

Session 17-27 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on December 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tempore Aderhold 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, LORD, SMITH, STROOZAS, VENUTI

STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR BROWNING
HARBORMASTER HAWKINS

Council met as Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. to discuss consent agenda and regular meeting agenda items in Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold asked for a motion to allow Mayor Zak to participate telephonically.

STROOZAS/ERICKSON SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

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: **PUBLIC HEARINGS Ordinance 17-42**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Calendar Year 2018 for the General Fund, The Water Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Port/Harbor Fund, Capital Projects, and Internal Service Funds. Budget Amendment to reduce funding for the Vac Truck and approve funds for a brush cutter sponsored by Councilmember Erickson. Written Public Comments. **Resolution 17-086**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the City of Homer Fee Schedule Under Camping Fees. Memorandum from Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission as backup.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Mayoral Recognition of Homer High School Students Charlie Menke, Douglas Dean, Phinny Weston and Tucker Weston

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold read the recognition and presented it to Charlie Menke, Douglas Dean, Tucker Weston and Phinny Weston.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Mike Illg, city resident, city employee, and Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board member, recognized the student athletes for their caring and kindness. It's an epitome of what the school district and community strive to see in young adults. Mr. Illg took the opportunity to give a brief school district update.

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 November 27, 2017 City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

- B. **Ordinance 17-43**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the Official Road Maintenance Map of the City of Homer by Adding Ternview Place and Little Fireweed Lane. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended dates: Introduction December 11, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 8, 2018.

Memorandum 17-143 from Public Works Superintendent as backup

- C. **Ordinance 17-44**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2018 Operating Budget by Authorizing the Expenditure of \$61,600 from the Homer Accelerated Water and Sewer Program Fund (HAWSP) for Oversizing Water Main Along Nelson Avenue and Ronda Street. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended dates: Introduction December 11, 2017, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 8, 2018.

Memorandum 17-144 from Public Works Director as backup

- D. **Resolution 17-097**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Confirming the City Manager's Appointment of Rick Abboud as Acting City Manager for Calendar Year 2018. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the consent agenda as read.

STROOZAS/ERICKSON SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

- A. South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services – Jay Bechtol, Director (10 minutes)

Jay Bechtol, Director of South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services, gave an overview of the makeup of the organization. He clarified that The Center is a program at SPBHS and explained that SPBHS works with mental illness, developmental disability, substance use issues, and a number of other social issues. He touched on the one of the barriers to service in any community is the stigma that goes along with being identified as someone who is mentally ill, has a substance use issue or a disability. He introduced Eartha Lee who shared the hurdles she has worked through before and since being diagnosed with Schizoaffective Disorder in 2004. She explained the significance of the support of SPBHS services and programs and the local community. She has since self-published her memoir titled *Fleeing the Country, Rural Alaska through the Eyes of a Child*.

- B. Legislative Update and Health Care Costs - Representative Paul Seaton (10 minutes)

Representative Seaton provided an overview of the state's financial outlook and the upcoming legislative session. The FY19 state budget is about \$4.5 billion with about \$1.8 billion of revenue and \$2.1 billion in savings, which won't cover the \$2.7 billion deficit. The Senate is very dogmatic about no diversification of revenues, they rejected their sustainable fiscal plan last year and have offered no alternative long term solutions. The House is dogmatic about education and refused to cut future funding. With no new revenue there are three choices, first is more cuts to things that would roll down to the local levels, second take the money from the earning reserve, or third draw the \$1 billion from the CBR and use a percent of market value endowment model. His goals for the next year is to get done early, and to limit the CBR draw to about \$1 billion, although that doesn't resolve the long term problem that needs to be addressed. The positive thing he sees is with the House is that being so insistent not to cut

education and the Senate not raising new revenue, we can do an education budget early and avoid teacher layoffs.

Representative Seaton shared information on solutions being implemented throughout the state to help reduce health care costs including wellness programs, exercise and dietary programs, state and community health fairs, and a combined health care authority. He focused on another solution, raising vitamin D3 levels, explaining current research showing health care cost savings through increasing vitamin D3 levels. He reviewed the benefits of vitamin D3 in diabetes, pain relief and fatigue, opioid addiction, and palliative care. Canada's estimated health care cost savings by raising vitamin D levels are \$344 per person per year, a total of \$12.5 billion. With Alaska's population of 741,800 and medical costs being 2 times that of Canada, our savings would be approximately \$510 million per year.

C. Importance of General Operating Support - HANDs (Homer Area Nonprofit Directors)
(10 minutes)

Adele Person with Bunnell Street Art Center and Peggy Paver, Director of Homer Council on the Arts, spoke on behalf of Homer Area Nonprofit Directors (HANDs). They commented regarding the nonprofit impact in Homer by filling the gap between City services and community needs, building community, creating change, and driving innovation, as well as providing jobs and activities that aren't supported by commercial endeavors. They also addressed the importance of the City of Homer Grant Program through the Homer Foundation and the benefits of the process for all agencies to be vetted and receive funds through the grant program. Nonprofit directors took a moment to share a brief snapshot of a few of the local nonprofits and the services they provide to the community.

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

A. Borough Report

B. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board

Mark Massion, Library Advisory Boardmember, thanked council for adding \$10,000 to the library budget and hopes that after the final 2017 audit they can revisit the budget and hopefully add a little more next year. We appreciate the concern and help with the library. Lastly he said if you need a hit of vitamin D, come to the library reading room. It's always warm and sunny, and everyone is welcome.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission

3. Economic Development Advisory Commission
4. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
 - a. Memo from PARCAC Re: Budget Recommendations and request for a worksession on the HERC building
5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission
6. Cannabis Advisory Commission

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- A. **Ordinance 17-42**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Calendar Year 2018 for the General Fund, The Water Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Port/Harbor Fund, Capital Projects, and Internal Service Funds. City Manager. Introduction October 30, 2017, Public Hearings November 27, 2017 and December 11, 2017, Second Reading December 11, 2017.

David Bernard, city employee and representative for the Library on the Employee Committee, commented in response from his co-workers who were disappointed after the decision to amend the COLA from 1% to half of a percent. While the half percent helps keep employees in line with the current rate of inflation, over the past half dozen years we still appear to be behind the Anchorage CPI and the average of the other Alaskan municipalities over the same time period. It's important to us to keep pace with inflation and it impacts how we feel we are valued as employees. It's important that we keep pace with other municipalities and organizations for recruitment of employees. He also noted it's part of the personnel regulations that the City Manager review the Anchorage CPI at least yearly and make recommendations for a COLA based on that and what's in the budget. We look forward to having this discussion with Council at least yearly.

There were no more comments and the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 17-42 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 17-42 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

SMITH/ERICKSON MOVED TO REDUCE THE FUNDING FOR THE CITY HALL ROOF DESIGN FROM \$25,000 TO \$15,000.

In response to questions about process for the project, City Manager Koester explained the City wouldn't put a project out to bid until there is funding approved, and with this project we would probably use one of our term contract engineers to do the design.

Councilmember Stroozas commented if we are putting an RFP out for a new roof, the design cost should be factored in by whoever submits the RFP as part of the process therein. He questions whether we should allocate any funds for design fee.

Councilmember Smith commented that the the cost of design is derived by a percentage of the projected cost of the project. In this case it's 10%, which is a standard in new construction. 7% is a more standard number in existing projects, and that's what this amendment is based on.

City Manager Koester touched the process she worked through with Public Works Director Meyer relating to what the city wants regarding life span of the roof and other variables. The compromise was to design the project so Council can answer some of those questions.

VOTE: YES: SMITH, STROOZAS, ERICKSON
NO: VENUTI, ADERHOLD, LORD

Mayor Zak voted no to break the tie.

Motion failed.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO REDUCE THE FUNDING FOR THE VAC TRUCK FROM \$450,000 TO \$400,000 AND APPROVE \$50,000 FROM THE PW FLEET RESERVES TOWARD A NEW BRUSH CUTTER.

Councilmember Erickson explained the request was between \$400,000 to \$450,000 for the vac truck and in her research, she believes it could come in under \$400,000 so there would be enough to get both. That's what she would like to see happen.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold commented she would prefer not to make the amendment at this time and see if Public Works can get the vac truck they need for less than \$400,000 then we could make a mid-year budget amendment as needed for the brush cutter.

Councilmember Erickson questioned if the parameters aren't in place before going out to bid whether it would stifle them from getting bids.

Councilmember Lord understand the Mayor Pro Tem's idea is if we stay with \$450,000, they don't have to spend the entire amount and may come under that amount. Then there would be money left on the table that could be put toward the brush cutter.

Councilmember Stroozas noted that if they approve this and bids come in above the amount, they could come back and ask for additional funds.

City Manager Koester replied that if it's determined we couldn't purchase what we need, we could come back for approval of additional funding and have the justification to you. It's worth stating Public Works has done the research and their request is \$450,000.

Councilmember Erickson said she talked to two local vendors that have purchased used vac trucks and two big truck companies out of Anchorage that would love to be in on the bidding process. That was the amount they were giving her. \$450,000 to \$500,000 is on the really high end. The bidding process is the only way we'll know what they are going to charge.

Councilmember Smith asked if it's standard that we put this type of equipment purchase out to bid. City Manager Koester explained for the most part with equipment purchases the City uses the State's negotiated contract, which is about 15% lower than retail. That's where we buy our pick-up trucks and our dump truck from, for example, and that's where Public Works research comes from for this. There is rationale for bigger contracts like this to go out to bid, but it's hard to compete with that preferential pricing negotiated through the State contract. It's clear that Council wants a bid to be put out, so she would anticipate bidding it and also getting a price estimate with the State contract.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold noted she isn't sure the research by one Councilmember indicates that's the way the body would go.

VOTE: YES: STROOZAS, SMITH, ERICKSON
NO: ADERHOLD, LORD, VENUTI

Mayor Zak voted yes to break the tie.

Motion carried.

VENUTI/SMITH MOVED TO ELIMINATE THE FUNDING FOR THE DRONE AND ASSOCIATED TRAINING FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Councilmember Venuti expressed her concern about privacy issues and potential legal difficulty for the City. She hasn't heard there is a big need for it at this time.

Councilmember Erickson question if there are independent contractors who could provide the service. City Manager Koester replied there are some in Anchorage, but none in our area at this time.

Councilmember Smith agreed that there isn't justification right now for this purchase.

VOTE: YES: LORD, ADERHOLD, ERICKSON, STROOZAS, SMITH, VENUTI

Motion carried.

No further amendments were brought forward.

Councilmember Lord commented she feels strongly about the situation on the COLA. She is looking forward to working with staff to look at the personnel regs and understand if there is a more cohesive way to look at the COLA annually and have it be part of the process in a more thoughtful manner.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. **Resolution 17-086**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the City of Homer Fee Schedule Under Camping Fees. City Clerk. (To follow Budget Ordinance 17-42; Public Hearings November 27 and December 11, 2017)

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold opened the floor to public comments. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold asked for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 17-086 by reading of title only.

STROOZAS/ERICKSON 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 FEMA will be presenting new tsunami mapping at the library at 6 pm on Wednesday at the Homer Public Library. It will be a good opportunity to look at what some of the new tsunami predictions are for localized events and hazards in our area.

Councilmember Lord acknowledged the employees celebrating anniversaries in December that were included with the City Manager's report.

Mayor Zak noted the Industry Outlook Forum being held January 10th at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about what's happening in our economy.

B. Bid Report

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Wells said she will be providing a comprehensive report in January as she anticipates getting some Supreme Court decisions based on their timing requirements. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

COMMITTEE REPORT

- A. Employee Committee Report
 - a. Memorandum re: Employee Compensation
- B. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Catriona Reynolds, city resident and former Councilmember, congratulated Council on the budget, it was exciting to be on this side of the table for the first time after three years. She thanked them for their work. She commented about the Tsunami Survey meeting at the library next Wednesday.

Ginny Espenshade, city resident, commented that she presented to Parks and Rec about a study on the impacts of recreation arts and cultural activities on substance abuse among youth. There is a worksession on the HERC in January. She has been looking for other studies and she stunned by the findings now on the other end of the addiction process related to prevention of relapse, and support of people in recovery and in treatment. When you look at these activities, they are shown to prevent the start of use, but also helping people on the other end. She hopes they go into the January worksession with that in mind. It's not just quality of life issues, but also life and death issues.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Wells had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Koester thanked Council for passing the budget, it was a relatively painless process and she appreciates all of their work and thoroughness. She is looking forward to serving them in 2018, it's going to be a good year.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Zak commended Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold for another great meeting and he thanked Council for their work on passing a realistic budget. He thinks they set a record for a budget meeting and approval. He appreciates the HANDs group and looks forward to hearing from them in the future. He thanked Representative Seaton for his report and wished him good luck in Juneau in working through the State budget issues. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Smith wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He recognized Eartha Lee for her time and her courage to share with them tonight and wished her continued success, recovery, and management. He thanked her for being here tonight. He asked Ginny Espenshade to forward the Icelandic Study to the Clerk to distribute to the Council, it's a fascinating read.

Councilmember Erickson wished everyone Merry Christmas. There is a lot of fun and frivolity for the rest of the month, hopefully it will get cold and we'll have northern lights. She wished everyone safe and happy holidays and may 2018 be even better than 2017.

Councilmember Stroozas wished everyone Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2018. He agrees with City Manager Koester, 2018 is going to be a fine year.

Councilmember Venuti recognized we live in a diverse community; it was important to hear all the nonprofits and she likes the name HANDs. She shared that the Kachemak Bay Campus has a pinning ceremony for their seven new nurses on Friday at 6:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Campus. It's the UAA nursing program, but they do their classes here in Homer. They are local nurses who are now prepared to be nurses in our hospital. Her hat's off to Carol Swartz and our

Kachemak Bay Campus for doing home grown nurses; they make the best. She wished everyone Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Lord commented she was at the library today for Lunch with a Councilmember. They had a great turnout and it was a good opportunity to meet with people. She thanked the City Manager and Assembly member Willy Dunn for being there. She thanked everyone for their input and testimony on the budget. She thanked Eartha for her story and Jay for the work they SPBHS is doing. Very shortly we'll hit winter solstice, her favorite day of the year, and the light will start coming back soon-ish. Hang on, we'll all get there.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold reminded everyone it's our last meeting. She commented 2017 has been a bit difficult year as many probably know. She shared a quote a friend gave her and encouraged everyone to take it as their own;

Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky, they are people who say this is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better. Studs Terkel.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Worksession at 4:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 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: _____