



City of Homer

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MANAGER'S REPORT

October 27, 2014

TO: MAYOR WYTHE / HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: WALT WREDE

UPDATES / FOLLOW-UP

NOTE: Some of these items appeared in the last report. I have updated them and brought them back in case the Council wanted to discuss.

1. MAPP Request for Support: Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) is applying for a \$200,000 Federal HRSA grant to support their work on family issues in Homer. The City Council passed Resolution 12-085 in 2012 in support of the previous HRSA grant application which was funded and was used for strategic planning. MAPP has requested a resolution of support for this grant application as well. Unfortunately, a communication malfunction prevented a resolution from making it on this agenda and the application deadline will have passed by the next time the Council meets on November 24. Therefore, I will go ahead and write a letter of support on behalf of the Council and the City, unless there are objections from Council members.
2. PARC Needs Assessment Update: At the last meeting, Matt Steffy, the PARC Chair fielded some questions regarding the PARC initial needs assessment survey. After the meeting, I realized that the Council had not been briefed on the full assessment strategy and the thinking behind it. I asked Julie to write a memo summarizing the research methodology for the Council. That memorandum is attached. I have scheduled a PARC visitor presentation for the meeting on November 24. The purpose of that presentation is to provide an update on how the Needs Assessment is progressing so far. Updates on the community meetings will be included. Also, several Council members have asked recently how arts and culture got added into this assessment when the original intent of the Council was parks and recreation. This was explained to the Council at a presentation early on by Matt Steffy but you may not recall. This issue can also be addressed non November 24. I understand that a PARC representative may also be present at this meeting to make some comments on this topic.
3. Harbor Electric Upgrades: As some of you may be aware, the electrical upgrades installed in the harbor had some unintended consequences and the harbor staff have been scrambling to find a solution. Attached is a memorandum from the Deputy harbormaster

to vessel owners explaining that the state has granted a temporary grace period for implementing GFI protection and the requirements of the electrical code.

4. Budget Memorandums: The budget is scheduled to be introduced by ordinance at this meeting, October 27. Resolutions on the fee schedule and the Port and Harbor tariff are attached to it. A budget briefing and discussion is scheduled for both the 4 PM Special Meeting and the 5 PM Committee of the Whole. After the ordinance is introduced, it becomes the Council's budget and can be amended as Council deems appropriate. As always, we should have more current revenue information later in November.
5. Benefits Consultant RFP: This agenda contains a resolution sponsored by Council Member Burgess which calls for an RFP for benefits consultant services. In most circumstances, I would be totally in agreement with this. Our current contract with Mercer has been for three years. Seeking proposals would be a good idea if we thought we needed these services again in 2015. However, if the Council agrees to move to a fully insured private plan, we may not need a consultant at all. And if we do need one, it would be for a significantly reduced fee and scope of work. This is what we recommend. Given that the contract would be smaller, we have an already established relationship with Mercer, Mercer is familiar with the City, its benefits, and its employees, and we could use help with the transition, we recommend a smaller contract, for six months or a year, and that we stay with Mercer. In my view, they have provided excellent service.
6. Natural Gas: We are working with Enstar to finalize the total construction cost, checking the preliminary assessment roll, and other activities. Council can expect a report on the Natural Gas Special Assessment District at the next meeting on November 24.
7. AML / AMMA: I will be attending the AML and Alaska Municipal Managers meetings in Anchorage the week of November 17. I do not require a vehicle or lodging while in Anchorage. I will pay the registration fees myself since I am soon leaving City service. I think there is still value to the City in having me attend.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Memorandum 14-170, re: PARC Needs Assessment Strategy
2. Communication to vessel owners re: GFI protection