

Session 17-24 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on October 9, 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, REYNOLDS, LEWIS, SMITH, STROOZAS

STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER  
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN  
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON

City Council met as Committee of the Whole to discuss the 2018 Draft Budget, consent agenda 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 17-129** from Public Works Superintendent, backup item to Ordinance 17-38. Eric Lane Vicinity Map **PENDING BUSINESS Memorandum 17-122** from Councilmember Aderhold Re: Approval of Submitting a Letter to the Marijuana Control Board to Oppose Smoking of Marijuana Onsite but Allowing Consumption of Marijuana to Include the Method of Vaping. Recommend approval. Memorandum from Fire Chief **RESOLUTIONS Resolution 17-085(S)**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Acknowledging the Results of the City of Homer Regular Election Held October 3, 2017 to Decide Ballot Proposition 1 “Shall the City of Homer, Alaska, be Authorized to use the Revenue from the Three Fourths Percent (3/4%) Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Dedicated Sales Tax for the Maintenance of Local Roads and Trails?” and Elect two City Councilmembers. City Clerk/Canvass Board.

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

ADERHOLD/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

## **MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

### **A. Mayor's Proclamation recognizing Representative Seaton**

Mayor Zak read and presented the proclamation to Representative Seaton.

Representative Seaton thanked the Mayor and commented there was a town hall meeting this last week and he'll be at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon to discuss budget issues and talk to constituents at the lower Kenai Peninsula about what the best way forward is.

### **B. Mayor's Proclamation recognizing the Homer Chamber of Commerce**

Mayor Zak read and presented the proclamation to Jan Knutson.

Mrs. Knutson thanked the volunteer hosts who work all week to make personalized referrals to the visitors who call or come in to the Visitor Center, and also to the cruise ship volunteers who welcome and assist the visitors at the dock and the bus stops. She also recognized the Chamber members who provide accommodations, tours, taxis, and meals. It was a wonderful summer.

### **C. Mayor's Proclamation - Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Councilmember Aderhold read and presented the proclamation to Mary Lou Kelsey.

Ms. Kelsey, president of the Board of Kachemak Bay Family Planning, thanked Mayor Zak and City Council for their support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in our community, and especially Councilmember Reynolds for her past and present support of public health initiatives and reproductive health care services, which have benefitted all of us. She thanked the local businesses and individuals who've joined the Pink Flag Campaign to remind citizens of the importance of preventative health care with regular exams and to help with access to local screening for breast cancer.

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

### **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 September 25, 2017 City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 17-127** from City Clerk Re: Travel Authorization for Mayor Zak, 2 Newly Elected Officials, and up to Three Councilmembers to attend the Alaska Municipal League 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Government Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, November 13-17, 2017. Recommend approval.
- C. **Memorandum 17-128** from City Clerk Re: Vacation of a Portion of the 33-foot wide Section Line Easement in Homer Lying within Lot 1 Ditton 2014 Replat within the City of Homer and the KPB. Recommend approval.
- D. **Ordinance 17-38**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the Official Road Maintenance Map of the City of Homer by Adding Eric Lane as Urban Road. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended Dates: Introduction October 9, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 30, 2017.

Memorandum 17-129 from Public Works Superintendent as back up

- E. **Resolution 17-083**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Adopting Uniform Abatement of Water and Sewer Past Due Amounts Due When City has made a Billing Error. City Manager. Recommend adoption.
- F. **Resolution 17-084**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Acknowledging that Previously Paid Water Assessments will be Credited Back to Each Property Owner at the time Road and Sewer Assessments are Levied. City Clerk/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 17-130 from Public Works Director as back up

Mayor Zak asked for a motion to adopt the recommendations of the consent agenda as read.

ADERHOLD/ REYNOLDS SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
Motion carried.

## **VISITORS**

A. Homer Hockey Association Program Update - Jan Rumble (5 minutes)

Jan Rumble, Homer Hockey Association President, commented about the 2017-2018 season at the Kevin Bell Arena including:

- 18 and under youth competitive hockey team
- Microbells – a learn to play hockey program for 4-8 year olds
- After school open skate on Wednesday and Friday from 3:00 - 4:30
- New website and calendar
- HHA Youth Hockey Program
- Co-Ed Adult Hockey League
- Women's Diva Hockey Group
- Men's Intermediate League
- We Skate – learn to figure skate for all ages
- Ice Breakers – once a week hockey program for 8-12 year olds
- Drop in programs – Broomball, Curling, Stick Time, and Public Skate
- Homer Mariner High School Hockey
- 10 and under Tier III State Tournament in March
- Co-Ed Jamboree at the end of October
- Women's Winter Jamboree in January
- Ash Cup Men's tournament in March

Ms. Rumble talked about the economic benefits of the tournaments that are held throughout the season. She added the Kevin Bell Arena signed a mortgage agreement for the building that has secured funding for its long term future. She recognized the rink manager, board of directors and the huge volunteer base.

B. SPARC Program Update – Bailey Lowney (5 minutes)

Bailey Lowney, Executive Director of SPARC, updated the Council on the opening of SPARC and the upcoming programs, including:

- Futsol (Indoor soccer) for adults, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade program, K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade program
- Hockey dry land practice
- Dodge ball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Morning and Afternoon Walking with Music
- Parent and Child Playtime
- Roller Skating
- Youth and Women's basketball
- Badminton
- Youth Pickle Ball
- Dances and Concerts

- Roller Derby
- After school programs

She recognized all the community and volunteer effort that went in to creating this facility and encouraged people to check out upcoming schedules on Facebook and at [www.sparchomer.org](http://www.sparchomer.org)

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

A. Borough Report

Kelly Cooper, Borough Assembly President, thanked Councilmembers Lewis and Reynolds for their service. The Assembly is having a public hearing tomorrow on an Ordinance to amend freight hauling services from sale tax, due to the few taxable freight hauling dollars we'll receive, it doesn't offset the cost of code enforcement. They started the 2017 Borough Land Sale that ends January 30<sup>th</sup>. There are ten parcels for sale and information is on the Borough website under the hot topics section. They'll certify the results of the October 3<sup>rd</sup> election at their next meeting and there is a run-off for Mayor on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Absentee in person voting will open October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Borough Annex in Homer.

In response to a question of what happens since the sales tax cap increase failed, Assembly President Cooper said they have to look for more efficiencies and additional revenue streams. She said don't be surprised if they bring forth a mil rate increase in the next budget cycle.

B. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board

Kate Finn, Library Advisory Boardmember, commented to Council about the many mind and quality of life enhancing activities that are available at the library including reading programs, art programs, online programs, the upcoming book sale, LARP (live action role playing), and play reading.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission

Tom Bos, Planning Commissioner, commented the Commission has recently been reviewing Chapter 6, Public Services and Facilities, in the Comprehensive Plan. They finally have a full commission after a long time getting by with one or two short. He commended everyone that was here before him discussing the hockey rink and SPARC, it's pretty amazing what some volunteers can do in this little town. He hopes we can keep it going.

3. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Karin Marks, Economic Development Advisory Commission Chair, congratulated everyone who participated on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with the democratic process and congratulated Rachel Lord and thanked her for her time on the Economic Development Advisory Commission. Since she's going to Council now, there is a vacancy on the Commission. Mrs. Marks encouraged interested people to contact the clerk's office for an application. She said they now have 106 responses to their BR&E Survey and it closes on Friday so there are a few more days.

4. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

6. Cannabis Advisory Commission

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

A. **2018 Draft Budget**

Mayor Zak opened the public hearing. There were no public comments.

- B. **Ordinance 17-34**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2017 Operation Budget to Provide for Necessary Mid-Year Adjustments by Increasing Revenue Projections and Appropriating and Transferring Funds from the General and Port and Harbor Funds. City Manager/Finance Director. Introduction September 25, 2017 Public Hearing and Second Reading October 9, 2017.

Memorandum 17-125 from City Manager as backup.

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

Mayor Zak asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 17-34 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

ADERHOLD/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

SMITH/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND LINE 81, CITY HALL RESERVES AND DECREASE THE AMOUNT BY \$116,575; LINE 100, FY17 STATE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AND DECREASE BY \$26,905; LINE 101, FY17 STATE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AND DECREASE BY \$205,118; AND LINE 93, POLICE STATION FUND, TO INCREASE IT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$348,598

There was discussion that with this amendment there is enough money in reserves right now for the City Hall roof replacement. This amendment leaves \$50,000 to go toward another project.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

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

VOTE (main motion): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- C. **Ordinance 17-35**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving the Sale of Lot 47 Homer Spit Subdivision Amended, KPB Parcel No. 18103408 to Land's End Acquisition Corporation for \$30,000 Cash and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Introduction September 25, 2017 Public Hearing and Second Reading October 9, 2017.

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

Mayor Zak asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 17-35 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

ADERHOLD/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- D. **Ordinance 17-36**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving the Sale of Govt. Lot 36, Section 14, Township 6 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, KPB Parcel No. 17910001 to Betty Gambone for \$25,000 Cash, Plus Associated Water and Sewer Assessments, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Introduction September 25, 2017 Public Hearing and Second Reading October 9, 2017.

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

Mayor Zak asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 17-36 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

ADERHOLD/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- E. **Ordinance 17-37**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating an FY 2017 State Homeland Security Grant for Upgrading the City's Radio Communication System and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Introduction September 25, 2017 Public Hearing and Second Reading October 9, 2017.

Memorandum 17-124 from Special Projects & Communications Coordinator as backup

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

Mayor Zak asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 17-37 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

ADERHOLD/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

City Manager Koester commented she will communicate with Councilmembers to schedule a tour of the fire hall improvements.



## **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

- A. **Memorandum 17-122** from Councilmember Aderhold Re: Approval of Submitting a Letter to the Marijuana Control Board to Oppose Smoking of Marijuana Onsite but Allowing Consumption of Marijuana to Include the Method of Vaping. Recommend approval.

Mayor Zak stated the motion on the floor from September 25<sup>th</sup> as follows:

*ADERHOLD/REYNOLDS MOVED TO APPROVE MEMORANDUM 17-122*

ADERHOLD/REYNOLDS MOVED TO AMEND THE TITLE TO READ APPROVAL OF SUBMITTING A LETTER TO THE MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD TO OPPOSE SMOKING, VAPING, AND DABBING OF MARIJUANA ON-SITE.

Councilmember Aderhold noted she will also make a motion to substitute a revised letter based on information from the last meeting and memos from the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Councilmember Lewis commented in opposition to the change, in that it's not different from going to a bar and consuming. All this change does is support consuming edibles on site. At the Cannabis Advisory Commission meeting they discussed it with the Police Chief who raised concern about the second hand smoke effects on first responders, but nothing was mentioned about vaping and dabbing.

Councilmember Reynolds noted the memo and supporting documents from the Fire Chief that were included in the supplemental packet that he believe supports the issue residue in vaping.

Councilmember Lewis responded with vaping, smoke doesn't hang in the air like second hand smoke from pot or cigarettes. When vaping, a person expels water vapors that disappear.

Councilmember Stroozas also acknowledged the opinions of the Police Chief and Fire Chief. He pointed out the Fire Chief's recommendation to Council that it's best to err on the side of caution and recommend not allowing by either smoking or vaping. The Police Chief elaborated by saying he'd like more scientific data supporting the safety of our first responders to vapors before it's allowed for on-site consumption.

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

Motion carried.

ADERHOLD/SMITH MOVED TO LINE 3 OF PARAGRAPH 1 ~~BUT ALLOW ONSITE CONSUMPTION OF MARIJUANA TO INCLUDE THE METHOD OF VAPING~~ **AND ALSO RECOMMEND PROHIBITING ONSITE VAPING AND DABBING**

There was no discussion.

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

Motion carried.

ADERHOLD/SMITH MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE THE OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup> LETTER FOR THE SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> LETTER.

Councilmember Erickson expressed her concern with the consumption side of the issue and we don't have a way to monitor when someone is driving under a lot of influence, like with alcohol there is a breathalyzer. She feels there isn't a safeguard for people driving to be stopped when they need to be pulled off the road.

Mayor Zak noted the motion on the floor is regarding substituting the letters.

Councilmember Reynolds commented there is nothing in the letters that relates to these comments, and also whether people are consuming at their own home or in a commercial establishment it remains a problem either way.

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

Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith commented when the voters passed legalizing cannabis they charged lawmakers with regulating it and implement public policy to ensure public safety. Alcohol is a legally consumed intoxicant that has been legal for a long time and statistics have shown the havoc it has wreaked on those who have chosen to abuse. Now it's being proposed to establish locations where someone can enter and consume another intoxicant and if this is approved we're creating mixing zones. He referenced reading he has done relating to mixing the two drugs, on the east coast it's called "Getting Twisted" and on the west coast it's called "Cross

Faded”. He read that scientists have agreed that while alcohol and marijuana each rise driver’s risks for injury independently, doing both is even worse. He referenced a study of the effects of marijuana on the intestines and the brain and how those effects skyrocket when adding alcohol to the system. He argued we don’t have the tools to adequately assess impairment and we’re creating these mixing zones which is incredibly dangerous. We as the governing body need to act in the best interest of the community.

Mayor Zak recognized City Clerk Jacobsen who questioned if this discussion was relevant to the motion on the floor to approve Memorandum 17-122 as amended.

Councilmember Smith said this has to do with vaping and public consumption.

Councilmember Lewis responded people aren’t going to buy their pot and alcohol in the same location. He added that there should be an uptick in the use of taxi’s. A responsible user will either walk home or grab a cab, as is seen on a Saturday or Sunday mornings when you see the cars that are left at the bars from the night before. Drinking and driving, smoking and driving, doing both and driving aren’t safe, that’s a given.

Councilmember Reynolds thinks we’re conflating having the ability to consume in a public establishment with consuming at all. She knows people drink at private parties or private houses and drive afterwards, where the consumption is happening and the driving afterward is a flawed argument.

Councilmember Aderhold noted the memo is about onsite consumption at a marijuana retail facility. It’s something the Marijuana Control Board of the state is looking into, and we are providing comment to them on what we think the direction should be. She thinks a conversation about mixing marijuana and alcohol doesn’t relate to the comment we are trying to provide to the board. If a person is consuming at a marijuana retail facility, that is all a person will be able to consume, there won’t be access to alcohol.

Councilmember Smith said that’s exactly what he’s talking about so if you’ve missed that, the he missed the mark. If we become complicit as a governing body to open the doors to onsite consumption we then say it’s okay for them to drive down the street and consume on another level. We don’t have the ability to have any public policy to prevent that, but this, we do. In Colorado they have passed on-site, it hasn’t been implemented yet and they say their amount of DUI’s related to marijuana have doubled within the last three years. So effectively we’re saying we’re okay with our DUI rates doubling and we’re going to open these public consumption spots so that it might go up even more. He doesn’t know whose loved one has to die as a result of this for us to say, “Oh, maybe that was a bad idea.” People acting independently in their homes or deciding to consume any other place is a different conversation. This is about what we’re facilitating.

Mayor Zak asked for confirmation of the motion on the floor.

City Clerk Jacobsen responded the Memorandum title was amended to read the Homer City Council supports prohibiting on-site consumption of smoking and also prohibiting on-site vaping and dabbing of marijuana on site, including the letter dated October 9<sup>th</sup> for the letter dated September 25<sup>th</sup>, and amending line 3 to include also recommend prohibiting onsite vaping and dabbing.

There was no further discussion.

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

Mayor Zak voted yes to break the tie.

Motion carried.

Councilmember Stroozas asked for a re-cap of the action that was just taken.

Councilmember Aderhold replied the Council passed the amended memorandum to send a letter to the Marijuana Control Board that recommends approval of on-site consumption with the exception of smoking, vaping, and dabbing.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **Resolution 17-085**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Acknowledging the Results of the City of Homer Regular Election Held October 3, 2017 to Decide Ballot Proposition 1 “Shall the City of Homer, Alaska, be Authorized to use the Revenue from the Three Fourths Percent (3/4%) Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Dedicated Sales Tax for the Maintenance of Local Roads and Trails?” and Elect two City Councilmembers. City Clerk/Canvass Board.

**Resolution 17-085(S)**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Acknowledging the Results of the City of Homer Regular Election Held October 3, 2017 to Decide Ballot Proposition 1 “Shall the City of Homer, Alaska, be Authorized to use the Revenue from the Three Fourths Percent (3/4%) Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Dedicated Sales Tax for the Maintenance of Local Roads and Trails?” and Elect two City Councilmembers. City Clerk/Canvass Board.

Mayor Zak asked for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 17-085 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS SO MOVED

Mayor Zak asked for a motion to substitute.

ADERHOLD/LEWIS MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 17-085(S) FOR 17-085.

There was no discussion on the motion to substitute.

VOTE (substitute): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VOTE (main motion): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

City Clerk Jacobsen administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Councilmembers Caroline Venuti and Rachel Lord.

Mayor Zak called for a recess at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Zak read recognitions to outgoing Councilmembers Lewis and Reynolds.

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Francie Roberts, city resident and former Councilmember, thanked Councilmember Lewis for his 9 years of service and Councilmember Reynolds for a term. When she served on the council with them they were always well prepared and took their work seriously. She appreciated their devotion to their jobs they were elected to. She recognized Ms. Reynolds for standing by her values and compassion for others. She recognized Mr. Lewis for all the things he's done in an effort to protect our community, particularly in the area of environmental issues.

Brett Glidden, city resident and certified chemical dependency counselor with the State, commented on her own behalf. She requested the Council consider creating a task force to determine the best use of all of our resources to address the consequences of substance abuse and addiction. She applauds efforts being made toward prevention, education, harm reduction, and life saving measures during this public health crisis, but thinks we need to bring the non-profits, government, and volunteers to the same table to have our voices heard. The area that needs attention now is treatment. She shared information about a regional block grant for running treatment programs that has been awarded to CICADA based in Kenai for over 30 years, and that Homer needs to advocate for a fair share of the grant for treatment in

our community. She added that there is no Homer representation on their board, and she sees no local prevention work from CICADA, despite it being in their mission.

Ron Keffer, city resident, commented regarding his time as Homer High School Principal from 2000-2008 and a huge frustration he felt was seeing an enormous amount of substance abuse, not only with some students, but their parents as well. There was a major issue with drugs and it ruined a lot of lives. Back then there were some avenues to help kids and adults, but they were difficult to access. This is something that has accelerated recently, the opioid crisis is part of it and the heroin usage in Homer is much greater than most people realize. He agrees with Ms. Glidden's comments that this is something the Council should pay attention to.

Ken Landfield, city resident, thanked Councilmembers Lewis and Reynolds for the good work they've done and welcomed incoming Councilmembers Venuti and Lord. He commented regarding getting a stop light at the intersection at Fat Olives, it seems to be a dangerous area.

Rachel Lord, city resident, thanked Councilmembers Lewis and Reynolds. She is appreciative of the time and work they've put in. She also appreciates the huge outpouring of support for both Caroline and herself. She's thankful for the voter turnout and shared her husband's challenge to find an opportunity to vote because when he would stop in, the lines were very long and he had the kids with him. She is pleased with the turnout and that voter's supported the HART proposition. She looks forward to sitting at the table and honoring the citizens of Homer and the process the Councilmembers work through.

Caroline Venuti, city resident, thanked Councilmembers Lewis and Reynolds. She probably wouldn't have run if it hadn't been for them, because she saw how they enjoyed their service and how they were making a change for our town for the better. She encouraged they stay involved and she looks forward to working with everyone on Council, she thinks we're off to a wonderful start. She thanked the community for their support, and appreciated the young voters who said they voted for the first time. She is proud of the young people who registered in time and voted, because they'll continue to vote.

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

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

City Clerk Jacobsen thanked Councilmembers Lewis and Reynolds for their service. She's appreciated working with them over the years and has appreciated their support for city employees during their time on council. She said she's looking forward to working with Councilmembers Venuti and Lord.

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

City Manager Koester echoed the City Clerk's comments. It's been a pleasure to serve under Councilmember Reynolds and Lewis who were involved in hiring her. She remembers Dave's advice, "Are you sure you want that job?" She appreciates their support of the employees, the City, and the willingness to give us the benefit of the doubt. She looks forward to working with Rachel and Caroline, we have a great team moving forward.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Zak thanked Councilmember Reynolds and Lewis for their years of service. The difference they've made in the community can't be summarized in words. It's an on-going journey and he looks forward to seeing their future involvement with the community. He said he looks forward to working with Caroline and Rachel, and thanked the other candidates who ran and are here at the meeting tonight. He thanked the voters and he thinks we're a strong community. Mayor Zak expressed his appreciation for the council and recognized former Councilmember Francie Roberts in the audience; also Representative Seaton who's headed back to Juneau for the fourth session.

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

Councilmember Erickson commented that today was lunch with a councilmember at the library. Andy Haas showed up and we talked in-depth about opioids, marijuana, and things going on here. It was very informative and sobering, and we do have a big problem we need to look at. She appreciates what was shared tonight because it reinforced what's been happening today. She congratulated Caroline and Rachel, she looks forward to working with them. She thanked Catriona and David, it's been fun getting to know you in a completely different way. She congratulated the football team, we have some good stuff happening in Homer. She said if you're really bored this next weekend, there are four shows of Jesus Christ Superstar.

Councilmember Lewis congratulated Caroline and Rachel and wished them good luck. Nine years was a long time but a fun time and a short time. He thanked Bill Smith for talking him in to this, Barb Howard and Francie Roberts for taking him under their wing his first term, Katie for putting up with him, Jo, Melissa and staff for doing what you do excellently and with smiles. He's participated in five elections now, the last one was the best and he thanked all the people who worked on the no recall vote; that was great and thank you.

Councilmember Smith commented the Boathouse Pavilion is going up, they are working hard, and volunteers are welcome to come help out. He congratulated the Mariner's in their victory against Eielson, they'll play Barrow for the State Championship. It was fun to see Mary Lou here and he appreciates her efforts in the medical community; she delivered his first child who's now 20. All these little blasts from the past and how quickly things go by is interesting. He welcomed Caroline and Rachel to the Council, he thinks it's going to be awesome. People spoke very loudly and he's excited to work with them. He's worked with Rachel on the Economic Development Commission, she works hard, and is going to do well for the

community. He thanked David and Catriona, he appreciates their effort and work they've done. One thing that kept him from running for a long time is that Homer tends to have a reactionary response to some things that makes it very difficult to want to step out and into a certain light. We've seen it rear its head in the ugliest way, so thanks for being here, thanks for serving and he wished them the best.

Councilmember Aderhold commented regarding a task force on substance abuse, that Council was meeting quarterly at worksession and she thinks they felt it was important for councilmembers be part of that process. She would support reinstating quarterly worksessions at a minimum, similar to what they did before. She thanked everyone who ran, it's not easy to put yourself out there. She looks forward to working with Caroline and Rachel. She said she will miss Dave and Catriona more than they could possibly know. They've come to every council meeting completely prepared, we've had amazing debates at this table, and she has appreciated everything they've had to say and contribute.

Councilmember Stroozas commented on behalf of the Homer Elks, they are a body of a large group of citizens from all over. Their official motto is Elks Care, Elks Share, but as it pertains to opioid medications, its Elks Care, so we Don't Share. The Elks National Foundation has encouraged lodges to participate in a program to rid our communities of pills and medications people find in cabinets that can be sold and become addictive to a lot of people. The state Elk's Association has partnered with the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to distribute medication disposal bags. He explained up to 40 pills and liquid medications can go into the bag, then add water to activate a charcoal based ingredient, seal it and the active ingredients in the drugs are neutralized and can be safely thrown away. Bags will be delivered to Ulmers, Safeway, and Scott's Pharmacy for distribution. Mr. Stroozas commented Dave and Catriona will be missed at the dais, they've had fun and interesting conversation over the past year but it all results in growth and hopefully betterment for our community. He wished them both the best. He knows they'll continue to be a strong advocate for all positive and good things that happen in the community. He congratulated Caroline and Rachel, he looks forward to working with them in a positive manner to take our community to where we want to go.

Councilmember Reynolds commented that some of her favorite aspects of council comments is hearing about the accolades, achievements, and losses her fellow councilmembers choose to share. She recognized Autumn Daigle for being the first Homer Mariner Cross Country State Champion, boys and girls came in as runners up as teams for the state. Also the Homer Mariners football team, for their win at the first a playoff game in Homer. She reminded listeners about Pulling Together Safe Children and Healthy Families, a Forum for People of Faith, with First Lady Donna Walker, Jesus Christ Superstar, and the retirement party for Mary Lou Kelsey. She thanked everyone here who came for the swearing in of new councilmembers Rachel Lord and Caroline Venuti, and all the candidates for stepping up to the task. She thanked everyone who reached out to her with kindness and support during her tenure on council; everyone who took the time in the past three years to contact her or come to meetings to raise her awareness of an issue; city staff for their steadfast commitment to the city that works, she hopes she can still



finagle a way to come to the holiday party; commission and committee members, your participation and willingness to drill down into the minutia makes city business smoother and more effective. She also thanked Dennis Welch for teaching his students the importance and mechanics of engaging with our elected officials and apologized to the last group of students for her lack of response as the last few months have been difficult.

She commented regarding the time spent at council meetings, even before she'd consider becoming a candidate. She recognized the volunteerism and member's own vision for what was best for the community and the city. She pointed out that at times she disagreed with their approach or point of view, but never felt they shouldn't be allowed to participate. In her time on council she was diligent in following process and law, paying close attention to the Open Meetings Act and Robert's Rules of Order, checking in about potential conflicts of interest, and working hard to understand the various points of view and kept them in mind, even if she felt she needed to proceed in a different direction. She's happy to see that we still have a reasonably balanced council at the table, as it makes for the best discussions and compromises which in turn lead to public policy that is thoroughly considered and the best for the community as a whole. While we may not like every council decision and see eye to eye, the council deliberates with each member motivated to end up with a positive impact for the city and its residents. She encouraged the public to let councilmembers know when they disagree by using critical thinking, reasoned emails, and thoughtful public comments. Then, when it's time for their next election cycle, step up as a candidate yourself or work with someone you admire to help their campaign. Recall is an important part of our checks and balances and it should be used for its intended purpose which is to remove elected officials who demonstrate misconduct in office, incompetence, or failure to perform prescribed duties. Disagreeing with a councilmembers values, opinion, or politics does not warrant recall, but it does warrant working to replace them when their term is up. She ran for office originally because she didn't see a candidate that represented her view points. She is grateful for this council experience and planned to run again as continuity supports effective actions and more cohesive meetings.

Ms. Reynolds noted some of the sacrifices of being a councilmember and also recognized the importance of volunteerism and community service which are essential to a resilient and healthy town and she's always willing to do her part. She shared her some of her experience with the hardest aspects of the response to her desire to recognize the values of inclusivity and diversity, which were the personal attacks, dismissal by people who had long term interactions, relationships, and friendships with her. She hopes from now on no City of Homer Councilmember experiences what she, Donna, and Dave lived through this year. She never expected to agree with everyone on all things, but to disparage and scoff when she acted with community well-being at heart is not okay. To repeat and insist they'd intentionally harm her home is unfair and unreasonable. To persist with petty actions of recalls and claims of conflict of interest, and then to state she was the cause of associate expenses to the city is ridiculous. She was doing her job and it's her unpaid job.

She thanked City Manager Katie Koester, she is a level five leader, a combination of humbleness and poise to serve our city well. Thank you to Jo Johnson and Melissa Jacobsen for bearing much of the brunt of the last months and for always being calm and patient. Thank you to all department heads and city staff who contribute incites and information that are crucial to our decisions and put what we decide into action. Thank you to her Council mentors, especially Francie Roberts, Kelly Cooper, and Barbara Howard. Thank you Mayor Zak, she learned from him when he sat on the council and there is much to appreciate about how we conducts meetings. Thank you Councilmember Lewis, your willingness to speak up for those seeking to be heard by council is important, the Kevin Bell Ice Arena is going to miss your advocacy at the table, enjoy your Monday night football for the first time in nine years. Thank you Councilmember Aderhold, your thoroughness often leaves her feeling unprepared even after she studies the packet, she appreciates her perfect choices of poems or prose. Thank you Councilmember Smith, she appreciates his professionalism and dedication to making thoughtfully researched additions to conversations. Thank you Councilmember Erickson, she sees her heart at the center of all her input. And thank you to her sweet spouse Derick who unconditionally supported her on this council venture, even though she only decided to do it the day before they got married.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Zak adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, October 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., a 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.

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Date: \_\_\_\_\_