



City of Homer

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MANAGER'S REPORT

October 13, 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. HERC Building Property / Deed Restrictions: The Borough Assembly will be introducing an ordinance to remove the deed restrictions as requested by the Council at its regular meeting on October 14th. The Borough Administration asked if I could attend the committee meeting and the regular meeting, to answer any questions that might come up. I will plan to do so.
2. PARC Needs Assessment Update: The Needs Assessment project is up and running. It is live. The community survey is open and everyone is encouraged to participate. Results from the community survey's completed in October will be used to shape the community meeting in November. The survey will run until December 1st, but people are encouraged to participate early. The community meeting will be Thursday, November 13th, in the evening at Islands and Ocean Visitor Center. You can find the survey and more information on the City of Homer website under Parks and Recreation. Attached is a flyer that will be in Thursday's newspaper. The PARC Committee strategy for getting the word out includes:
 - 3000 newspaper inserts
 - Newspaper article in Homer News this week
 - Advertising and article in next week's Tribune.
 - Radio advertising
 - Mass e-mails inviting people to participate in the survey

This is a general survey for all residents. In a later phase, provider surveys will be sent out to parks and recreation providers that are more specific to them and their services.

The link to the survey is <http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/park-art-recreation-and-culture-needs-assessment-parc>

3. Jeff Paxton / Mercer: The Council has become familiar with Jeff Paxton because he has submitted reports and made presentations to it regarding employee health insurance. Jeff has played a crucial role in helping us get the City's health insurance costs under control and is assisting us with adapting to the requirements of the ACA. Some have commented to the Council that the City pays Mercer too much for what it receives in services. Some have asked if the City still needs Mercer if it chooses to drop self- insurance and go with a private insurance firm. It has occurred to me that the Council may not have a full and complete picture of the range of services Jeff is providing under the contract. I have probably been doing him a disservice myself by consistently referring to him as our insurance broker. I think this might leave people with the impression that all he does is solicit bids for insurance services. In reality, he does much more than that. He is really a benefits consultant and he assists HR on a full range of benefits from life insurance to flexible spending accounts. In some ways, it is appropriate to think of Mercer as an extension of the HR department responsible for benefits. In a way, we are outsourcing this HR function. Attached is a copy of the scope of work included in Mercer's current contract. Also attached is a copy of Mercer's on-line newsletter. I hope this will provide you with a better understanding of Mercer's value and how we use them.
4. Budget Memorandums: We are now officially in the budget season. A draft of the budget will be provided to the Council at the Committee of the Whole on October 13th. The budget is scheduled to be introduced by ordinance on October 27. Attached are two budget related memorandums for your information and discussion. One memorandum describes how labor costs were reallocated between the Public Works General Fund Budget and the Water and Sewer Special Revenue Fund Budget. The other addresses Employee Health Care. A broader budget message will be distributed along with the draft budget on the 13th.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Library Director's Report
2. PARC Needs Assessment Flyer
3. Jeff Paxton / Scope of Work
4. Memorandum 14-156 from Public Works Director, Re: Labor Cost Reallocation / PW and Water and Sewer
5. Capital Project Status Report
6. Memorandum 14-158 from Community & Economic Development Coordinator, Re: Updated Comp Plan Implementation Schedules
7. Memorandum 14-159 from City Manager, Re: Special Budget Report on Employee Health Insurance
8. Letter from Alaska Board of Fisheries