

## **ACTION AGENDA**

Monday, July 27, 2015  
Worksession  
Committee of the Whole  
Regular Meeting

### **WORKSESSION AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER, 4:00 P.M.**

Mayor Wythe called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL** (Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg. 5)

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Council.

**3. STRATEGIC DOING – R&M CONSULTANTS, INC. – DEEP WATER DOCK**

Memorandum 15-120 from City Manager, Re: Strategic Doing Update  
Memorandum 15-121 from City Planner, Re: General Commercial 1 Land Availability

**4. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

There were no comments of the audience.

**5. ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 4:50 P.M.**

Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER, 5:00 P.M.**

Mayor Wythe called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL** (Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg. 6)

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Council.

**3. Ordinance 15-19(A)**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council, Amending Homer City Code Chapter 9.16 to Revise HCC 9.16.040, HCC 9.16.100, and Add HCC 9.16.110 Repealing the Seasonal Sales Tax Exemption as Applied to Certain Categories of Nonprepared Foods, Including But Not Limited to Cakes, Cookies, Ice Cream, Candy, and Chips. Lewis. Introduction June 15, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading June 29, 2015. Reconsidered by Councilmember Roberts June 29, 2015.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**5. REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**6. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

There were two who commented.

**7. ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 5:50 P.M.**

Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Session 15-25 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on July 27, 2015 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 KOESTER  
CITY CLERK JOHNSON  
CITY ATTORNEY KLINKNER  
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER LAWRENCE  
CITY PLANNER ABOUD  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON  
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR BROWNING  
PORT AND HARBOR DIRECTOR HAWKINS  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MEYER

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

## **2. 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 15-28**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Repealing and Reenacting Homer City Code Chapter 18.12, Municipal Property Sales, Regarding the Methods and Procedure for Disposing of Interests in Real Property Owned by the City. City Manager. Written public comments. **Resolution 15-064**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting the Inclusion of City-Owned Property in Beluga Slough Into the Eastern Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve With the Exception of the Public Works Complex. Lewis. Written public comments. **Resolution 15-065**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting Responsible Dog Ownership by Installing Dog Waste Bag Dispensers at Public Buildings, Trails and Parks, and Encouraging Other Agencies and Businesses to Do the Same, and by Purchasing Individual Dog Waste Bag Dispensers to Provide to the Public and Encourage Local Businesses to Stock Baggie Supplies and Dispensers. Roberts. Written public comments.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS** - Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Monthly Activities Report, by Commissioner Howard. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - Ordinance 15-23**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending Homer City Code 21.40.070, Requirements, Regarding Standards for Impervious Coverage in the Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District. Planning. Written public comments.

The agenda as amended was approved by consensus of the Council.

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

There were eleven who commented.

## **4. RECONSIDERATION**

- A. **Ordinance 15-19(A)**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council, Amending Homer City Code Chapter 9.16 to Revise HCC 9.16.040, HCC 9.16.100, and Add HCC 9.16.110 Repealing the Seasonal Sales Tax Exemption as Applied to Certain Categories of Nonprepared Foods, Including But Not Limited to Cakes, Cookies, Ice Cream, Candy, and Chips. Lewis. Introduction June 15, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading June 29, 2015. Reconsidered by Councilmember Roberts June 29, 2015.

RECONSIDERED. See Ordinances.

## 5. 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 June 29, 2015. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 15-109**, from Mayor, Re: Appointment of Lindianne Sarno to the Cannabis Advisory Commission.
- C. **Ordinance 15-26**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a State of Alaska Public Library Assistance Grant for FY 2016 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. Recommended dates: Introduction July 27, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 10, 2015.

Memorandum 15-114 from Library Director as backup.

- D. **Ordinance 15-28**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Repealing and Reenacting Homer City Code Chapter 18.12, Municipal Property Sales, Regarding the Methods and Procedure for Disposing of Interests in Real Property Owned by the City. City Manager. Recommended dates: Introduction July 27, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 10, 2015.

Memorandum 15-123 from City Manager as backup.

- E. **Resolution 15-057**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Awarding the Contract for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Clarifier Flight Refurbishment Project to the Firm of Metalizing, Inc. of Kenai, Alaska, in the Amount of \$22,863 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 15-111 from Public Works Director as backup.

- F. **Resolution 15-058**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Awarding the Contract for the Old Town Speed Hump Installation Project to the Firm of Gregoire Construction of Homer, Alaska, in the Amount of \$13,440 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 15-112 from Public Works Director as backup.

- G. **Resolution 15-059**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Awarding the Contract for an Insurance Benefit Broker and Consulting Services to the Firm of Wells Fargo Insurance Services USA, Inc. of Seattle, Washington, in the Amount of \$25,000 Annually for a Three-Year Term and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 15-113 from Personnel Director as backup.

Moved to Resolutions.

- H. **Resolution 15-060**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Awarding a Sole Source Contract for the Public Works Storage Shed Foundation Installation to the Firm of Techno Metal Post Alaska of Homer, Alaska, in the Amount of \$25,063 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

- I. **Resolution 15-062**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Urging the Alaska Congressional Delegation to Engage in Negotiations With the U.S. Navy to Change Training Exercises in the Gulf of Alaska. Lewis. Recommend adoption.

- J. **Resolution 15-064**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting the Inclusion of City-Owned Property in Beluga Slough Into the Eastern Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve With the Exception of the Public Works Complex. Lewis. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 15-115 from Deputy City Planner as backup.

- K. **Resolution 15-065**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting Responsible Dog Ownership by Installing Dog Waste Bag Dispensers at Public Buildings, Trails and Parks, and Encouraging Other Agencies and Businesses to Do the Same, and by Purchasing Individual Dog Waste Bag Dispensers to Provide to the Public and Encourage Local Businesses to Stock Baggie Supplies and Dispensers. Roberts. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 15-116 from Deputy City Planner as backup.

- L. **Resolution 15-066**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Establishing Conditions Under Which Benefitted Property Owners Will Be Allowed to Connect to the Proposed

Kachemak Drive and Shellfish Avenue/South Slope Drive Water Mains Being Installed as Part of Homer Water Storage/Distribution Improvements (Phase I). City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 15-117 from Public Works Director as backup.

Moved to Resolutions.

- M. **Resolution 15-067**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Accepting an ADEC Municipal Matching Grant (MMG #40909) for the Water Storage and Distribution Improvement Project (Phase I), Accepting the Responsibility to Operate and Maintain the Improvement, Agreeing to the Terms and Conditions of the Grant, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Moved to Resolutions.

- N. **Memorandum 15-118**, from Finance Director and Public Works Director, Re: Water and Sewer Rate Recommendations for 2015.

Moved to New Business.

Items G, L, and M, Resolutions 15-059, 15-066, 15-067 were moved to Resolutions, Items C, D, and E. Burgess. Item N, Memorandum 15-118 was moved to New Business, Item B. Burgess.

The consent agenda as amended was approved by consensus of the Council.

## 6. VISITORS

- A. Blue Crest Energy, Inc.

Larry Burgess, Blue Crest Energy, Inc. provided an overview of the company's oil drilling project located six miles north of Anchor Point.

Mayor Wythe called for a recess at 6:58 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS

- A. **Mayor's Proclamation**, Hospice of Homer Day - August 8, 2015 and Hospice of Homer Week - August 2 - 8, 2015

Mayor Wythe read and presented the proclamation.

**B. Borough Report**

Assembly Member Kelly Cooper provided an update on the Kenai Peninsula Borough's business.

**C. Commissions/Board Reports:**

**1. Library Advisory Board**

Library Advisory Board Member Terry Smith provided an update on the LAB's work.

**2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission**

**a. Minutes of June 17, 2015**

**3. Economic Development Advisory Commission**

**a. Memorandum 15-097 from Deputy City Clerk, Re: Recommendation Regarding Affordable Housing**

**b. Memorandum 15-099 from Deputy City Clerk, Re: Recommendation Regarding Special Assessment Districts Levy of Assessment After Subdivision**

Patrick Brown, Economic Development Advisory Commission Chair, provided an overview of Memorandum 15-097.

**4. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission**

Robert Archibald, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioner, reported on the commission's business.

**5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission**

**1. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Monthly Activities Report by Commissioner Howard.**

**6. Cannabis Advisory Commission**

Councilmember Burgess provided an update on the commission's business.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

- A. **Ordinance 15-08(S)**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending Subsection (C) of Homer City Code 21.50.020, Site Development Standards – Level One, and Subsection (A) of Homer City Code 21.50.030, Site Development Standards – Level Two, to Require Revegetation of Exposed, Cleared, Filled and Disturbed Soils by August 31<sup>st</sup> or Within 9 Months, Whichever Comes First. City Manager/Planning. Introduction April 13, 2015, Referred to Planning Commission April 13, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading July 27, 2015.

Memorandums 15-048 and 15-098 from City Planner as backup.

There was one who testified.

AMENDED and ADOPTED with discussion.

- B. **Ordinance 15-20**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Municipal Matching Grant in the Amount of \$1,922,577 and Authorizing a 30% Matching Requirement From the Homer Accelerated Water And Sewer Fund (HAWSP) in the Amount of \$576,773.10 for the Purpose of Completing the Water Distribution/Storage Improvement Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction June 29, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading July 27, 2015.

Councilmember Burgess was excused due to a conflict of interest.

There was one who testified.

ADOPTED with discussion.

Councilmember Burgess returned to his seat.

- C. **Ordinance 15-23**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending Homer City Code 21.40.070, Requirements, Regarding Standards for Impervious Coverage in the Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District. Planning. Introduction June 29, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading July 27, 2015.

Memorandum 15-100 from City Planner as backup.

There was one who testified.



AMENDED and REFERRED to the Planning Commission to return to Council on September 14, 2015.

- D. **Ordinance 15-24**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Enacting HCC 2.52.080, Correctional Officer Qualifications, Regarding the Qualification and Certification of City Correctional Officers. City Manager. Introduction June 29, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading July 27, 2015.

Memorandum 15-090 from Police Chief as backup.

There was no public testimony.

ADOTPED without discussion.

- E. **Ordinance 15-25**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Re-Appropriating the 2003 Allocation From the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development as Fisheries Revitalization Aid for the Purpose of Refurbishing a Fish Dock Crane. City Manager/Port and Harbor Director. Introduction June 29, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading July 27, 2015.

Memorandum 15-089 from Port and Harbor Director as backup.

There was no public testimony.

ADOTPED without discussion.

- F. **Resolution 15-061**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Selecting Option A as the Preferred Alternative for Waddell Way Road Improvements. City Manager.

Memorandum 15-106 from Planning Commission as backup.

There were two who commented.

ADOPTED with discussion.

## 9. **ORDINANCE(S)**

- A. **Ordinance 15-19(A)**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council, Amending Homer City Code Chapter 9.16 to Revise HCC 9.16.040, HCC 9.16.100, and Add HCC 9.16.110 Repealing the Seasonal Sales Tax Exemption as Applied to Certain Categories of Nonprepared Foods, Including But Not Limited to Cakes, Cookies, Ice Cream, Candy,

and Chips. Lewis. Introduction June 15, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading June 29, 2015. Reconsidered by Councilmember Roberts June 29, 2015.

AMENDED and ADOPTED with discussion.

Mayor Wythe called for a recess at 8:32 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

- B. **Ordinance 15-27**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Providing a Procedure for the Council to Consider Whether to Exclude Certain Properties From the Homer Natural Gas Distribution Special Assessment District. Burgess. Recommended dates: Introduction July 27, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 10, 2015.

Mayor Wythe was excused due to a conflict of interest and passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts.

ADOPTED with discussion.

Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts returned the gavel to Mayor Wythe.

## **10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. City Manager's Report
1. Memorandum 15-125 from Public Works Superintendent, Re: Dump Truck Replacement
  2. Memorandum 15-122 from Public Works Director, Re: Update – Cost Savings for City Buildings Switch to Natural Gas

City Manager Koester highlighted items in her report to include the Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan submitted by Aurora Gas, LLC for exploration on the site twenty miles out East End Road off Basargin. The plan may be viewed at the Clerk's office.

The Town Hall meeting was successful and we appreciate the participation. For public members that want to weigh in on the City's budget, the online survey is offered on the City's homepage until August 4<sup>th</sup>. To date there have been 458 responses.

City Manager Koester congratulated Harbormaster Bryan Hawkins for his appointment to the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee. The committee will advise the City on large vessel traffic in Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet. It is important that the City be represented on the committee.

There are a number of fleet needs and we have been delaying putting money in reserves. A dump truck is needed for Public Works; the truck is beyond repair. It will cost \$125,000 to \$130,000 for a new dump truck. There is currently no funding in Public Works reserves. The Fire Department needs a new ambulance. We have half of the amount secured in State grant funding. There is need for a police car too. She is trying to delay these to the regular budget process so the Council may look at all the needs.

City Attorney Klinkner suggested financing the vehicles on a 3, 5, or 7-year plan on a tax-exempt interest rate.

Councilmember Van Dyke indicated he talked to City Manager Koester earlier about the ambulance and the possibility of clubs (such as the Lions Club) purchasing the ambulance. The Lions Club bought Wrangell an ambulance due to the need. For short term needs he suggested contracting with a local to help out with a dump truck. The federal government and State of Alaska have surplus vehicles. We may be able to find the vehicles through that source.

City Manager Koester answered a dump truck rents for \$5,000 a month and may not be available this time of year. Public Works has been weighing options.

Councilmember Burgess would like more information on the open source financial data. He commended the Finance Director for bringing the item forward. He would be happy to sponsor an ordinance at the next meeting for the ambulance purchase since it is an essential service.

B. Bid Report

## **11. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

A. City Attorney Report – June 2015

City Attorney Klinkner reported he has not received any feedback for resolution of the assessment roll for condominiums in the natural gas special assessment district.

## **12. COMMITTEE REPORT**

A. Public Arts Committee

B. Permanent Fund Committee

- C. Employee Committee Report
- D. Public Safety Building Review Committee
- E. Vessel Haul-Out Task Force

**13. PENDING BUSINESS**

- A. **Ordinance 15-18(S)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2015 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$621,500 From the General Fund Fund Balance to the Public Safety Building Project Account to Fund the New Public Safety Building to 35% Design. Mayor. Introduction May 26, 2015, Public Hearing June 29, 2015, Second Reading July 27, 2015.

**Ordinance 15-18(S-2)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2015 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$355,000 From the General Fund Fund Balance to the Public Safety Building Project Account to Fund the New Public Safety Building to Modified 35% Design.

Memorandum 15-007 from Public Safety Building Review Committee as backup.

Memorandum 15-074 from City Manager as backup.

Memorandum 15-124 from Public Safety Building Design Team and Public Works Director as backup.

SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 15-18(S-2) ADOPTED with discussion.

**14. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Memorandum 15-110**, from City Clerk, Re: Deferred Assessment for Youngblood, Leasure, Conroy, and Petrosius for the Homer Natural Gas Special Assessment District.

Mayor Wythe was excused due to a conflict of interest and passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts.

APPROVED with discussion.

Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts returned the gavel to Mayor Wythe.

- B. **Memorandum 15-118**, from Finance Director and Public Works Director, Re: Water and Sewer Rate Recommendations for 2015.

POSTPONED to August 10, 2015.

## 15. RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 15-056**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Noting the Insufficiency of the Petition for Mattox, Virginia Lyn, Fritz Subdivision Road Reconstruction and Paving Special Assessment District. City Clerk.

Councilmember Lewis was excused due to a conflict of interest.

ADOPTED without discussion.

Councilmember Lewis returned to his seat.

- B. **Resolution 15-063**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Authorizing Deferred Assessments to the Homer Natural Gas Distribution Special Assessment District for Lots That Were Split as a Result of the Construction of Kachemak Drive. Van Dyke.  
Memorandum 15-119 from City Manager as backup.

Mayor Wythe was excused due to a conflict of interest and passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts.

ADOPTED without discussion.

Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts returned the gavel to Mayor Wythe.

- C. **Resolution 15-059**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Awarding the Contract for an Insurance Benefit Broker and Consulting Services to the Firm of Wells Fargo Insurance Services USA, Inc. of Seattle, Washington, in the Amount of \$25,000 Annually for a Three-Year Term and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 15-113 from Personnel Director as backup.

ADOPTED with discussion.

- D. **Resolution 15-066**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Establishing Conditions Under Which Benefitted Property Owners Will Be Allowed to Connect to the Proposed Kachemak Drive and Shellfish Avenue/South Slope Drive Water Mains Being Installed as Part of Homer Water Storage/Distribution Improvements (Phase I). City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 15-117 from Public Works Director as backup.

Councilmember Burgess was excused due to a conflict of interest.

POSTPONED to August 10, 2015.

Councilmember Burgess returned to his seat.

- E. **Resolution 15-067**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Accepting an ADEC Municipal Matching Grant (MMG #40909) for the Water Storage and Distribution Improvement Project (Phase I), Accepting the Responsibility to Operate and Maintain the Improvement, Agreeing to the Terms and Conditions of the Grant, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Councilmember Burgess was excused due to a conflict of interest.

ADOPTED without discussion.

Councilmember Burgess returned to his seat.

## **16. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

There were five who commented.

## **17. COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Klinkner was no longer in attendance.

## **18. COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Johnson announced the two council seats for the October election. Candidacy filing opens on August 3 and ends on August 17.

## **19. COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Koester had no comments.

## **20. COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Wythe commented on popularity contests and politics; they could not be more divergent. Her objective is to do something to move forward and keep the community viable

and sustainable. It will slide backwards if we don't maintain it. We need to provide the services and jobs; there are very few decent jobs here. It is incumbent of the Council to take the responsibility even though we are not always popular. As the descending voice in the gas line, she would much rather pay her assessment she is paying for Enstar's infrastructure to replace the fire and police station. She would pay it ten times over since it is a far superior project to building a gas line for Enstar. It is a project that is the responsibility of the citizens of Homer if they want to continue receiving the services. The property in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network is EVOS property purchased with funds from the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. It is already preserved land and needs to be included in this other designation. She agreed with Mr. Schmidt on beach access. She has been here for forty years and can't ever remember not being able to drive down to the beach, long before there was Bishop's Beach or a road. That area and further down near Ocean Shores offered beach access. Beach access is a hot topic button. There are people that use the beaches for recreation and they need to be considerate about people that live by the beach. We managed to do that twenty years ago. It is more of a function of sharing rather than locking the beaches up.

## **21. COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilmember Reynolds was impressed with the Town Hall meeting. Patrick and Katie did a great job thinking of everything that needed to be put in place. She's impressed with all the people that participated. It has had her wheels turning and thinking a great solution is to move closer to services and increase the amount of people that live in the city. Every time you buy something locally you are contributing in sales tax. She offered her safe driving tips of following the speed limit and setting the cruise control.

Councilmember Van Dyke commented he probably surprised a lot of people by voting for spending money on the Public Safety building. His gut feel said no, but it is the most important project this town has in front of it. He is going to brief since he'd like to get home since it is his birthday. He asked Councilman Burgess to be brief.

Councilmember Burgess echoed Catriona's thanks to the people that participated in the Town Hall meeting. It is important to have that level of input from the public. On the beach policy, individual property owners are protecting their property rights. We have law enforcement, people can demarcate and fence their property, but to say the City should limit access is dubious to him. It is upon him to defend his private property. If you have a problem you can draw on the resources of public safety, law enforcement, and the legal system to help defend your rights. It is not the City's obligation to fence your property. A lot of the problems mentioned rose from lack of enforcement. Putting up a fence and gate will frustrate a large amount of people but it won't solve the problems. It will not stop kids from partying on the beach or erosion traffic from dogs and foot traffic. His father is a PhD botanist and his mother has a master's in dendrochronology and ethnobotany. He grew up in that ecosystem of conservation mentality. After years and decades of being steep in that mentality, when you cut our citizens off from the beach you are cutting them off from the few places they are

interfacing with the natural world. There are times when he goes out and has emotionally connecting moments while on the beach. For some people it's important to be in their car or on a 4-wheeler. The beach might be one of the few places to go to interface with nature. Today kids spend a lot of time indoors, on their devices. The beach is a place where they can go to blow off steam and interface with nature. Beach access is important to a lot of people and it is a treasure that should be preserved.

Councilmember Zak is trying to absorb tonight's meeting and is wondering if he's in reality. He has a real concern of where we are financially as a city. We heard a lot of comments from the public and he is shocked as to where we are going. The public safety building will only get us to 35% design; it may be on the shelf for a long time. Rather than moving in the direction of saying we have to do this as a city, there is private enterprise that could bring this to Homer. He is highly concerned about health care, the cost of equipment, and replacing reserves.

Councilmember Lewis thanked the harbor and police as to how they handled things when his steering broke. On Resolution 15-062 we had tons of people here to protest the Navy's training exercises, but to ask our delegation to negotiate a change of time there was no one here to speak. He is bringing forward an ordinance or resolution about the beach policy; whether he is for or against it he doesn't really know. We aren't cutting off people's access to the beach, just their vehicles. By walking you can enjoy the sounds of the beach. Blue Crest is coming in and will be renting hotel rooms while we worry about funding. If we would have had a bed tax in place supported by the Borough it would have brought in a lot of money. At the Town Hall meeting 79% of the people supported a bed tax.

Councilmember Roberts noted the Public Safety Building Review Committee has one member on hiatus and she would like to replace that person and get another voice on that committee so it is effective. It may be someone with a different opinion on the project. People are able to pay assessments for the gas line at any time of the year. She is anxious to see Dave's ordinance about the beaches. There are a lot of nuances in the recommended policies and four areas that can be driven on. When you go east on Bishop's Beach you are not supposed to be driving there, but there are a lot of people driving that direction. We need to find a workable solution. She appreciates Deb Lowney's testimony about how Parks and Recreation worked together to find a compromise for each person that testified. That's the same way our city council operates, by finding a find compromise. When you say it is your CIP list, it is really ours. We do not always get what we want.

## **22. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 10:08 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, August 10, 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.