

Session 14-30 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on December 8, 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, LEWIS, REYNOLDS, ROBERTS,
VAN DYKE, ZAK

STAFF:

CITY MANAGER WREDE
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
CITY ATTORNEY WELLS
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MEYER
PORT & HARBOR DIRECTOR HAWKINS
FINANCE DIRECTOR LI
LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON
CITY PLANNER ABBOD
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR KOESTER

The Council met as Committee of the Whole from 5:00 p.m. until 5:36 p.m. to discuss Consent Agenda and Regular Meeting Agenda items.

Department Heads may be called upon from time to time to participate via teleconference.

Committee of the Whole 5:00 p.m. in Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

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 – Resolution 14-126**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Agreement for Joint Use of Equipment and Facilities for the Period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. **City Attorney Report** – City Attorney written report for November 2014. **Comments of the Mayor** – Certificate of Appreciation and Recognition of Walt Wrede.

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

ZAK/LEWIS SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

There were no public comments.

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 November 24, 2014. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. Memorandum 14-176 from Mayor, Re: Appointment of Susan Braund to the Library Advisory Board.
- C. **Ordinance 14-56**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending Homer City Code 21.70.010, Zoning Permit Required, and 21.90.030, Invalid Land Use Permits, Regarding the Requirement for a Zoning Permit and the Relationship of Zoning Violations to Permit Issuance. Planning. Recommended dates: Introduction December 8, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 12, 2015.

Memorandum 14-177 from City Planner as backup.

- D. **Resolution 14-120**, A Resolution of The City Council of Homer, Alaska, Establishing the 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule for the City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Advisory Planning Commission, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, Permanent Fund Committee, and Public Arts Committee. City Clerk.

Memorandum 14-179 from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission as backup.

Memorandum 14-180 from Library Advisory Board as backup.

Memorandum 14-181 from Port and Harbor Advisory Commission as backup.

Memorandum 14-182 from Public Arts Committee as backup.

Memorandum 14-183 from Deputy City Clerk as backup.

- E. **Resolution 14-121**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Awarding the Officer Uniform and Homer Jail Laundry Contract to the Firm of Homer Cleaning Center of Anchor Point, Alaska, at a Rate of \$1.95 Per Pound for Jail Linens, \$9.00 Each for Officer Uniform Shirts and Pants, Officer Jackets \$16.00 Each, and a \$20 Special Delivery Fee Per Trip. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 14-184 from Police Chief as backup.

- F. **Resolution 14-122**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Adopting an Alternative Allocation Method for the FY 15 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program and Certifying That This Allocation Method Fairly Represents the Distribution of Significant Effects of Fisheries Business Activity in the Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Area. City Manager. Recommend adoption.
- G. **Resolution 14-123**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, in Support of Full Funding for the State of Alaska Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2016 State Capital Budget. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director. Recommend adoption.
- H. **Resolution 14-124**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, In Support of the Addition of Port and Harbor Employees to the List of Employees Covered by AS 12.55.135. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director. Recommend adoption.
- I. **Resolution 14-125**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Confirming the City Manager's Appointment of Jo Johnson as Acting City Manager for Calendar Year 2015. City Manager.

Mayor Wythe requested item B move to New Business, item 14 A. Councilmember Roberts requested item D move to Resolutions, item 15 A.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of the consent agenda as amended.

ZAK/ROBERTS SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS

- A. **Mayor's Recognition** – Finance Department for Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Finance Director Li received the Certificate of Achievement and commended the Finance Department staff for their good work.

- B. Borough Report

None

- C. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board

Katherine Utley, Library Advisory Board Member, thanked the Council for the support they have given the library and recognized their newest member, Amy Alderfer. Ms. Utley read some positive comments about the Homer Library that she found on Trip Advisor. The comments related to the efficiency of the staff, appreciation of the space available and the beauty of the building, the library collection, the children's library collection and activities, and the availability of free Wi-Fi. Out of 22 reviews, 15 were excellent and only two were average. She also read a letter to the Library Director from Senator Lisa Murkowski acknowledging that the Homer Public Library has been recognized by the Library Journal as one of America's star libraries for 2014. The library received four out of five stars. Ms. Utley reviewed some of the library statics, noting that this year's circulation, attendance, and children's programs will exceed 2013.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission

a. Minutes of November 5, 2014

3. Economic Development Advisory Commission

4. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Roger MacCampbell, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, advised the Council that the the Commission has scheduled a worksession and have already started to receive feedback about Bishop's Beach. He said they hope to have that work done in the spring. Mr. MacCampbell thanked Walt, on behalf of the Commission, for his 12 years of service.

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

Mike Stockburger, Port and Harbor Advisory Commissioner, reported on the harbors presence at Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle, the Commission is working on moorage rates, and harbor improvements. He also noted that vessel haul outs have started and are going well.

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.

Memorandum 14-178 from Public Arts Committee as backup.

Michele Miller, Public Arts Committee Chair, commented in support of the budget amendments for the Public Arts Fund. Their first priority is \$4,000 to pay a contractor to inventory the Public Art in all City facilities, after which the committee and their staff will assess what is needed to best catalog the

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data and make it available to the public. She cited cataloging as defined on page 8 of the Public Arts Committee Administrated Guidelines.

Jan Rumble, Homer Hockey Association Board of Directors member, commented in support of the budget amendment for HHA, and noted the Board runs the Kevin Bell Ice Arena. She explained the funds would be used in September 2015 when they begin paying principle on the building. She reviewed their operating budget, noting they work within their budget each year. September is a critical point in their history, when they will experience extreme financial challenges. She explained the valuable service the volunteer run ice rink provides the City through programs and sales tax revenue in the fall and winter months through attendance at tournaments and other events hosted at the ice rink.

Jan Spurkland, non resident and representative of Kachemak Nordic Ski Club, commented in support of funds allocated toward the negotiation of land at the Roger's Loop trailhead. The trail offers year round recreational use and the parking situation is less than adequate. Upgrades to the area will improve safety and enhancement of the area up there.

Doug Waclawski, Homer High School Principal, commented in support of funding for the Homer Hockey Association, citing benefit to students and the high school hockey program. The hockey program is costly with fees for ice time as well as travel and any increases to the fees will make it more difficult for students to participate, and the arena would suffer greatly without the high school program.

Kris Holderied, city resident, commented in support of funding for the Homer Hockey Association, addressing how the programs are growing and drawing more visitors from around the state and even other states, to Homer in the winter months.

Patrice Krant, Volunteer Interim Executive Director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce, commented in support of the increase in the HCOC marketing contract. She noted the \$1.1 million sales tax revenue increase in 2014 for the city's \$51,000 investment in marketing funds.

Robert Archibald, city resident, commented in support of improving parking at the Roger's Loop Trailhead, citing the approval of the Diamond Creek Management plan will likely result in more trails and added stress in the parking area. He commented in support of funding for the picnic shelter on the spit, noting there are some plans in place and the seed money will help get that going. Lastly commented in support of the funding for Homer Hockey Association, and included history of Kevin Bell whose love for hockey and desire for teaching the game to our youth has really impacted our community.

There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 14-51 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

ROBERTS/LEWIS SO MOVED

REYNOLDS/LEWIS MOVED TO DISCUSS THE AMENDMENT BY COUNCILMEMBER VAN DYKE ABOUT THE HOCKEY RINK.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

REYNOLDS/LEWIS MOVED TO AMEND THAT RATHER THAN OPERATIONS THE MONEY BE DESIGNATED FOR PRINCIPAL.

Councilmember Reynolds expressed this could be good seed money for a capital campaign for the upcoming year, designating it as such would strengthen any bid they made to possible funders.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Further discussion regarding the amended amendment ensued.

Councilmember Burgess recognizes the benefit the Kevin Bell Arena offers and is inclined to support it, but believes that the City's primary role relates to funding core city services first.

Councilmember Roberts agrees that the Homer Hockey Association is a wonderful organization. She doesn't think funding it at the city is the best way to go. She also commented about core services, specifically noting support for employees. She doesn't agree with giving money to hockey when we aren't looking at COLA's for our own employees.

Councilmember Zak thanked the Hockey Association for what they do in this public/private partnership. He mentioned a story relating to teamwork, and noted that this small amount of funding for HHA won't resolve any of the larger issues relating to the budget, funding reserves at the community level as an example.

Councilmember Lewis concurs with Councilmember Roberts about support for employees, but until we find bigger chunks of revenue it will be hard. He noted the Council supports the Pratt Muesum and Haven House through line items, and increased chamber funding. There are a lot of people in the town who have kept the rink going. He talked about his time as a hockey parent and all the money that went up the road because Homer didn't have an ice rink, but now that money can stay here. He further noted other communities who fund their rinks, like Anchorage for example, you don't hear them talk about cutting funds to their rinks. Wasilla paid for their rink through sales tax. Supporting the rink is supporting the community.

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Councilmember Reynolds noted that three non-profits that have line items are programs the city would have to hire staff to administrate, if the non- profits didn't. Those include the Haven House who provides forensic interviewing, known as the child advocacy center; the Pratt Museum is charged with maintaining the archives of the City's history, and the Chamber of Commerce for advertising. While everyone agrees the hockey association is important, it's different than those other line items.

Mayor Wythe added that these small dollar line items add up and peel away our legal fund. It will be about \$100,000 if we fund everything that has come forward. We need to look at the reality of that when we need legal funds. She also pointed out that the Council made a concerted effort to move nonprofit funding into the Homer Foundation with the objective of getting it to a point where it is raising money to support their contributions to nonprofits and off the budget line items. Lastly, she expressed concern in moving forward that we are picking up more of these items and not meeting our regular needs. The recreation service district has come up three times during her tenure and it has passed in the city, but failed in the surrounding area. If it comes up again, a lot of legwork will need to be done in the surrounding area and isn't something the Council can do. She hopes that making this concession this year, that next year if it fails to be funding through a variation of a tax, that we can say that we did what we could to get through the vote, and we don't have the ability to support you.

Question was raised if anything needs to be put in place to confirm how the money is spent.

LEWIS/VAN DYKE AMENDED THAT THE FUNDS BE A PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTION.

There was discussion that there could be accountability without a formal grant agreement, if that's what the Council's expectation is then the City can hold on to the money until they get verification on how the money will be used.

VOTE: (Secondary Amendment) NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VOTE: (Primary Amendment) YES: LEWIS, BURGESS, ZAK, VAN DYKE
NO: ROBERTS, REYNOLDS

Motion carried.

BURGESS/VAN DYKE MOVED TO AMEND THE BUDGET TO ALLOCATE \$4,000 FROM PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVENTORYING THE CITY'S PUBLIC ARTS ASSETS, PROVIDED THE INVENTORY MUST BE COMPLETE BY THE END OF FY 2015.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: (Primary Amendment) NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

BURGESS/ROBERTS MOVED TO BRING TO THE FLOOR THE 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR COUNCIL COMPENSATION ON PAGE 142 OF THE PACKET.

Councilmember Burgess reviewed that in 2008 Councilmember compensation was at \$150 per month per councilmember, meals were included, and the intent was that the pay was not designed to compensate as a second income. Since then there were budget difficulties and councilmember pay was amended down to \$50 per month. His goal with the amendment is to get back to a place with what compensation used to be and to allow more access to any potential member of the public who would want to participate and wouldn't have to make above and beyond sacrifice financially. His goal is to tie councilmember pay to meeting participation. Rather than \$150 per month, a councilmember would get \$75 per meeting day, reduced compensation for telephonic participation, and no compensation when they participate with advisory bodies. He recognized that it is more cost effective for the Council to sit a BOA rather than hiring a hearing officer and there will be a savings to professional services relating to health care consultant fees.

Councilmember Van Dyke confirmed that there would still be the ability to opt out of being paid.

Councilmember Roberts expressed her agreement with the proposal.

VOTE: (Primary Amendment) NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

ROBERTS/BURGESS MOVED TO ADD SIGNAGE FOR PARKS AND RECREATION THROUGH THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE FOR \$1,000 TO THE BUDGET.

Councilmember Roberts noted comments that this was in the budget before but was not included this time, and there has been a lot testimony from Parks and Recreation about signage.

VOTE: (Primary Amendment) NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no action taken regarding the Heath Street mural, fees for event booth rental budget requests.

Councilmember Burgess noted he would work on an ordinance to further specify how the compensation is payable.

There was no further discussion regarding the budget.

VOTE: (Main Motion as Amended) NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Resolution 14-114, A 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. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 14-114 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/VAN DYKE SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 14-115 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/VAN DYKE SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. **Ordinance 14-54(S)**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending the FY 2014 Operating Budget by Authorizing the Expenditure of \$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. Introduction November 24, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading December 8, 2014.

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

Mayor Wythe opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 14-54(S) by reading of title only.

ZAK/LEWIS SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- C. **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. Introduction November 24, 2014, Public Hearing and Second Reading December 8, 2014.

Memorandum 14-174 from Port and Harbor Director as backup.

Mayor Wythe opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 14-55(S) by reading of title only.

REYNOLDS/LEWIS MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 14-55(S) BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. City Manager's Report
- B. Bid Report
- C. Games Report

- 1. Alaska State Elks Charitable Trust

Councilmember Burgess suggested that there not be a ribbon cutting for the Skyline Drive Fire Station until it is operational. Other Councilmembers agreed. He also encouraged people to read and understand the marijuana legislation. A lot of the regulatory burden falls to municipalities and it will be important to do outreach with the community. He said he would like to hear from the members of the public on how they feel about moving forward in a regulatory way within city.

Councilmember Zak appreciated the information regarding the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center roof. He supports having it included as CIP project.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Wells had nothing to add to the written report. She commented that a problem with the marijuana initiative initiative is that it fails to understand the interaction between Borough government and City government, and the different classifications of cities. In addition to work sessions on various issues there is also the need to work together with the Borough.

COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Mayor Wythe commented that the next meeting is Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

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

Councilmember Roberts advised that the next committee meeting will be Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. She explained there is a public portion and for personnel reasons, an executive session when they consider applicants. They are in the preliminary phase of reviewing applications. They have met approximately three times and reviewed a considerable number of applications and narrowed it down, but are not ready to release any names to the public. They are currently in the process of hiring an Interim City Manager, the contract is not in place yet, but expects there will be an announcement very soon. The goal is to have the Interim Manager on board before Walt leaves.

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Memorandum 14-176 from Mayor, Re: Appointment of Susan Braund to the Library Advisory Board.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion to approve the appointment of Susan Braund to the Library Advisory Board.

LEWIS/ROBERTS SO MOVED.

Councilmember Roberts said they reviewed the application and she looks like a fine applicant.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 14-120**, A Resolution of The City Council of Homer, Alaska, Establishing the 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule for the City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Advisory Planning Commission, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, Permanent Fund Committee, and Public Arts Committee. City Clerk.

Memorandum 14-179 from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission as backup.

Memorandum 14-180 from Library Advisory Board as backup.

Memorandum 14-181 from Port and Harbor Advisory Commission as backup.

Memorandum 14-182 from Public Arts Committee as backup.

Memorandum 14-183 from Deputy City Clerk as backup.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 14-120 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/ZAK SO MOVED.

ROBERTS/LEWIS MOVED TO AMEND LINE 59 , CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED IN APRIL SHOULD BE APRIL 13TH AND APRIL 27TH.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

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

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Larry Slone, city resident, commended Councilmember Roberts and Mayor Wythe for espousing of financial conservatism and references to the core services in the core area. He acknowledged mixed comments about City Manager Wrede's time with the city, many people indicate he's done a fine job and other's less favorable. Mr. Slone said from a professional perspective, he gives Walt an A- and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Roberta Highland, city resident, thanked Walt for all he has done and for being mostly a good guy in her estimations.

Mike Illg, city resident and Recreation Coordinator for the city, thanked Walt and said he is a very proficient and top notch public servant, something for public employees and politicians to emulate and learn from. He thinks Walt's best quality is he's a terrific person, kind, patient, and sincere. He's a huge legacy in Homer.

Kris Holderied, city resident, commented as Director of NOAA Kasitsna Bay Laboratory that Kachemak Bay was designated as habitat focus area under NOAA Habitat Blueprint program and people can contact her if they have questions about that effort. In her NOAA hat and citizen hat, she thanked Walt for terrific work over a long period of time. He has a way of making things work with a lot of people and she hasn't seen anyone accomplish that the way he does. She thanked him for his service.

Marie Bader, with Kachemak Shellfish Growers and Kachemak Mariculture Association, appreciated Walt's accessibility over the years, his door was always open. When she learned he wouldn't be at the helm any more, she personally worried about things with the shellfish grower's co-op. She thanked him for his work.

Barbara Howard, city resident, said tonight we say farewell and good wishes to our City Manager, with mixed feelings of course. While we want the best for him and Mary, we also want the best for us. The recruitment team for the city 12 years ago was tasked with finding the perfect City Manager for the needs of the city at that time and into the future. Walt Wrede filled the bill. His strong consensus building skills and ability to mend fences was and is the management and communication style we have learned to depend on. She thanked him for his dedication to excellence in customer service and respect for the tax dollars of our City. We'll miss him.

Mille Martin, non-resident, commented that Walt has been a breath of fresh air for the past 12 years. She was on the Borough Assembly when he was hired and her colleague from Seward bemoaned the fact that Homer acted faster than Seward and they were sorry to lose the opportunity to hire Walt. After 12 years, she knows why. Homer is very fortunate. This council has their work cut out for them, trying to find his replacement. She thanked him and wished him and Mary the very best.

Ray Kranich, city resident, commented that he was on the City Council when Walt was hired. After 5 years of service on the council, he feels like that was one of the shining decisions he helped make to hire Walt. He has never regretted that decision. He recalled there were three candidates interviewed and what jumped out to him about Walt was he was asked a three part question and immediately began responding. Mr. Kranich recognized that Walt listens and he can remember and he has seen those qualities since they hired him. His demeanor and business sense and treating people fairly leave huge shoes for this Council to fill.

Robert Archibald, city resident, commented that in his time being involved with non-profits and some of the harebrained ideas in time, Walt was always available to have a good conversation and worked

to understand what was going on and find ways for the city to interface with them. A lot of groups will miss him.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Wells Holly echoes the comments regarding Walt. As an attorney that works primarily with municipalities and a lot of City Managers she said it has been a pleasure and honor to work with Walt. He has one of the most collaborative approaches to management that she has witnessed. He is always respectful, tempered, incredibly knowledgeable or willing to be responsive enough to get to a level of knowledge. It's very unique and Homer has been very lucky to have him in the position for that period of time.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen read a statement from City Clerk Johnson who was called away unexpectedly and couldn't attend tonight's meeting:

Congratulations on finishing your 12-year marathon. You've crossed miles of smooth roads, skipped through some speed bumps, surmounted hills, and scaled and conquered mountains. You've remained calm, steady, focused, and always stayed on course. It's been a good run! I commend you for your incredible work ethic; early to work, late to leave. You did whatever it took to get the job done. You and your Subaru have been a permanent fixture at City Hall and will be sorely missed. You've represented the city well with your high morals, good judgment, and great leadership skills. You have a genuine concern for the well-being of the employees and the citizens of our community. You've done an excellent job as our leader.

Your sound advice has helped me put things in perspective and focus on the big picture. Instead of dwelling on problems, you've helped me work toward solutions. You've reminded me to take the high road where the view is better and the travel is faster. You have supported, encouraged, and inspired me. For all these things, I thank you. You've won this marathon and can be proud of all your accomplishments. You've made a difference and you will be remembered. As you choose your new adventure, I wish you miles of smooth roads, sunny skies, marvelous views, and lots of leisurely pit stops. You certainly deserve it!

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Wrede thanked all the people for all the well wishes he is receiving. People have sent cards and emails; he has been stopped on the street, the store, and so on. It's been humbling and gratifying to talk to people around town. He thanked the community, it's been a wonderful place for him and Mary to live, and they will be back. They have felt at home and embraced by the community from day one. City Manager Wrede said any success he's had has been achieved because of the wonderful people around him, starting with the City Councilmembers and Mayors. He thinks they have accomplished a lot over 12 years, there have been a lot of positive things and some ups and downs, but overall a good working relationship. There has always been respect and courtesy and they did their best for the town. Colleagues he talks to have councils that fight with each other, have

divisions, and don't give the support and tools to do the job. City Manager Wrede thanked the staff. He has been really fortunate to have terrific department heads around him and good support staff like the lobbyist, and the City Attorneys at Birch, Horton, Bittner and Cherot and also Gordon Tans. He acknowledged Public Works Director Meyer, Police Chief Robl, and Fire Chief Painter who have been on staff for his tenure. They and all the other department heads have been terrific. The city has a wonderful set of employees and he hopes they realize and value that. He and Mary wish Homer nothing but the best in the future. The future is rosy for Homer, whatever this community wants, can happen. The sky's the limit.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Wythe recognized Elaine Grabowski for the 2014 Special Commendation Award. Elaine was nominated for the award by Samantha Cunningham, the Kenai Peninsula EMS Coordinator, who is also one of our volunteers. The nomination was submitted to the Governor's Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS). She was selected by that body to receive the 2014 Special Commendation Award, that includes the noted recognition "In honor of your dedication and passion you bring to Homer VFD, your community at the Alaska EMS System for over 32 years as a community educator, leader, mentor, and voice for the volunteers."

A. Recognition of Walt Wrede, City Manager

Mayor Wythe presented City Manager Wrede with a plaque. She and the Council read the citations included in his recognition as follows:

The City of Homer and its residents thank you for caring, sharing, and the selfless giving of your time and energy. As City Manager from March 2003 to December 2014 you have accomplished these projects:

Ocean Drive Loop Erosion Control Project; Expansion of water and sewer to areas unserved, including East End Road, Hillside Acres, and Kachemak Drive; Road improvements for East End Road, Spruceview and Noview Roads, and Crittenden and Waddell Way; New Buildings for the Animal Shelter and the Library; City Hall renovation; and New Harbormaster building.

Collaboration in building the Kevin Bell Arena; Conference Center Feasibility Study; Water Treatment Facility and Waste Water Treatment Plant improvements; Implementation of Climate Action Plan; Energy audit on city buildings, implementing measures to reduce energy use by 8%; Public restrooms in town and along the spit trail; and city-wide natural gas distribution line.

Deepwater Dock improvements, East Harbor Expansion, Tidal power feasibility; Revenue bonding plan for Ramp 3 Gangway and Approach, Harbor Float Replacement, System 5 Upgrades, and Load and Launch Ramp; Uplands lease management; Vessel Underway policy, Homer spit parking policy, and harbor dredge materials management.

Acquisition of 160 acres in the Diamond Creek Corridor; Non-Motorized Transportation and Trails Plan; 2006 Arctic Winter Games; Community Recreation as a division of Public Works; Improvements at Karen Hornaday Park ball fields, playground and campground, and Jack Gist Park ball fields and

disc golf course; Expanded trail system to include Reber Trail, Beluga Trail, Homer Spit Trail, and West Elementary Trail; and collaboration with Kachemak Nordic Ski Club for ski trail maintenance.

Kenai Peninsula Housing Initiative and Habitat for Humanity property acquisitions; Continued Coast Guard presence in Homer; Homer Coordinated Transportation Plan; Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program in the Homer Reservoir Watershed and Baycrest ski areas; Acquisition of land in the Bridge Creek Watershed to protect the reservoir watershed; and New City of Homer Website.

Your leadership and management has succeeded in reducing the City's budget, the property tax mil rate, and increased the City's financial integrity. For this and so much more may you long be remembered by the community as a true leader.

The audience responded with a standing ovation for City Manager Wrede.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Lewis commented he has been on the council for six years and is really disappointed that Walt isn't sticking around until at least the end of his term, because working with him has been a great opportunity. He made coming on to the council very easy and for that he said thank you.

Councilmember Burgess recognized Charles Davis. He appreciated his perspective and input at council meetings. He is a rare breed of man who had strong political opinions and wasn't afraid to be eccentric, which is something he really likes at a council meeting. He will miss Charles. He recognized Jo for her Municipal Clerk of the Year Award, is sorry she couldn't be here tonight, and wished her the best as she visits with her mother; and thanked Melissa for filling at the last minute. This isn't the easiest meeting to do that at. He noted comments made about oil tax revenues coming down with oil prices decreasing; it might be a good idea to revisit the legislative approach we have taken to oil taxation. It may have more to do with the way we tax oil as a state. One thing he appreciates as a Councilmember is there are two different views of the polar extremes of the population of politicians. One is a lily white, rosy view of the politician as the noble crusader, who says what he thinks and is crystal clear, and is uncompromising. At a certain point we all kind of think that's who we want representing us as a Manager. The problem is that person doesn't really get anything done and you end up with a political environment similar to a federal level; lots of people being very righteous and uncompromising. The other is the house of cards politician who is so unscrupulous in reaching their goals but willing to completely bend over backwards to say something other than what they are really thinking to reach the designated end. Both ends of spectrum are harmful to our society. Walt represents the quintessential effective politician and he admires Walt for his political subversiveness in that he is able to tell you a lot of what you want to hear while always reaching for the consensus and maybe actually doing something slightly different for the betterment of the community. He made it easy to function as a council in the sense they could set policy and priority but he got the important day to day b.s. done and followed through on the important stuff as well, a consensus builder through and through.

Councilmember Reynolds said as the newest Councilmember she agrees that working with Walt has helped ease the process of taking the seat. She hopes they find another City Manager who will be as accessible and easy to communicate with, and as willing to build that consensus. She is really glad

everyone is here to recognize this momentous occasion. She wished everyone a happy New Year and hopes everyone enjoys whatever holiday they celebrate.

Councilmember Van Dyke offered his best wishes and congratulations to our exiting captain in charge, Walt Wrede.

Councilmember Zak said he will miss Walt in his appearances at Alice's and hopes he will be back down for that. The other performance that he has noticed is Walt's reputation throughout the state of Alaska. If the Alaska Municipal League could be here they would, they recognize Walt's leadership and expertise. He said they would look forward at any to his input and input in Juneau for us. He said thank you so much for all you've done.

Councilmember Roberts said the eight years she has been on Council, Walt has been the City Manager and when he announced his resignation, she felt terrible. Like everyone else she hoped he would be there until she finished her term. She admires him for so many things, one of his biggest strengths in her mind is that he represented the employees of the City of Homer fairly and honestly and he represented the citizens of Homer fairly and honestly. He had an open door for any citizen that wanted to see him, and he worked with the Council so well. He performs his job in a superlative manner. She doesn't know how they will replace him, tonight's a sad night for the City of Homer. We wish him all the best and she knows he will do great things, whatever he does in the future.

Mayor Wythe commented that Walt has sat by her side for ten years. She told Beau, we are not politicians; we are public administrators and public servants. Walt does that exceptionally.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Following adjournment, cake and refreshments were served to celebrate Walt Wrede and his 12 years of outstanding service to the City of Homer. Next Regular Meeting is Monday, January 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole 5:00 p.m., and a 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.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____