

Session 14-19 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on August 11, 2014 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, HOWARD, LEWIS, VAN DYKE, ZAK

ABSENT: ROBERTS (excused)

STAFF: CITY MANAGER WREDE  
CITY CLERK JOHNSON  
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATOR KOESTER  
FINANCE DIRECTOR LI  
IT MANAGER POOLOS  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON  
PORT & HARBOR DIRECTOR HAWKINS  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MEYER

Councilmember Roberts has requested excusal.

Mayor Wythe declared Councilmember Roberts' absence as excused and there was no objection from the Council.

Council met for a Worksession from 4:00 p.m. to 4:34 p.m. to discuss the Charter Commission – City's Involvement. From 5:00 p.m. to 5:27 p.m. the Council met as a Committee of the Whole to discuss 2015 Budget and Consent 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: **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS** - State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Public Notice of Operations Application from Hilcorp Alaska, LLC for New Development of Gas Wells Near Ninilchik. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** - **Ordinance 14-35**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code 5.05.010, 5.05.020, and 5.05.030 to Prohibit the Use of E-Cigarettes in City Structures, Vehicles, and Watercraft. Lewis. Written public comments. **Ordinance 14-37**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending

the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Appropriating Up to \$19,000 From the Leased Property Depreciation Account for Improvements at the Homer Education and Recreation Complex (HERC) Gym to Bring the Building Into Compliance With the Fire Code. Mayor. Written public comments. **RESOLUTIONS - Resolution 14-085**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Requesting That the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT/PF) Retain the Existing Road Profile and Striping Plan on Ocean Drive Which Consists of One Wide Bike/Pedestrian Lane on the South Side of the Road. Mayor/City Council. Detailed maps.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

LEWIS/BURGESS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### **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 Regular meeting minutes of July 28, 2014. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Ordinance 14-40**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Appropriating \$10,000 From the Fire Department Depreciation Reserves for a New Thermal Imaging Camera. City Manager/Fire Chief. Recommended dates: Introduction August 11, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 25, 2014.

Memorandum 14-121 from Fire Chief as backup.

- C. **Ordinance 14-41**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code 2.72.030(B) Regarding the Duties and Powers of the Homer Advisory

Planning Commission Related to Subdivisions, and Amending Homer City Code 2.72.060 Regarding the Commission's Meeting Schedule and the Provision of Records of Commission Action to the Council. City Manager. Recommended dates: Introduction August 11, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 25, 2014.

Memorandum 14-122 from City Manager as backup.

- D. **Ordinance 14-42**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Accepting and Appropriating a Legislative Grant From the State of Alaska in the Amount of \$1,430,000 for Waddell Way Road Improvement, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommended dates: Introduction August 11, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 25, 2014.
- E. **Ordinance 14-43**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Accepting and Appropriating a Legislative Grant From the State of Alaska in the Amount of \$350,000 for Fire Department Equipment Upgrades, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommended dates: Introduction August 11, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 25, 2014.
- F. **Ordinance 14-44**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Accepting and Appropriating a Legislative Grant From the State of Alaska in the Amount of \$350,000 for the Harbor Sheet Pile Loading Dock, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommended dates: Introduction August 11, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 25, 2014.
- G. **Resolution 14-086**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Scheduling a Joint Worksession With the Advisory Planning Commission to Discuss Tower Regulation and Permit Requirements, and Other Planning Matters. City Manager.

Memorandum 14-116 from City Planner as backup.

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. Diane Converse, Pratt Museum Capital Project Update

Diane Converse, Executive Director of the Pratt Museum, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the museum's new building capital project. The new building will include space for collection care, community education, expanded exhibit area, and more restrooms. The building will have controlled temperature and humidity. The capital project now has 35% secured funds. Site preparation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2015.

The project also includes plans for daylighting the section of Woodard Creek that currently runs through a culvert under the parking area behind the museum building.

### B. Sean Baski, Project Engineer, and Laura Paul, Construction Project Manager, Department of Transportation/Public Facilities (DOT/PF), Sterling Highway Project

Sean Baski, Project Engineer for DOT/PF, reported on the Ocean Drive road resurfacing project. Ocean Drive was constructed in 1993 using 1984 design guidelines for the roadway. The project includes resurfacing with a safety component. The preferred plan is to even the shoulders of the roadway on either side to 6 ft. Alternatives were discussed, but the preferred plan includes safety measures. The shared use pathway on either side will be used by pedestrians and bicyclists. Bicyclists should ride as near to the right side of the roadway as possible. The Homer Cycling Club endorses DOT's design.

Mr. Baski commended the people of Homer, the Council, and the staff for sharing their opinions and concerns. DOT doesn't want to push forward a project that is not wanted by the community and doesn't meet the needs of the State of Alaska. The City has been working collaboratively with the State and is getting a lot of projects.

The extension of a wider shoulder on Ocean Drive is outside the scope of the project since it is scoped as a resurfacing project. Although the crosswalk location is not desirable it does meet the minimum criteria for crossing. There is no good alternative to move the crosswalk. The street has a 35 mph speed limit; it would require a large effort to reduce the speed. A streetlight to illuminate the crosswalk will not be included in the project.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS**

### A. Borough Report

### B. Commissions/Board Reports:

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

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioner Robert Archibald reported the Parks Day at Coal Point Park was highly successful.

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

Bob Howard, Port and Harbor Advisory Commissioner, reported the commission evaluated the rate structure to sustain the port and harbor. The process started in 2013 and to sustain everything in the harbor a 57% rate increase was required. The commission elected to set aside elements outside the harbor and figure out what it takes to maintain the port and harbor facility where boats are kept. Northern Economics completed a rate study that recommended a rate increase of 32%. The commission decided to increase rates systematically at 3.2% over 10 years to have a sustainable harbor. Historically, moorage rates have been calculated on lineal foot, now boats are getting beefier and wider. A more equitable way to divvy up costs is to calculate moorage rates on a square foot basis. The commission had hoped to get this done this season, but have not heard from the large boat owners who will be impacted. The large boat owners are away from town working at this time of the year. The small boat owners have borne a disproportionate share of harbor costs. The commission has taken three actions:

- Rate increases every year consistent with the CPI Anchorage
- Raise rates 32% over 10 years at the rate of 3.2% per year
- Restructure moorage rates from lineal foot to square foot

## **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

### **A. 2015 Budget Priorities**

Gail Ederly, Homer Council on the Arts, asked for continued support of art.

Larry Slone, city resident, recounted an encounter he just had on the library trails that enforces the need to make public safety a priority.

Asia Freeman, Bunnell Street Arts Center, thanked Council for supporting arts and culture in the community.

Robert Archibald, city resident and Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioner, advocated for parks within the community.

- B. **Ordinance 14-33**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a State of Alaska Public Library Assistance Grant for FY 2015 in the Amount of \$6,650 for Books and Library Materials, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Library Director. Introduction July 28, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 11, 2014.

Memorandum 14-110 from Library Director as backup.

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 14-33 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/BURGESS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- C. **Ordinance 14-34**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Table 3 Permitted Sign Characteristics by Zoning District, Following Homer City Code 21.60.060, Signs on Private Property, to Permit Changeable Copy Signs and Illumination Internal in the Gateway Business District. Planning. Introduction July 28, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 11, 2014.

Memorandum 14-119 from City Planner as backup.

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 14-34 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/BURGESS – SO MOVED.

The ordinance expands the signs permitted in the Gateway Business District.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- D. **Ordinance 14-35**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code 5.05.010, 5.05.020, and 5.05.030 to Prohibit the Use of E-Cigarettes in City Structures, Vehicles, and Watercraft. Lewis. Introduction July 28, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 11, 2014.

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 14-35 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/VAN DYKE – SO MOVED.

Councilmember Lewis supports the ban of e-cigarettes in City buildings as the vapors are harmful. A library patron was using an e-cigarette; it is happening on college campuses and in airports.

Councilmember Burgess agreed cigarettes are harmful but there is no definitive evidence that second hand smoke from e-cigarettes is harmful to bystanders. There is compelling arguments that e-cigarettes are much healthier than cigarettes. He opposes regulating e-cigarettes use based on the unknown.

VOTE: YES. LEWIS, HOWARD, ZAK, VAN DYKE

VOTE: NO. BURGESS

Motion carried.

- E. **Ordinance 14-36(A)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 From the General Fund / Fund Balance for Clearing Trees and Underbrush on City Owned Property in the Town Center and the Trail From Poopdeck to the Library in Order to Enhance Public Health

and Safety. Mayor & City Council. Introduction July 28, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 11, 2014.

Memorandum 14-111 from City Manager and Police Chief as backup.

Councilmember Burgess recused himself due to an ongoing conflict of interest and exited the dais.

Mayor Wythe opened the public hearing.

Larry Slone, city resident, expressed opposition to casual clear cutting and prefers monies be spent on police patrols.

Mayor Wythe closed the public hearing.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 14-36(A) by reading of title only for second and final reading.

HOWARD/LEWIS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Councilmember Burgess returned to his seat.

- F. **Ordinance 14-37**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Appropriating Up to \$19,000 From the Leased Property Depreciation Account for Improvements at the Homer Education and Recreation Complex (HERC) Gym to Bring the Building Into Compliance With the Fire Code. Mayor. Introduction July 28, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 11, 2014.

Memorandum 14-113 from City Manager as backup.

Mayor Wythe opened the public hearing.

Doug Dodd, city resident, offered support and cost saving solutions to improvements at the HERC.

Mayor Wythe closed the public hearing.



Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 14-37 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/BURGESS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- G. **Ordinance 14-38(A)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2014 Port and Harbor Enterprise Fund Operating Budget by Making Necessary Mid-Year Adjustments to Certain Expenditure Line Items and Transfers to the Depreciation Account. City Manager. Introduction July 28, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 11, 2014.

Memorandum 14-114 from Port and Harbor Director as backup.

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 14-38(A) by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/VAN DYKE – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- H. **Ordinance 14-39**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Appropriating \$80,000 From the Homer Accelerated Water/Sewer Program (HAWSP) for the Purchase of Property for a New Water Storage Tank (Lot A2, Barnett Subdivision, Quiet Creek Addition 2014) and Closing Costs Associated With the Purchase. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction July 28, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 11, 2014.

Memorandum 14-115 from Public Works Director as backup.

Councilmember Burgess recused himself due to an ongoing conflict of interest and exited the dais.

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 14-39 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/ZAK – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Councilmember Burgess returned to his seat.

## **ORDINANCE(S)**

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### A. City Manager's Report

1. Kachemak City Sewer: I have informed Mayor Morris that the Homer City Council liked his proposal and that I was instructed to bring back a resolution which amends the Fee Schedule for sewer only customers in both Kachemak City and within the Homer City limits. The Mayor was scheduled to relay this information to his City Council this week. Tom Klinkner is working on a draft of a new wastewater agreement between the two Cities. Resolutions amending the fee schedule and approving the new wastewater agreement are scheduled for the August 25 meeting.
2. Ocean Drive Paving and Striping: At the last meeting, the Council discussed the proposed paving and striping plan for Ocean Drive. Council requested a resolution expressing its recommendation that the existing wide bike lane on the South side of the road remain and that the proposed crosswalk at Lake Street be eliminated. A resolution to that effect is included in the agenda for this meeting. I conveyed the Council's recommendations to the ADOT/PF project staff in an e-mail and follow-up phone call last week. In response, the Project Engineer and the Construction Project Manager have decided to come down and address the Council at this meeting. I have scheduled them as a Visitor on the meeting Agenda.

3. DEC Grant Application: Attached is a copy of the City's DEC water and sewer grant application for State Fiscal Year 2016. I have attached this information for your review in part, because the City generally lists DEC projects as its number 1 Priority on the CIP List. These projects are reviewed and scored by DEC and if they score high enough, and funding is available, they are inserted in the Governor's Capital Budget and transmitted to the Legislature for final approval. This application requests a grant in the amount of \$1,922,577. The total estimated project cost is \$2,746,538. A local match of approximately \$800,000 will be needed. In the past, the City has provided local matches by taking low interest loans which reduces pressure on the HAWSP Fund Balance. The loans are repaid through a combination of property assessments and sales tax revenues. The proposed project is phased and includes several components which are included in the Water and Sewer Master Plan. The projects were designed and engineered using an EPA grant. There is also an alternative energy component.
4. Storm Water Plan: Carey Meyer has submitted a grant application to EPA for a storm water master plan. Storm water and drainage generally, can be a problem in Homer, as you know. We have applied for grants in the past for this purpose but have not yet been successful. The Planning Department nominated a storm water plan as a new project for inclusion in the CIP.
5. FY 2015 Budget Priorities: The Committee of the Whole Agenda for this meeting includes a discussion of Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2015. This is the Council first opportunity to let the staff know what its budget priorities are for the next fiscal year. This information is very helpful to me as we prepare the draft budget for next year. In order to help jump start the discussion, I thought it might be a good idea to list my priorities going in to the process. The following list of priorities is not exhaustive but it includes most of the big ones:
  - Restore GF Depreciation Funding
  - Maintain Desirable Fund Balances
  - Sustainable Employee Health Insurance Plan
  - Maintain Existing Programs at Current Staffing Levels
  - City Gas Assessment Payments
  - Borough Loan Repayment
  - Increase Building Maintenance and Police Staffing Levels
  - Wage Scale Adjustments
  - M&O Requirements for New Buildings and Infrastructure
  - P&H Tariff Adjustments
  - W&S Revenues
6. Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture (PARC) Needs Assessment: The ink is dry on the contract with the consulting firm Agnew::Beck. The consultant is ready to start work and we anticipate some initial meetings as early as next week. The consultant's first meeting with the PARC Committee will be toward the end of this month or early September. At the time this report was written, there was a possibility that Chis Beck, a principle in the firm,

would be available to speak with the Council at this meeting. He will definitely be in town that day doing some initial consultations with key stakeholder groups.

7. Strategic Planning: Katie has received proposals from consulting firms that are interested in facilitating a Council planning session. The objective is to establish priorities and an action plan based on existing already adopted plans; a plan to implement the plan. A proposal review team which includes the Mayor is currently reviewing and rating the proposals. We hope to have a recommendation to you soon on a consultant and the proposed date for the planning session.
8. Finance Department: The Finance Department is very busy this summer with the normal increase in sometime activities. The Department has “recovered” from recent audit and is now gearing up for preparation of the FY 2015 Budget. A great deal of time and effort is going into grant and financial reporting since we currently have so many capital projects in various stages of completion. Department staff members are working hard to test and implement new software that will make ambulance billing and special assessment district accounting more efficient and precise.
9. Clerk’s Office: In addition to their regular duties, the Clerk’s office is very busy gearing up for the upcoming primary and municipal elections. The candidate filing period is now open and there will be a proposition on the October ballot.
10. Police Department: HPD continues to be very busy this summer. The jail has not seen too many vacancies. Last week we said goodbye to Officer Steve Smith who is retiring after many years of service with HPD and the Alaska State troopers. Steve Smith was an excellent officer and he was loved and well respected by the community. He will be missed and we wish him the best in all of his future adventures.
11. Fire Department: Chief Painter reports that the two temporary, summertime EMT/firefighters that the Council approved are working out great. Summer is often a difficult time to get volunteers to respond in sufficient numbers to emergency medical or fire calls. Because it is summer, many volunteers have other things calling them, like the rest of us. Having these two paid staff members at the station and available to respond has been very helpful and HVFD has been able to keep its level of service high during the busiest part of the year. These positions have been particularly helpful with emergency medical calls. It is my intent to try and fit funding for these two positions in the budget for next year.
12. Library: Library Director Ann Dixon reports that the temporary/part time position the Council approved has also been very helpful. This staff person has been stationed almost exclusively at the front reference desk which frees the staff up to do other tasks and assist library patrons. The library is experiencing record numbers of visitors. At the last meeting, Council member Van Dyke noted that the Library has passed the 1 million visitation mark. The library reports that it had 12,242 visits in June (up from 10,639 last June) and 12,997 visits in July. There were only two months this year (February and May) in which visitation was less than 10,000. Library circulation in July was 11,892 which is significantly up over July of last year (9,612). The Summer Reading Program has more kids signed up than ever, over 300.
13. Construction Projects: You may have noticed that the slab is poured and framing has already begun on the new Port and Harbor Office Building. The contractor has an

aggressive construction schedule and the new expectation is that the Port and Harbor staff may be able to occupy the building as soon as March of next year. What you probably haven't noticed is that the steel frame of the new Skyline Fire Station is up and that project is moving along as well. Both buildings should be closed in by winter so work can proceed on the interior. The City is waiting for the final design plans on the Load and Launch Ramp work and will put that out to bid as soon as possible. We also expect to solicit RFPs from engineering firms for the preconstruction work on the proposed Deep Water Dock expansion within the next few weeks. The harbor work, including float replacements, water and electric service to System 5, and Ramp 3 replacement will begin this fall.

City Manager recognized Officer Steve Smith who retired as a police officer. He was a good officer and will be missed.

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

- A. Report for July 2014

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

- A. Public Arts Committee
- B. Permanent Fund Committee
- C. Port and Harbor Improvement Committee
- D. Employee Committee Report
- E. Port and Harbor Building Task Force
- F. Public Safety Building Review Committee

Mayor Wythe reported the next meeting for the committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged the public to stop by; public testimony is always welcome.

- G. Vessel Haul-Out Task Force

Councilmember Howard reported Councilmember Lewis and the Harbormaster will make a presentation to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission on August 27<sup>th</sup> and to the Council on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

## RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 14-084**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Identifying Homer FAA Site Sub Tract 38A in the Town Center as a Viable Location for a Community Center. Mayor. Recommend adoption.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 14-084 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/HOWARD - SO MOVED.

Mayor Wythe commented the Public Safety Building Task Force has the HERC building at the top of the list. She would like to have Council make the commitment of the property to the interested parties. If the PARC Needs Assessment comes through and the community is willing to support a community center, the Council will support the location for it.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. **Resolution 14-085**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Requesting That the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT/PF) Retain the Existing Road Profile and Striping Plan on Ocean Drive Which Consists of One Wide Bike/Pedestrian Lane on the South Side of the Road. Mayor/City Council. Recommend adoption.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 14-085 by reading of title only.

ZAK – SO MOVED.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

## COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Kathy Hill, city resident, commented on Ordinance 14-37, Resolution 14-084, the gas line project, and the HERC building. She commended Public Works Director Carey Meyer for his professional manner and responsive communication skills in regard to a park project.

Catriona Lowe, city resident, commented on the excellent presentation from Mr. Belski, adding that reducing speed limits will greatly improve safety.

Kim McNett, Homer Cycling Club, approves the changes on Ocean Drive. She requests the road and edges be regularly cleaned.

Jack Cushing, city resident, commented the State of Alaska can always be challenged by thinking of an elevated sidewalk and curb and gutter.

Bjorn Olson, thanked Mr. Belski. He suggested equal shoulders on each side of the road, the crosswalk closer to Farmers' Market, and a flashing light at the crosswalk.

Mark Romano, Homer Cycling Club, commented on the lack of a non-motorized transportation plan. The City should not react after the fact.

Tom Zitzmann, city resident, presented a bag of trash he picked up from the partiers on Bishop's Beach near his home. The City has the responsibility of placing trash receptacles along the beach and to inform the public of private property.

Catie Bursch, city resident, commented on people trying to cross the Sterling Highway near the schools without a crosswalk.

Larry Slone, city resident, commented the City has a non-motorized transportation plan.

Adele Person, city resident, commented on the non-motorized transportation plan and the need for a pedestrian and cycling balance.

Stan Eller, city resident, commented on employee healthcare costs and a study he conducted of Kenai Peninsula school enrollment numbers.

Christine Szocinski, city resident, commented on employee healthcare costs in comparison to surrounding communities.

Pat Irwin, city resident and Homer Cycling Club, prefers the 6 ft. allowance on both sides of Ocean Drive.

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

City Attorney Klinkner was not present.

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

City Clerk Johnson announced the candidacy filing period for the mayor and two council members closes on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

City Manager Wrede had no comments.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Wythe commented on the fifteen plans the City has that includes a non-motorized trail plan. In October Council will work on a strategic plan to move all the plans forward. The State maintains and upgrades many roads within the city. The City does not have excess funds so relies on the State to maintain the main roads within the City. There have been lots of things going on in the community so the Council did not have the opportunity to address Ocean Drive road improvements before now. She is happy with DOT's plans for Ocean Drive since it will have the large lanes for large trucks, boats, and trailers. Taking anything from the road lanes opens the road up to a potential hazard since people don't observe the speed limit. The State of Alaska has been incredibly generous with the City of Homer and we appreciate that immensely. They have provided millions of dollars of funds. Mayor Wythe commented on Kathy Hill's concerns about the parcel in Town Center. She said it is a first step to allocate city property for a community center that must be driven by funds and what the community will support. It is the City Council's commitment to address the recreational and community needs. The infrastructure will be the most costly part of the development, but we will work through it and try to figure out how to do it. If we don't move forward to saying we will have a community space we won't have one. Council preferred the HERC location early in the process. The Public Safety Building Review Committee has not come up with a preferred site, but has found the HERC location the only sized lot that will meet the needs.

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

Councilmember Zak appreciates the bike club saying they would like wide lanes. When he comes off the Spit after fishing he is rocking and rolling and has to put more consideration to watching out for pedestrians and bicyclists. Ocean Drive is not just a resurfacing project; DOT is changing the lanes. From Beluga Lake to the Spit is not a safe area; there are a lot of factors



there. On healthcare he appreciates the Eller's input. At the last meeting we had a healthcare presentation; we don't purposely try to be non-family friendly. He understands families are important to the whole future. Mr. Eller's survey says we have dropped 100 children within the community; we are all aging. We can have a goal to repopulate to a friendly community with young families and in the future Homer will be a walk/bike/family friendly community. In reference to the bag of trash presented by Tom Zitzmann he advised the public if you are partying on the beach be considerate of others and we'll all be better off because of it.

Councilmember Van Dyke commented he owns a business on Ocean Drive and nearly daily he hears screeching and tires burning. He thanked the State for the hard work they have done. He asked the State if they will put in some remote tire spikes.

Councilmember Burgess thanked the State of Alaska and encouraged them to consider changing the crosswalk location on Ocean Drive. The State has worked closely with Homer and he is grateful for the projects. He wants the partnership to work out well. He referenced Ms. Hill's comments. Council develops a comprehensive strategy and a plan that we take to Federal and State governments to leverage funding for capital projects. It is important people understand how critical it is in leveraging the funds. A new public safety building costs \$17M and the vast majority of funding is Federal and State funds. He suggested voters think about candidate's positions for funding. The vast majority of harbor improvements were paid for with other funds. Part of the plans include strategies for implementation. Support for arts, trails, and recreation cost money. The City has fewer income streams and must keep police officers and plow the streets. We don't fund depreciation accounts and are not in a sustainable economic situation. We try to do our best and be efficient. He appreciates the Eller's coming in on employee health insurance. The City ran a self-insured program and paid for employee health insurance costs. For many years we enjoyed the economic benefits and beat the market. Three or four years ago our luck ran out. There were huge major costs and we can't purchase full insurance. We are now a risk. Until we can bring the numbers down there is no way to jump back into the markets. City staff is working to modify the plan to bring health costs down. If we jump in too soon we are paying expensive rates. There are many fiscal challenges. Councilmember Burgess advocated for spending HART funds for flashing pedestrian signs. He announced the volunteer EMT and Fire Fighter classes that begin in September.

Councilmember Lewis suggested looking at Bishop's Beach to place a gate across the beach. We have spent \$90,000 on traffic mitigation in the area. For years neighbors have had to put up with parties in the area. Jack Cushing had mentioned a sidewalk along Ocean Drive; Councilmember Lewis walks with his dog and six feet is not enough space.

Councilmember Howard commented on the lack of pedestrian respect and the disrespectful drivers in Homer. We should figure out a way to have a campaign. It's the law you stop when you see people at the crosswalk.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, August 25, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole 5:00 p.m., and Worksession 4:00 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, MMC, CITY CLERK

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