



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Zak and Homer City Council
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager
DATE: May 9, 2018
SUBJECT: May 14 City Manager Report

New Street Light on Ohlson Lane and Sterling Highway

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT) will be installing a new street light at the Sterling Highway and Ohlson Lane intersection in the next week. This improvement is the result of a concerned citizen – and graduate of the City of Homer Citizens Academy - bringing the issue to the attention of ADOT and the City. ADOT should be commended for their acknowledgment of the issue and responsiveness. They took an observation from a constituent, researched it and moved quickly with installation as soon as conditions allowed. It was a pleasure to witness such a collaborative project and a great reminder that our residents serve as excellent eyes and ears identifying issues in our community.

Trip Report ICMA Western Region Conference

I was able to attend the International City Manager Association West Coast Regional Conference in Stevenson, WA last week. It was a great opportunity to network with our western neighbors, many of them from small towns and struggling with similar issues. Topics included leadership training, how to navigate situations where the manager has to get outside their comfort zone, creating sustainable communities, and re-establishing democracy in local government. One of the most rewarding sessions was structured in a 'speed coaching' format where managers and students rotated between brief 15mn interviews with senior managers. The format allowed participants to quickly get to meaty topics such as council manager relations, how to prioritize competing projects, and balancing large issues with the day to day demands of managing a City. I also was able to represent Homer and Alaska on the western regional leadership team at the conference. Thank you for the opportunity to pursue the professional development; it is inspiring, invigorating, and I always return so happy to have the privilege to serve this unique community.

Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee Update

Harbormaster Hawkins represents the City of Homer on the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee (CIHSC). The Harbor Safety Committee was formed as a result, and at recommendation of, the 2015 risk assessment conducted to investigate the ground incident surrounding the tank ship Seabulk Pride in 2006. The CIHSC serves as subject matter experts for the Cook Inlet and acts as a facilitator, bringing together all relevant maritime stakeholders to identify and resolve, when possible, waterway management issues through the adoption of best practices and standards of care. On Thursday, April 26 2018, the Committee met in Seward to discuss a number of water transportation issues in the inlet, including tasking the Navigation Workgroup with reviewing the proposed Pebble Mine Transportation Plan and sending comments/concerns from a

marine transportation angle to the Harbor Safety Committee which serves as an advisory to the USCG Captain of the Port, Sector Anchorage.

Report on Joint Work Session with KPB Assembly

On Monday, May 7th I attended, along with 5 City Council members and the Mayor, a joint work session held by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly on local government revenue challenges. The purpose of the work session was to get municipal feedback on a series of proposals by the Assembly to raise needed revenue. The Borough Mayor presented his proposal, a 2% Borough sales tax increase (to 5%) and 1 mill rate decrease (to 3.5 mills). There was concern expressed around the table about how such a dramatic increase in sales tax by the Borough would negatively impact the ability of municipalities to collect revenue from non-residents and fund important capital projects. At a Homer Chamber of Commerce Luncheon the next day, Mayor Pierce revised his plan to a '4 and 4' – a 4% Borough sales tax and 4 Borough mill rate (an increase in Borough sales tax of 1% and decrease in the mill rate of .5 mills). Other revenue generating proposals discussed included Assembly Member Cooper's .5% Borough sales tax increase, a bed tax, and reinstating taxes on non-prepared foods. The work session was a great opportunity to touch base with colleges from peninsula cities and the Assembly and an annual joint session was proposed. I was proud of the representation of the Southern Peninsula at the meeting and that we all actively participated.

AML Summer Conference

The Denali Borough will be hosting the AML Summer Conference August 22-23, 2018. The Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors, Alaska Conference of Mayors, Alaska Municipal Management Association and AML Members will meet during this time. Meetings will take place at the Grande Denali Lodge. In the past, the City of Homer has sent the Mayor, a councilmember and the City Manager. If you have an interest in attending, please contact the City Clerk ASAP as the hotel reservations will go quickly. Any travel will need to be approved by the Council by memo.

Elections

At the last Council meeting I was asked to provide statistics on voter participation at special elections versus regular elections. The attached chart shows participation rates in both over the last 3 years. Participation is driven by how high profile the topic is; voter participation was 42% for the special recall election in 2017 while the run off in 2015 only garnered 14% of the Homer electorate. If Council proceeds with a special election, getting election workers will be critical. Ask your friends and neighbors to sign up to be an election worker on June 26. It can be a half or full day commitment, is a lot of fun and you get to be part of the democratic process.

HB 176 – Reimbursement for Transport of Medicaid Patients

HB 176, An Act relating to medical assistance reimbursement for emergency medical transportation services, has passed both houses and has moved onto the Governor's desk for signing. This bill will allow agencies that transport patients (such as the Homer Volunteer Fire Department) to collect expenditures that were previously not eligible for reimbursement by the federal government through the State of Alaska for patients that are supported by Medicaid. Currently Medicaid and Medicare reimburse a flat rate of \$400 per transport, even if there were other expenses (such as the cost of medication or keeping apparatus response ready). The department could see a modest boost in ambulance billing revenue with the passage of HB 176. However, the reimbursement program is dependent on the Federal Government's Health and Human Services reimbursement to the State of Alaska, which in turn supports the individual departments.

ENC:

Employee Anniversaries

AML Summer meeting draft agenda

Chart from City Clerks on Election Turnout Percentages

Letter of Support for Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District

Letter to State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Providing Input on an Area Transportation Plan for the Kenai Peninsula

Thank You Letter from Homer Community Food Pantry, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, and Bunnell Street Arts Center



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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR ZAK AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Katie Koester
DATE: May 14, 2018
SUBJECT: May Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Mark Whaley,	Port	13	Years
Pike Ainsworth,	Port	10	Years
Don Huffnagle,	Port	10	Years
Ann Dixon,	Library	7	Years
Mike Gilbert,	Public Works	4	Years
Jackie McDonough,	Library	4	Years
Sean McGroarty,	Port	2	Years
Ryan Johnson,	Police	1	Year



DRAFT

Alaska Municipal League Summer Legislative Conference

Denali, Alaska ~ August 21-24, 2018

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Travel Day

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Alaska Conference of Mayors Meeting**

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Alaska Municipal Management Association Meeting**

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Denali Borough – Welcome Reception – TBA**

Thursday, August 23, 2018

AML Legislative Conference

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Position Committee Meeting

8:00 a.m. Breakfast - Included

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions – Pat Branson, AML President**

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Legislative Update

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Legislative Issues Discussion

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Luncheon Guest Speaker (Lunch Included)**

1:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. FY18 Legislative Issues Discussion/Plan

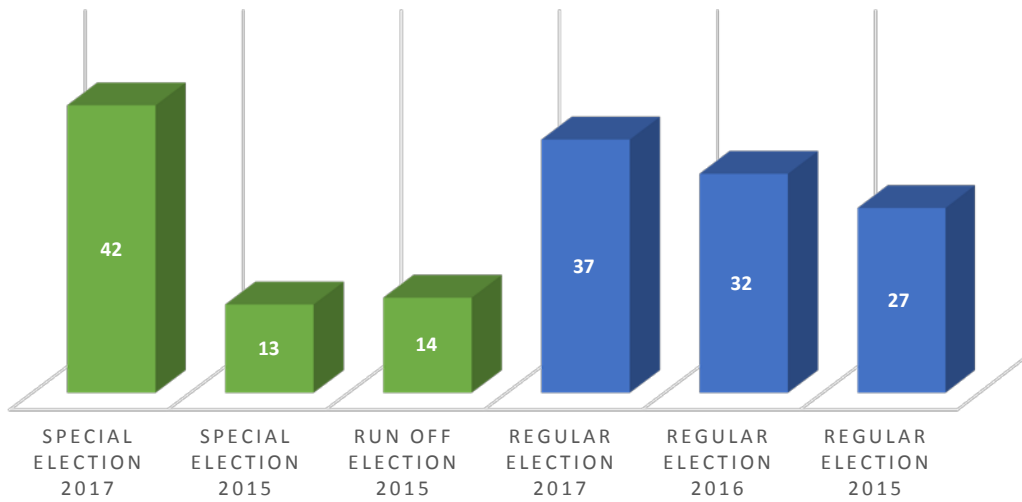
5:00 p.m. **AML Board of Directors Meeting**

Friday, August 24, 2018

Travel Day or

Optional Park Tour offered by the Denali Borough (Saturday travel day)

CITY OF HOMER ELECTION TURNOUT PERCENTAGES



Date	Turnout %	Election type
June 13, 2017	42%	Special Election- Recall
December 1, 2015	13%	Special Election- HART
November 3, 2015	14%	Run Off Election
October 3, 2017	37%	Regular Election
October 4, 2016	32%	Regular Election
October 6, 2015	27%	Regular Election



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May 14, 2019

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Dear President Ogle and members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

I would like to take the opportunity to express support for the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) and highlight the benefit the City of Homer receives from this regional organization. Municipal government can get bogged down in the day to day of running a municipality. Having an organization like KPEDD who advocates for the economic health of the entire region is critical for our economic wellbeing. KPEDD often passes along grant and business opportunities to the City of Homer. They are able to connect the dots between business and government. KPEDD provides important data that the City uses when making decisions, including wage and industry data specific to the City of Homer. They have loaned their professional experience to community groups pursuing the betterment of Homer, such as the City of Homer Parks Art and Recreation Commission and Kachemak Bay Mariculture Association. KPEDD plays a role in bringing communities on the Peninsula together with common goals. The executive director routinely travels to and presents to the Homer City Council and KPEDD has hosted a regional meetings between the municipal managers.

The City of Homer appreciates Kenai Peninsula Borough's support of KPEDD and acknowledgment of the need for regional economic development on the Kenai Peninsula.

Sincerely,

Katie Koester
City Manager



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5/15/2018

Joselyn Biloon, Planner III
Alaska Transportation & Public Facility
PO Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

Dear Ms. Biloon,

The City of Homer is looking forward to working with The State of Alaska Department of Transportation to develop an Area Transportation Plan for the Kenai Peninsula. Working together on a shared vision with common goals to develop Transportation Plan that includes the lower Kenai Peninsula.

The Homer City Council has passed several resolutions that request upgrades to the Sterling Highway, the Pioneer Avenue Rehabilitation Project and in the Lake Street Rehabilitation Project.

- Resl. 14-106 requests that ADOT construct a bridge to “daylight” Woodward Creek as part of the Pioneer Avenue Rehabilitation Project.
- Resl. 18-008 requests that ADOT fix the drainage that affects the Baycrest Subdivision, Mile 171 Sterling Highway.
- Resl. 18-034 requests that ADOT install a crosswalk on Lake Street where Grubstake intersects Lake Street as part of the Lake Street Rehabilitation Project.
- Resl. 18- 038 requests that ADOT not delay the 2019 Pioneer Avenue Rehabilitation Project.

Always on our horizon are the dangers of coastal erosion that affect Homer Spit Road and the Homer Harbor. Developing an asset management plan regarding intermodal transportation to support the Homer Harbor is certainly valid.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Koester, City Manager, 907-435-3102

Cc: Rick Abboud, Planning Office, 907-235-3106

Att: Resl. 14-106

Resl. 18-008

Resl. 18-034

Resl. 18-038



April 23, 2018

To Homer City Council,

First, a thank you for your support of the Homer Food Pantry, through the 2018 City Non-profit Grants

As I think about Homer, what first stands out is how many non-profits are working to make our city a better place for all of us.

From some we have compassionate care for our elderly and services for those in need. They are there for families during a very difficult time

. I think about all the hours of maintenance that is spent by the ski clubs, the snow machiners, the across the bay trail blazers and the dedicated workers and scientists that want Kachemak Bay available now and in the future.

The droves of volunteers that keep the ice rink available to our skaters as well as the skaters from across our state impresses me.

There is SPARC making a safe and dry playing area for the community as well as the cycle and running clubs making it possible for us to get outside and be in our surrounding nature.

There are organizations that focus on our youngest community members, our teens and our pets.

Those in need always have a helping hand from the Food Pantry.

We have the Arts and Culture and the Conservation and Environment organizations that are beneficial to us as well as the visitors to our town.

Is the city a better place for all these non profits? Yes, we are all better for these organizations. It allows the citizens to contribute as they are able and it relieves the city of many services when costs and manpower are prohibitively expensive.

The non profits have the commitment and the manpower, yet still need operating costs to get the work done. I am urging the city to please continue funding organizations that contribute to a healthy and thriving place to live and raise our families.

Thank you, Sherry Stead

None should go hungry or feel helpless in a time of need



Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies



CELEBRATING
30 YEARS
of OUTDOOR EDUCATION

708 Smokey Bay Way, Homer, Alaska 99603 • 907/235-6667 • Fax 907/235-6668 • Email info@akcoastalstudies.org • www.akcoastalstudies.org



April 27, 2018

Homer City Council
491 East Pioneer
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Council Members,

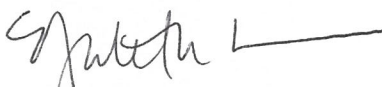
The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACS) would like to thank the City of Homer for continuing to support local nonprofits in the community through the City of Homer Grants Program administered through the Homer Foundation. We are especially thankful for the operational grant we recently received through this program.

Operational funds are difficult to raise, yet extremely important to the functions of an organization. These local government dollars support our outdoor education programs that will reach over 6,000 youth and families in Homer in 2018, and will complement the donations of hundreds of hours of volunteer time and contributions of goods and services from businesses in the generous community of Homer.

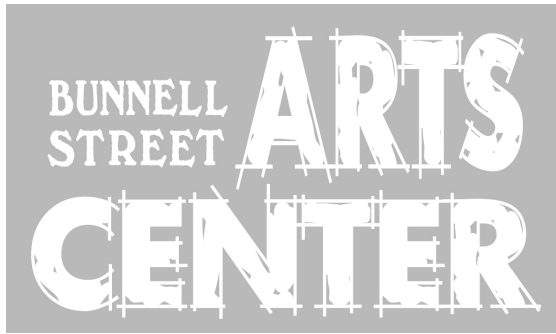
As one of many non-profits offering important services to Homer residents, CACS will leverage these funds to help attract federal funding for our community-based marine debris clean-up and prevention activities conducted under the Kachemak Bay Coast Walk program. The Kachemak Bay Coast Walk directly impacts local beaches and provides a model for stewardship of beaches in other Alaskan coastal communities.

Operational funds help keep the doors open and facilities staffed, especially at our Headquarters location. Thanks to your continuing support and the support of others, we reached over 18,000 people in 2017 through our environmental education and stewardship programs in the Homer area and we hope to increase our local outreach even more in 2018!

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Trowbridge
Executive Director



106 west Bunnell, Suite A
Homer, AK 99603

www.bunnellstreetgallery.org

Asia Freeman, Artistic Director

asia@bunnellarts.org

"nurturing and presenting innovative art of exceptional quality in all media for diverse audiences"

City of Homer
Mayor and Council Members
419 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

May 1, 2018

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Thank you very much for your continued investment in Homer's health. Bunnell Street Arts Center is proud to nurture Homer's creative ecosystem with art programs for all ages. We deeply appreciate your leadership as Homer's elected officials. We thank the City for partnering with the Homer Foundation to provide the City of Homer Grants program.

Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, a 2017 study by *Americans for the Arts* about the nonprofit arts and culture industry's impact on the economy, documents the economic contributions of the arts in 341 diverse communities and regions across the country, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, the nonprofit arts and culture industry generated \$166.3 billion of economic activity during 2015—\$63.8 billion in spending by arts and cultural organizations and an additional \$102.5 billion in event-related expenditures by their audiences. This activity supported 4.6 million jobs and generated \$27.5 billion in revenue to local, state, and federal governments, a yield well beyond their collective \$5 billion in arts allocations by entities like the City of Homer Grants Program Through The Homer Foundation. This study puts to rest a misconception that communities support arts and culture at the expense of local economic development. In fact, communities are investing in an industry that supports jobs, generates government revenue, and is the cornerstone of tourism. We agree that locally as well as nationally, the arts mean business!

I am pleased that Homer is among the communities nationally that invest in arts and culture as a renewable, sustainable Alaska resource. Join us at Bunnell for exhibits, lectures, performances and workshops celebrating Alaskan talent and encouraging arts achievement. We are thrilled to showcase sixty artists in the Plate Project, Bunnell's annual membership appeal and a showcase exhibit of Artist in Schools May 18 at 5 pm. A short membership meeting at 6, with a potluck reception open to all, is followed by a concert with Tyler Langham and Friends at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to Bunnell anytime!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Asia Freeman", written in a cursive style.

