

Session 12-31 a Special Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on October 22, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. by Mayor Mary E. Wythe at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: BURGESS, HOWARD, LEWIS, ROBERTS,
ZAK

STAFF: CITY MANAGER WREDE
CITY CLERK JOHNSON
FINANCE DIRECTOR MAURAS
LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR PETERSEN
POLICE CHIEF ROBL

AGENDA APPROVAL (Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg. 5)

Mayor Wythe called for a motion to approve the agenda.

HOWARD/LEWIS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Larry Slone, city resident, opposes Sharon Minsch's appointment to the council seat.

NEW BUSINESS

A. City Council Applicants – Introduction/Presentation

James Dolma told Council he has the qualities to be a good representative on the Homer City Council. He ran publicly for the office of councilmember and received over 400 votes. At 56% of the vote, citizens have shown confidence in him. He has lived here for 22 years and has been involved in a number of non profit organizations and has served on the Planning Commission. His work history includes real estate, a broker, commercial banking, credit division, customer service, collections and fraud detection. Since moving to Homer in 1990 he has worked a variety of different jobs including tying knots on long line equipment, Icicle Seafoods, fought fires, coached high school soccer, and worked for the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust. He was the primary parent until his daughter started 2nd grade and since then has been a case manager at The Center. He has lived without running water, electricity, and indoor plumbing. He can relate to the independence of the rugged lifestyle idealist, as well as an artist, businesswoman, or a person

living on a disability. He will represent all citizens of Homer including youth and the disabled. His child is in high school and he is aware and connects with issues of youth. He will maintain the special attributes of Homer. He will promote the health and well being of the citizens, including long term sustainable solutions to promote livability, scenic cultural heritage, and recreational uses. He will demonstrate thoughtful, respectful, and consistent decision making and honor the unique traits Homer is known for. He is committed to encourage the City to implement the Climate Action Plan to reduce expenses, strengthen the retail and visitor industry, and enhance life in Homer. He supports preserving natural views and parks and recreation areas. He will encourage growth in business and marine support industries. He supports the tidal power incubator, natural gas infrastructure, and parks and water trails to promote and support jobs in Homer. He supports fiscal restraint and responsibility and consistent policy making and implementation. He will be fiscally responsible to citizens and will be an asset to the Council. He will work to keep the budget to reflect community values to keep taxes to the lowest levels without reducing services. He will begin by working with others on the upcoming budget. It is important that visions are shared and debated in the light of the open day. He wants to serve on the Council as a way to give back to the community. If appointed he will do his best to listen, take input from all sides, and work responsibly to expand the quality of life in Homer.

Sharon Minsch told Council she served on the Planning Commission for six years, most of that time as chair. She has a long litany of volunteer experience. She is up to speed on the budget and has lots of city training in ethics and conflicts of interest. She is here so Council has a choice. Most of the Council knows her well and her record speaks for itself. She shows up for meetings, is prepared, has done her homework and is ready to go.

Council asked questions of the applicants:

- Both Mr. Dolma and Mrs. Minsch are supportive of the city-wide natural gas special assessment district.
- Mrs. Minsch will be out of town January 12 through the end of February and Mr. Dolma will be available all year.
- Mr. Dolma has not considered eliminating the seasonal sales tax exemption on non-prepared foods as a way to pay for the gas line. Mrs. Minsch encouraged Council to continue the SAD on the track it is on without considering the sales tax as a means to pay for the gas line.
- Both Mr. Dolma and Mrs. Minsch are in agreement with the plastic bag ban.
- On the HERC building Mr. Dolma would not have listed the building in the top 5 of the CIP; if it is financially feasible to renovate it is a good piece of real estate for the City. Mrs. Minsch does not agree with funding renovations to the building since it is a bare bones budget and we need to fund critical things.
- Both applicants enjoyed working with each other on the Planning Commission and did not express any political differences.
- On reducing expenditures for 2013 Mr. Dolma would need to determine what is palatable. Mrs. Minsch believes the budget is bare bones with funding for essential services only.
- On increasing revenues, Mr. Dolma did not have an answer and Mrs. Minsch suggested a bed and breakfast tax for hotels and motels.

B. Memorandum 12-167, from City Clerk, Re: Selection/Appointment of Councilmember to Fill Vacancy

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the approval of the recommendations of Memorandum 12-167 to select a councilmember to fill the vacancy.

BURGESS/ROBERTS – SO MOVED.

BURGESS/LEWIS - MOTION TO NOMINATE BOTH APPLICANTS, JAMES DOLMA AND SHARON MINSCH, FOR A SECRET BALLOT VOTE.

VOTE: JAMES DOLMA – 5 VOTES.

Motion carried.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

City Clerk Johnson administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember James Dolma.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There were no comments of the audience.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Klinkner was not present.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Johnson offered congratulations to Councilmember Dolma.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Wrede congratulated Mr. Dolma and looks forward to working with him.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Wythe welcomed Mr. Dolma to the Council. She hopes he came ready since we will jump in the next meeting with the budget.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Roberts welcomed Mr. Dolma. We are glad to have you and look forward to working with you.

Councilmember Zak welcomed Mr. Dolma and thanked him for his answers during the interview process. He thanked both candidates for preparing and sharing the comments. He thanked Sharon Minsch for applying. What made a difference to Mr. Zak was that Mr. Dolma did run for the regular election and received quite a few votes.

Councilmember Dolma thanked Council for appointing him.

Councilmember Burgess welcomed James and thanked Sharon for throwing her name into the ring.

Councilmember Lewis welcomed James and said be careful what you wish for.

Councilmember Howard congratulated Mr. Dolma. The fact that he stepped up to the election process and there was only a 43 vote difference means the citizens have the best of the world. They have all the candidates they were hoping to elect this year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, November 26, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: _____