

Session 12-32 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on October 22, 2012 at 6:00 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, DOLMA, HOWARD, LEWIS,  
ROBERTS, ZAK

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

Council met for a Special Meeting from 4:00 p.m. to 4:32 p.m. to select James Dolma as Councilmember to fill the vacant seat. Council met as a Committee of the Whole from 5:00 p.m. to 5:52 p.m. to discuss 2013 Budget 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 1.24.040.)

The following changes were made to the agenda:

**CONSENT AGENDA** - **Memorandum 12-161(A)**, Appointment of Councilmember Bryan Zak to the Economic Development Advisory Commission and Port and Harbor Improvement Committee, and Appointment of Councilmember Burgess to the Water and Sewer Rate Task Force, and Appointment of Francie Roberts to the Permanent Fund Committee; **ORDINANCES** - **Ordinance 12-47**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Calendar Year 2013 for the General Fund, the Water-Sewer Fund, the Port/Harbor Fund, Debt Funds, and Capital Reserve Funds (Conditional Expenditures). City Manager.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion to approve the agenda.

BURGESS/ROBERTS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

Larry Sloan, city resident, supports Resolution 12-094 and Memorandum 12-161(A) as all people are good candidates.

Kevin Walker, Kachemak City resident, thanked City Manager Wrede and staff for Resolution 12-091. Golden Plover Avenue is an island subdivision with residents having to pass through Kachemak City (Ordinance 12-48). He reminded everyone of the upcoming Buccaneer meetings.

## **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 October 8, 2012. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 12-161**, From Mayor, Re: Appointment of Councilmember Bryan Zak to the Economic Development Advisory Commission and Port and Harbor Improvement Committee, and Appointment of Councilmember Burgess to the Water and Sewer Rate Task Force.

**Memorandum 12-161(A)**, From Mayor, Re: Appointment of Councilmember Bryan Zak to the Economic Development Advisory Commission and Port and Harbor Improvement Committee, Appointment of Councilmember Burgess to the Water and Sewer Rate Task Force, and Appointment of Francie Roberts to the Permanent Fund Committee.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the approval of the recommendations of the consent agenda.

HOWARD/LEWIS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **VISITORS**

- A. **Homer Playground Project (HoPP) for Karen Hornaday Park**, Deb Cox

Deb Cox and Taz Tally provided a video on the Karen Hornaday Park playground project. It was a 4-minute video depicting a photo taken every 5 minutes for the 8 days of build week. The video can be accessed at: [Homerplaygroundproject.org](http://Homerplaygroundproject.org) or youtube.

Mayor Wythe announced two awards will be recognized at the next council meeting: Karen Hornaday Park Playground Project (HoPP) – 2011 Facility Excellence Award and Homer Parks and Community Recreation – 2011 Outstanding Organization Award.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORTS**

**REPORT/COMMISSION**

A. **Mayor's Proclamation** – Extra Mile Day, November 1, 2012

Mayor Wythe read the proclamation.

B. Borough Report

C. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board
2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission
3. Economic Development Advisory Commission
4. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

A. **Ordinance 12-46**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$50,165 from the General Fund Balance to Carry Out the Requirements of Homer City Code Title 17 Entitled Improvement Districts and to Implement a Public Information Strategy Related to the Proposed Natural Gas Special Assessment District. City Manager.

Memorandum 12-159 from City Manager as backup.

Mayor Wythe stated her ongoing conflict of interest and passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts.

Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts opened the public hearing.

Larry Slone, city resident, commented on the imbalance in information. There is much information on the benefits for citizens from natural gas and Enstar's cost of bringing gas to your home. The conversion costs for the homeowner are lacking. Bill Smith tried to inject information from graphs and charts online. Some of the money should be used to hire a representative who can provide general information on the costs and time involved in a typical home conversion.

Kevin Walker, Kachemak City resident, agrees with the benefits of the gas line. He asked that early in the planning stages the City work with Enstar so right-of-ways can be walk-able and bike-able. He would volunteer to work with Planning and Public Works as a point of contact.

Judith Eckert, city resident, read Rick Eckert's "white paper" into the record. Enstar has been blocking the gas line to Homer, contrary to the regulatory intent of the RCA. The vast majority of Enstar's customers are not required to pay a surcharge.

John Sims, Enstar, commented on the "white paper". There is no reg station involved in the distribution plan. That was phase 1 of the project, a reg station in Anchor Point where the State paid \$525,000. Enstar has other areas in their system that are required to pay for the reg stations. It is not a cost; it is borne in Enstar's rates. The \$1 Mcf distribution charge is because Homer is in a very unique area. It has been a financial challenge Mr. Eckert is well aware of. Mr. Eckert was involved in Mountain Energy in 1989 where they were granted a certificate of public need and necessity. It was revoked since they couldn't come up with the financing to serve the area. Thanks for the hard work of City Manger Wrede, Representative Seaton, and the City Council, the State has paid for the trunk line. One condition on the funding is that the cost causer will still be the payer, the result of the \$1 Mcf surcharge approved by the RCA. It is a catchall for any funds that go over the \$8.5M grant. The City of Homer, Kachemak City, and Enstar are working on contracts that include actual costs. Typically for the tariff Enstar applies a cost per foot. In this scenario Enstar is willing to provide actual costs to be billed on a monthly basis. The City can see actual charges that go into the project. One of largest costs is the contractor. Enstar will work to get the lowest bidder and will work with the City of Homer.

Council asked questions of Mr. Sims:

If the cost of the trunk line comes in under \$8.5M there will be no \$1 Mcf surcharge. Enstar makes its money on the volume of gas itself so they want the cost to be as low as possible. The Enstar team will work diligently to make sure the cost is as close to \$8.5M as possible.

It is important for consumers to understand the potential cost of getting natural gas. As the project moves along Enstar will have public meetings to go over costs and will talk to individuals. Enstar has held off on their public meetings to allow the City to go through their process. He encouraged people to call Enstar's Homer office for questions: 1-855-889-7575

Per Rick Eckert's "white paper" if the City sets up a Special Assessment District to pay for the distribution system, Enstar is already collecting costs through their postage stamp rate. It is implied Enstar will be collecting twice for the cost of the distribution system. Mr. Sims answered the RCA does not allow that sort of double cost recovery. Enstar recovers costs through a volumetric rate, fixed costs, and overheads charged on specific projects. Enstar has accountants on staff to make sure the costs recovered are in separate buckets. That sort of double collection cannot happen.

Costs paid by the HSAD process are costs of the project.

Enstar's information is on their website, the cost to connect. The City's process will determine and dictate the SAD rate. If people want to know costs to connect different appliances Enstar will provide that. Enstar is prepared to have a meeting whenever the City would like them to hold public meetings.

Enstar has information on conversion costs and building a distribution system. They are waiting for Council to let them know when they can provide it.

In the event of a fire, cut off valves will be laid out for the Fire Department. Enstar's primary concern is response time. Enstar will have a presence in Homer. Enstar's Charlie Pierce met with the HVFD last week and provided emergency response training to the firefighters. Enstar will return in six months for a round table discussion. They will have a service technician assigned to Homer. Enstar crews will be able to respond to emergencies.

If gas turbines were added to Homer they would not utilize the same lines being built to Homer. They would have a different line. There is high pressure gas in Anchor Point. The line to Homer will have a 100 psi max pressure. For exploration out East End Road a steel line instead of plastic would be needed for transport.

Councilmember Howard called for a point of order as the ordinance is to allocate funds.

Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts closed the public hearing.

Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 12-46.

BURGESS/LEWIS – SO MOVED.

There was no additional discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts passed the gavel back to Mayor Wythe.

#### **ORDINANCE(S)**

A. **Ordinance 12-47**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Calendar Year 2013 for the General Fund, the Water-Sewer Fund, the Port/Harbor Fund, Debt Funds, and Capital Reserve Funds (Conditional Expenditures). City Manager. Recommended dates: Introduction October 22, 2012, Public Hearings November 26 and December 10, 2012, Second Reading December 10, 2012.

**Resolution 12-088**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Maintaining the City of Homer Fee Schedule at the Current Rates. City Clerk. Recommended to follow Budget Ordinance 12-47 schedule.

**Resolution 12-089**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Maintaining the Port of Homer Terminal Tariff No. 600. City Clerk. Recommended to follow Budget Ordinance 12-47 schedule.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 12-47 and Resolutions 12-088 and 12-089 for introduction and first reading by reading of title only.

HOWARD/LEWIS - SO MOVED.

Councilmember Burgess would like to see an amendment to port and harbor fees for large irregularly shaped vessels. They should be charged by beam length.

City Manager Wrede reported Port and Harbor Director Hawkins is doing research, checking with other ports where rigs commonly tie up to docks. In the meantime the City Attorney has said it is okay to adjust fees upward on a contract basis. There are active talks now to double the mooring fee. If Council approves there will be a contract with Buccaneer retroactive to October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilmember Zak cautioned issuing a contract without public input to see if the rig is wanted in the harbor. He would like the City Attorney to weigh in.

City Manager Wrede reported the attorney will prepare a contract that will cover the period of time the rig has been at the dock. Buccaneer plans to be at the dock until mid November.

Councilmember Zak noted there will be ordinances at the next meeting amending sales tax on non-prepared foods.

Mayor Wythe asked that budget amendments be introduced November 26<sup>th</sup> so there will not be as many on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. **Ordinance 12-48**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the Official Road Maintenance Map of the City of Homer by Adding Kestrel Circle and a Portion of Golden Plover Avenue as Urban Road. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended dates: Introduction October 22, 2012, Public Hearing and Second Reading November 26, 2012.

Memorandum 12-162 from Public Works Inspector as backup.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 12-48 for introduction and first reading by reading of title only.

LEWIS/ROBERTS - SO MOVED.

City Manager Wrede explained there is an agreement between Kachemak City and the City of Homer. Mayor Phil Morris and Public Works Director Meyer have a draft agreement that our equipment will go through Kachemak City and at times we may drop the blade. The City takes no responsibility for upgrading Kachemak City roads. There has been some discussion about compensation. There are currently no homes in the subdivision, but some are planned for the City to start maintenance.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- C. **Ordinance 12-49**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Appropriating \$20,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Fund (HART) for the Purpose of Conducting Survey Work and Engineering / Cost Estimating to Determine the Cost of Constructing the Initial One Half Mile of the Proposed Kachemak Drive Non-Motorized Pathway in Accordance with Resolution 12-079(S). Mayor/City Council. Recommended dates: Introduction October 22, 2012, Public Hearing and Second Reading November 26, 2012.

Memorandums 12-163, 12-164, and 165 from Kachemak Drive Path Committee as backup.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 12-49 for introduction and first reading by reading of title only.

LEWIS/BURGESS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- D. **Ordinance 12-50**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a Grant Award from the Rasmuson Foundation in the Amount of \$18,852 for Collection Enhancement and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Library Director. Recommended dates: Introduction October 22, 2012, Public Hearing and Second Reading November 26, 2012.

Memorandum 12-166 from Library Director as backup.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 12-50 for introduction and first reading by reading of title only.

LEWIS/HOWARD - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- E. **Ordinance 12-51**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2012 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$212,270 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Fund (HART) to Re-Pave Fish Dock Road and Construct Improvements to Outer Dock Road and Appropriating \$100,000 from the General Fund Reserves / Fund Balance for a Reimbursable Economic Development Grant to Fund the Homer Tidal Power Incubator Project. Mayor. Recommended dates: Introduction October 22, 2012, Public Hearing and Second Reading November 26, 2012.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 12-51 for introduction and first reading by reading of title only.

BURGESS/LEWIS - SO MOVED.

Mayor Wythe commented both roads qualify for HART support without having to wait to get funding from the State. The Tidal Power Incubator Project has a reimbursable economic development grant. With the City providing funding, a further requirement will be that the research being conducted provides local employment opportunities.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### A. City Manager's Report

The Manager's Report at the October 22 meeting will consist primarily of a verbal report and update on two topics; the Natural Gas Distribution System Special Assessment District and the Buccaneer Drilling Rig which is still moored at the Deep Water Dock. Both topics are great interest to the community and things are evolving and changing rapidly. If I provided a written report, it would likely be outdated by the time the Council meeting rolled around.

City Manager Wrede reported Buccaneer Energy will have public hearings on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at Bidarka at 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at McNeil Canyon School at 6:30 p.m. They will be talking about drilling out East End Road and the jackup rig.



DOT has a public hearing tomorrow from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. to talk about the Sterling Highway erosion response, in particular the area just north of Anchor Point. The meeting will be at City Hall.

City Manager Wrede announced two awards will be recognized at the next council meeting: Karen Hornaday Park Playground Project (HoPP) – 2011 Facility Excellence Award and Homer Parks and Community Recreation – 2011 Outstanding Organization Award.

Last Thursday Cook Inletkeeper had a meeting to discuss the Buccaneer jackup rig. When the City first agreed to allow the jackup rig at the dock it was agreed it was a vessel. It was a barge with its legs up that would stay for 8 days. The story has since changed. Vessel work was not done in Singapore. There is a laundry list of repairs including painting, welding, and safety measure. Between 26-27 people are working two shifts around the clock on the jackup rig. It has not yet received Coast Guard certification to leave for the drilling site. The departure date has been set back a couple times. Repairs will not take longer than October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The legs on the jackup rig being down has caused controversy. The legs were extended 15 to 20 ft.; they are not in a pinned position. The legs are down enough to create enough of a drag so that the vessel cannot move laterally. Before the legs were extended the rig was pushing up against or pulling away from the dock. It does not ride very well at the dock due to its triangular shape. It draws 16 ft. and is really heavy with the super structure on top. Once the wind started blowing it got a little hair. The engineers say anything over 30 knot winds and we are in trouble. We had 35 and 40 knot winds and there was damage to the dock. Three tugs were working at up to 50% power to keep the rig there. After a meeting with all the officials, the sensible answer was to put the legs down. There is controversy whether the critical habitat area applies at the dock. Municipal tidelands are exempt, but that conflicts with State Statutes. Fish and Game has to resolve the issue. We are trying to plan for what happens if the jackup rig does not leave. Their window is getting smaller and they will have to prepare if they want to be here all winter. We told Buccaneer if they want to stay here for the winter they will have to have the legs down. It is up to Buccaneer to talk to Fish and Game for a special area permit to allow it.

Council discussed the need for Buccaneer Energy to have insurance and to see if AML will cover the City. There has been controversy on the rig being here, but just as strong support from the business community to keep it here. It has been a tough season and the jackup rig keeps folks working.

Council commented if the rig is allowed to stay here the first concern is safety, then to make sure the City profits from their presence. The vessel should be charged to reflect 16 ft. of draft. Homer profits from assuming liability and the eyesore.

The jackup rig is using up the entire face of the Deep Water Dock, including the dolphins. We are turning commerce away. The Tustumena is about to be laid up for repairs and the Kennicott will be visiting twice per month. We may ask Buccaneer to move the rig to the inside of the dock. They will hire engineers to do a geotechnical survey so they won't get the legs stuck and there is no damage to pilings.

A portion of the Deep Water Dock is close to the edge of city limits. A survey should be conducted for the goal of annexing that portion of land to consider harbor expansion.

City Manager Wrede noted the more immediate concern is three-fourths of the dock is on land that the City leases from the State of Alaska. City Planner Abboud is working with the Borough and State to get tidelands conveyed to the City.

The jackup rig is generating quite a bit of sales tax. Workers are spending a lot of money in hotels, restaurants, and on parts. We have not yet looked into collection property tax from the jackup rig.

The City received a letter there were no invasive species found on the jackup rig. The Port and Harbor Director has the right to board and inspect any vessel.

Other concerns include notifying FAA of the height of the jackup rig for airplane safety. The rig presents a visual impairment to view the bay; there is a 35 ft. building height restriction in the view shed.

A copy of Buccaneer's blow out plan was requested at the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, but has not yet been provided. City Manager Wrede will make an official request.

City Manager Wrede reported there have been two neighborhood meetings on the gas line. Overall, it is going well. We are trying hard to get the information out there. We remain as neutral as we can and some people think we are not spending enough time talking about the benefits. Others think we are glossing it over with no risk or downside. We aim to be as transparent as possible and get as much information to the public as possible. Any ideas for improvement are welcome.

B. Bid Report

## **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

A. Public Arts Committee

B. Transportation Advisory Committee

C. Permanent Fund Committee

Councilmember Howard welcomed Councilmember Roberts. The first meeting for the Permanent Fund Committee is November 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. She thanked Mayor Wythe for the concept of the Permanent Fund and for serving on the committee. She will miss her.

D. Lease Committee

E. Port and Harbor Improvement Committee

Councilmember Howard welcomed Councilmember Zak. Currently the committee is in recess as they are waiting for reports from various contractors. They will then resume their work.

F. Employee Committee Report

G. Water and Sewer Rate Task Force

Councilmember Howard thanked Councilmember Burgess for taking her slot on the committee. There is a lot of important work to do. She thanked Council for hopefully allowing Mayor Wythe to continue serving on the committee.

**PENDING BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **Resolution 12-090**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Noting the Insufficiency of the Petition for the Sterling Highway/Saltwater Drive Water and Sewer Special Assessment District. City Clerk.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 12-090 by reading of title only.

HOWARD/LEWIS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. **Resolution 12-091**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Expressing Its Support for a Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Application to the Recreational Trail Grant Program of the State of Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation for a Maintenance Building at the Lookout Mountain Ski Area in the Amount of \$50,000. City Manager.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 12-091 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/BURGESS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- C. **Resolution 12-092**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Designating Signatories of City Accounts and Superseding Any Previous Resolution So Designating. City Clerk.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 12-092 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/BURGESS – SO MOVED.

Councilmember Burgess would like to move accounts from large banking institutions to local banks and credit unions.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- D. **Resolution 12-093**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, in Support of Full Funding for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY2014 Capital Budget. City Manager.

Mayor Hornaday called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 12-093 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/HOWARD – SO MOVED.

The Alaska Municipal League will have a similar resolution supporting full funding for the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- E. **Resolution 12-094**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Resolution 12-027(A), the Composition of the Water and Sewer Rate Task Force, to Allow Mayor Wythe to Continue to Serve as a Task Force Member Until the Completion of Their Findings and Recommendations to the City Council. City Manager.

Memorandum 12-168 from Water and Sewer Task Force as backup.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 12-094 by reading of title only.

HOWARD/ROBERTS – SO MOVED.

Councilmember Howard commented Mayor Wythe is so helpful to the committee and the work is difficult. Mayor Wythe has been at the helm of the committee since the beginning and it is important that she continues.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Judith Eckert, city resident, read Rick Eckert's "white paper" into the record. Eighteen years ago Enstar won the right to serve natural gas to Homer. Homer should not have to pay a discriminatory higher cost.

Larry Sloan, city resident, commented Ordinance 12-46 is imbalanced. There is excess information on the benefits of bringing natural gas in and a limited amount of information on the costs. He is happy Council has revisited the issue of imbalance.

Councilmember Burgess commented he pushed very hard from the onset of the natural gas line to make sure the public had as much information as possible on hooking up to gas. It was the will of the Council and the opinion of the City not to provide conversion costs due to liability concerns. It would present information to people they might determine as fact. We may revisit the issue and put out examples from a broad spectrum. Look to Enstar or your local plumbing and heating specialist for specifics for each individual homeowner. The City cannot provide a specific cost of heating your home. We are trying to do our best to address those concerns.

Scott Adams, city resident, commented on the misinformation he received on costs of the gas line. He believes the jackup rig is a good economic tool for the harbor during the winter. He cautioned Council about parking the rig inside of the dock; on the outside it can pull off immediately if need be.

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

City Attorney Klinkner was not present.

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

City Clerk Johnson commented absentee voting for the General Election is available now through election day.

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

City Manager Wrede commented he will be out of the office this week with some personal days off and meeting with the City Attorney, Enstar, and DOT on Main Street issues. The issue of costs keeps coming up for Enstar. The goal is to get a draft contract for the public to see on the website. It should address issues with real costs. We will try to write all of it in the contract.

There has to be a number of bidders. Enstar should pre-quality their bidders and then take the low bid. We will get to see the bidders and what went into the RFP. We will have an accounting of Enstar's actual costs, to include timesheets. The remaining variable is the overhead; there is still disagreement over it. He hopes way before the point Council has to make a decision we will have more information as to real costs and The City's ability to

### **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Wythe reiterated the public hearings for Buccaneer: Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at Best Western 6:00 p.m., Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at McNeil Canyon School at 6:30 p.m. There is a DOT meeting from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at City Hall on the erosion of the Sterling Highway. There are several opportunities for people to catch up on what is going on. Deb Cox and Tax Tally provided [homerplaygroundproject.org](http://homerplaygroundproject.org) and we will have a link on the City's website. She welcomed new Councilmember James Dolma.

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

Councilmember Roberts welcomed James and is glad she will be working with him.

Councilmember Lewis welcomed James and asked that we give him a chance to go to AML for the new person portion. He asked if there was a means to approve the travel since we had to approve Beth, Bryan and Beau's travel.

Councilmember Burgess welcomed James and said it is great to have him here. Something is right in the community when you serenade the Mayor via ukulele on his way out. He gave a shout out to the ukulele group.

Councilmember Howard complimented Mayor Wythe on the great meeting. She welcomed Mr. Dolma and congratulated Jo Johnson as the newest grandmother in the room.

Councilmember Zak welcomed James Dolma. He appreciates Sharon Minsch for applying. Both are good candidates and it was a great presentation at 4:00 p.m. He put a shout out for the Extra Mile Day and acknowledged Monte Davis from the Chamber of Commerce in the audience. There is opportunity to put your dollars to work in the community by buying a ticket for the car raffle. You can actually go another couple hundred thousand extra miles if you should win.

Councilmember Dolma thanked City Manager Wrede for showing up for so many meetings last week. He thanked staff for the extra hours they provided and Council for appointing him. Now the fun is over and the work begins.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 7:46 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.

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JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_