ask ourselves an urgent question: which side are we on? Are we on the side that makes excuses for and sanitizes these acts? Are we on the side that pardons the actors behind them by calling them misunderstood Americans, the "alt" right, misguided, upset, fringe, and whatever other name might diminish the outright terrorism these people are perpetrating?

Or are we on the side that confronts anti-Black, anti-Native, anti-Jewish, anti-Muslim racism, bigotry, and xenophobia—and condemns the White supremacist domestic terrorists who marched

on Charlotte to shed some blood? You don't get to be both a Nazi and a proud American. We literally had a war about this. The whole world was involved.

My fellow white Americans, what happened in Charlottesville happened because of us, and we need to understand and take responsibility for that. It's natural to feel that "I just want life to go back to normal," but we can't, we mustn't do that. Our "normal" was what led to this, and it is our privilege that allows us to feel safe. This reality that seems so new and disturbing to us is the reality that people of color have been living with forever. There is no normal, there never was. We have failed in our duty to be accountable, and we need to face our history and our complicity in this system. This is not about "free speech." It never was. There is no "free speech" if anyone brandishes firearms to intimidate those they despise. You can't argue with the armed. The fascists told us their intentions clearly on Saturday. This, to them, is about "blood and soil." They are serious. So am I. This week, it was Charlottesville. Next week, it could be any other town. We all must answer this question, "How will I confront this threat?"

I urge you to denounce hate groups and hate crimes and to spread the truth about hate's threat to a pluralistic society. An informed and unified community is the best defense against hate. You can spread understanding about the importance of dismantling systemic and overt racism in our society in private and public ways; through one-on-one conversations, by talking to your children about racism early and often, in church bulletins, door-to-door fliers, websites, local bulletin boards, letters to the editor, social media and print advertisements. Hate shrivels under strong light. Beneath their neo-Nazi exteriors, hate purveyors are cowards, surprisingly subject to public pressure and ostracism.

People are dying and I'm not standing for it anymore. Racism must named, confronted and abolished. White supremacy must be denounced. Fascists must be stopped.

These words from a Woody Guthrie song have been replaying in my head, "All you fascists are bound to lose"; But, they aren't bound to lose. Maybe they can win. WE have to hold them accountable and MAKE them lose.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Zak adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, August 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., Worksession at 4:00 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.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Date: _____