

Session 18-25 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on October 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tempore Donna Aderhold at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: ADERHOLD, ERICKSON, LORD (telephonic), SMITH, VENUTI

ABSENT: MAYOR ZAK, COUNCILMEMBER STROOZAS (both excused)

STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
IT MANAGER POOLOS

Council met for Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. to discuss 2019 Budget, consent agenda, and regular meeting agenda in Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

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 2.08.040.)

The following changes were made: **PUBLIC HEARING- Ordinance 18-43**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Prohibiting Sellers from Providing Buyers with Single-Use Disposable Shopping Bags. Venuti. Written public comment. **NEW BUSINESS - Resolution 18-076(S)**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Certifying the Results of the City of Homer Regular Election Held October 2, 2018 to Elect the Mayor and Two Councilmembers. City Clerk/Canvass Board.

Councilmember Erickson asked to pull Memorandum 18-108 under new business and move it to October 22nd.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Mayoral Proclamation – National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, November 2018

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold read and presented the proclamation to Jessica Golden, Executive Director of Hospice of Homer and Beth Graber, Board President. Ms. Golden thanked Council for the proclamation. She commented on upcoming events in November and services that Hospice of Homer provides in Homer and neighboring communities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

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 Special Regular Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2018. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 18-107** from City Clerk Re: Travel Authorization for Mayor and two Councilmembers to attend the Alaska Municipal League 68th Annual Local Government Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, November 12-16, 2018. Recommend approval.
- C. **Resolution 18-073**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving and Accepting the Donation of Tuggeht Janju Tets (Homer Medicine Stick) by Argent Kvasnikoff of Ninilchik, Alaska, for the Municipal Art Collection to be Displayed at the Homer Public Library. City Clerk/Library Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 18-110 from Deputy City Clerk as backup

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda.

VENUTI/ERICKSON MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

A. Opioid Task Force (10 Minutes)

Stephanie Stillwell, Southern Kenai Peninsula Opioid Task Force Facilitator, thanked Council for the opportunity to present tonight.

Dr. Spencer updated the Council on the Exchange, the local syringe exchange program that has been operating for 2.5 years now. She commented about a news story about found syringes at the end of the spit, and said a project the Exchange has been thinking about is working with the city to install syringe disposal systems in place they'd likely be used, like the public bathrooms. They've been taking in a lot of syringes at the Exchange and that could be reduced by having safe places for people to dispose of them in places that can be accessed privately. She explained how the disposal systems work and that it would be a smart way to try to reduce syringes improperly disposed of in public places.

Ms. Stillwell talked about events that were held in September to recognize it as recovery month, which included opportunities to share stories of recovery and the Light the Night candle walk.

Christina McGee shared briefly how recovery has changed her life and what its meant for her. She has been able to turn her life around and make use of her experience in a positive manner, it's been empowering. If more people were in recovery it would create a stronger community for others. Becoming a member of the task force and having a role in positive changes has been very rewarding. With her background and life experience she has a unique outlook on certain issue in the community, and that's what she feels she brings to the table and why she's excited to be a part of everything.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS (10 minute limit per report)

A. Borough Report

B. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board

Mark Massion, Library Advisory Boardmember, congratulated the Councilmembers and incoming Mayor. He commented the board met and discussion library fee adjustments, service animals, and the Library Giving Tree. The LAB would like Council to consider the budget request for \$10,000 to purchase new books. He also commented regarding library events.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission
3. Economic Development Advisory Commission
4. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

A. 2019 Budget

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

- B. Ordinance 18-42**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets to Provide for Necessary Mid-Year Adjustment by Appropriating and Transferring Funds from the General and Water Sewer Funds. City Manager/Finance Director. Introduction September 24, 2018, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 8, 2018.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 18-42 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold noted a revisor correction made on line 38 to correct the account number from 256-0379 Sewer Reserve to 156-0395 Public Works depreciation reserves.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold asked if there is a motion to amend the ordinance to add the Development of LED Light Conversion Specifications & Work Plan submitted by Councilmember Stroozas found on page 81 of the packet.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

There was brief discussion confirming this expenditure if for an audit and to develop a work plan to determine feasibility of converting city buildings to LED lighting.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on Ordinance 18-42 as amended.

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

Motion carried.

- C. **Ordinance 18-43**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Prohibiting Sellers from Providing Buyers with Single-Use Disposable Shopping Bags. Venuti. Introduction September 24, 2018, Public Hearing October 8 and 22, 2018 and Second Reading October 22, 2018.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold opened the public hearing.

Savannah Brinker commented in support of banning plastic bags. She understands the need to fight for our freedoms and to stand up to overly controlling government, but this isn't the issue to do that on. She commented about the negative impacts of plastics on the human body.

Henry Reiske, non-resident, commented in support of Ordinance 18-43 and noted he would not be able to vote on a ban if it goes to the ballot. He believes the awareness of the issues of plastic bags has grown and we aren't in the same situation as five years ago. He cited statistics on plastic bag usage and on recycling, and negative impacts of micro plastics.

Kate Finn, city resident, commented in support of banning plastic bags. She referenced the information she provided in the supplemental packet highlighting the negative impacts plastics have on the environment.

Tom Zitzmann, city resident, commented in support of banning plastic bags. He shared his experience camping in Gore Point and the amount of trash and plastics he saw was appalling. He encouraged reaching out to businesses that use plastic bags and developing a way to work to start this process voluntarily.

RJ Fish Nelson, commented in support of banning plastic bags. She handed out information that included negative issues about plastics bags and various garbage decomposition rates. She said she helps with the beach clean ups and commented the dog poop bags are also a

problem because people pick up the poop with the bags and leave them instead of throwing them away.

Katie Gavenus, commented in support of Ordinance 18-43. It's time to step to sustain water and lands and this is a tiny step but a step in the right direction. Other solutions haven't worked so far, and sometimes people need a little push to get moving in a positive direction.

Laura Rieske, non-resident, commented in support of Ordinance 18-43. She acknowledged that using plastic bags is a hard habit to break, because they are handy and always there. She's been to Gore Point and the amount of plastic and marine debris there is insane. We can't completely stop the use of plastic, but banning plastic bags is something we can control. Homer is in a better place now for this transition.

Sunrise Sjoberg, city resident, noted the expression acting locally and thinking globally relates to this issue. We are unique and our freedom is important to us, but our actions need to be guided by what's best for everyone. She briefly commented about negative impacts of micro plastic on marine life.

Bruce Hendrickson, city resident and local fisherman, commented in opposition of Ordinance 18-43. Banning plastic bags it tough on individuals who use them, and it's easy to recycle them at the dump. He appreciates what people have shared about the issues of plastic, but the ordinance is restricting.

There were no further public comments.

Councilmember Venuti commented she has received a lot of feedback from people on both sides of the issue that has been informative and enlightening. In the coming year she hopes council will look at unique ways to address at this and then put it to the voters next year. With good education, good PR, and innovative ideas it could be very successful.

Councilmember Smith commented he appreciates the good comments they've heard and supports the idea of putting it to the voters.

Councilmember Erickson commented her biggest hold up is that the people voted to overturn the last ban. She agrees the educational part is really important especially about recycling.

Councilmember Lord agreed the education component is important and appreciates the idea of including it on the ballot.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold commented there will be a second public hearing on Ordinance 18-43 on October 22nd and she will be interested in hearing what people think about a ballot measure and what it should look like.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. City Manager's Report

There were no comments on the City Manager's report provided in the packet.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

B. HERC Task Force

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. **Ordinance 18-37**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2018 Capital Budget by Appropriating up to \$48,590 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Program (HART) for Traffic Calming and Safety Improvements on Karen Hornaday Park Road. Stroozas. Introduction August 13, 2018, Public Hearing and Referred to PARCAC August 27, 2018, Second Reading October 8, 2018.

Memorandum 18-109 from Deputy City Planner as backup

SMITH/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 18-37 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmembers Erickson commented she's conflicted about adopting this ordinance because it really isn't fixing the problem, and isn't sure it's what PARCAC really wants.

Councilmember Venuti concurred.

Councilmember Lord acknowledged that this isn't what's in the master plan or a permanent solution, but it's a modification that can be replaced when there's a long term solution. It's a stop gap and is probably better than nothing because right now we don't have a budget for what's really needed.

Councilmember Smith commented his understanding of the sponsor's intention was to give PARCAC an ability to tackle the problem within a certain budget. It doesn't address the long term goals they have, but given the amount of money, PARCAC came back with

recommendations on how something could work. This is something that will help, the speed humps alone will make a difference. He'd rather do something than nothing.

VOTE: YES: VENUTI, SMITH, ADERHOLD, LORD, ERICKSON

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Memorandum 18-108** from Councilmember Erickson Re: Council Approval of a Letter to the State of Alaska Requesting Disaster Declaration for Salmon Fishery in Upper Cook Inlet.

Pulled and moved to October 22, 2018 under agenda approval.

- B. **Resolution 18-076**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Certifying the Results of the City of Homer Regular Election Held October 2, 2018 to Elect the Mayor and Two Councilmembers. City Clerk/Canvass Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold asked for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 18-076 by reading of title only.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold asked for a motion to substitute Resolution 18-076(s) for 18-076.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

There was no discussion on the motion to substitute.

VOTE (substitution): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no discussion on Resolution 18-076(S).

VOTE (main motion): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- C. Swearing in Newly Elected Mayor and Councilmembers

City Clerk Jacobsen administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Mayor Castner and Councilmembers Aderhold and Smith.

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Katie Gavenus, city resident, commented regarding crosswalks in Homer. Last week saw a woman almost get hit by a car because there's no crosswalk across Lake Street. There are limited crosswalks close to high school, a heavily used area and also down on the spit. She works out on the spit in the summer and having the whole area switch to a pedestrian zone, rather than designated crosswalk areas, causes confusion and anxiety for everyone and unsafe conditions for pedestrians and drivers. It's an issue that affects us all in different ways. She encouraged Council to consider what could be done to improve the cross walk situation in Homer.

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, briefly shared some history on the founding fathers concern of turning over government to the people. He commented no one studies an issue like an elected body does, and people don't always know what should happen. He noted the example from a number of years ago when there was a ballot proposition for term limits in the Borough, the people overwhelmingly voted for it. In the same election, they overwhelmingly voted in a person who was termed out. He encouraged councilmembers not to downplay the value of the work they do.

Ken Castner, newly elected Mayor, thanked all the voters, thanked those who voted for him, and the people who came tonight to see him be sworn in. People are aware he promoted a unique position, as far as what he wouldn't do as Mayor. He plans to attend all the advisory bodies meetings and speak to them about what he'd like to do as Mayor and invite them to inform him of their goals for the next year. He invited Councilmembers to submit amendments before noon on meeting day to be included in the supplemental packet, it's a better way to deal with them and better for the public also. He looks forward to working together and he's hopeful we can get a lot of things accomplished over the next 20 meetings.

Tom Zitzmann thanked Councilmember Aderhold for her efforts running the meetings in the Mayor's absence. He thinks she's done a fantastic job.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen had no comment.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Koester congratulated Councilmembers Aderhold and Smith on their re-election, she looks forward to continuing working with them. She commended Councilmember Aderhold for her efforts serving as Mayor Pro Tem during Mayor Zak's absences. She welcomed Mayor Castner, she looks forward to working with him as he has a lot to offer the City.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Lord thanked Council for allowing her to participate telephonically. She's in Seward for the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrator's Annual Meeting. She's enjoyed meeting with Harbormasters, Port Staff, and vendors from around the state. She congratulated Councilmembers Aderhold and Smith, and she's looking forward to working with Mayor Castner.

Councilmember Erickson commented the Transportation Fair is coming up on October 13th and encouraged the public to attend and comment directly about concerns on our state roads. She appreciated the feedback about the crosswalks. She congratulated Councilmembers Aderhold and Smith on their re-election, and she's looking forward to working with Mayor Castner. She thinks this group is going to do some great things this next couple years. She gave a shout out to Mayor Zak, she really appreciated him and what a cheerleader he is for our city.

Councilmember Smith thanked the voters who came out, it's always great to see that participation, and thanked city staff for their work during the election. It will be great to work with Mayor Castner. He appreciated the recognition of Hospice and the importance of the service they provide. He thanked Christina McGee for sharing tonight and recognized how sharing her message of recovery and can advocate for people who are trying to become champions in that cause. He'll miss Mayor Zak, he has a golden heart and always tried hard to represent the city in the best way possible. He also has a mischievous mind that brought some good humor to the table.

Councilmember Venuti thanked the public for their comments this evening. She thinks it's time to pull back a little bit, work on education and awareness, and bring it back on the ballot next year. She noted Mayor Zak's letter in the packet and that she was thinking what a nice person he is. She's glad he's taking some time to take care his health. She appreciates his dedication to the city, and his wife Karen for supporting him. Lastly she offered condolences to Jane Swain, she missed seeing Jane who has worked the city elections for many years.

Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold thanked Mayor Zak for his time serving the city. He thanked Argent Kvasnikoff for his artwork donation, she can't wait to see it on display at the library. She

congratulated Homer Middle School for being a Blue Ribbon school, and also commented about the Transportation Fair happening this Saturday.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Pro Tem Aderhold adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, October 22, at 6:00 p.m., Worksession at 4:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole at 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.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: _____