

Session 14-29 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on November 24, 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:	LEWIS, REYNOLDS, ROBERTS, VAN DYKE, ZAK
	ABSENT:	BURGESS (excused)
	STAFF:	CITY MANAGER WREDE CITY CLERK JOHNSON CITY ATTORNEY KLINKNER DEPUTY CITY PLANNER ENGBRETSEN DEPUTY HARBORMASTER CLARKE FINANCE DIRECTOR LI LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON PROJECT MANAGER NELSEN

Councilmember Burgess has requested telephonic participation or excusal.

Mayor Wythe declared Councilmember Burgess' absence as excused. There was no objection from the Council.

The Council met as a Committee of the Whole from 5:00 p.m. to 5:47 p.m. to discuss 2015 Budget, Memorandum 14-172, and Consent and Regular Agenda meeting 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: **CONSENT AGENDA - Ordinance 14-54(S)**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Authorizing the Expenditure of ~~\$100,000~~ **\$255,000** From the Port and Harbor Reserves to Extend Potable Water to Floats K Through Q **and to Make Electrical/Structural Upgrades to Floats HH and JJ**. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director. Memorandum 14-173(S) as backup. **Ordinance 14-55(S)**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Re-appropriating Funds Authorized by Ordinances 12-33(A)(S) and 12-39(S) for the Design and Engineering Phases of the Homer Harbor Improvement Projects to Construction and Replacement of HH and JJ Floats on System 4. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director. **VISITORS** - Homer Park, Arts, Recreation, Culture Needs Assessment Update. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH**

REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS - Alaska Municipal League Reports, Mayor Wythe and Councilmembers Zak and Reynolds. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - Ordinance 14-51**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Calendar Year 2015 for the General Fund, the Water-Sewer Fund, the Port/Harbor Fund, Debt Funds, and Capital Reserve Funds (Conditional Expenditures). City Manager. Budget amendments. Written public comments. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** - City Manager's Report of Natural Gas Distribution System Special Assessment District (Memorandum 14-175). Written public comments. Letter of Support for South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services, MAPP Application for Grant Funding. **NEW BUSINESS - Memorandum 14-172(S)**, from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Requesting the Council to Adopt a Resolution to Form a Beach Policy Task Force. Written public comments.

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

LEWIS/REYNOLDS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments of the public.

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 October 27, 2014. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 14-171**, from Mayor, Re: Appointments of Amy Alderfer to the Library Advisory Board and Barbara Howard to the Permanent Fund Committee.
- C. **Ordinance 14-54**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Authorizing the Expenditure of \$100,000 From the Port and

Harbor Reserves to Extend Potable Water to Floats K Through Q. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director. Recommended dates: Introduction November 24, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading December 8, 2014.

Ordinance 14-54(S), An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Authorizing the Expenditure of ~~\$100,000~~ **\$255,000** From the Port and Harbor Reserves to Extend Potable Water to Floats K Through Q **and to Make Electrical/Structural Upgrades to Floats HH and JJ**. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director.

Memorandum 14-173 from Port and Harbor Director as backup.

Memorandum 14-173(S) from Port and Harbor Director as backup.

- D. **Ordinance 14-55**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Re-appropriating Funds Authorized by Ordinances 12-33(A)(S) and 12-39(S) for the Design and Engineering Phases of the Homer Harbor Improvement Projects to Construction and Replacement of HH and JJ Floats on System 4. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director. Recommended dates: Introduction November 24, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading December 8, 2014.

Ordinance 14-55(S), An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Re-appropriating Funds Authorized by Ordinances 12-33(A)(S) and 12-39(S) for the Design and Engineering Phases of the Homer Harbor Improvement Projects to Construction and Replacement of HH and JJ Floats on System 4. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director. Memorandum 14-174 from Port and Harbor Director as backup.

- E. **Resolution 14-118**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into Negotiations With Property Owners of a Roger's Loop Road Parcel to Purchase the Land for a Parking/Staging Area at the Roger's Loop Trailhead. Reynolds. Recommend adoption.
- F. **Resolution 14-119**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Adopting Strategic Doing as a Model for Plan Implementation and Establishing a Regular Meeting Schedule for Strategic Doing Work Sessions. Mayor. Recommend adoption.

REYNOLDS/LEWIS - MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

A. PARC Needs Assessment

Deputy City Planner Julie Engebretsen and Asia Freeman, working with the Park, Art, Recreation and Culture (PARC) Needs Assessment provided an update on the project. The point of the PARC Needs Assessment is to determine the resources and prioritize the PARC needs for the community for the next 10-15 years.

Project goals include:

1. Identify existing and potential resources - how do people use their spare time? What kind of facilities, programs, and volunteer efforts does the community have?
2. Survey what programs and facilities people would like to have.
3. Conduct a gap analysis between what we have and what we want – future demographic trends; what will people want to do in the future.
4. Measure our community values for art, recreation, and quality of life.
5. How can we pay for these new programs and structures?

The public survey is available on the City's website through December 8th. Residents in surrounding communities are welcome to participate. So far there has been a good diverse participation in the survey. The contractor Agnew::Beck was here last week to conduct focus groups with senior citizens, high school students, and business owners. Preliminary results show people are not aware what is available.

Asia Freeman, PARC committee member, reported 20 PARC providers responded. About 38,925 volunteer hours per year, or 106 hours per day, are provided. An overwhelming 77% of survey takers support exploring new resources and strategies to maintain or expand PARC opportunities. Some themes that emerged: expand trails, more community investment, greater investment and coordination, better use of existing facilities, and desire for more multi-use.

The business focus group would like a new facility to complement existing businesses and organizations. PARC will expand the steering committee to include more members from the business community. There is a growing interest in a conference center with multi-purpose space.

To pay for the facility, sources of funding may include user fees, service area, dedicated sales tax, and foundations with public and private partnerships. In 2013 The Homer Foundation awarded 42% of their scholarships and grants to PARC activities. Other sources of funding include grants from the Park Foundation, New Pathways Alaska, public and private partnerships, concessions, special taxes, and reciprocal membership arrangements with current organizations. After the survey closes the consultant will gather information, conduct their gap analysis, and conduct a statistically valid survey. The draft report will be out in March, with the project completion in April.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS

A. Borough Report

Kelly Cooper, newly elected Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Member, congratulated Jo Johnson as Clerk of the Year. Tomorrow evening the Assembly will be having a public hearing on Ordinance 2014-31 authorizing release of a deed restriction at the request of the Homer City Council. The ordinance was brought to the KPB Planning Commission, there was no public testimony, and the commission unanimously recommended a public hearing before the Assembly. The CARTS program saw an 11% increase in trips to Homer this quarter. There were 986 trips to Homer; 59% were paid by the person taking the ride with the remainder paid by an agency for the client.

B. Alaska Municipal League Reports, Mayor Wythe and Councilmembers Zak and Reynolds

C. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board
2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission
 - a. Minutes of October 15, 2014
3. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Mike Barth, Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Commission, reported the commission was tasked by Council to explore affordable housing. It is a complex issue to find workable solutions. Many good ideas revolve around taxes. Because the City doesn't have a budget to increase affordability of housing, we could incentivize people to build a house on a vacant lot. The City could defer taxes for 3-5 years and in return the City could collect property tax for the lifetime of the house. The tradeoff is giving up a little bit of tax dollars to

make money in the long run. The commission has looked at other communities comparable to Homer to see what tax incentive strategies they offer.

4. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Trisha Lillibridge, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioner, reported the commission is full with responsible and experienced people. The last day for the PARC survey is December 8th. Input from the community and surrounding areas is needed. The commission is ready to hold worksessions on the Bishop's Beach area and can start doing so in December. At last month's meeting there were over 30 people there to comment on Bishop's Beach. People have positive things to say about the beach; it is a place to gather coal, walk dogs, and to recreate. The commission will keep an open mind to find something that works well for the community. The commission remains vigilant for the need of a recreational facility in town. The HERC provides the gym, skateboard park, and outdoor basketball court. In October 2015 Homer will be hosting the annual statewide parks and recreation state conference. The motto is "Be the Difference" and it is scheduled for October 7 – 9 at Land's End.

Community Recreation Coordinator Mike Illg reported the HERC building is heated at 55 degrees and there is no deadline to move out. He is looking at more community recreation for the community to generate more revenue.

City Manager Wrede added there is minimum heat and electricity on in the HERC building and it will remain until the Council tells us to close it down. The budget is \$59,000 for both buildings, to include Public Works. There was a time the building cost \$200,000 in utilities. With upgrades to the heating system we are burning less fuel due to minimal heat. Presently 70% of costs are for community recreation and 30% is for Public Works shops.

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- A. **Ordinance 14-51**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Calendar Year 2015 for the General Fund, the Water-Sewer Fund, the Port/Harbor Fund, Debt Funds, and Capital Reserve Funds (Conditional Expenditures). City Manager. Introduction October 27, 2014, Public Hearings November 24 and December 8, 2014, and Second Reading December 8, 2014.

Mayor Wythe opened the public hearing.

Stan Eller, city resident, thanked the Council for their work on employees' health insurance. Next year the City will be paying \$1,100 per month/per employee, down from \$1,744 per month/per employee for 2014.

Mayor Wythe closed the public hearing.

LEWIS/ZAK – MOVED TO AMEND BUDGET FROM ACCOUNT 5210 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO GIVE \$10,000 TO THE KEVIN BELL ARENA HOMER HOCKEY ASSOCIATION FOR OPERATIONS.

Councilmember Lewis commented the Kevin Bell Arena is an economic engine for the City of Homer in the wintertime. It brings hundreds of people into town who in turn fill the hotels, restaurants, and shop at the stores. The rink is always walking the financial picket fence and always needs all the help it can get. Over the ten years the rink has been in operation the players and parents have raised over \$3M to keep the rink open.

Councilmember Zak favors funding the hockey rink from account 0100-5210 professional services (attorney fees). Councilmember Lewis disagreed on changing the account since the hockey rink advertises the City for the wintertime, while the Chamber of Commerce advertises for the summer.

Councilmember Reynolds agreed the hockey rink is a worthy organization, but there are other groups that could make the same pitch. She asked how we could choose to fund one organization over the other since all organizations are worthy.

Councilmember Roberts agreed the Homer Hockey Association is a worthwhile organization. The Council has provided money to them in past years. The Council has given money to The Homer Foundation to help a lot of nonprofits; it removes the political aspect. She can't support removing funds from the Chamber of Commerce when the Chamber supports a wide variety of businesses.

Councilmember Lewis recalled we just approved a resolution for purchasing land on Roger's Loop to benefit skiers and hikers. The Chamber's funding has grown by over \$30,000 in the last three years. In 2012 we allocated \$20,000 and it is now \$54,000; the Chamber asked for another \$15,000 recently. Funding for the Pratt, The Homer Foundation, and Haven House have remained stagnant.

ZAK/VAN DYKE - MOVED TO AMEND THE ACCOUNT WHERE IT WILL BE DRAWN FROM ACCOUNT 5210 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO ACCOUNT 0100-5210 CITY COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: (secondary amendment) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE: (primary amendment) YES. LEWIS, ZAK, VAN DYKE

VOTE: NO. ROBERTS, REYNOLDS

Motion failed.

LEWIS/ROBERTS – MOVED TO AMEND TO TAKE \$10,000 FROM THE CHAMBER’S BUDGET FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR NATURAL GAS.

Mayor Wythe asked Councilmember Zak if he needed to declare a conflict as he serves on the Senior Center Board of Directors.

Attorney Klinkner advised Councilmember Zak he did have a conflict of interest since he has an interest in the Senior Center.

Councilmember Zak refrained from discussion on the amendment.

ROBERTS/LEWIS - MOVED TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT THAT THE \$10,000 COMES FROM 0100-5210 (CITY COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES).

There was no discussion.

VOTE: (secondary amendment) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

The Council discussed support for the capital project to help the Homer Senior Center with the expense of converting to natural gas. They can use the allocation to generate other funds.

Finance Director John Li noted the Senior Center will need to give us a report on the improvements.

VOTE: (primary amendment) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

LEWIS/ZAK - MOVED TO AMEND TO ALLOCATE \$5,000 FROM CITY COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT 0100-5210 FOR THE PICNIC SHELTER (AT PIER ONE THEATRE).

REYNOLDS/ZAK - MOVED TO AMEND THE AMOUNT TO \$7,500.

Councilmember Reynolds referenced an email the Council received amending the proposed cost to construct the new picnic shelter at \$20,000. It would be ideal for the group behind the proposal to have \$10,000. Dave Brann believes with \$5,000 he could leverage additional funds for the picnic shelter. The \$7,500 seems like a good compromise. The old picnic shelter received a lot of use from Fishing Hole users and visitors, but was removed due to its unsafe, non-repairable condition.

Councilmember Lewis would like to increase the amount, but we cannot hit the Council's professional services account. He knows Dave Brann can take the \$5,000 and get what is needed.

VOTE: (secondary amendment) YES. ROBERTS, REYNOLDS, ZAK

VOTE: NO. LEWIS, VAN DYKE

Motion failed.

VOTE: (primary amendment) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Councilmember Roberts suggested postponing Councilmember Burgess' budget amendment to the next meeting so he can defend and explain the amendment. There was no objection from the Council.

ROBERTS/REYNOLDS - MOVED TO DECREASE ACCOUNT 156-0393 BY \$8,000 AND INCREASE ACCOUNT 156-0393 BY \$9,500.

City Manager Wrede explained the \$8,000 eliminated was for a hydraulic pump that has since been repaired by Public Works. It operates the Jaws of Life and will last a couple more years as a backup pump. The Fire Chief has indicated a higher priority is a new heavy duty washing machine that will handle turnouts that the firefighters use. The present one is old and needs to be replaced. We are proposing to switch projects; the washing machine will be \$1,500 more.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Resolution 14-114, A Resolution of the City Council Amending the City of Homer Fee Schedule Under Administrative Fees, Animal Control Fees, City Clerk Fees, Library

Fees, and Port and Harbor Department Annual Moorage Fees. City Clerk. Follows Budget Ordinance 14-51 schedule.

Mayor Wythe opened the public hearing. In the absence of public testimony, Mayor Wythe closed the public hearing.

Resolution 14-115, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the Port of Homer Terminal Tariff No. 600. City Clerk. Follows Budget Ordinance 14-51 schedule.

Mayor Wythe opened the public hearing. In the absence of public testimony, Mayor Wythe closed the public hearing.

B. **Ordinance 14-52**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code 20.12.010 to Provide for the Issuance of Dog Licenses by the Animal Shelter. City Manager. Introduction October 27, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading November 24, 2014.

Memorandum 14-162 from City Clerk 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 14-52 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS - SO MOVED.

The ordinance is for housekeeping purposes so that licenses are issued by the Animal Shelter.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. **Ordinance 14-53**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Authorizing the Expenditure of \$200,000 for the Purchase of a Pelican Street Sweeper From the Public Works Vehicle Depreciation Fund, Authorizing the Application of a Loan for Said Purchase, and Authorizing the City Manager To Execute All Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction October 27, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading November 24, 2014.

Memorandum 14-164 from Public Works 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 14-53 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Memorandum 14-175 from City Manager, Re: Natural Gas Distribution System Special Assessment District

Mayor Wythe recused herself from discussion and passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts.

Attorney Klinkner provided insight into the recommendation that condominiums be assessed as one building instead of individually. Based on the litigation on the assessment of condominiums he reviewed the judge's decision and analyzed his approach to the question. Although the decision applies only to one property owner who brought the litigation, they accepted that precedent as an approach for assessing condominiums generally. The judge was most concerned that the assessment was disproportionate because lots not developed into condominiums would be served by one service line from the distribution line and would pay one assessment. The judge was strong on the idea the number of assessments should not exceed the number of service lines to the property. In a condominium building that contains multiple condominium units served by only one service line, there should be only one assessment to the building. That is not the only possible situation for a condominium project. There may be a condominium project where each unit has their own service line; he recommended those units be assessed the full amount, rather than the assessment being

divided by any factor. There may also be a condominium project that has multiple buildings, each building having a separate service line; assessments should be building by building. State Statute requires the assessment be assessed to the condominium unit as a separate parcel of property and that it not be assessed against any common elements in the condominium project such as a parking lot or common area within the building. This is the approach Attorney Klinkner recommends to the Council when assessments are levied.

The Council questioned assessments on parking lots that belong to condominium projects. Attorney Klinkner advised if the parking lot is a common element of the condominium project; review of the declaration that established the condominium project is required. If the lot is just a separate parcel used for parking and is not dedicated to the condominium project it could be disposed at any time and assessed. There was a window of time a property owner could vacate property lines to relieve assessments.

City Manager Wrede reminded the Council this is a status report and the initial recommendation for assessing condominiums. If the Council wants to discuss this in more detail they can do so in executive session. The objection period will be coming up and the Council may hear a lot of things from the public that may cause them to think of things differently.

The Council discussed the short window that a property owner could vacate property lines to reduce the number of liable assessments. Property owners were not provided with a notice they could vacate property lines for less assessments. Deputy City Planner Engebretsen clarified it was an extremely short window to vacate lot lines and record it in the time frame. Notice was not sent to property owners; it was discussed at the neighborhood meetings. That is not uncommon in special assessment districts.

City Manager Wrede acknowledged Elaine Grabowski at the Fire Department who received a State EMS award and the Finance Department who received an award for excellence in financial reporting.

Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts passed the gavel back to Mayor Wythe, who returned to the dais.

Alaska Film Group Article, by Katie Koester

C. Bid Report

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- A. City Attorney Report, October 2014

COMMITTEE REPORT

- A. Public Arts Committee

Erin Hollowell, new Public Arts Committee Member, reported the committee met on November 13th and discussed the importance of creating an updated registry of the City's art collection. Currently the registry is incomplete and out of date and paper based. The PAC added a \$4,000 budget request for a contractor to inventory public art in all city facilities. Once completed, the PAC in conjunction with the amazing Deputy City Clerk Renee Krause, will access what type of database will best suit the amount and type of data, and best means to make the information available to public. Michele Miller was elected Chair and Adele Person as Vice Chair. Katie Koester talked to them about an art place grant. The grant would provide funds to develop projects to increase the livability of the city and strengthen the physical and social character of the city around the arts and cultural activities. An additional budget request is for a new mural on the Heath Street wall at Kachemak Center and more new signage for city parks.

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

Mayor Wythe reported the committee met on November 10th and discussed financing and phasing options. The next meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 5:30 p.m.

- F. Vessel Haul-Out Task Force
- G. City Manager Selection Committee

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Memorandum 14-172** from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Requesting the Council to Adopt a Resolution to Form a Beach Policy Task Force.

Memorandum 14-172(S) from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Requesting the Council to Adopt a Resolution to Form a Beach Policy Task Force.

REYNOLDS – MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEMORANDUM 14-172.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Amy Springer, city resident, expressed objection to the assessments for condominium owners and asked that her condominium building receive one assessment.

Mike Barth disclosed he is the President of Chamber of Commerce. On a personal comment he disagrees the Homer Hockey Association is as much of an economic driver as the Chamber of Commerce is.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Klinkner encouraged anyone who is concerned with the City's compliance in natural gas assessments for condominiums to review AS 34.08.720(B) before raising further objections. He congratulated the City Clerk.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Johnson had no comment.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Wrede commented there are two substitute ordinances (Ordinances 14-54(S) and 14-55(S)) that explain where the money is going for floats on the harbor. Maps are available for review.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Wythe commented she was invited to make the awards for the BIZ-Idea presented through the Library. It was fun and interesting to hear the business ideas people have. The

Entrepreneur of the Year award went to Allen Engebretsen of Bay Weld Boats. On the trip to AML she again heard how horrible the economy and how horrible the State's budget is. They provided a nice training program for city managers to help figure out ways to get to "yes" when you have projects.

Mayor Wythe recognized City Clerk Johnson on receiving the Clerk of the Year award.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Reynolds is feeling more empowered after attending AML. Her written report is included in the supplemental packet. AML was a great opportunity and a wonderful investment. It was supportive to be around other newly elected officials and a group that had more experience. The training was put together well. She congratulated Jo, the Finance Department, and Elaine Grabowski, along with the volunteers that work on the commissions and committees.

Councilmember Roberts welcomed Kelly Cooper as the new Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Representative. She is heartened to hear the EDC is working on affordable housing. It is an important thing to look at in keeping younger people and senior citizens in the community. She commented on non-profits in the City's budget. She likes hockey, but believes it is a slippery slope to put more non-profits in the budget. The Homer Foundation is growing some money for the City and she encouraged the hockey people to look there. She congratulated Jo.

Councilmember Zak congratulated Jo. At AML he was pleased to see the southern end of the gas line will continue to Nikiski. It will be a huge economic impact to Nikiski, Kenai, Soldotna, and Homer. As to the budget we are well below where we need to be with reserves. We cannot continue to operate as we are to meet our reserve need for the future. We are looking for public input as to how to meet the needs. As businesses grow and property taxes increase there will be some additional funds. It's great to see all the work with the PARC survey. The arts council, museum, and senior center are all valuable to the community. The HERC building is included in the budget. It is a great example as to how the Council was able to work with the community to keep the building open and reduce costs.

Councilmember Van Dyke thanked Bryan for being the current Beau. He thanked Jo and said she got the reward she deserved.

Councilmember Lewis told Jo "nice job." Barb is channeling through him at times since he is sitting in her seat. He is disappointed the rink didn't get funding. The Homer Foundation will give small little grants. The budget amendment was for operations; they may give donations for equipment. He is hoping Bryan or Gus will bring it back at the next meeting.

Mayor Wythe announced Walt is leaving us and his last meeting is December 8th. There will be a party after the council meeting and people may comment at the end of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, December 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole 5:00 p.m. A Special Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: _____