

Session 13-18, a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on September 9, 2013 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
(telephonic)

STAFF: CITY MANAGER WREDE
CITY CLERK JOHNSON
CITY ATTORNEY WELLS
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR KOESTER
IT MANAGER POOLOS
LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
PORT AND HARBOR DIRECTOR HAWKINS

Councilmember Zak has requested telephonic participation.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion to allow Councilmember Zak to participate by phone.

LEWIS/BURGESS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Council met for a Worksession from 4:00 p.m. to 4:41 p.m. to discuss 2014 - 2019 Capital Improvement Plan & FY 2015 Legislative Requests, Public Safety Building. From 5:00 p.m. to 5:34 p.m. Council met as a Committee of the Whole to hear the Capital Improvement Request for Information Technology and discuss 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 1.24.040.)

The following changes were made to the agenda:

PUBLIC HEARINGS - Resolution 13-087(A), A Resolution of the Homer City Council Adopting the 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Plan and Establishing Capital Project Legislative Priorities for Fiscal Year 2015. Mayor/City Council. Memorandum 13-131 from Community and Economic Development Coordinator as backup. Written public comments. **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT** - City Attorney Report of August, 2013.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the approval of the agenda as amended.

ROBERTS/HOWARD – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

There was no public testimony.

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 August 26, 2013. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Ordinance 13-38**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2013 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$300,000 From a Combination of the Fire Department, Police Department, and General Depreciation Reserve Funds to Begin Preliminary Engineering and Design Work on the Proposed New Public Safety Building. Mayor/City Council. Recommended dates: Introduction September 9, 2013, Public Hearing and Second Reading September 23, 2013.

Memorandum 13-129 from City Manager as backup.

- C. **Resolution 13-090**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Amending the Preliminary Assessment Roll for the Homer Natural Gas Special Assessment District

by Exempting Certain Properties and Making Amendments for Recorded Property Plat Actions Through August 27, 2013. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 13-128 from Planning Technician as backup.

- D. **Resolution 13-091**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Dedicating the Proceeds of a Future Sale of the Fire Hall and Police Station Property to a Special Fund Earmarked for Financing Construction of the Proposed New Public Safety Building. Mayor/City Council. Recommend adoption.

Item D – Resolution 13-091 was moved to Resolutions.

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

LEWIS/BURGESS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

- A. **Homer Voice for Business**, Mike Dye

Mike Dye introduced Tom Stroozas, publisher of America's Cuisine Dining Guide, who provided Council with information on the newly formed group named Homer Voice for Business.

Most recently local business people formed HVFB with a mission statement: "To promote affordability and prosperity for all citizens of Homer through a respectful engagement and collaboration between local business and government leadership." They want to align the business community with political bodies for the betterment of everyone in the community. The communities in which we live and work are no better than the people that live and work in them.

HVFB is a well-rounded group of experienced professionals available to the City and Council in advisory capacities. They are available at low cost or no cost. Their membership diversity is homogenous of the folks and entities that reside here including: restaurant, lodging, real estate, retail, insurance, medical, broadcasting, air charter, building contractors, other

contractors, processors, tour operators, automotive repair and dealers, and publications. This represents every type of business within the City of Homer. They have a lot of experience they can lend Council as support in an advisory capacity. They earnestly solicit the government bodies to enlist their help early in processes to avoid embarrassment down the road. They encourage more open dialogue so everyone can be on the same page before the public testimony phase at city council meetings.

Homer Voice for Business would like to assist the City of Homer achieve a goal of accountability and transparency. They are here to stay and will be vigilant and active. They are here to work together to make the community better. They are a resource that brings issues or impacts of policies witnessed in the trenches that may not be visible to city leaders.

Homer is open for business and the HVFB is here to help elevate that message.

Councilmember Burgess doesn't believe in wasting time and looks forward to HVFB bringing forward legislative priorities to the Council. He looks forward to meeting with HVFB; it is a huge boon for the City Council.

Mayor Wythe thanked HVFB for bringing Council up to speed on what their group is. She encouraged business owners to participate in the advisory commissions; those are areas where you have the best potential to bring things forward. It would be most helpful and advantageous for HVFB members to step up and participate in those commissions.

City Manager Wrede asked who to contact in the event he has an idea to run before the group.

Mike Dye is the go-to person with the HVFB.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS

- A. Borough Report
- B. Commissions/Board Reports:
 - 1. Library Advisory Board
 - a. Chair David Groesbeck, 2014 Budget Requests

Library Advisory Board Chair David Groesbeck and LAB member Phil Gordon addressed the Council on the library's needs. Mr. Groesbeck showed a PowerPoint addressing the library's areas of need: collection, development, and staffing.

In 2006 the library moved into the 17,000 sq. ft. building with a public meeting room, four study rooms, nineteen public use computers, and wireless access throughout the building. The collection included over 45,000 items: books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, and videos.

While Homer is the primary consumer of library services, the Homer library serves neighboring communities from Ninilchik to Nanwalek and Port Graham.

In comparison with libraries in Kenai, Kodiak, Seward, and Soldotna, Homer has lagged behind on collection expenditures since 1987. Neighboring communities increased their budgets with inflation, but Homer did not. Decreased spending for the collection has failed to provide the basic maintenance of a service that our community deserves. Library customers frequently ask for more materials and more Christian books, and comment on the inadequate, outdated book collection. Circulation of books and media in Homer is near the top in comparison to surrounding communities.

Last year Friends of the Library provided over \$26,000 to the library, including landscaping. Friends fund the Summer Reading Program, Top Drawer program, and a first-rate coordinator that brings visiting authors to Homer. Volunteers' efforts are huge with 938 volunteers this year contributing over 2,100 hours assisting staff in getting their jobs done. Volunteers provide the equivalent of a full-time staff person.

Library staff is in need of help with a few more good women or men. A full-time technology person and temporary seasonal help during the summer are desired. Current staff is hard pressed to continually provide the levels and quality of service our community has come to expect.

Council questioned the prospect of a service area to expand the funding source beyond the City of Homer.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission
3. Economic Development Advisory Commission
4. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioner Robert Archibald provided an update of the commission's business:

- Matt Steffy is the newest commissioner; people are encouraged to apply for the other commission openings.

- Ongoing projects that will improve recreation include the Spit path extension, Ocean Drive, a crosswalk at Mariner Park with a speed limit reduction for safety, and trails in the city.
- The community recreation program is struggling; space with the school district is becoming more limited.
- Commission meetings will end at 8:00 p.m. to save on staff overtime.
- Adopt-a-Park will be advertised to bring in more groups to participate.
- The old pavilion at Karen Hornaday Park will be moved and repurposed and the new pavilion will be built soon.
- Jack Wiles is working on a new master plan for Phase II improvements at KHP.
- A recreational needs assessment is needed and requested for the 2014 budget.

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- A. **Resolution 13-087(A)**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Adopting the 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Plan and Establishing Capital Project Legislative Priorities for Fiscal Year 2015. Mayor/City Council. (Postponed from August 26, 2013)

Memorandum 13-131 from Community and Economic Development Coordinator as backup.

Mayor Wythe opened the public hearing.

Amy Rattenbury, city resident, requested Council allow recreational use of the HERC building gym until the building is demolished. She asked that the HERC gym be remodeled or that a new recreational center be built.

Bonnie Jason, city resident, asked for access to the HERC building this winter to play pickleball.

Jim Lunny, city resident, supports pickleball at the HERC building for the physical and community attributes the sport provides.

Bill Wiebe, Homer resident representing the Kachemak Ski Club, asked that the rope tow at the top of Ohlson Mountain be retained on the CIP list.

Mayor Wythe closed the public hearing.

Motion on the floor from August 26: MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 13-087(A) AS AMENDED.

Councilmember Burgess disclosed a possible conflict on interest on the CIP. He is an adjacent property owner that would benefit with the water improvement on the CIP.

Mayor Wythe ruled Councilmember Burgess did not have a conflict as he would be voting on the CIP as a whole, not on individual projects. There was no objection from the Council.

There was brief discussion of leaving the HERC gym open for pickleball. The HERC building cannot be zoned differently to heat just the gym; the temperature could be left at 50 degrees during the winter.

Mayor Wythe commented the real financial issue is that we do not have funds to support the HERC building in an open status. We are working outside the approved budget today to keep the building open. Closing the building was the intended outcome; if we want to keep it open we must have a budget amendment.

City Manager Wrede added the Boys and Girls Club is not there which places an additional financial burden on the City. They were paying \$700 per month. We are close to blowing this year's budget, but insurance on the building is required no matter what.

ROBERTS/BURGESS – MOVED TO AMEND PAGE 4 OF THE CIP PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UNDER PLANS AND PROGRESS TO DELETE ALL THE WORDS AND REPLACE WITH: THE CITY OF HOMER HAS IDENTIFIED A SITE AT THE HOMER EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTER (HERC) AT THE CORNER OF STERLING HIGHWAY AND PIONEER. FUNDS HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATED FOR A PRELIMINARY DESIGN.

The document will be going to the Legislature and reflects where we are now.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Councilmember Burgess acknowledged the support and concern for a community recreation space. The reality is that to keep the HERC building open it costs \$250,000 per year. When we had the Boys and Girls Club in there with lots of usage we could justify the City was covering more than half of the operating costs out of the general fund. He likes the idea of keeping it on a cold status so there are no increased costs. He encouraged the movers, shakers, and recreation enthusiasts to have a larger discussion about creating a viable long term funding source for a community recreation and parks program. Whenever Council encounters hard times, the library and community recreation are the first to suffer cuts. Otherwise it is police and fire and roads. Let's start exploring a community recreation service area since the programs benefit people outside the city. There are lots of options for a future community recreation program.

VOTE: (main motion as amended) YES. ROBERTS, DOLMA, HOWARD, BURGESS, LEWIS
VOTE: NO. ZAK

Motion carried.

Community and Economic Development Coordinator Koester called Council's attention to the East/West Corridor and asked what they would like to offer as a match for the project. There is about \$6M in HART funds; the projected project cost is \$8.5M.

LEWIS/ROBERTS - MOVED FOR IMMEDIATE RECONSIDERATION.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. LEWIS, ROBERTS, DOLMA, ZAK, HOWARD, BURGESS

Motion carried.

BURGESS/ROBERTS – MOVED TO AMEND THE CITY'S PLEDGE MATCH FOR THE EAST/WEST CORRIDOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 50% OF THE TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS AND THAT WE DESIGNATE THE APPROPRIATE HART FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE.

Community and Economic Development Coordinator Koester noted the traditional match is 10% of the overall project, although it is not necessary.

A fixed number or constructing the project in a phased approach are other options.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. BURGESS, HOWARD

VOTE: NO. LEWIS, ROBERTS, DOLMA, ZAK

Motion failed.

BURGESS/LEWIS – MOVED TO AMEND TO PLEDGE 25% OF THE TOTAL PROJECTED PROJECT COSTS FROM THE HART FUNDS.

We still have an alternative to increase the match if the project is more costly.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. HOWARD, BURGESS, LEWIS, ROBERTS, DOLMA

VOTE: NO. ZAK

Motion carried.

VOTE: (resolution as amended) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. **Ordinance 13-36**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Appropriating Five Percent (5%) of the Tax Revenue Generated by the Drill Rig Endeavour, an Amount of \$9,054.36, to The Homer Foundation. City Clerk/Permanent Fund Committee. Introduction August 26, 2013, Public Hearing and Second Reading September 9, 2013.

Mayor Wythe opened the public hearing. In the absence of public testimony, Mayor Wythe closed the public hearing.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 13-36 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

HOWARD/BURGESS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. City Manager's Report
1. Water Treatment Plant and Sewer Treatment Plant Articles
 2. Employee Anniversary letter
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1. Gasline Progress: Enstar reports that the pipeline purges which have been taking place through much of downtown this week have been successful. They are confident in the quality of the construction. By the time Council reads this report, much of the distribution system between East and West Hill Road will be energized and filled with gas. Enstar has exhausted the State Legislative Grant on the Trunk Line and is now using its own funds for the final 3 miles of construction. Recall that this money will be repaid by consumers with a \$1.00 per mcf surcharge until the amount Enstar "advances" is repaid. This amount is still estimated to be around \$2.5 Million. The City is applying for full reimbursement of the grant proceeds. Enstar reports that it is running slightly over the trunk line budget but under the distribution system budget.
 2. Port: You may have noticed the increase in business for vessel repair and scrapping at the beach haul out area. There is great demand for this service and I think it bodes well for the utility of the proposed barge mooring and haul out facility capital project. Vessels that

are hauled out in this area pay regular moorage fees if they are on the tidelands and storage fees if they are on the uplands. These activities also generate jobs and tax revenues. Of course, the vessels are also unsightly and a nuisance to some. This year we had to move and inconvenience some campers a little early due to business demand. Not all of the campers were happy and you may be contacted about it. Some campers are really interested in the work going on there. Others say it blocks the view (which it does) results in too much noise, and generally degrades the camping experience.

3. Water Trail: Last week Bryan Hawkins and Angie Ottesen met with Dave Brann at the site of the water trail launch. The purpose of the meeting was to decide where to place the plaque the steering committee received. The plaque will be mounted on a large granite stone that is being donated. It will be a nice monument demarking the official start of the trail.
4. Beluga Slough Trail. Carey Meyer is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to install interpretative signage on the newly reconstructed Beluga Slough Trail. The current plan is to commission a poet to write poetry that would double as interpretative signage. In other words, the poetry would tell the story of Beluga Slough and the resource values it represents. This should be terrific. This could only happen in Homer!
5. Public Safety Building: This agenda contains a resolution and an ordinance pertaining to the new proposed public safety building. You will notice that the ordinance contains instructions for me to use the GC/CM method of construction and to post an RFP for these services. This is what we recommend. We should talk about it more at the meeting to be sure Council is in agreement. Also, Council might want to consider forming a building committee, like it did with City Hall and the Harbormaster Building. Using the GC/CM method along with a building committee has been very successful for us in the past. In addition to getting ourselves in good position for the legislative session, we are also starting work on securing funding from other sources. In the next few weeks, Chief Robl and I will be meeting with the DOC Commissioner to talk about the new jail. The State is very interested in seeing a new jail here and will provide funding for it. Also, Chief Painter has learned that FEMA will pay for up to 75% of the cost of constructing new Emergency Operations Centers. This building will house the EOC.
6. HERC Building: Carey has obtained an estimate for demolition of the HERC Building. The estimate includes both buildings. It is not as much as we anticipated. I will have the number for you at the meeting. I believe Katie may have mentioned it in her report. So, this is an important piece of the decision making matrix for this building.
7. Bathrooms: You have probably noticed that the new bathrooms are rising up quickly. People notice the ones at WKFL Park and Bartlett/Pioneer but the ones farthest along are at the Deep Water Dock and End of the Road Park. Enstar has agreed to run service lines to the Spit restrooms this year, even though they would normally be part of Phase II. This will allow us to pave over the lines this year as part of the construction project. It will save us money to do it this way and we appreciate Enstar's willingness to work with us.
8. System 5 Improvements. At the last meeting we reported to you about a large change order I approved for work at System 5 in the harbor. The change order will allow us to

provide more electrical services and will greatly improve service there. The Council will see a very quickly payback and significant increase in business and customer satisfaction because of this move. We appreciate your support.

9. Water Treatment Plant and Sewer Treatment Plant. During the discussions about the new water and sewer rate model, there was frequent reference to the City's sophisticated water and sewer treatment plants and the high level of training and expertise of our employees. City employees have won several awards over the past few years as Council knows. Attached are two recent articles in professional journals about both treatment plants. I hope the Council members will be proud they read these articles. We will try and do a better job of getting this type of information out to the public because it is very informative.
10. Budget: We are working internally on the draft budget and at this point, are on target to deliver it to Council on October 14 and introduce the budget ordinance and supporting resolutions on October 28.
11. New Water Tank: At the last meeting, some questions came up about the proposed new water tank on Shellfish. Attached is a letter that went out to the neighborhood informing property owners of the project and soliciting their input.

City Manager Wrede referenced the articles on the water and wastewater treatment plants. They are both top notch facilities with highly skilled and trained employees.

Cutting has begun for the trees obstructing flight paths near the airport according to a member of the Kachemak Drive Path Association.

Mayor Wythe acknowledged 56 years of service being celebrated by 9 employees. A second long term employee from Public Works is retiring. They have lost over 50 years of service in the last few weeks.

- B. Bid Report
- C. Games Report
 1. Homer Chamber of Commerce

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- A. City Attorney Report for August 2013

Council had no questions of City Attorney Wells.

COMMITTEE REPORT

- A. Public Arts Committee

- B. Transportation Advisory Committee
- C. Permanent Fund Committee
- D. Lease Committee
- E. Port and Harbor Improvement Committee
- F. Employee Committee Report
- G. Port and Harbor Building Task Force

Councilmember Howard reported the task force is off to a good start. At their first meeting they were briefed on office space needs and site location needs by the architect and engineer. Their next meeting is September 20th at which time they will set a timeline and public hearing dates.

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. **Resolution 13-088**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Confirming the Assessment Roll, Establishing Dates for Payment of Special Assessments and Establishing Delinquency, Penalty, and Interest Provisions for the Kachemak Drive Phase II Water and Sewer Special Assessment District. City Clerk. (Postponed from August 26, 2013.)

Motion on the floor from August 26TH: MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 13-088 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 13-091**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Dedicating the Proceeds of a Future Sale of the Fire Hall and Police Station Property to a Special Fund Earmarked for Financing Construction of the Proposed New Public Safety Building. Mayor/City Council. Recommend adoption.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 13-091 by reading of title only.

BURGESS/ROBERTS – SO MOVED.

ROBERTS/LEWIS - MOVED TO AMEND THIS RESOLUTION LINES 7, 25, AND 30 TO SAY THE PROCEEDS “OF ANY POTENTIAL” FUTURE SALE.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

BURGESS/ROBERTS - MOVED TO AMEND LINE 35 TO ADD: “IN THE CASE THAT ANY INDEBTEDNESS OR DEBT OBLIGATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES CURRENTLY EXIST.”

There was no discussion.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE: (main motion as amended) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Melvin Morlen, Homer resident and First Student Bus employee, commented on safety issues of traffic, sidewalks, and cross zones for kids at West Homer Elementary School. There was an incident a few days ago where a couple of kids were almost killed. If not for a school bus driver’s attentiveness the kids would have been run over. There is no crosswalk at the intersection. A traffic light was suggested.

City Manager Wrede noted DOT did an intersection study and did not list that area. He suggested a letter from the City or a resolution from the Council along with backup from the school board asking for a traffic study to see if a signal is warranted. The school board is meeting in Homer this evening at the Homer High School. It was suggested the traffic study be done during the school year between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. when traffic is at its peak.

Trisha Lillibridge and Jim Lunny commented on the Kachemak Bay 21st Wooden Boat Festival over the weekend. The area behind Pier One was used to provide education focused on kayaks and kayak building. The festival provided an economic engine to the community since everything for the event was purchased locally. About 500 people attended each day.

Robert Archibald, city resident, commented on the hazards on East End Road at Cottonwood Horse Park. The speed limit used to be 35 mph and is now 45 mph. Bringing a horse trailer out of the park proves to be difficult. A reduction in speed and a crosswalk would be helpful.

Kate Crowley commented on a citizen group recently formed for community recreation. They meet monthly at the Library. Their next meeting is September 25 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at the Library. She supports a parks and recreation needs assessment.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Wells had no comment.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Johnson announced absentee voting begins on September 16th and continues through October 1st. Absentee voting will be available at the Clerk's office and the Borough will be also be conducting absentee voting in the lobby between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Wrede had no comment.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Wythe commented they heard from very diverse groups including Homer Voice for Business, the Library Advisory Board, and recreation people. A lot of people want to partner with Council; we need people to provide a financial backer for all the things we want to fund. We have a single budget that incorporates all these things. The responsibility of the Council is to provide life safety issues and to maintain the roads. If there is money left we can maintain the library and have parks and recreation. We are functioning on a budget that has been reduced by over \$3M in the last eight years. We are down many city employees and have not filled some jobs for four years. We struggle with hiring new employees as we are not competitive. There are a lot of challenges that are decades old, including poorly maintained or inadequately funded facilities. We are trying to make up the gap, but we have to prioritize. We changed the philosophy for the CIP to figure out a smarter way to do business and manage the business of the City of Homer. When we ask for state or federal funding they will

see the City as a structured professional organization that is seeking financial partners. It is a succinct change in the way the City does business; there are still years of business to get caught up. Never presume when we are not in agreement that we are not listening. We are always listening, but don't always have the ability.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Roberts commented we have just discovered tonight that many councilmembers have not been getting city email regularly. If you sent email in the last 2-3 weeks with no response, perhaps it is the email problem. She appreciated the Kachemak Ski Club coming in and asking to be included in the CIP.

Councilmember Dolma commented it was nice to see a lot of folks in the audience, including students, parks and recreation people, library people, and Homer Voice for Business. We can do all the things all of you ask for if we raise your taxes. Tell us what you want, but tell us how to pay for it.

Councilmember Burgess agreed the alternative to not being fiscally responsible as a council is saddling our children and our future city and future ability to provide core services. Homer is in an enviable position as we have done good budgeting with a reasonable reserve. We are running a tight ship and are feeling the strain of it. The alternative is a lot worse. He thanked the Homer Voice for Business for coming out. It is important that the people put together a cohesive voice for their ideas and policy. When it comes before the Council he looks forward to their ideas.

Councilmember Lewis congratulated Zoe Story on winning the Channel 2 News Future Fund Scholarship. On the library we saw that the other communities spend a lot more money on books. Soldotna is talking about expanding their sports center. These are all towns that did not take a tax holiday when the City of Homer did. You get what you pay for. If you don't want it you don't pay for it, but you can't have it and not pay for it and that will be the story from now on.

Councilmember Howard wished everyone a good evening.

Councilmember Zak commented he voted against the CIP. The remainder of his comments were inaudible.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, September 23, 2013 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, MMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: _____