

**MANAGERS REPORT
NOVEMBER 28, 2011**

TO: MAYOR HORNADAY / HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: WALT WREDE

UPDATES / FOLLOW-UP

1. Pending Contracts: There are two important contracts that expire at the end of this year, the lobbyist contract and the contract for the Animal Shelter with Coastal Animal Care. The money for both contracts is included in the draft budget at the same compensation as this year. I mention this just to make sure Council recalls this has time to propose any changes if they wish. Resolutions approving both contracts will be on the Agenda for the December 12 meeting. They will follow approval of the budget.
2. City Hall Expansion and Renovation Update: The contractor is on pace to finish this job on time and on budget. It also appears that they will achieve their original goal of completing the new expansion by Thanksgiving. Incredible in my opinion. It would be possible for Administration, IT, and Planning to move back toward the end of next week. But, due to a variety of reasons, we have decided that it would be best to delay the move until the beginning of January. This will allow the Clerk's office and Finance to move into the new section of the building while renovation work is being done in their areas. It should be more efficient. The current construction budget contains money for new furniture in the Council Chambers and the public areas. There is no money for furniture in the offices or for things like shelves in the storage areas. The staff is currently putting together a list of important items that need to be purchased now. We would not attempt to refurnish each office in its entirety. But there are desks and computer tables that are really old, dilapidated, and are recommended for replacement by our insurance agent for ergonomics reasons. So, we will put together a list with a price tag and bring it to you at the next meeting for your consideration. We have several ideas about where the money could come from.
3. Dock Fenders / Deep Water Dock: There are several damaged dock fenders on the Deep Water Dock. We originally planned to replace them as part of the cruise ship grant project. However, that grant will take awhile to get rolling and we now have an emergency because the fenders sustained additional damage in the recent storms. One is missing completely. This is an emergency situation and we need to begin engineering and design immediately. We have given the engineers the go-ahead to begin the design work and will follow-up with a budget ordinance at the next meeting.
4. Budget Amendments / Employee Committee: At the time this report was written, two Council members had submitted budget amendments that contained employee contributions to the health insurance plan. The Employee Committee has worked long and hard to come up with a set of alternatives that all employees can vote on. However, since the Council as a body has not yet asked for changes to the employee benefits, the Committee did not think it was necessary or appropriate to simply offer

up a set of concessions. Council has stated that it would like to hear from the Employee Committee if benefit changes are contemplated. So, if the Council is of a mind to look at some changes this year, please do not spend too much time with the details because you could get bogged down really quickly. Just give us a number that you would like to achieve; a dollar amount to be saved. The Committee, after consulting with employees, will come back with recommendations on how to achieve that savings in a way that has the least impact on employees and their families.

5. Lease Rentals: Councilmember Hogan has requested that we provide a full report on what is included in budget line item 5714 ; leases and rentals. We will be ready to provide a report on that at the meeting.
6. Tsunami Warning System Sirens: We had a meeting last week with the Borough Office of Emergency Management, the City of Seward, and the City of Seldovia. The topic was whether to proceed with setting up local control of the siren system as requested by those Cities, now that the National Weather Service has found a way to “regionalize” the tsunami warnings. After much discussion about the cost and level of effort needed to switch to local control, we agreed to stick with the current system on a trial basis but continue to do research on what it would take to institute a local radio activation option to improve redundancy and back-up if the internet goes down.
7. Clean Harbor Award: The City of Homer Port and Harbor department was awarded the first Alaska Clean harbors Award. Congratulations to Bryan and his staff. Rachael Lord from Cook Inlet Keeper will be a visitor at the meeting to discuss this award.
8. Boys and Girls Club: The Boys and Girls Club has requested that they be allowed to remain in the building at least until the end of the school year. Councilmembers Lewis and Howard have sponsored a resolution to accomplish that. The Boys and Girls Club Task Force has been formed and it has been very active raising money for the Club. A sub-committee of the Task Force has begun looking at ways to raise money to fix the building up and elevate the dialog on re-purposing the building.
9. Ice Rink / Ben Walters Park: The Rotary Club has adopted Ben Walters Park. The discussion regarding what the Club might do there has revived an old debate about whether the City should maintain an ice rink on the lake and in fact, whether it is obligated to do so. The City has not maintained a skating area there for at least 22 years and only did so for two years. It stopped doing so primarily for budgetary and liability reasons. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this in more detail at the meeting.