

HOMER CITY COUNCIL
491 E. PIONEER AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
5:00 P.M. MONDAY
AUGUST 10, 2015
COWLES COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MAYOR BETH WYTHE
COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIE ROBERTS
COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID LEWIS
COUNCIL MEMBER BRYAN ZAK
COUNCIL MEMBER BEAUREGARD BURGESS
COUNCIL MEMBER GUS VAN DYKE
COUNCIL MEMBER CATRIONA REYNOLDS
CITY ATTORNEY THOMAS KLINKNER
CITY MANAGER KATIE KOESTER
CITY CLERK JO JOHNSON

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, 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)
- 3. REPORT ON TOWN HALL/PUBLIC INPUT ON BUDGET**

Memorandum 15-138 from Assistant City Manager as backup.
- 4. 2016 BUDGET PRIORITIES**
- 5. CONSENT AGENDA**
- 6. REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**
- 7. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 8. ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 5:50 P.M.**
Next Regular Meeting is Monday, August 24, 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.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Administration

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

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Memorandum 15-138

TO: Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council
THROUGH: Katie Koester, City Manager
FROM: Patrick Lawrence, Assistant City Manager
DATE: August 5, 2015
SUBJECT: Online Survey and Town Hall Meeting

The purpose of this memo is to share the results of the Town Hall meeting and Online Survey discussing core services and new revenue prospects with the Mayor and Council.

Town Hall:

The Town Hall meeting was held July 20th in City Hall. We had a great turn out with approximately 100 attendees. The community members in attendance were provided an opportunity to share their opinions on City provided service and City departments. Participants were broken up into 4 separate groups where they were given stickers to indicate “Level of Importance” and “Level of Service” of 51 City provided services and 12 City departments. Department representatives and Council members were present in each group in order to answer questions community members had throughout the evening. The mood of the evening was very positive and constructive. Many thoughtful comments were made by the public, City representatives, and Council members. If there was an overarching theme to the evening it was that the community enjoys and appreciates the vast majority of the services the City provides and is willing to incur new or increased taxes in order to pay for them.

The 5 most ‘CRITICAL’ City provided services:

- 1- Fire Services and Protection
- 2- South Peninsula Haven House (Shelter & Child Advocacy Center Investigative Interviews)
- 3- Enforcement of all City, State, and Federal laws and COH ordinances
- 4- Emergency Medical Services (Ambulances)
- 5- Winter Road Maintenance (Snow Plowing, Snow Removal, Sanding, Culvert Clearing)

The 3 revenue streams the community is most ‘In Favor’ of:

- 1- Introduction of a Bed Tax (71% In Favor, 81% positive response)
- 2- Raising the Sales Tax Cap from \$500 to \$1,000 (64% In Favor, 80% positive response)

- 3- Reinstating the Seasonal Sales Tax on Non-Prepared Foods (55% in Favor, 82% positive response)

If we solely look at positive responses and not just votes on the highest end it shifts slightly. This encompasses 'In Favor', 'Mostly in Favor', and 'Somewhat in Favor'

The 3 revenue streams with the most 'Positive' responses:

- 1- Raising the Sales Tax by 0.5% (85% positive response)
- 2- Reinstating Seasonal Sales Tax on Non-Prepared foods (82% positive response)
- 3- Introduction of a Bed Tax (81% positive response)

Online Survey:

The intent of this survey was to gather information from the public on which City-provided services are considered to be Core Services, where the public could tolerate reductions, and what, if any, new or increased taxes they would be in favor of supporting. The survey was comprised of 5 questions and was open for 4 weeks. Over that time period the survey received nearly 500 responses. As an interesting aside, this is about 40% of the total votes cast in the last municipal election. The theme from the online survey is similar to the Town Hall meeting; we like our services and are willing to incur new or increased revenue streams to support them.

Top 6 City-Provided Services

City Resident	Non-City Resident
1- Police and Public Safety	1- Fire and EMS
2- Fire and EMS	2- Police and Public Safety
3- Winter Road Maintenance	3- Winter Road Maintenance
4- Airport	4- Airport
5- Summer Road Maintenance	5- Library
6- City Administration	6- Parks and Rec

There were only 2 City-Provided services that 50% or more of the City residents recommended reducing. Both of these services combined represent an estimated 2% of the entire general fund.

City Resident	Non-City Resident
1- Boards and Commissions (59%)	1- Boards and Commissions (58%)
2- City Support of Non-Profits (50%)	2- Planning and Zoning (53%)

When looking at revenue the theme was similar to the Town Hall. Nearly 91% of City Residents and 94% of Non-City Residents were in favor of seeing some form of new revenue or increasing existing taxes in order to support City-Provided services.

- 1- Introduction of a Bed Tax (65% City Resident) (69% Non-City Resident)
- 2- Ending the Seasonal Non-Prepared food Tax Holiday (47%CR) (51%NCR)

- 3- Increasing Sales Tax Cap from \$500 to \$1,000 (40%CR) (41%NCR)
- 4- Increasing Sales Tax (35%CR) (35%NCR)

We received 74 comments regarding cuts and 184 comments for additional revenue. Many of the comments are valuable and should be considered. There were a few themes that stood out: attracting new business to the area, not moving forward with new buildings and projects, increasing fines and fees library/harbor/parking/beach, increase of taxes that affect all people who use city services, sin taxes alcohol/ marijuana/tobacco/junk food, and many others.

Attached:

Town Hall Meeting Dot Exercise

Town Hall Meeting Key Pad Polling

Online Survey Data; As a Whole, City Resident, Non-City Resident



Closing the Gap



2015 Homer City Town Hall Meeting

City- Provided Services			Level of Importance			Level of Service		
General Fund Supported Services		FY 2015	CRITICAL	MEDIUM	LOW	TOO LITTLE	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MUCH
MAYOR-COUNCIL	4.7%	\$567,253	2	1	0	0	5	0
General Council and Legal Services for the City			25	17	3	1	15	10
Annual Audit Services			27	7	4	1	21	0
Lobbying Capital Projects and Legislation			6	25	14	2	13	14
Council Stipend			8	12	11	3	20	4
CITY CLERK	3.6%	\$430,035	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keeper of the Records – Catalog, Retention, Storage, Records Requests			30	11	1	1	24	0
Provide Information to the Public – Notice of Meetings, Agendas, Public Hearings, Newsletters			27	11	1	0	25	1
Attend and take minutes of Council, Commission, and Committee Meetings			24	10	3	1	20	0
Administer Elections			29	10	2	0	22	1
Manage Special Assessment Districts, Bids & Proposals			26	14	0	1	21	2
CITY ADMINISTRATION	8.3%	\$997,946	0	0	0	0	7	0
Implement Policy Directives from Council and Oversee all City Activities and Staff)			29	9	0	1	18	0
Land Management			17	13	1	2	17	2
IT (Telecommunications, Servers, Workstations, Help Desk)			23	5	1	2	21	0
Personnel (Manages Personnel, Health Insurance, FMLA, Workers Comp, Evaluations, Retirement)			20	9	3	0	18	1
Economic Development			12	15	8	3	12	12
CITY SERVICES PROVIDED BY NON-PROFITS	1.4%	\$164,875	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pratt Museum (Cultural Heritage Collections Care, Lifelong Learning Opportunities)			31	17	2	5	21	4
Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center (Promotes Business Growth via Cooperative Marketing)			22	15	10	5	14	15
City Mini Grant Program for Area Non-Profits (Administered by The Homer Foundation)			22	16	3	11	17	4
Homer Hockey Association (Winter Visitor Draw)			7	18	16	9	8	13
South Peninsula Haven House (Shelter & Child Advocacy Center Investigative Interviews)			39	8	1	15	15	2
General Fund Supported Services		FY 2015	Level of Importance			Level of Service		
			CRITICAL	MEDIUM	LOW	TOO LITTLE	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MUCH
FINANCE	7.0%	\$837,025	3	0	0	0	21	0
Budget			34	2	1	0	22	1
Accounts Payable & Receivable, Customer Service (Water& Sewer, SAD Billings, Harbor Billing)			26	3	1	0	22	2
Payroll			31	5	1	0	18	1
Grant Management			26	6	1	4	16	3
General Accounting & Treasury Management			31	3	1	2	23	0
PLANNING & ZONING	3.9%	\$465,315	0	1	0	0	0	0
Provide Development Information and Guidance to Builders, Businesses and Land Owners.			15	16	3	2	17	4
Review Zoning Permits, Conditional use Permits, and New Subdivisions.			18	13	1	6	15	2
Staff the Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Comm, and Cannabis Advisory Comm.			9	16	3	3	18	3
Respond to Citizen Complaints and Code Violations.			14	16	5	5	14	7
Staffs City and Community Projects (Old Town Improvements, MAPP, Woodard Creek, NG Project)			11	13	10	4	17	4
LIBRARY	7.9%	\$954,685	0	0	0	0	0	0
Circulates Books and Media to Public (Acquire, Process, Maintain Collection)			34	6	2	3	26	3
Reference and Technology Assistance to Public (Computers, Internet, Videoconference)			25	7	2	1	24	4
Children's programs (Story time, Summer Reading, others)			29	12	1	4	23	4
Building Loan Repayment (\$99,824 per year)			29	8	3	1	26	3
General Fund Supported Services		FY 2015	Level of Importance			Level of Service		
			CRITICAL	MEDIUM	LOW	TOO LITTLE	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MUCH
FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	8.5%	\$1,025,484	0	0	0	7	15	0
Fire Services and Protection			44	0	0	8	22	0
Emergency Medical Services (Ambulances)			37	0	0	5	21	0
Public Education/Injury Prevention			27	13	1	7	15	4
Community Emergency Management			32	6	0	3	21	4
POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY	29.0%	\$3,481,657	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement of all City, State, and Federal laws and COH ordinances			38	1	0	12	16	0
Conduct Investigations, Apprehension, Arrest and Booking of Defendants			33	5	0	6	18	0
Develop and Participate in Community Relation/Education Programs (DARE, Project Drive)			22	17	4	6	16	0
Jail (Prisoner Welfare, Maintaining Prisoner Records, & Court Arraignments)			30	2	2	5	21	1
911 and Dispatch Calls (Coordinates Police, Fire, & EMS Response to Protect Life and Property)			15	1	0	6	21	1
Animal Control			21	16	5	8	20	4
General Fund Services		FY 2015	Level of Importance			Level of Service		
			CRITICAL	MEDIUM	LOW	TOO LITTLE	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MUCH
AIRPORT	1.9%	\$222,743	16	11	10	2	15	5
Airport Facilities- O&M of the Building			8	14	4	1	20	2
PUBLIC WORKS COMBINED	19.2%	\$2,303,985	1	0	0	0	1	0
City Building Maintenance (Animal Shelter, Airport Terminal, City Hall, Fire, HERC, Library, Police)			30	10	3	8	19	3
Vehicle Maintenance/Repair (EMS, Fire, Police, Port, and Public Works Vehicles)			34	4	2	2	21	1
Capital Improvement Projects (Planning, Design, Inspection, Permit Issuing)			15	17	9	2	16	7
Summer Road Maintenance (Repairs, Sweeping, Gravel Road Grading, Dust Control, Ditching)			27	12	2	3	23	0
Winter Road Maintenance (Snow Plowing, Snow Removal, Sanding, Culvert Clearing)			34	7	1	1	26	2
PARKS & COMMUNITY RECREATION	4.7%	\$560,961	0	0	0	0	2	0
Parks & Grounds Maintenance/Beautification (Cemetery, City Buildings, Campground, Restroom)			24	19	3	7	24	1
Educational and Recreational Programing			24	12	9	5	25	3
		100.0%						\$12,011,964.00

* Note General fund only, The Enterprise and Water & Sewer are not included due to the Self-Sustaining nature of their operations.



Closing the Gap

2015 Homer City Town Hall Meeting

		City Provided Services	Level of Importance			Level of Service		
			CRITICAL	MEDIUM	LOW	TOO LITTLE	ABOUT RIGHT	TOO MUCH
1	FIRE	Fire Services and Protection	44	0	0	8	22	0
2	NON-PROFITS	South Peninsula Haven House (Shelter & Child Advocacy Center Investigative Interviews)	39	8	1	15	15	2
3	POLICE	Enforcement of all City, State, and Federal laws and COH ordinances	38	1	0	12	16	0
4	FIRE	Emergency Medical Services (Ambulances)	37	0	0	5	21	0
5	PUBLIC WORKS	Winter Road Maintenance (Snow Plowing, Snow Removal, Sanding, Culvert Clearing)	34	7	1	1	26	2
6	LIBRARY	Circulates Books and Media to Public (Acquire, Process, Maintain Collection)	34	6	2	3	26	3
7	PUBLIC WORKS	Vehicle Maintenance/Repair (EMS, Fire, Police, Port, and Public Works Vehicles)	34	4	2	2	21	1
8	FINANCE	Budget	34	2	1	0	22	1
9	POLICE	Conduct Investigations, Apprehension, Arrest and Booking of Defendants	33	5	0	6	18	0
10	FIRE	Community Emergency Management	32	6	0	3	21	4
11	NON-PROFITS	Pratt Museum (Cultural Heritage Collections Care, Lifelong Learning Opportunities)	31	17	2	5	21	4
12	FINANCE	Payroll	31	5	1	0	18	1
13	FINANCE	General Accounting & Treasury Management	31	3	1	2	23	0
14	CLERK	Keeper of the Records – Catalog, Retention, Storage, Records Requests	30	11	1	1	24	0
15	PUBLIC WORKS	City Building Maintenance (Animal Shelter, Airport Terminal, City Hall, Fire, HERC, Library, Police)	30	10	3	8	19	3
16	POLICE	Jail (Prisoner Welfare, Maintaining Prisoner Records, & Court Arraignments)	30	2	2	5	21	1
17	LIBRARY	Children’s programs (Story time, Summer Reading, others)	29	12	1	4	23	4
18	CLERK	Administer Elections	29	10	2	0	22	1
19	ADMINISTRATION	Implement Policy Directives from Council and Oversee all City Activities and Staff)	29	9	0	1	18	0
20	LIBRARY	Building Loan Repayment (\$99,824 per year)	29	8	3	1	26	3
21	FIRE	Public Education/Injury Prevention	27	13	1	7	15	4
22	PUBLIC WORKS	Summer Road Maintenance (Repairs, Sweeping, Gravel Road Grading, Dust Control, Ditching)	27	12	2	3	23	0
23	CLERK	Provide Information to the Public – Notice of Meetings, Agendas, Public Hearings, Newsletters	27	11	1	0	25	1
24	MAYOR-COUNCIL	Annual Audit Services	27	7	4	1	21	0
25	CLERK	Manage Special Assessment Districts, Bids & Proposals	26	14	0	1	21	2
26	FINANCE	Grant Management	26	6	1	4	16	3
27	FINANCE	Accounts Payable & Receivable, Customer Service (Water& Sewer, SAD Billings, Harbor Billing)	26	3	1	0	22	2
28	MAYOR-COUNCIL	General Council and Legal Services for the City	25	17	3	1	15	10
29	LIBRARY	Reference and Technology Assistance to Public (Computers, Internet, Videoconference)	25	7	2	1	24	4
30	PARKS	Parks & Grounds Maintenance/Beautification (Cemetery, City Buildings, Campground, Restroom)	24	19	3	7	24	1
31	PARKS	Educational and Recreational Programing	24	12	9	5	25	3
32	CLERK	Attend and take minutes of Council, Commission, and Committee Meetings	24	10	3	1	20	0
33	ADMINISTRATION	IT (Telecommunications, Servers, Workstations, Help Desk)	23	5	1	2	21	0
34	POLICE	Develop and Participate in Community Relation/Education Programs (DARE, Project Drive)	22	17	4	6	16	0
35	NON-PROFITS	City Mini Grant Program for Area Non-Profits (Administered by The Homer Foundation)	22	16	3	11	17	4
36	NON-PROFITS	Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center (Promotes Business Growth via Cooperative Marketing)	22	15	10	5	14	15
37	POLICE	Animal Control	21	16	5	8	20	4
38	ADMINISTRATION	Personnel (Manages Personnel, Health Insurance, FMLA, Workers Comp, Evaluations, Retirement)	20	9	3	0	18	1
39	PLANNING	Review Zoning Permits, Conditional use Permits, and New Subdivisions.	18	13	1	6	15	2
40	ADMINISTRATION	Land Management	17	13	1	2	17	2
41	PUBLIC WORKS	Capital Improvement Projects (Planning, Design, Inspection, Permit Issuing)	15	17	9	2	16	7
42	PLANNING	Provide Development Information and Guidance to Builders, Businesses and Land Owners.	15	16	3	2	17	4
43	POLICE	911 and Dispatch Calls (Coordinates Police, Fire, & EMS Response to Protect Life and Property)	15	1	0	6	21	1
44	PLANNING	Respond to Citizen Complaints and Code Violations.	14	16	5	5	14	7
45	ADMINISTRATION	Economic Development	12	15	8	3	12	12
46	PLANNING	Staffs City and Community Projects (Old Town Improvements, MAPP, Woodard Creek, NG Project)	11	13	10	4	17	4
47	PLANNING	Staff the Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Comm, and Cannabis Advisory Comm.	9	16	3	3	18	3
48	AIRPORT	Airport Facilities- O&M of the Building	8	14	4	1	20	2
49	MAYOR-COUNCIL	Council Stipend	8	12	11	3	20	4
50	NON-PROFITS	Homer Hockey Association (Winter Visitor Draw)	7	18	16	9	8	13
51	MAYOR-COUNCIL	Lobbying Capital Projects and Legislation	6	25	14	2	13	14

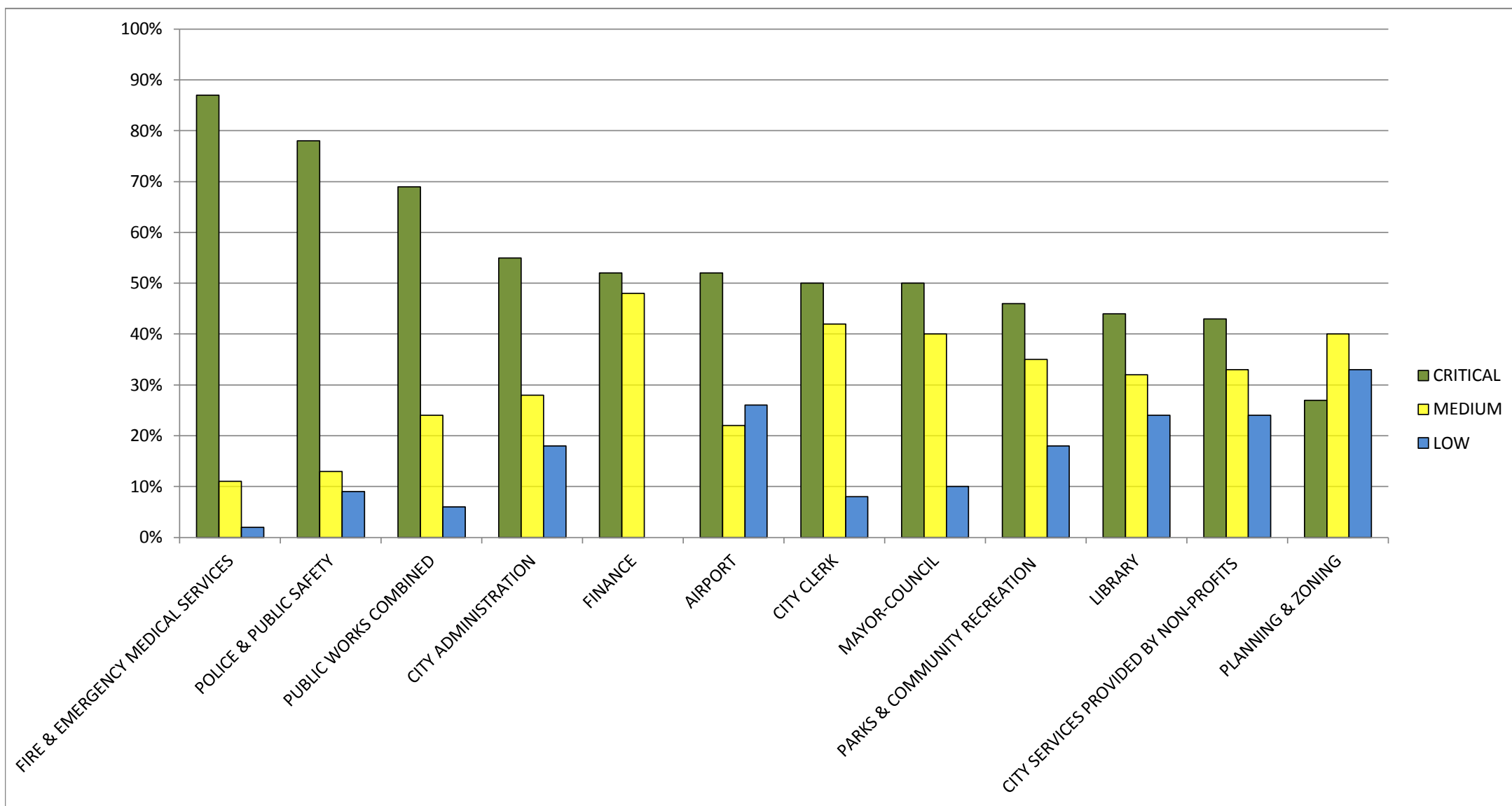


Closing the Gap



Key Pad Polling - 2015 Homer City Town Hall Meeting

City- Provided Services	Level of Importance		
	CRITICAL	MEDIUM	LOW
General Fund Supported Services			
FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	87%	11%	2%
POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY	78%	13%	9%
PUBLIC WORKS COMBINED	69%	24%	6%
CITY ADMINISTRATION	55%	28%	18%
FINANCE	52%	48%	0%
AIRPORT	52%	22%	26%
CITY CLERK	50%	42%	8%
MAYOR-COUNCIL	50%	40%	10%
PARKS & COMMUNITY RECREATION	46%	35%	18%
LIBRARY	44%	32%	24%
CITY SERVICES PROVIDED BY NON-PROFITS	43%	33%	24%
PLANNING & ZONING	27%	40%	33%





Closing the Gap



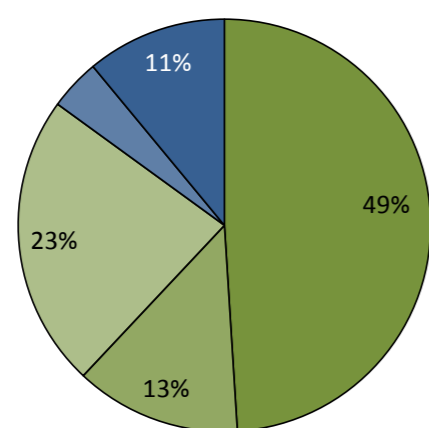
2015 Homer City Town Hall Meeting

Key Pad Polling - REVENUE GENERATION

REVENUE	\$ VALUE	In Favor	Mostly in Favor	Somewhat In Favor	Mostly not in Favor	Not In Favor
Raise Property Tax 1 Mill	\$660,000	33	8	23	5	30
Currently COH taxpayers pay 4.5 COH, 4.5 KPB and 2.3 SPH (total 11.3). The next opportunity to make a mill rate increase effective would be July 2016.						
Raise Sales Tax 0.5%	\$854,434	49	13	23	4	11
Based on 2014 sales tax revenue. Requires voter approval. Earliest impact 2017 budget. Current Sales Tax; Borough 3%, City of Homer 4.5%						
Reinstate Seasonal Sales Tax on Non-prepared Food	\$833,473	56	8	19	6	12
Sales tax that would have been generated from 9/1 to 5/31: 2010-2011 \$735,501; 2011-2012 \$794,163; 2012-2013 \$812,065; 2013-2014 \$833,473						
Raise Sales Tax Cap from \$500-\$1000	UNKNOWN	65	6	10	4	16
KPB is considering putting this on the October ballot. A public hearing will be held on 07/07/15. If voters approve raising the cap, no other action by the City is required. Earliest impact 2017 budget. \$37.50 - \$75.00						
Eliminate COH \$20,000 Property Tax Exemption for Primary Residence	\$94,000	26	4	16	20	44
Currently COH exempts the first \$20,000, but could exempt less.						
Increasing Fines for Code Violations	NEGLIGIBLE	51	6	10	4	29
2014 'fines and forfeiture' revenue was \$20,142, including the animal shelter. Most of the HPD issued fine amounts are mandated by the State. The main city issued fine we can control is parking violations. Levying fines is staff intensive, and therefore costly.						
Bed Tax	\$120,000 PER 1%	71	4	6	2	17
Estimate provided by KPTMC in 2012. 4.5% would generate \$540,000						

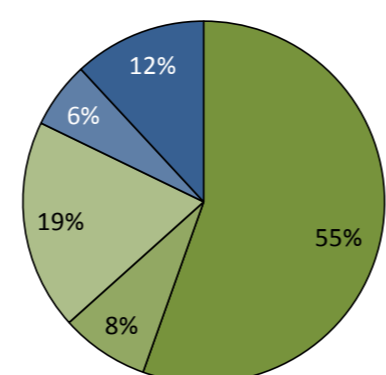
Raise Sales Tax 0.5%

85% of Responses Were Positive



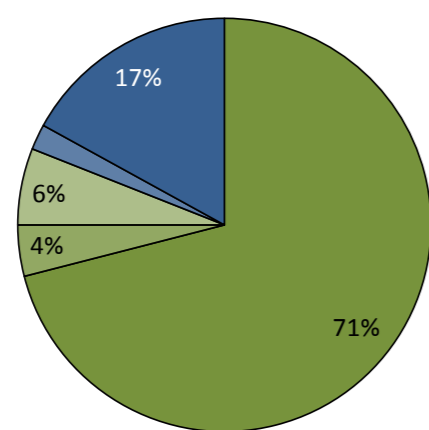
Reinstate Seasonal Sales Tax on Non-prepared Food

82% of Responses Were Positive



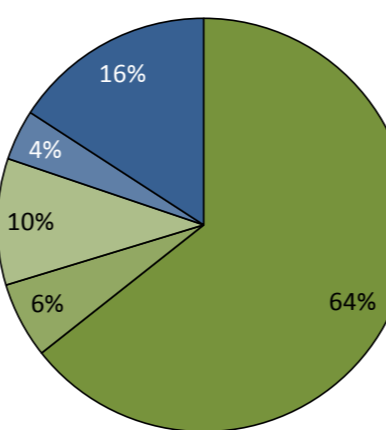
Bed Tax

81% of Responses Were Positive



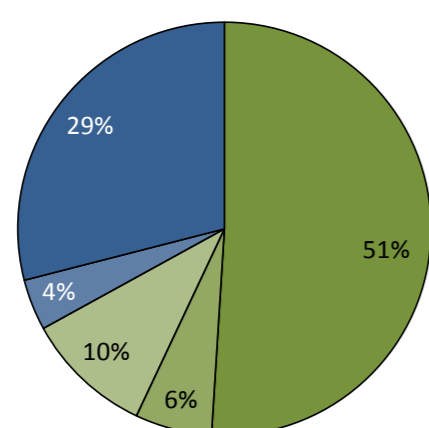
Raise Sales Tax Cap from \$500-\$1000

80% of Responses Were Positive



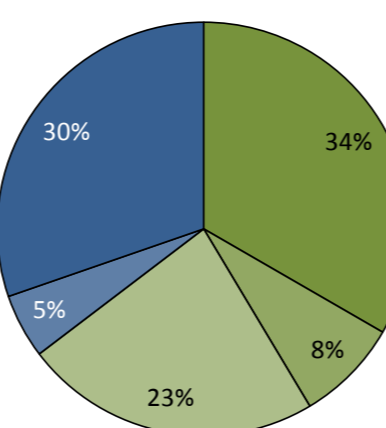
Increasing Fines for Code Violations

67% of Responses Were Positive



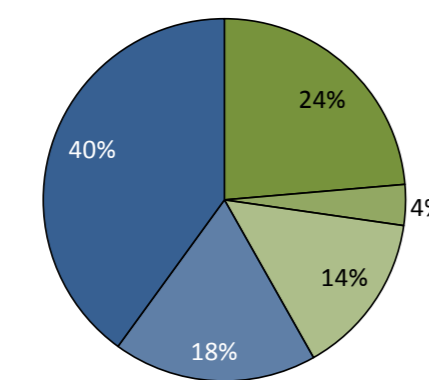
Raise Property Tax 1 Mill

65% of Responses Were Positive



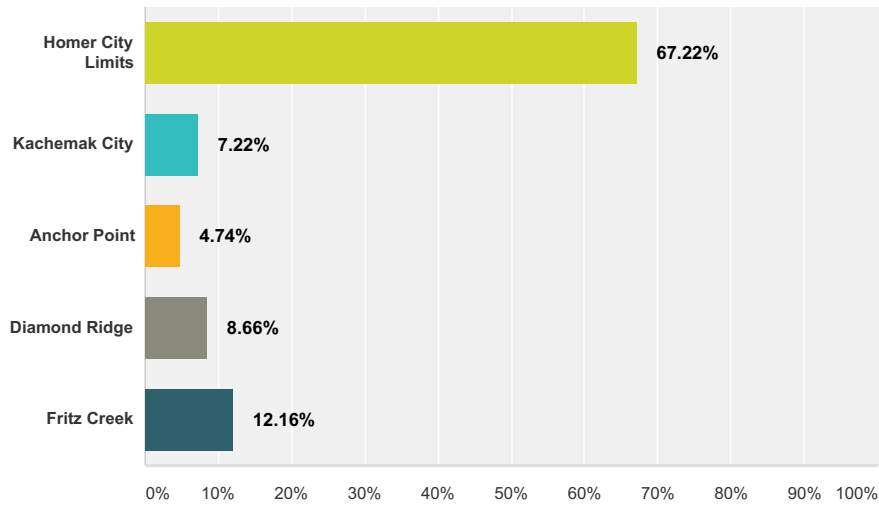
Eliminate COH \$20,000 Property Tax Exemption for Primary Residence

58% of Responses Were Negative



Q1 Where do you live?

Answered: 485 Skipped: 2



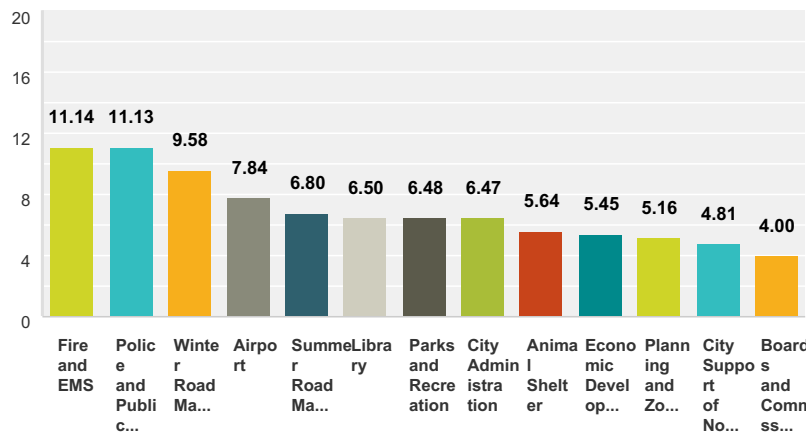
Answer Choices	Responses	
Homer City Limits	67.22%	326
Kachemak City	7.22%	35
Anchor Point	4.74%	23
Diamond Ridge	8.66%	42
Fritz Creek	12.16%	59
Total		485

#	Other	Date
1	I also own 2 parcels in Homer city limits	7/28/2015 1:16 PM
2	East Skyline Drive	7/27/2015 5:50 PM
3	Own property in the City	7/25/2015 9:45 AM
4	business in homer	7/23/2015 11:46 PM
5	Eagle Earie	7/22/2015 5:01 PM
6	beyond McNeil	7/21/2015 3:37 PM
7	"Homer Bench" (between K City & Fritz Creek)	7/21/2015 10:28 AM
8	Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District	7/20/2015 9:43 PM
9	6 miles out East End	7/20/2015 8:34 PM
10	Skyline	7/20/2015 1:30 PM
11	In Question 2 the title should include a cost to be able to rank order the importance.	7/20/2015 12:59 PM
12	between Kachemak City and Fritz Creek	7/19/2015 3:49 PM
13	Nikolaevsk	7/17/2015 6:22 PM
14	Seldovia	7/17/2015 3:26 PM
15	mile marker 168 sterling highway	7/16/2015 6:13 PM
16	ohlson mt	7/16/2015 9:02 AM
17	east Skyline	7/15/2015 5:40 PM
18	in the heart of "downtown"	7/15/2015 12:30 PM
19	East Skyline	7/14/2015 5:39 PM

20	My Business and several rentals in Homer so You should take that into consideration	7/13/2015 3:12 PM
21	Outside the city limits but within the Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District	7/13/2015 11:14 AM

Q2 A Core Service is one that is vital to the health, safety, and strength of the Community. They tend to reflect large City investments, cannot be duplicated, and represent a large segment of the community. A Core Service is indispensable. What services the City of Homer provides do you consider a Core Service or essential? (Rank 1-13, 1 being most essential, 13 being least essential.) (Port & Harbor and Water & Sewer are not included due to the self-sustaining nature of their operations)

Answered: 485 Skipped: 2

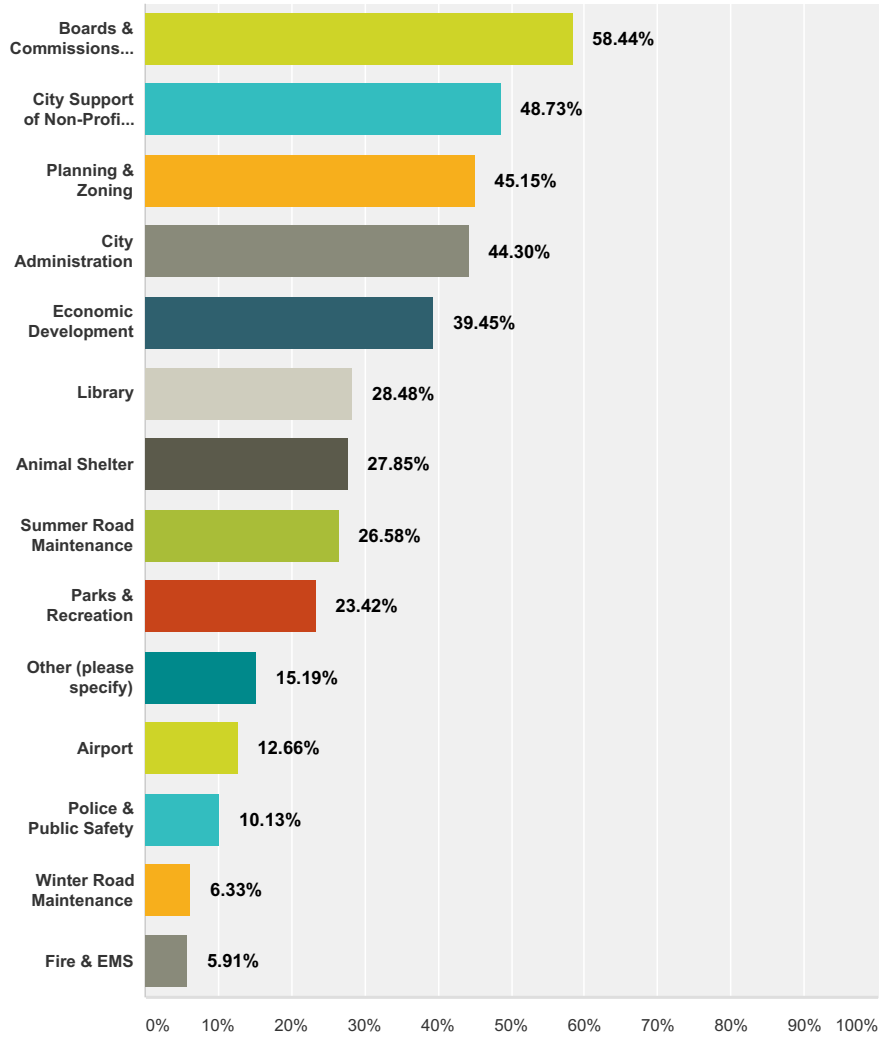


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total	Score
Fire and EMS	28.66% 139.00	40.62% 197.00	10.52% 51.00	6.19% 30.00	3.09% 15.00	1.44% 7.00	2.27% 11.00	0.82% 4.00	1.03% 5.00	1.24% 6.00	0.82% 4.00	0.82% 4.00	2.47% 12.00	485	11.14
Police and Public Safety	40.00% 194.00	25.77% 125.00	10.93% 53.00	5.15% 25.00	4.12% 20.00	3.51% 17.00	1.44% 7.00	1.86% 9.00	2.89% 14.00	1.03% 5.00	1.03% 5.00	1.44% 7.00	0.82% 4.00	485	11.13
Winter Road Maintenance	9.48% 46.00	8.25% 40.00	26.39% 128.00	20.00% 97.00	11.34% 55.00	7.22% 35.00	5.36% 26.00	3.30% 16.00	2.06% 10.00	1.86% 9.00	2.06% 10.00	1.44% 7.00	1.24% 6.00	485	9.58
Airport	2.06% 10.00	4.54% 22.00	14.43% 70.00	15.26% 74.00	13.61% 66.00	9.28% 45.00	9.28% 45.00	8.25% 40.00	6.19% 30.00	5.57% 27.00	5.98% 29.00	3.09% 15.00	2.47% 12.00	485	7.84
Summer Road Maintenance	1.24% 6.00	3.51% 17.00	3.09% 15.00	11.96% 58.00	13.61% 66.00	14.64% 71.00	10.31% 50.00	8.25% 40.00	7.63% 37.00	8.04% 39.00	6.80% 33.00	5.77% 28.00	5.15% 25.00	485	6.80
Library	2.06% 10.00	3.09% 15.00	5.57% 27.00	7.42% 36.00	10.31% 50.00	11.13% 54.00	11.96% 58.00	11.13% 54.00	9.28% 45.00	6.60% 32.00	8.45% 41.00	6.80% 33.00	6.19% 30.00	485	6.50
Parks and Recreation	3.09% 15.00	2.06% 10.00	4.95% 24.00	5.15% 25.00	10.31% 50.00	11.13% 54.00	10.72% 52.00	12.37% 60.00	14.02% 68.00	9.69% 47.00	7.42% 36.00	5.98% 29.00	3.09% 15.00	485	6.48
City Administration	4.54% 22.00	2.27% 11.00	7.42% 36.00	7.22% 35.00	8.04% 39.00	8.87% 43.00	9.28% 45.00	11.13% 54.00	8.87% 43.00	9.69% 47.00	9.28% 45.00	7.84% 38.00	5.57% 27.00	485	6.47
Animal Shelter	3.09% 15.00	2.47% 12.00	4.95% 24.00	5.57% 27.00	5.77% 28.00	8.04% 39.00	9.48% 46.00	7.22% 35.00	9.48% 46.00	10.52% 51.00	12.37% 60.00	10.52% 51.00	10.52% 51.00	485	5.64
Economic Development	1.86% 9.00	1.86% 9.00	5.15% 25.00	5.57% 27.00	4.95% 24.00	8.45% 41.00	9.90% 48.00	7.84% 38.00	7.84% 38.00	12.37% 60.00	10.31% 50.00	14.23% 69.00	9.69% 47.00	485	5.45
Planning and Zoning	0.82% 4.00	1.44% 7.00	1.65% 8.00	3.51% 17.00	7.84% 38.00	5.57% 27.00	8.87% 43.00	11.96% 58.00	11.75% 57.00	14.43% 70.00	14.43% 70.00	8.87% 43.00	8.87% 43.00	485	5.16

City Support of Non-Profits (The Pratt Museum, The Homer Chamber of Commerce, The Homer Foundation, South Peninsula Haven House, Homer Hockey Association)	2.47% 12.00	2.89% 14.00	4.12% 20.00	4.74% 23.00	4.12% 20.00	6.80% 33.00	6.39% 31.00	8.25% 40.00	7.01% 34.00	6.19% 30.00	8.04% 39.00	12.37% 60.00	26.60% 129.00	485	4.81
Boards and Commissions (used to collect public input)	0.62% 3.00	1.24% 6.00	0.82% 4.00	2.27% 11.00	2.89% 14.00	3.92% 19.00	4.74% 23.00	7.63% 37.00	11.96% 58.00	12.78% 62.00	12.99% 63.00	20.82% 101.00	17.32% 84.00	485	4.00

Q3 The City has already made spending cuts for 2015. Further cuts will be required to correct the deficit. What City provided services would you recommend reducing? (check all that apply)

Answered: 474 Skipped: 13



Answer Choices	Responses
Boards & Commissions (used to collect the public input)	58.44% 277
City Support of Non-Profits (The Pratt Museum, The Homer Chamber of Commerce, The Homer Foundation, South Peninsula Haven House, Homer Hockey Association)	48.73% 231
Planning & Zoning	45.15% 214
City Administration	44.30% 210
Economic Development	39.45% 187

Library	28.48%	135
Animal Shelter	27.85%	132
Summer Road Maintenance	26.58%	126
Parks & Recreation	23.42%	111
Other (please specify)	15.19%	72
Airport	12.66%	60
Police & Public Safety	10.13%	48
Winter Road Maintenance	6.33%	30
Fire & EMS	5.91%	28
Total Respondents: 474		

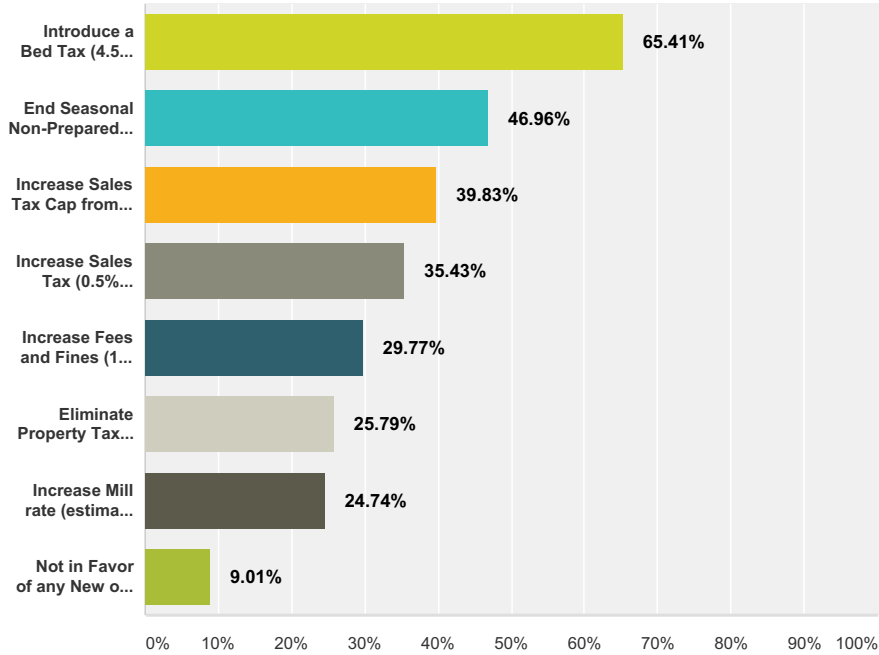
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	All services may have to be cut to live within your finances, the checked serves need a major cut.	8/4/2015 9:00 AM
2	difficult to say without looking at budget & baseline needs	8/3/2015 11:26 PM
3	All of the items I selected above can easily be replaced by private funding/donations (see the KBBI equipment funding as a great example). They are easy places to start.	7/31/2015 12:49 PM
4	Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council	7/29/2015 12:23 PM
5	Tough one, not sure what could be cut.	7/29/2015 6:32 AM
6	Employee Benefit pkg	7/28/2015 9:44 PM
7	transfer fire & ems to KESA. Better service and saves costs	7/27/2015 11:05 PM
8	Reduce funding to Homer Hockey but not other non profits	7/27/2015 6:02 PM
9	City workers pay checks.....should be voluntary	7/26/2015 9:17 AM
10	City workers pay checks.....should be voluntary	7/26/2015 9:16 AM
11	none	7/26/2015 8:11 AM
12	Do not build new Police or Fire station.	7/26/2015 7:11 AM
13	The Haven House should not be dependent on the City of Homer	7/26/2015 12:13 AM
14	Explore contracting police dispatch with troopers in Soldotna and use clerks only 8-5. Explore borough wide police and fire services.	7/25/2015 9:45 AM
15	I hate checking any of these boxes.	7/24/2015 12:53 PM
16	unnecessary projects	7/24/2015 11:50 AM
17	management with ur own money	7/23/2015 11:46 PM
18	QUIT SPENDING MONEY ON PROJECTS THE COMMUNITY VOTED "NO" TO--YOU'RE WASTING MONEY	7/23/2015 4:35 PM
19	See comments below.	7/23/2015 6:29 AM
20	City Employee benefits and pensions	7/22/2015 9:17 PM
21	1) Lobbying in Juneau. 2) The process in expanding the deep water dock and boat harbor, I know it is a separate revenue stream but the direction of the harbor has a major influence on the character of the City and the dialog around it involves City staff and commissions. Industrialization is not a priority and not an asset. 3) Back off current Public Safety building plans. Too big and not possible without State support, which will not be forthcoming in the foreseeable future.	7/22/2015 3:47 PM
22	planning design for new public safety building	7/22/2015 3:21 PM
23	capital expenditures, too many city cars, staff perks	7/21/2015 8:19 PM
24	The number of employees in all departments of the City.	7/21/2015 9:52 AM
25	Don't spend any money on the proposed public safety building--planning, design or otherwise.	7/21/2015 6:42 AM
26	Privatize work at City Workers Retire (Like the Landfill Did to save dollars)	7/20/2015 11:04 PM

27	no more towards public safety bldg until viable options are explored	7/20/2015 8:59 PM
28	Cut funding of non-profits by the same small percentage across the board - like 5-8%. Not sure how much savings that would be but curious.	7/20/2015 7:28 PM
29	Use double sided printing for all city documents	7/20/2015 5:38 PM
30	refer to my list above	7/20/2015 5:30 PM
31	All should be reduced; there is not a single entity which is immune.	7/20/2015 4:59 PM
32	ALL project spending other than required maintenance until we are in the black	7/20/2015 3:13 PM
33	Plowing of trails and sidewalks in the winter is essential; the only way some people are able to get around. Gritting roads, on the other hand, mostly allows people to drive faster, therefore less essential on all but the steepest roads. It also has the downside of leaving tons of grit on the road that have to be swept (or cause a safety issue, as still the case on many shoulders).	7/20/2015 2:41 PM
34	Stop spending any more money on the new fire/police station boondogle	7/20/2015 1:00 PM
35	Expenditures for design plan of a new public safety building to the 40% stage	7/20/2015 12:59 PM
36	The above are all core services.	7/20/2015 12:52 PM
37	Public Safety Building Plan	7/20/2015 12:32 AM
38	more affordable new public safety building	7/19/2015 9:53 AM
39	last week I watched a public works employee in a road grader with a bush hog on it repeatedly mow the same area for three hours, cutting down alders and wildflower for some unknowable reason	7/18/2015 8:16 PM
40	I would order every department to try and cut out any nonessential people and services.	7/18/2015 5:32 PM
41	I don't understand "boards and commissions"; are they paid? What is "economic development"? How is that an expense?	7/18/2015 2:42 PM
42	Do NOT take over the Hockey Rink or add any more structural projects to have to maintain!	7/18/2015 1:15 PM
43	street lights and harbor lights	7/17/2015 9:32 PM
44	new 25 million dollar public safety building	7/17/2015 6:55 PM
45	city hall-non essential services	7/17/2015 6:55 PM
46	Less money into roads	7/17/2015 6:42 PM
47	haven house is used as a home away from home for criminals, drug addicts, drunks, those on release from jail. This should not be funded by the city. I stayed there being a victim of violence and i can say this honestly the victims are treated less than the others and i was appauled to see it used as a substitute for jail. I was treated badly by the management when i complained about the behavior of the residence and told that domestic violence is a substance abuse issue. Huh?	7/17/2015 1:50 PM
48	consolidate with bourough fire department	7/17/2015 1:00 PM
49	More revenue, less cuts. We citizens should invest in the community.	7/17/2015 7:05 AM
50	The assistant city manager	7/16/2015 9:34 PM
51	City managers \$60,000 assistant	7/16/2015 6:08 PM
52	Specifically: clearing brush on roadsides, Chamber of Commerce holiday events	7/16/2015 10:30 AM
53	It would be really helpful in this survey to provide a very general idea of the percentage of the budget for each of the services listed for cuts, similar to what you have for revenue generation. Cutting support to the animal shelter may sound helpful, but if they only represent a small percentage of the budget then the savings may easily not be worth the reduction in services. Similar to support of the Pratt, Haven House, etc. It's not a huge amount of money relative to other departments/budget items, but those dollars go super far in the community.	7/16/2015 10:20 AM
54	money spent on new infrastructure buildings like the public safety building	7/16/2015 9:58 AM
55	615000 for new safty building (if you can't staff it why build it?)	7/15/2015 5:40 PM
56	eliminate homer recreation program and mothball the herc to a cold status.	7/15/2015 1:40 PM
57	the proposed public safety building - we can't afford it and it's too big for the size of our city	7/15/2015 12:39 PM
58	This is difficult for the public to answer when we do not know how much has already been cut from these programs and the overall size of the program and what cuts would mean to the ability of the program to continue.	7/15/2015 10:32 AM
59	none	7/15/2015 8:44 AM
60	personal use of city vehicles. Reduce travel & per diem budgets across the board in administration and all city departments	7/14/2015 10:54 PM
61	There is a thin line on pay and benefits as far as keeping good help goes. I know this does need to be looked at but we do need to be mindful of our city workers and there families.	7/14/2015 7:12 PM

62	Non Profits, but try to hold the Pratt, as it is an income generator. The Foundation was formed in anticipation of this day.	7/14/2015 5:39 PM
63	Design of Public Safety Building that will NEVER be funded.	7/14/2015 4:39 PM
64	small across the board cuts	7/14/2015 3:20 PM
65	none	7/14/2015 11:21 AM
66	New Public Safety Bldg. Spending on this project should stop.	7/14/2015 10:04 AM
67	Increase taxes instead of cutting vital services. I am willing to pay more tax.	7/13/2015 9:07 PM
68	Going paperless citywide	7/13/2015 7:12 PM
69	Eliminate personal use of city vehicles going home	7/13/2015 6:17 PM
70	Bunnell Street Art Gallery does not need public funding this is ridiculous	7/13/2015 3:12 PM
71	Outrageous expense of unnecessary new port office.	7/13/2015 1:58 PM
72	Without more information, you will only generate knee jerk reactions that I do not think are helpful. We need to know specifically what is on the cutting block for each of these categories.	7/13/2015 11:14 AM

Q4 Correcting the deficit and keeping many Core Services operational will most likely require more than just cuts. Which of the following revenue streams would you support? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 477 Skipped: 10



Answer Choices	Responses
Introduce a Bed Tax (4.5% Bed Tax would generate \$540,000)	65.41% 312
End Seasonal Non-Prepared Food Tax Holiday (estimated value \$850,000)	46.96% 224
Increase Sales Tax Cap from \$500 to \$1,000 (increase max sales tax from \$37.5 to \$75.00)	39.83% 190
Increase Sales Tax (0.5% increase would generate \$855,000)	35.43% 169
Increase Fees and Fines (100% increase would generate \$20,000)	29.77% 142
Eliminate Property Tax Exemption on First \$20,000 for Primary Residence (estimated value \$100,000)	25.79% 123
Increase Mill rate (estimated value \$660,000 per mill)	24.74% 118
Not in Favor of any New or Increased Revenue Streams	9.01% 43
Total Respondents: 477	

Q5 Please share any additional revenue-generating ideas.

Answered: 127 Skipped: 360

#	Responses	Date
1	As a City of Homer employee I have observed other public employee groups, HEA, Borough and State workers all receiving Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) increases far above that of City of Homer employees, something is askew here. Since we lack a union we depend on management to represent us to which I question their efforts of sincerity. The employees should be given again the right to vote for union representation to speak as one voice. The current employee committee is ineffective and are handpicked by management, at least in my department, and should be rotated out with new members selected by their peers. The Human Resources manager, current and past, does not represent the employees. The City Manager should present the City Council two budgets, one, the one they want to see and the other the one employees want to see, therefore rendering the decision for COLA directly into the City Councils hand. I can no longer afford to do all of my shopping in Homer although I have been very loyal to area merchants in the past.	8/4/2015 9:13 AM
2	Support increased non-resident visits (example fishing hole, ice rink) to generate overall increased revenue - not new or increased government. Don't make statements putting down Homer as an excuse to raise taxes (example - it costs so much to live here, etc). Promote new business to bring in jobs and revenue instead of the ongoing anti business bias that we have seen over the years. We don't need new taxes or fees - remember the power to tax is the power to destroy - high taxes and multiple regulations have kept the city from attracting new business over the years. Don't use your power to tax to support non-profits that I may not agree with - I'll support the non-profits that I want to support.	8/4/2015 9:00 AM
3	1. Do away with Store square foot maximums, invite Fred Meyer to town! This should also ease the greenies self loathing from all CO2 emissions released to shop in Soldotna! Yes, I drive to Fred Meyer all the time, Ulmers preys on suckers with no other options. 2. Stop the Public Safety Compound! Do the Math! More Building = more Expense! Heating, Staffing, Maintenance, Electricity, Water Sewer, IT, ect. 3. Get rid of the Sign Size Ordinance so that people that Don't live here can see whats available. 4. Grow some balls and stop paying hundreds of thousands in stupid studies. Do or do not there is no "Lets just throw money at it and see what happens". 5. Don't make driving on beaches illegal, instead, institute a Dog Crap Fee! and use the fees to pay for enforcement. 6. Open a Casino. 7. Sell the Library and open an internet café. (That's really all the library is used for anyway.)	8/3/2015 12:47 PM
4	I am not in favor of any new revenue streams, but should my preference not be shared by the majority of Homer citizens I fully believe any new tax should be shared by *all* residents. Bed taxes, for example, push the tax burden onto the hospitality industry and force non-residents to pay for services *we* want/consume. Nothing about that seems fair or right. Also, in future surveys it would be nice to have the option to rank several items as most/least valuable. If I were able to select from Essential, and Not Essential / Do Not Provide for each Service, the rankings would look much different and would more accurately reflect my opinions.	7/31/2015 12:49 PM
5	Quit increasing taxes. Charge people that use the library fees for using the computers and reading kindle/e-books, etc...raise user fees on all city services. It's time the homeowners quit getting dinged for everything that people outside of Homer itself use. (Fritz Creek, etc...) Increase taxes for people that are getting city water and sewer. We live in the City of Homer and we don't have either. If we don't have it, why should we pay for it? Sales tax should NOT be increased. Homer is an expensive enough place to live as it is. Fire fighters and police provide essential services. However, the cost of building them a new building is WAY too expensive. They need to live with a budget just like we do. The construction should be basic. (No exercise room. They can get the credit to go to Bay Club as they already do.) One last thing. Let the people of Homer decide how to spend city funds. Non-profits have their place, but essential services is more important. We have lived in small towns all of our life and have never seen a city that is so giving to them. Nice, but not when you are talking about the revenue stream. When city employees go to other cities because they don't get COLA and pay raises and caps on pay when they are loyal to work for the city for years and years and years, there's something wrong with that.	7/31/2015 12:09 PM
6	I am adamantly opposed to taxes that disproportionately affect lower income people. Also, please do not consider any increase of property tax on lower to moderately assessed properties. Please consider a progressive property tax. The burden of this tax would be shouldered by wealthy homeowners, high-end condos, apartment complexes, motels, and large business. These are the properties that can most afford it; exactly the same group that were given preferential discounts for the gas line assessments. It should be apparent to anyone who has been on the Spit this summer that Homer does not need to give any money to the Chamber to encourage tourism. A bed tax.....YES, YES, YES!!! And if large RV's (land yachts) could be taxed for overnight stays....do it. It is past time to make the wealthy tourists contribute the Homer infrastructure.	7/31/2015 10:04 AM
7	Tax food at a lower tax, say 2 percent, food really shouldn't be taxed at all. There are places where food is tax free, knowing even the poor need to eat, and that tax on food could make the difference in their lives, they could actually purchase more food. The city needs to stop thinking about their employees so much. Let them try to find insurance for \$400 month, and a retirement plan. Stop the waste of over plowing snow every six-eight hrs on the upper hill. We use to go w/o for days, city seems to think folds can't drive if the roads aren't plowed hourly.	7/29/2015 3:03 PM

8	No sales tax cap. Toll entering the Homer area, for anyone who does not have a borough tax number or is not signed up for PFD from this area. Add bed tax, Seattle has 15.5% bed tax. The people have spoken about the food tax. Don't tax food - it is hard on the poor. Banker fees, any transactions done by bankers, making a loan, tax it, paying 1.5% interest, tax it, those are people who have money. Tax federal reserve fees, banks pay nothing for interest, banks are prominent industry in this community. Banks make a loan, they are creating money out of thin air, that loan should be taxed. Vehicle fuel and boat fuel. Surtax in addition to sales tax. Cigarettes are sales taxed 150%, add an additional tax. Gas tax, 1 cent per gallon on aircraft. Tax airplane fuel. Sports events, halibut derby, salmon harvest, by the pound, by the trip. Tax. Pharmacy tax, at time of purchase. Hospital tax. Biggest industry in Homer, this industry gets medicare, medicaid, individuals, private insurance. Tax it! Tax on alcohol, usage tax. At bars as well as at liquor stores. Tax freight that moves through Homer, including extraction and moving of gravel. Freight going across docks, tax. Commercial salmon fishing, currently pay 2%, raise it to 3% and keep 1% for City of Homer. Industrial hemp, establish and tax.	7/29/2015 1:06 PM
9	Annex more area into city limits	7/29/2015 6:32 AM
10	This is an intelligent discussion for which I thank you. However, if it also includes the absurd and non-sustainable idea of a new public safety building, you will deserve the very angry responses that you will get. Even the money that is proposed now for its preparation is galling and counter-productive. Take it off the table before you ask for money.	7/28/2015 1:16 PM
11	I feel that if you would let the borough take the fire side of things, that would give back an enormous amount of monies. The city would no longer pay for salaries, insurance, holidays, maintenance on the vehicles, ect.ect.ect. Paying higher taxes, and let's face it, if you're looking at a bed tax or increasing the "tax cap" from \$500 to \$1000, is still a tax increase, all of which I'm so not in favor of at all.	7/27/2015 11:10 PM
12	giving fire department to KESA will save city over 1 million when including support from other city departments such as PW and dispatch. Service will be better and tax burden for fire removed so can be used in other needs for the city. It worked for Soldotna!	7/27/2015 11:05 PM
13	You do not have a revenue problem you have a spending problem we voted for you to figure it out..If we don't want to pay for it stop spending on it. Forget the revenue and stop the spending...what is it you don't get about no more taxes? Where is the revenue from the marine ports? Did you not just build a new port office? Stop ruining off business and market the port! Please consider outsourcing.... Outsource the management of the port? There are several companies dying to bid on highway work both winter and summer? Send out RFP's for road service both summer and winter, why do you think this needs to be a Homer provided service. Send out RFP's for the water system maintenance..listen to what they tell you. I restrain myself from saying what I think of you and your whining about revenue you disgust me! We manage our home to keep solvent..."we don't spend what we don't have"...we don't spend what we don't have"...do you hear me? The city it is our home and we don't need you to bankrupt us!	7/27/2015 10:13 PM
14	Absolutely NO to any kind of Bed Tax - fishing and lodging businesses already don't get the tax cap advantage and they are the ones marketing this town to bring in visitors so the other businesses can survive so they contribute their fare share already!!! It would be so wrong to make getting visitors to come here even harder on them! Charge ALL the people that do not pay real estate property taxes for services they use for free at my expense now. If that means charging them a flat recreation tax or raising the sales tax so they start chipping in their fare share then that is fine. Charge for ambulance calls, fire calls, etc. if they do not own property (if you don't already). Require a vehicle tax for all non property owners. Somehow all the people not living in the city limits or not paying property taxes need to start sharing in this burden! They get a voice to vote for and against things but I wonder how different they might vote if there was a consequence to their pocketbook instead of mine. People say we have to look out for all the poor people because they can't afford to pay any more for anything! I say hogwash! They often times get free dental and medical services for their kids, food stamps and all kinds of other aid while I bust my tail working 2 jobs trying to keep my head above water because I make "too much" to qualify for all the freebies! If they can't afford to pay for any services then develop a program where they are required to volunteer XX amount of time to pay for each service so the City or non-profits can reduce their costs by using the volunteer bank for some services rather than wages and benefits. I am tired of paying for other people. I have never voted for the end of the seasonal sales tax and think that was the most ridiculous decision ever! I never understood how anyone thought they could make up that revenue stream. Such a huge blunder! And lastly, stop funding Homer Hockey. They should not get preferential treatment because a council member likes them. Any funding should be split fairly with all recreation users such as baseball, skiing, snowmachining, winter lake racing, kayakers, birders, etc. It is not the City's responsibility to pay for any of these services same as Boys and Girls Club or the use of the old gym. The users need to figure out how to fund these luxuries, not the taxpayers. All extra-curriculars in school require the teams to fund raise to pay for uniforms, travel, instruments, etc. so learn from that model. Recreation should be the same way and there should not be favoritism! I am very tired of this entitlement attitude. If you want something People, work for it and figure out how to pay for it or you don't enjoy it. It is not the government's job to provide your recreation!	7/27/2015 6:02 PM
15	A bed tax would be my first recommendation. It does not affect local residents, just tourists.	7/27/2015 5:50 PM
16	small business incubator--invest in economic development by investing in ideas with more loans and incentives Thanks for holding the meeting last week--it was very informative.	7/27/2015 2:37 PM
17	Thank you for asking. I recognize it's a tough time for Alaska's economy. May we all have the wisdom to shelter our ecology as we find fresh creative businesses to fluff up our economic activities. Good luck and keep asking us the hard questions.	7/27/2015 10:34 AM
18	There are frequently large ships anchored off the Homer Spit. Obviously, they are here because of services being provided, even if that is just good anchorage. Do these ships pay any fees for anchoring in Kachemak Bay. If not, why not?	7/27/2015 10:20 AM

19	It's time to review all city land/property assets and sell them to the public market. Start with the spit campgrounds--they could likely generate millions in incomr, put the property on the tax roles whrrr it brlongs snd reduce city employees and overhead. SELL THOSE PROPERTIES NOW! WHAT THE HELL IS THE CITY DOING IN THE PUBLIC CAMP GROUND BUSINESS?	7/26/2015 7:08 PM
20	The city does nothing for for kids! Most of Homer is a bunch of kid haters ! The organization that runs the city, could care less about the youth in this area ! All they care about is feeding the dogs Mc Donald's and building new bench's on the spit! You got to have somewhere for the drunks coming out of the Salty Dog, to sober up! Nasty group of folks running the show! Building a new cop shop is right up the organizations alley. Boys and girls club.....? The organization is showing the youth of this town, How to sit on a bar stool, with your dog in the backseat ! Then they DUI them and label them dead beat youth. Great programs guys ! No wonder. Everyone calls Homer a little Nazi town! Or they lets just head down to the toilet ! I'm like huh? They say Homer ! Sorry for typos...on phone !	7/26/2015 9:17 AM
21	The city does nothing for for kids! Most of Homer is a bunch of kid haters ! The organization that runs the city, could care less about the youth in this area ! All they care about is feeding the dogs Mc Donald's and building new bench's on the spit! You got to have somewhere for the drunks coming out of the Salty Dog, to sober up! Nasty group of folks running the show! Building a new cop shop is right up the organizations alley. Boys and girls club.....? The organization is showing the youth of this town, How to sit on a bar stool, with your dog in the backseat ! Then they DUI them and label them dead beat youth. Great programs guys ! No wonder. Everyone calls Homer a little Nazi town! Or they lets just head down to the toilet ! I'm like huh? They say Homer ! Sorry for typos...on phone !	7/26/2015 9:16 AM
22	The city should focus on the essential services of public safety (police, fire & EMS) and health (safe water and sanitary waste disposal) everything else is icing on the cake that is nice to have if we can afford it.	7/26/2015 9:09 AM
23	For a government entity to take money (taxes) from citizens and give out to non-profits is wrong. If the citizens wish to support a non-profit they will do so but it should not be the government deciding who to give citizen money to. The non-profit is either supported by the community or it isn't, let free market play out. Use those extra monies toward core services.	7/26/2015 7:11 AM
24	Stop all spending on the new public safety building! With money so tight this is an unnecessary expense.	7/25/2015 6:47 PM
25	Do what California cities were forced to do in the 1970's after Proposition 13: contract for expensive services with larger agencies. In every instance that I'm aware of, cities Outside that contracted for regionalized services ended up saving money and getting a higher level of service. Every town can't afford to have their own police and fire department. Having a borough wide police and fire service (or contracting with the state) would end up providing a higher level of service for less money. Each city can structure it's contract each contract period to the level of service they desire. A larger agency means more specialized services, better working conditions for employees and no duplication of management. I realize this would require changes with the borough or state. Alaska is proud of doing everything their own way but they really, really should spend more time studying what was happened Outside in the past and how these issues were handled in other places. Typically, when cities initially entered into contracts for these regionalized services, the larger agencies hired the City's existing personnel and rented or leased existing infrastructure. I'm sure you could get sample contracts from various jurisdictions that do this. Law enforcement and fire service require so much management and training that it only makes sense to have larger agencies handling bigger jurisdictions.	7/25/2015 9:45 AM
26	- State income tax should be supported by the City. - Reduce our dependence on fossil fuels as a community and be progressive in promoting long term energy independence. - Reduce city employee overhead. -	7/25/2015 7:30 AM
27	Encourage water and sewer connections where there are LIDs/SADs. Early retire incentives. I believe most of the small communities on the peninsula have centralized 911 dispatch. I understand the pros of having local dispatchers on call who know our community well, but we are paying dearly for that service. The dispatch position is difficult to fill, and retain qualified folks. 24/7/365. Kachemak Currents – takes time and provides a review of the past, which the radio and newspapers have already covered(some). Put energy into moving forward. Reduce the number of commission and task force meetings. Saves time.	7/24/2015 4:47 PM
28	Install parking meters on the spit, just in front of the boardwalks. Use credit card meters for ease of use for visitors. City of Homer as a regulatory authority should be able to tax a portion of marijuana sales starting next year, although of course budget issue is NOW. It's an awful situation and I wish the City all the luck. Seems like we should be willing to pay for the services we demand; so increasing taxes, while painful and complaint-generating, is probably necessary!	7/24/2015 12:53 PM
29	impose a school tax on those with school age children. A tent camping fee for camping on the beach on the spit. A 1\$ Toll or fee per person for entrance onto the homer spit, except for boat owners or harbor or commercial & city staff. Increase local alcohol & tobacco tax. Parking meters in downtown homer.	7/24/2015 11:50 AM
30	As a Local Business in homer I now can't a forward my health care I have only ever made so much as I've seen property taxes go up and up and evey thing else miss management of government taxing every one won't to spend some one else's money well I'm here to to u there is no more money u have drove people oug of homer with taxing thim more and more every year on property increase value this make no since in there budgeting we all have fix incomes .so u tell me who stoled and miss management ower way of life in homer	7/23/2015 11:46 PM
31	Quit running business and industry out of town with city policy. No large business. No oil. No anything, just Art galleries, B&B's, and tourist trinket shops that will not take us far. Maybe more HUD, or section 8 housing projects? Mental health? Get out of the way of free markets. There are now more non producers than producers in our town. What do we produce and export? Or value added? Some fish? As some point the few producers will pack up and leave if you try to make up the shortfall with tax. Then what will the locust eat? Each other? In the end, our low functioning citizens turning to government for solutions will lead to no where but poverty. We have become dependent fools and deserve what is coming. Sad....	7/23/2015 5:49 PM

32	Sin taxes. Contact out some public works responsibilities (mechanics, plowing, etc) Consider moving fire to service area...too much duplication of service with exiting services as city fire/ems will go out side of city limits to for calls Contract out dispatch expand tourism outreach	7/23/2015 5:36 PM
33	Economic development is a for-profit activity and should be the goal of banks, builders, and developers/land owners. If they think a department to assist with economic development should be maintained in the city administration, perhaps they should fund the position(s). Planning and Zoning is all that is needed in city administration. Maybe we should get a Fred Meyers?? Or a big box store? Too bad we spend most of our grocery and household money in Soldotna, as most residents do. We only purchase small items in Homer. Any large purchase is made in Soldotna.	7/23/2015 5:17 PM
34	1. Tax churches like any other business. That's what they are -- for-profit businesses operating under a "non profit" tax code. many of the churches in our town have prime view & commercial locations. they should be taxed like any other structure. 2. Invite new businesses & be more business friendly. Homer claims to be "business friendly" but let's face it -- they're not.. I've seen them "run out" a number of revenue generating business proposals (why??? who knows?). When someone asks me about living in Homer I tell them "you don't want to live in Homer; you can't make a living here; jobs are in short supply because the city is so anti-business.". One day we were in Home Depot in Anchorage asking the clerk about light bulbs to save money. He said "where do you live?" We said "Homer". He said "I'm sorry". Homer has a bad reputation throughout the state. Doesn't that give you an idea? Don't just raise the cost of living on residents -- invite more businesses and allow current businesses to operate without being "under the city's thumb".	7/23/2015 4:35 PM
35	Increasing tax cap would hurt most local businesses. Bad idea.	7/23/2015 2:31 PM
36	Sell city owned property that is unused.	7/23/2015 1:58 PM
37	The city has wasted 1.2 million and wants to waste 600,000 more for 35% design of a building we don't need and can't afford. Total cost of \$44 million meanwhile city council tells us they must tax us! Criminal misuse of the city's money.	7/23/2015 1:39 PM
38	Institute vehicle road usage tax. Year round sticker to operate your vehicle in Homer city limits \$50. Occasional use and temporary visitor sticker \$5- \$20. Depending on length of stay or usage. Fine for non compliance \$100 year round, \$50 other. Gov, and Non profit exempt.	7/23/2015 12:35 PM
39	contract out all road maintenance, contract out accounting finance department, contract out parks and rec. work, sell all or most of city land so it will be on the tax rolls, cut city employees that are not needed after contracting out services, contract out any city service that will save money, Privatize Harbor, only services that shouldn't be looked at are Police and Fire. We live in a different world now with services being done cheaper by private company's. Stop building new building that are way over priced, private company's would find a better way. I've lived in Homer for 22 years and have seen the waste this city can produce	7/23/2015 11:02 AM
40	What is Mill rate? Fees and fines: no description so difficult to gage.	7/23/2015 9:27 AM
41	Cost-cutting not revenue generating: Could Parks and Rec save by planting perennials rather than annuals? Then there wouldn't need to be the expense of the City heating and lighting the greenhouses to grow plants every year, the time and maintenance of taking care of them, or the annual planting of beds. Just annual weed maintenance or watering. And the high school kids could then use the greenhouse all school year instead and improve their programs. Win win. Switch out the Harbor lights with LEDs or create some more efficient lighting system. For godsake, one City report said those lights are 3% of the City's electrical usage. Nancy Hillstrand's solar panels used to actually get a charge off of them. Improve the technology used with boards and commissions. Do you really need a staff member taking notes? Maybe there is some reason I don't see, but it seems that with all the GoToMeeting style online programs now available, one could record a meeting in it's entirety without a person present. Or delegate it to the commission members. Another way to cut on the boards and commissions front is by looking at which commissions have duplicates. The Library, for example, has a Friends of the Library board that is quite active so why not acknowledge that instead of the Library Advisory Board, giving them time at council meetings like a commission (10 minutes). Converting to some kind of commissions that are more independent like that would actually improve input because the rules prohibiting two or more members talking on city subjects without a public meeting announcement would no longer apply. A lot of business can be conducted outside of these restrictions (though I understand why they are in place...) This could also clear out the City's time spent attempting to keep inactive (lacking quorum) commissions going. Actually adding volunteer boards could help increase revenue. For example, if Community Schools had a board that could help brainstorm, do promotion, and bring in more class instructors, maybe it could come closer to paying for itself (with an accompanying rate increase for classes). Set up more like a Friends of the Library board, not a Library Advisory Board. Non-profits are a super important part of our local economy. A good way to promote economic development and cut down on costs may be to help train (bring in experts) on business models that include revenue producing streams (like the Haven House Thrift Store or the Coastal Studies tour charges) making them more self-sustaining in their operations and providing jobs in our community.	7/23/2015 6:29 AM
42	Cut pensions and City benefits they are inappropriate given the decline of benefits in the private sector. Cut all non profit donations (it is still fine to pay a nonprofit for a service i.e., advertising etc.). I can't believe there is no line item in here about the money saved from cutting the ridiculous employee health and pension benefits (22% per employee is outrageous given that the City has hundreds of applicants for each open position).	7/22/2015 9:17 PM
43	Recreation service district	7/22/2015 8:35 PM
44	Reduce tax exemptions for seniors	7/22/2015 6:56 PM

45	I am VERY opposed to raising the sales tax cap. This would make problems worse by sending more people north to do their shopping, hence lost sales tax all together and hurt local businesses. The items I've checked above, if implemented would be a great start to decreasing the deficit. I voted for a bed tax (which I believe is reasonable and essential) and against both the non-prepared food tax exemption and \$20,000 property tax exemption. This state of affairs is really no surprise to me, saw the writing on the wall a long time ago. I've been in Homer since 1971; newer residents need to get a grip, but I have no idea how to convince them to vote for what is right.	7/22/2015 5:29 PM
46	Introduce cannabis sales tax on all products purchased at cannabis retail stores, cultivation facilities, testing facilities, clubs, and manufacturing facilities no more than 7%. Talk to Shane Monroe about doing some basic research on potential cannabis sales in Homer/Anchor Point area. Bed tax is appropriate because it is a "luxury" tax. Do not tax people buying food. Have some common sense.	7/22/2015 5:01 PM
47	For people who loose their dogs and find them at the animal shelter they should have to pay a fee of \$25. People loose their dogs constantly here, institute a leash law and fine those that do not obey. We hear of missing dogs on the air all the time and people drive with them to work which is just not typical in other places. Extend city limits - it is totally unfair that all the tiny subareas around homer benefit from city services and resident's taxes and they do not pay in. The fact that Kachemak city exists is a complete joke and represents the insane ideals people have here. May all be in good intent but in the long run it makes no sense and creates these terrible situations we are all facing. Property tax extra for people with a 2nd home here, if they can afford a second home they can afford it. It's almost like to afford to live here now you need to work elsewhere and the people who live here year round are punished. The middle class is gone and out of state people are increasing property value making it harder for locals to live here. Extra tax Spit stores. Most of them do not live here so they make money off Homer and then they go elsewhere to spend it. We are not keeping the tourist money in the city. Spit owners also benefit from the Chamber efforts and they do not have to be a member. It should be required that they are Chamber members.	7/22/2015 4:39 PM
48	Transfer FIRE/EMS responsibility to Borough.	7/22/2015 3:55 PM
49	I suggest an alcohol tax as well.	7/22/2015 3:47 PM
50	city tax on local bear viewing operations and charter fishermen.	7/22/2015 3:21 PM
51	The city needs to take a look at where the money it has is going, more than it needs to find a new revenue stream. From what I can see, based on my experiences working for a city government, the City of Homer wastes a lot of the money it has.	7/22/2015 10:16 AM
52	We already pay a high amount of property tax, the people who pay for a views are more than paying their portion. Pretty sure current property tax will cause me to relocate out of Homer after retirement. We need income tax state wide, then the state can help municipalities. No food tax, this is unfair to lower Income families.	7/21/2015 9:29 PM
53	Library - close it on Mondays. Many small towns I live in don't have it open six days a week. You might walk in Homer library on a Monday and see a lot of people using it and think 'but what about all these people?' But if the library was open on Sundays there'd be a lot of people using it. They do something else on Sundays, Monday users can get by without it being open. Permitting and licensing - if currently it costs the city to issue these, raise the rates some. Some cities the fees do cover the costs is my understanding. I think there is currently a part-time Homer library position open for 'special events' coordinator. Why can't current employees handle this? I see them standing talking to each other a lot about non-library things, so seems like they have enough time. Why wasn't there any emphasis on raising additional funding at the meeting? I bet community members might have some ideas. People waste a lot of time using tv and computer for non-important stuff. Why not have a community emphasis on residents donating 2 hrs a week - 8 hrs/month to their city? I want to say I was very impressed with how staff conducted the meeting. The mayor is a very good speaker (I've been in Toastmasters before - she did pretty much everything a great speaker is supposed to do). Your staff were open and friendly. Thanks so much for giving us a say in these important matters.	7/21/2015 7:22 PM
54	Visitors should pay a fee that supports city services	7/21/2015 6:32 PM
55	Please halt the public safety building project. We simply cannot afford or sustain this huge cost or building under the golden cloak of "public safety" The mayor needs to listen to the community....and the sentiment is NO. Use what we have: that's the Alaskan way.	7/21/2015 5:00 PM
56	Public safety building project needs to stop right now. Too big, too expensive. Move fire to service area.	7/21/2015 4:52 PM
57	Absolutely stop with the grandiose plan of the public safety building! Do not spend another penny on this project without public vote! Focus on repairing existing building. Pursue the idea of moving fire to borough as a service area. City department already responds to calls outside of city limits. Sin tax...dedicate revenue to help pay for police & parks and recreation services. Recreational tax on recreational boats to support parks & recreation. Cut back on library staffing as they are continue to cost more and more. They can use volunteers. Eliminate city vehicles going home. No reason for harbor director to have city car to and from home and work when there is 24 hour staffing in harbor. Look at contrasting out some of public works: mechanics, plowing etc. this will save lots of \$ on the need to purchase expensive equipment while providing jobs in the private sector. This saves \$ in the long run.	7/21/2015 4:36 PM
58	Encourage business growth and new business so more money is spent locally and not in Soldotna and Kenai. It would be nice to have more reasonably priced goods available. We can calculate how much revenue is lost from the winter food tax holiday but how much revenue is lost from the goods purchased at Fred Meyer or Walmart?	7/21/2015 4:21 PM

59	First, I would look at where and why budget shortfalls are occurring. Is it a result of external circumstances or internal inefficiency. After determining that, I would then suggest the City look at cutting Capital projects where money could be diverted back into the operating budget. Then, I would cut budgets to City departments. Then, I would cut personnel in City Departments. Last I would consider a temporary increase to City revenue by increasing fees and fines in Departments that generate their own revenue to the point of paying for that departments operation. Any increase in revenue, should have a condition (sunset clause?) that it will be reversed when revenue comes back to a level equaling the revenue 3 years prior to the shortfall year. Then, re-evaluate budget.	7/21/2015 9:52 AM
60	Alcohol tax--on prepared drinks and packaged alcohol. A visitor tax that captures RV campers. They have a disproportionate effect on roads, use City services, etc.	7/21/2015 6:42 AM
61	Put a 0.25 per gallon tax on all fuel sold in Alaska. 25% of Tax to Borough in which the fuel is sold, 25% of Tax to City in Which it is sold (this Goes to Borough if fuel is sold in unincorporated area) 50% of Tax goes to the State	7/20/2015 11:04 PM
62	Much money wasted in public works	7/20/2015 10:20 PM
63	I think the city should break away from the current economic model and begin a discussion about a full employment economy for the region. We need to move away from this free for all idea that anybody can make as much money as possible off of any resource and then think everything is going to trickle down and make everyone happy. Wages and jobs need to match the services we consider essential. A better thought out economic system wouldn't struggle so mightly with deficits and the cutting of essential services. We are just spinning our wheels if we keep thinking this economic model is working and that we keep trying to adjust to this model. We need to start thinking outside of the box. We think that maintaining the current economic structure takes precedent and is a justification to destroy our lands, seas, lakes and rivers, or chronically pollute the air, water, and soil. This false notion that economic competition is necessary and good for the economy is absurd. Economic competition creates unemployment and forces society to demand cheap goods and services which results in people being paid unlivable wages and our basic necessities polluted and destroyed. We need to change our economy to have a full employment ideal.	7/20/2015 9:43 PM
64	touch bases with the Borough @ lost sales taxes due to loopholes in the Borough tax code in regards to Bear Viewing. You will be surprised how much revenue is being missed. Presently if a Bear Viewing trip costs \$500 no taxes are generated because the flight to see the bears is considered non-taxable and the viewing is out of Borough, IF the trip has the "flight seeing" in it's name the entire bear viewing trip is taxable, any bear viewing or sight seeing trip originating and ending in Homer should be taxable	7/20/2015 8:59 PM
65	Explore public private partnerships, generate ideas from local businesses. Leverage the strength and each to do more together, make the tankers coming through our Harbor pay much more.	7/20/2015 8:43 PM
66	Solicit more lucrative uses of the port and harbor facilities. Increase non-tourism and off-season streams of revenue i.e. support Homer as a year-round town. Look at support of non-profits through that lens- encourage balanced economic development.	7/20/2015 7:28 PM
67	Similar to Shore Bird Festival- uses mostly volunteer labor and brings in a lot of tourist business. City could support non-profits who could sponsor events of interest to other Alaskans and increase tourism. More races, perhaps a marathon, paddleboard or kite-surfing contest? It looks like food taxes bring in a lot of income, so the more people shopping, the better!	7/20/2015 6:53 PM
68	Expand what is considered "the City of Homer" and collect property tax from them as well because they use our services.	7/20/2015 5:41 PM
69	Thank you for working so hard on this. -a grateful Homer resident	7/20/2015 5:38 PM
70	I propose defining a specific ratio; for every \$X.00 of proposed increase of revenue, there would be a \$Y.00 of reduction of spending.	7/20/2015 4:59 PM
71	The city should responsibly stop any and all project spending until both the general fund and water sewer funds (HAWSP) are in the black and revenues can support project spending. At this time, the only additional spending should be for necessary maintenance. It's the way any business or home would have to operate.	7/20/2015 3:13 PM
72	If a ticket were to be issued for every vehicle not stopping for a pedestrian trying to cross at a marked crossing, I would wager that a substantial amount of revenue could be generated.	7/20/2015 2:41 PM
73	The city has been running on a very conservative budget for too many years and I'm very concerned that the reserves are not being funded.	7/20/2015 2:16 PM
74	Cease all proposed tax generated General Fund project expenses until adequate revenues are received to fund all existing fire/police/PW needs, along with funding depreciation accounts.	7/20/2015 1:36 PM
75	1) Increased tax on alcohol, tobacco & firearms 2) Broader support (e.g. permits) for marijuana dispensaries and appropriately taxing the consumers. Use Colorado as an example 3) Increase on fishing & hunting permits purchased by a non-resident of Alaska 4) Tourism tax levied to hospitality industry (hotel, rental car, cruise, vacation tours) that can be passed along to tourist. 5) Tax incentive (upfront subsidy or tax holiday) on real estate relating to franchise ownership. Would incentivize parent company to sponsor local franchises which would employ local people and generate tax revenue.	7/20/2015 1:35 PM
76	Start or increase the fines for people who park too long on the Spit. I have seen the same truck in the same spot for 2 months in the lot just west of the Harborview Boardwalk. These cars are parked weeks at a time and I never see any chalk marks on the tires like the City was doing 2 years ago. Tow them and fine them. Stop having the City employees drive home for lunch in the Cities cars and trucks. I see the same City truck coming home for lunch every day on East Hill. Lets just say this person manages the Public Works.....That's my gas he is using.	7/20/2015 1:00 PM

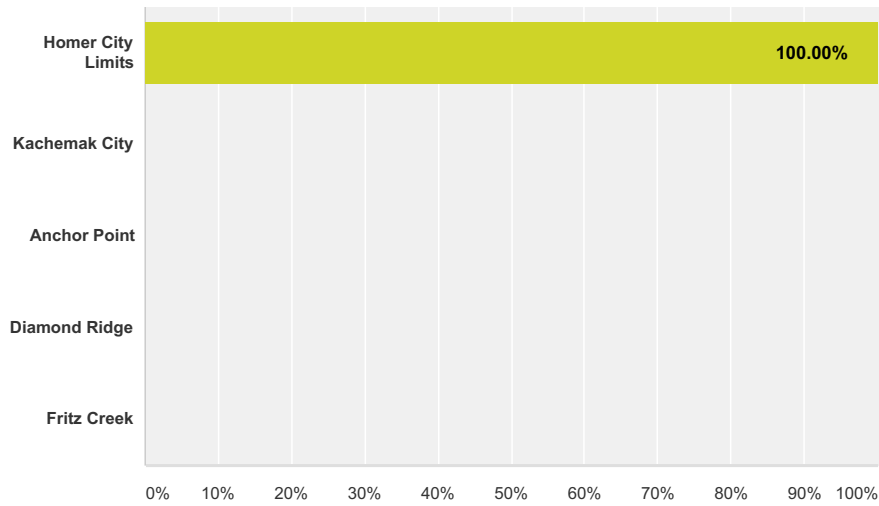
77	Establish a "Volunteer Corps" for people to perform routine maintenance tasks.	7/20/2015 12:59 PM
78	Other revenue streams to consider would be raising costs of permits and fees. Healthcare costs have gone up so much, that we need to look at bringing the total number of employees down below 100. The way to do this is to not refill positions after retirement. We are a community of just over 5,000 trying to serve an area of 12,000 or more. We need to ask the Kenai Peninsula Borough to raise their sales tax rate so the Animal Shelter, Library, Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, EMS and Fire all serve areas larger than the City of Homer. Question 2 on this survey should have included the percent of the total city budget in order to be able to rank order their importance.	7/20/2015 12:59 PM
79	City employees should not drive the city vehicles as if they are their personal vehicle. Why do we provide a car for them to drive home for lunch and to the gym? The health plans of city employees are above and beyond any comparable employer. If you raise my property tax, tax my food more I will have to leave Homer. It just isn't worth living in such an expensive place.	7/20/2015 12:57 PM
80	Spend wisely what revenue we have coming in. Tax and spend isn't always the answer, but wise investing is needed. Look for ways to find excess. I'm starting this in my own personal budget. Fundraising: Creative ways for people to see what their investment goes to like HOPP did with the Hornaday Park.	7/20/2015 12:55 PM
81	Lobby for sustainable Municipal Revenue Sharing	7/20/2015 12:52 PM
82	Limit senior property tax exemption to seniors who demonstrate need. Eliminate sales tax cap entirely and lessen the overall rate. (it is a nightmare to program).	7/20/2015 11:35 AM
83	We should tax tourists. It won't reduce tourism (seriously who looks up a bed tax when they're planning their dream trip to Alaska).	7/20/2015 10:42 AM
84	Looking at a fee schedule for non-residents of Homer. I am thinking of the library, rec activities, etc. How about charging people to use the Internet at the library. Raise all fees by \$2.00. Really market the HERC gym. This space could be used for more rec activities and events	7/20/2015 7:47 AM
85	Raise Camping fee & use fees for Parks & Rec. Increase harbor user fee. Study outside fees and come inline. Spit user fee. \$2.00 all motor vehicles Provide public transportation.	7/20/2015 12:32 AM
86	Pass a bed tax contingent on a borough wide bed tax. If Homer does this, perhaps the borough mayor will allow a vote on a borough wide bed tax. Get the borough and state to get rid of the senior citizen property tax exemption. Non profits in the central business district should contribute to property taxes. Stop giving away library services to non city residents.	7/19/2015 9:35 PM
87	Library card fee for out of city limits user groups Cut library staff to reflect the city size rather than the library service area Incentivize a processor group so we can generate more fish tax	7/19/2015 9:24 PM
88	cut back road maintenance and park and rec	7/19/2015 3:55 PM
89	Stop wasting money on things like: fancy public restrooms, new public safety building, attorney fees (like the gas assessment scam for condos), new offices for city employees (city manager for example),	7/19/2015 3:49 PM
90	Stop the Public Works from using the alder mauler. Stop the Public Works from cutting down people's trees. Thin out the staff from Public Works. How much does it cost the City to insure the parks? The poor animals should come first. Keep the animal shelter as it is.	7/19/2015 3:47 PM
91	is there a property tax exemption for seniors?-- that could be lowered. User fees for parks/recreation services and facilities, perhaps library card and/or internet fees to help support the library, what about airport-user taxes to help pay for the airport? As a nonresident I support taxes and fees that are shared by users who live outside city limits--NOT taxing food however, that is too regressive, a general sales tax increase would be better.	7/19/2015 9:53 AM
92	Forget a new city hall or a new police station Stop mowing everything all the time and concentrate on actual road maintenance. Maybe we wouldn't need quite so many year-round full-time public works personell. Stop buying brand new vehicles for the harbor master and the cops Don't cut funding to the animal shelter. They barely have enough resources as it is and they squeeze every penny they get as hard as they can. Supporting non-profits is great as a general idea, but the Homer Chamber of Commerce gets money from it's members and they suck at their job. cut them. Stop spending money building, maintaining, or repairing giant fish hooks. I saw 3 city workers with a cherry picker spend half a day out there, in which they accomplished the amazing feat of tying a cable to it. Turn off the traffic light and replace it with a four-way stop. Do the same thing at Main St. It costs us half a million bucks a year just to run those stupid lights.	7/18/2015 8:16 PM
93	Increase boat launch fee to \$15.00, with 100,000 boat launches a season it would generate \$200K. Also, keep the launch fee in place year round. Let the Nanwalek native corporation build a casino on their land on the spit with a portion of revenues going to local taxes. Invest in 6 windmills on city land on the spit or combo windmill/tidal generators in the bay, this would probably supply enough power for the port and harbor. Install micro turbines in the water line coming from skyline and sell the power generated. Push for the University of Alaska Kachemak Bay campus becoming a full 4 year school, this would provide a boost to Homer's winter economy for housing, restaurants, bars, food.	7/18/2015 5:32 PM
94	Increased fees at port & harbor	7/18/2015 4:15 PM
95	not in favor of any of the revenue increases listed above...sales tax from the new natural gas utility should generate a lot of new revenue ...if you go down the austerity road you'd better start at the top with the salaries of administration and other city workers before anything else.	7/18/2015 2:28 PM

96	Increase the Library membership fee. Increase camping fees within city limits. Do not cut the animal shelter. Mahatma Gandhi — 'The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.' Tourism is a large part of Homer revenues. How we LOOK to visitors is very important!! How we treat our PETS is an integral part of how we LOOK to outsiders. Clean up the poop on Bishop's Beach and get some enforcement down there. All it takes is a little enforcement regarding the few who spoil it for others (seasonal enforcement - summertime - would be effective) and we won't need a stupid gate. Again, what are we saying to visitors when we start putting up gates?!!	7/18/2015 1:15 PM
97	Get on the marajuna issue. That revenue stream would plug some holes . Colorado sells small amounts to tourists . Make the tax more ...for non resident sales .	7/18/2015 1:05 PM
98	Can we tax residents and non residents differently. I am not sure that is constitutional, but I do not feel like summer residents are putting in a fair share but they reap the benefits.	7/18/2015 1:00 PM
99	Legalize prostitution and all drugs and tax it.	7/18/2015 12:55 PM
100	Sales tax is one of the best ideas because it shares the costs across the economic strata as well as allowing folks who live in the area but outside city limits to share in the support. Not filling employment slots that empty by attrition is also a good way to cut some costs and to redefine who does what making a better use of employees skills and talents.	7/18/2015 11:10 AM
101	Stop putting money into such a lofty safety building! Do not use any more money for safety building design until the project is scaled way down- focus on police station for a fraction of the cost.	7/18/2015 7:27 AM
102	This was not a very good way to do a survey. We have no idea how much many of the choices we are being asked to rate or to make cuts to are getting right now . If the animal shelter is getting \$200,000 a year -I would say cut it . If it is being run by all volunteers with one minimally paid, overworked staff person, then it probably is at minimum budget. A fire department is important . No question. But what is their budget ? I hear them asking for a bigger fire station and a million dollar ladder truck . That might be suggesting they have more funding than they really need. Without knowing what each of these departments gets now , and probably compared to 10 years ago and compared to another similar sized town -it is impossible to make anything but an uninformed stab at a wild guess. And what good does that really do anyone . I see roads being sanded and plowed when there is but an inch or two of snow . I know- fear of lawsuits ,but hey- This is Alaska and icy snowy roads are kind of to be expected.	7/17/2015 9:32 PM
103	Cut spending. simple like balancing a checkbook, only spend what you make. Sounds terrible/impossible to most City/Govt workers/Elected officials but it is called being fiscally responsible and necessary for a fruitful community and a positive healthy economic standing for our city.	7/17/2015 6:55 PM
104	raise taxes on the people who only summer here and dont live here year around. tax more on the junk food like mcdonalds,	7/17/2015 6:55 PM
105	Contract out fire/ ems to the Kenai borough ,	7/17/2015 6:44 PM
106	Fees and fines for dog poop, for dogs off leash in leash areas, for driving on beaches, for littering. Fines for breaking zoning laws that are in place... Enforcement needed	7/17/2015 6:42 PM
107	Casino! Brown Bear Hockey games. Oilers baseball games. Drawings for LOCALS ONLY to win charters, dinners, lunches, shopping gift certificates. Pull tabs. SCRATCH TICKETS.....a REAL BINGO HALL. Dog Shows. Horse and buggy rides all year round.	7/17/2015 6:22 PM
108	Reduce the scope of work on the public safety building to only a new police station that could be added on to when the city can afford to expand to a full public safety building. It isn't really revenue generating, but it will save the city some money. It is absolutely ridiculous to build more when the council doesn't properly fund the reserves to take care of the current city buildings. Reinstate the sales tax year round and implement the bed tax. People will continue to eat and tourist will continue to visit. There will be plenty of people whining about it, but they'll get over it and have something to grumble about, so really, they will thank you. Life will go on. Just do it.	7/17/2015 4:59 PM
109	Have city workers turn off engines when eating lunch.	7/17/2015 4:00 PM
110	I am one of the many residents "across the Bay" who keeps a vehicle in Homer. I would love to park on the Spit in the summer time, and possibly year-round, but I don't do so because the cost of a permit (\$70/month when I asked last summer) is prohibitive. For \$30/month I can park elsewhere in a secure lot. Even factoring in the cost of a couple of cab rides/month between the Spit and my vehicle, it still doesn't pencil out to park on the Spit. If the permit cost were lower - say, \$30 - \$40/month - I'd be more inclined to purchase one. I am sure I am not the only person who feels this way. This may well be a case where you can generate more revenue by lowering your prices. In terms of property tax exemptions, exemptions should be given on the lower end of property values, not the higher end. This way the people who really need the exemptions (and are more likely to spend those savings) benefit the most. Exemption caps should be placed on higher-value properties. This generates more revenue and doesn't place a greater burden on lower-income people.	7/17/2015 3:26 PM
111	Bring FredMeyers here so locals spend their money local not up the road	7/17/2015 2:46 PM
112	use cruise ship taxes for general fund	7/17/2015 1:00 PM
113	Stop capping businesses. You are cutting your own throat by not allowing businesses to come to Homer and/or grow. Safeway is a good example - it should be MUCH larger but the city prevented that. Where is Fred Meyers, Home Deport/Lowes, Walmart? All of these would go a long way to providing additional incentive to come and shop in Homer and generate jobs, taxes and services.	7/17/2015 12:46 PM

114	The city has cut operational expenses for numerous years. We now need to develop additional revenue streams and not only taxes. Homer needs to expand it's business base. I always felt that Homer would make a good college town if we could expand the U of AK system and provide housing for students.	7/17/2015 12:44 PM
115	Charge at harbor parking lots for vehicles or boats or trailers left over 47 hours. (currently boats on trailers for example can just sit 7 days while owner is in Girdwood or wherever), all they pay is yearly launch (\$115) fee now so they leave rigs here all week, come down on 6 or 7th day, launch, fish, park and leave again, over and over all summer.	7/17/2015 12:44 PM
116	Bring in big box store for more taxes and jobs. Stop giving so much money to non profits. Parking meters on the Spit.	7/17/2015 12:40 PM
117	Anchor Point seems to rely on the KPB and/or State for essential services like fire, ems, law enforcement, road maintenance. And private company for water. Can't Homer do the same?	7/17/2015 10:26 AM
118	The citizens of Homer and those who use Homer's infrastructure need to be educated about the importance of citizen participation/investment in their communities.	7/17/2015 7:05 AM
119	2.00 library entry fee. No cap on camping fee sales tax. Cap sales tax at 2000.00 (150.00). Double Boat launch fees. Do not support Hockey Asso. Charge to dump fee. Increase fines	7/17/2015 12:30 AM
120	I am not a home owner, and I donotlivewithinHomer city limits, but I feel obligated to pay my fair share of taxes in order to support the services I benefit from. This is why I support increases on sales taxes and not property taxes. Everyone should pay, not just Homer property owners.	7/16/2015 11:14 PM
121	Charge the water haulers and Kachemak city more for the services that are provided by the City of Homer.	7/16/2015 9:34 PM
122	The library is obsolete, no one borrows books anymore. The library is used for movie rentals and Internet. Increase the amount of computers and charge to use them. Also, put in a cafe offering coffee and desserts for a charge. Work towards getting a Fred Meyer in Homer, generating property tax and sales tax.	7/16/2015 7:41 PM
123	cut Chamber of Commerce city funding	7/16/2015 6:44 PM
124	The city of Homer needs to work within their budget and take care of its residents. The city lirbrary should be for residents only. Outsiders should pay for city services. The new city toilets show just how out of control the priorities are for city spending.	7/16/2015 6:13 PM
125	Parking meters: metered parking spaces, lots, priority parking with spaces closer to things more expensive... Increased adherence to more efficient energy systems will save money in the long run. All LED bulbs everywhere, solar panels for all city buildings; some type of alternate energy farm situation to support additional energy savings elsewhere (initial costs, but long term savings). Get better snow plow people: more efficient snow plowing/sanding= less time=less money. Better yet, partner with local snowplow agencies who probably can do the work in better time-- not like we're in for much snow because of global warming. Though, maybe last few years' groups just needed practice.	7/16/2015 3:56 PM
126	ITEM NO.*2 RE: CORE SERVICES CANNOT BE SCORED BECAUSE IT APPEARS TO BE PRE-SET	7/16/2015 2:45 PM
127	Homer is a special place people flock to because of the support of non-profits and volunteers. I would hate to see those cut even more, they help support our communities, visitors and the summer months and especially schools.	7/16/2015 12:17 PM

Q1 Where do you live?

Answered: 326 Skipped: 0

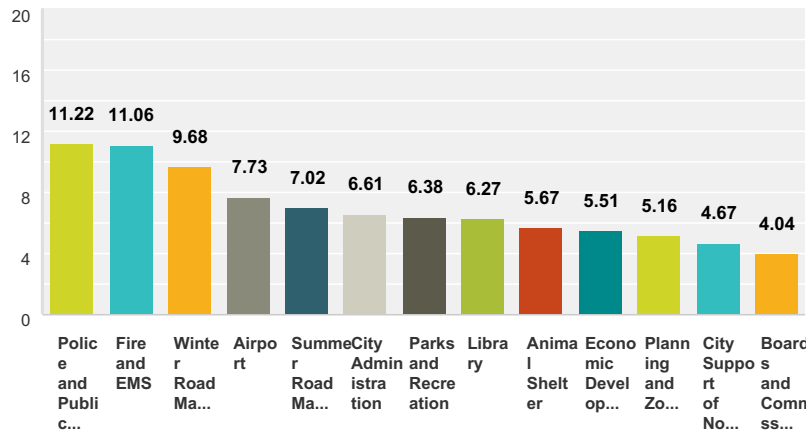


Answer Choices	Responses	
Homer City Limits	100.00%	326
Kachemak City	0.00%	0
Anchor Point	0.00%	0
Diamond Ridge	0.00%	0
Fritz Creek	0.00%	0
Total		326

#	Other	Date
1	In Question 2 the title should include a cost to be able to rank order the importance.	7/20/2015 12:59 PM
2	in the heart of "downtown"	7/15/2015 12:30 PM
3	Outside the city limits but within the Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District	7/13/2015 11:14 AM

Q2 A Core Service is one that is vital to the health, safety, and strength of the Community. They tend to reflect large City investments, cannot be duplicated, and represent a large segment of the community. A Core Service is indispensable. What services the City of Homer provides do you consider a Core Service or essential? (Rank 1-13, 1 being most essential, 13 being least essential.) (Port & Harbor and Water & Sewer are not included due to the self-sustaining nature of their operations)

Answered: 326 Skipped: 0

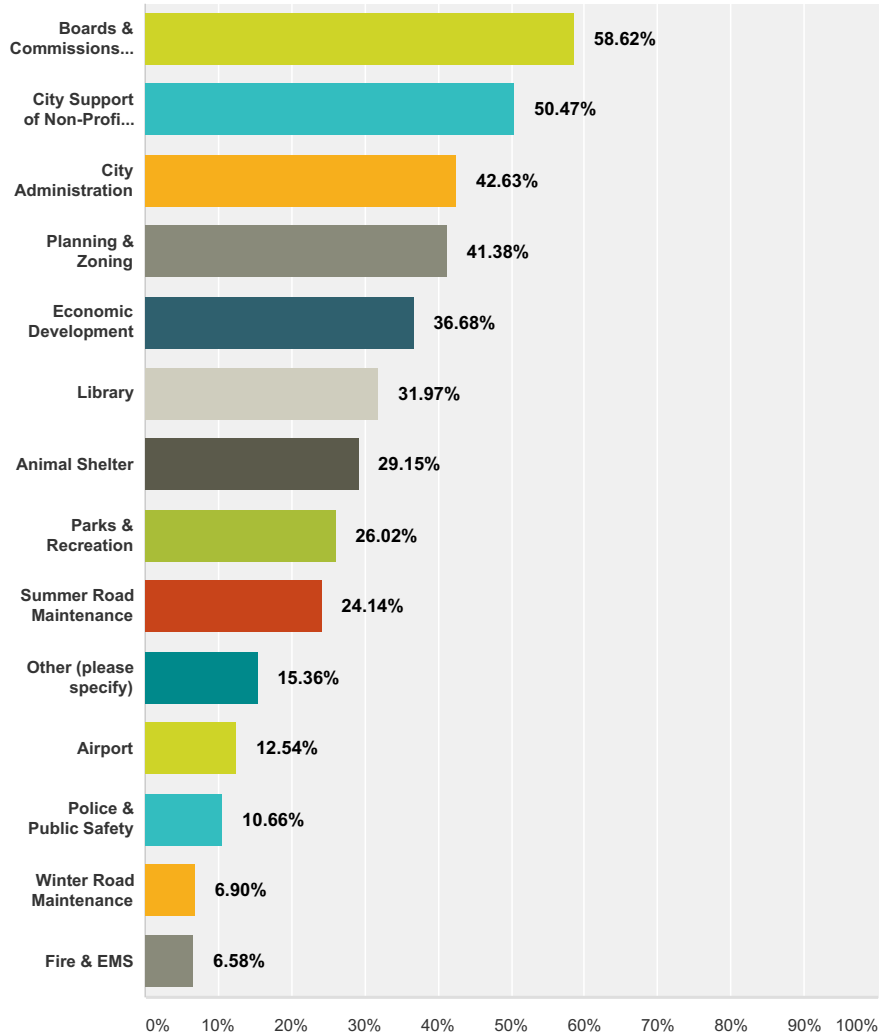


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total	Score
Police and Public Safety	41.10% 134.00	25.77% 84.00	10.43% 34.00	5.83% 19.00	3.37% 11.00	3.68% 12.00	1.53% 5.00	1.53% 5.00	3.37% 11.00	0.61% 2.00	1.23% 4.00	1.23% 4.00	0.31% 1.00	326	11.22
Fire and EMS	27.61% 90.00	40.80% 133.00	10.74% 35.00	6.44% 21.00	2.76% 9.00	1.84% 6.00	2.15% 7.00	0.61% 2.00	0.92% 3.00	0.92% 3.00	0.92% 3.00	0.92% 3.00	3.37% 11.00	326	11.06
Winter Road Maintenance	10.12% 33.00	8.59% 28.00	26.69% 87.00	21.17% 69.00	10.43% 34.00	7.36% 24.00	3.99% 13.00	3.37% 11.00	2.15% 7.00	1.23% 4.00	2.45% 8.00	1.53% 5.00	0.92% 3.00	326	9.68
Airport	1.23% 4.00	4.29% 14.00	13.80% 45.00	15.03% 49.00	14.72% 48.00	8.90% 29.00	9.82% 32.00	8.28% 27.00	6.13% 20.00	5.52% 18.00	6.13% 20.00	3.68% 12.00	2.45% 8.00	326	7.73
Summer Road Maintenance	1.84% 6.00	3.37% 11.00	3.37% 11.00	13.80% 45.00	15.34% 50.00	11.96% 39.00	12.27% 40.00	8.28% 27.00	6.75% 22.00	6.44% 21.00	5.52% 18.00	5.52% 18.00	5.52% 18.00	326	7.02
City Administration	4.29% 14.00	3.07% 10.00	7.98% 26.00	7.67% 25.00	6.75% 22.00	9.82% 32.00	9.20% 30.00	10.74% 35.00	9.82% 32.00	11.04% 36.00	7.98% 26.00	6.75% 22.00	4.91% 16.00	326	6.61
Parks and Recreation	3.68% 12.00	2.15% 7.00	3.99% 13.00	4.29% 14.00	9.51% 31.00	11.66% 38.00	10.12% 33.00	12.88% 42.00	13.80% 45.00	10.12% 33.00	8.59% 28.00	6.13% 20.00	3.07% 10.00	326	6.38
Library	2.76% 9.00	2.15% 7.00	5.83% 19.00	5.52% 18.00	10.12% 33.00	10.74% 35.00	10.43% 34.00	11.35% 37.00	10.12% 33.00	6.44% 21.00	9.51% 31.00	7.98% 26.00	7.06% 23.00	326	6.27
Animal Shelter	3.68% 12.00	2.76% 9.00	5.21% 17.00	5.21% 17.00	6.44% 21.00	7.36% 24.00	8.59% 28.00	6.44% 21.00	9.82% 32.00	10.74% 35.00	11.66% 38.00	11.66% 38.00	10.43% 34.00	326	5.67
Economic Development	1.53% 5.00	1.53% 5.00	5.21% 17.00	4.91% 16.00	5.52% 18.00	10.12% 33.00	10.74% 35.00	7.67% 25.00	7.67% 25.00	12.27% 40.00	10.12% 33.00	13.80% 45.00	8.90% 29.00	326	5.51
Planning and Zoning	0.31% 1.00	1.53% 5.00	1.23% 4.00	2.76% 9.00	7.67% 25.00	6.13% 20.00	10.12% 33.00	12.58% 41.00	11.04% 36.00	16.26% 53.00	14.11% 46.00	9.20% 30.00	7.06% 23.00	326	5.16

City Support of Non-Profits (The Pratt Museum, The Homer Chamber of Commerce, The Homer Foundation, South Peninsula Haven House, Homer Hockey Association)	1.84% 6.00	2.76% 9.00	4.29% 14.00	4.60% 15.00	4.60% 15.00	6.75% 22.00	5.52% 18.00	7.67% 25.00	6.75% 22.00	5.21% 17.00	9.82% 32.00	12.27% 40.00	27.91% 91.00	326	4.67
Boards and Commissions (used to collect public input)	0.00% 0.00	1.23% 4.00	1.23% 4.00	2.76% 9.00	2.76% 9.00	3.68% 12.00	5.52% 18.00	8.59% 28.00	11.66% 38.00	13.19% 43.00	11.96% 39.00	19.33% 63.00	18.10% 59.00	326	4.04

Q3 The City has already made spending cuts for 2015. Further cuts will be required to correct the deficit. What City provided services would you recommend reducing? (check all that apply)

Answered: 319 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
Boards & Commissions (used to collect the public input)	58.62% 187
City Support of Non-Profits (The Pratt Museum, The Homer Chamber of Commerce, The Homer Foundation, South Peninsula Haven House, Homer Hockey Association)	50.47% 161
City Administration	42.63% 136
Planning & Zoning	41.38% 132
Economic Development	36.68% 117

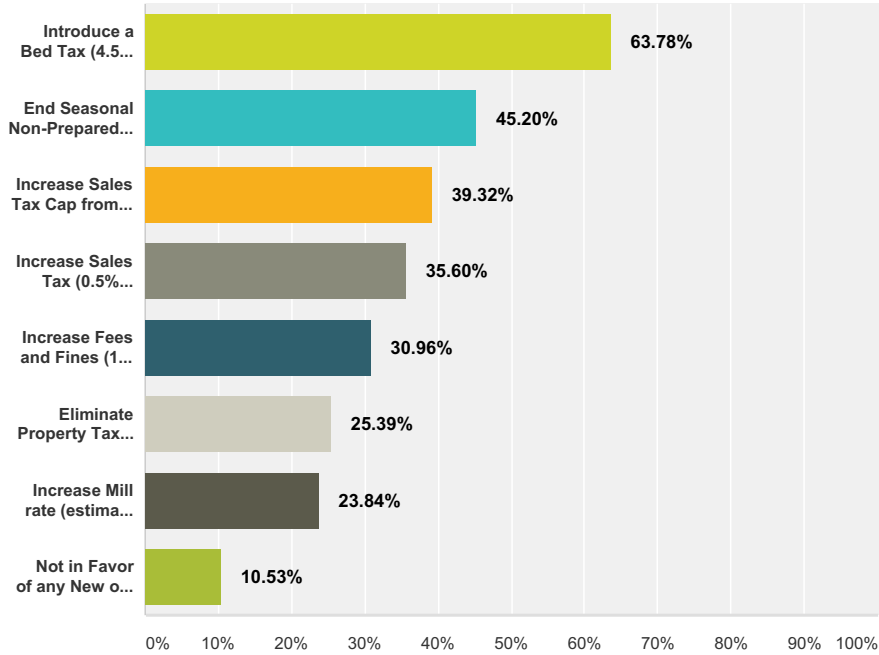
Library	31.97% 102
Animal Shelter	29.15% 93
Parks & Recreation	26.02% 83
Summer Road Maintenance	24.14% 77
Other (please specify)	15.36% 49
Airport	12.54% 40
Police & Public Safety	10.66% 34
Winter Road Maintenance	6.90% 22
Fire & EMS	6.58% 21
Total Respondents: 319	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	All services may have to be cut to live within your finances, the checked serves need a major cut.	8/4/2015 9:00 AM
2	difficult to say without looking at budget & baseline needs	8/3/2015 11:26 PM
3	All of the items I selected above can easily be replaced by private funding/donations (see the KBBI equipment funding as a great example). They are easy places to start.	7/31/2015 12:49 PM
4	Tough one, not sure what could be cut.	7/29/2015 6:32 AM
5	transfer fire & ems to KESA. Better service and saves costs	7/27/2015 11:05 PM
6	Reduce funding to Homer Hockey but not other non profits	7/27/2015 6:02 PM
7	none	7/26/2015 8:11 AM
8	Do not build new Police or Fire station.	7/26/2015 7:11 AM
9	unnecessary projects	7/24/2015 11:50 AM
10	QUIT SPENDING MONEY ON PROJECTS THE COMMUNITY VOTED "NO" TO--YOU'RE WASTING MONEY	7/23/2015 4:35 PM
11	See comments below.	7/23/2015 6:29 AM
12	City Employee benefits and pensions	7/22/2015 9:17 PM
13	1) Lobbying in Juneau. 2) The process in expanding the deep water dock and boat harbor, I know it is a separate revenue stream but the direction of the harbor has a major influence on the character of the City and the dialog around it involves City staff and commissions. Industrialization is not a priority and not an asset. 3) Back off current Public Safety building plans. Too big and not possible without State support, which will not be forthcoming in the foreseeable future.	7/22/2015 3:47 PM
14	planning design for new public safety building	7/22/2015 3:21 PM
15	capital expenditures, too many city cars, staff perks	7/21/2015 8:19 PM
16	The number of employees in all departments of the City.	7/21/2015 9:52 AM
17	Don't spend any money on the proposed public safety building--planning, design or otherwise.	7/21/2015 6:42 AM
18	Privatize work at City Workers Retire (Like the Landfill Did to save dollars)	7/20/2015 11:04 PM
19	no more towards public safety bldg until viable options are explored	7/20/2015 8:59 PM
20	Cut funding of non-profits by the same small percentage across the board - like 5-8%. Not sure how much savings that would be but curious.	7/20/2015 7:28 PM
21	Use double sided printing for all city documents	7/20/2015 5:38 PM
22	ALL project spending other than required maintenance until wee are in the black	7/20/2015 3:13 PM
23	Plowing of trails and sidewalks in the winter is essential; the only way some people are able to get around. Gritting roads, on the other hand, mostly allows people to drive faster, therefore less essential on all but the steepest roads. It also has the downside of leaving tons of grit on the road that have to be swept (or cause a safety issue, as still the case on many shoulders).	7/20/2015 2:41 PM
24	Stop spending any more money on the new fire/police station boondogle	7/20/2015 1:00 PM
25	Expenditures for design plan of a new public safety building to the 40% stage	7/20/2015 12:59 PM
26	Public Safety Building Plan	7/20/2015 12:32 AM

27	last week I watched a public works employee in a road grader with a bush hog on it repeatedly mow the same area for three hours, cutting down alders and wildflower for some unknowable reason	7/18/2015 8:16 PM
28	I would order every department to try and cut out any nonessential people and services.	7/18/2015 5:32 PM
29	I don't understand "boards and commissions"; are they paid? What is "economic development"? How is that an expense?	7/18/2015 2:42 PM
30	street lights and harbor lights	7/17/2015 9:32 PM
31	new 25 million dollar public safety building	7/17/2015 6:55 PM
32	haven house is used as a home away from home for criminals, drug addicts, drunks, those on release from jail. This should not be funded by the city. I stayed there being a victim of violence and i can say this honestly the victims are treated less than the others and i was appauled to see it used as a substitute for jail. I was treated badly by the management when i complained about the behavior of the residence and told that domestic violence is a substance abuse issue. Huh?	7/17/2015 1:50 PM
33	consolidate with bourough fire department	7/17/2015 1:00 PM
34	The assistant city manager	7/16/2015 9:34 PM
35	City managers \$60,000 assistant	7/16/2015 6:08 PM
36	Specifically: clearing brush on roadsides, Chamber of Commerce holiday events	7/16/2015 10:30 AM
37	It would be really helpful in this survey to provide a very general idea of the percentage of the budget for each of the services listed for cuts, similar to what you have for revenue generation. Cutting support to the animal shelter may sound helpful, but if they only represent a small percentage of the budget then the savings may easily not be worth the reduction in services. Similar to support of the Pratt, Haven House, etc. It's not a huge amount of money relative to other departments/budget items, but those dollars go super far in the community.	7/16/2015 10:20 AM
38	eliminate homer recreation program and mothball the herc to a cold status.	7/15/2015 1:40 PM
39	the proposed public safety building - we can't afford it and it's too big for the size of our city	7/15/2015 12:39 PM
40	This is difficult for the public to answer when we do not know how much has already been cut from these programs and the overall size of the program and what cuts would mean to the ability of the program to continue.	7/15/2015 10:32 AM
41	none	7/15/2015 8:44 AM
42	There is a thin line on pay and benefits as far as keeping good help goes. I know this does need to be looked at but we do need to be mindful of our city workers and there families.	7/14/2015 7:12 PM
43	Design of Public Safety Building that will NEVER be funded.	7/14/2015 4:39 PM
44	none	7/14/2015 11:21 AM
45	New Public Safety Bldg. Spending on this project should stop.	7/14/2015 10:04 AM
46	Increase taxes instead of cutting vital services. I am willing to pay more tax.	7/13/2015 9:07 PM
47	Going paperless citywide	7/13/2015 7:12 PM
48	Eliminate personal use of city vehicles going home	7/13/2015 6:17 PM
49	Without more information, you will only generate knee jerk reactions that I do not think are helpful. We need to know specifically what is on the cutting block for each of these categories.	7/13/2015 11:14 AM

Q4 Correcting the deficit and keeping many Core Services operational will most likely require more than just cuts. Which of the following revenue streams would you support? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 323 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Introduce a Bed Tax (4.5% Bed Tax would generate \$540,000)	63.78% 206
End Seasonal Non-Prepared Food Tax Holiday (estimated value \$850,000)	45.20% 146
Increase Sales Tax Cap from \$500 to \$1,000 (increase max sales tax from \$37.5 to \$75.00)	39.32% 127
Increase Sales Tax (0.5% increase would generate \$855,000)	35.60% 115
Increase Fees and Fines (100% increase would generate \$20,000)	30.96% 100
Eliminate Property Tax Exemption on First \$20,000 for Primary Residence (estimated value \$100,000)	25.39% 82
Increase Mill rate (estimated value \$660,000 per mill)	23.84% 77
Not in Favor of any New or Increased Revenue Streams	10.53% 34
Total Respondents: 323	

Q5 Please share any additional revenue-generating ideas.

Answered: 93 Skipped: 233

#	Responses	Date
1	As a City of Homer employee I have observed other public employee groups, HEA, Borough and State workers all receiving Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) increases far above that of City of Homer employees, something is askew here. Since we lack a union we depend on management to represent us to which I question their efforts of sincerity. The employees should be given again the right to vote for union representation to speak as one voice. The current employee committee is ineffective and are handpicked by management, at least in my department, and should be rotated out with new members selected by their peers. The Human Resources manager, current and past, does not represent the employees. The City Manager should present the City Council two budgets, one, the one they want to see and the other the one employees want to see, therefore rendering the decision for COLA directly into the City Councils hand. I can no longer afford to do all of my shopping in Homer although I have been very loyal to area merchants in the past.	8/4/2015 9:13 AM
2	Support increased non-resident visits (example fishing hole, ice rink) to generate overall increased revenue - not new or increased government. Don't make statements putting down Homer as an excuse to raise taxes (example - it costs so much to live here, etc). Promote new business to bring in jobs and revenue instead of the ongoing anti business bias that we have seen over the years. We don't need new taxes or fees - remember the power to tax is the power to destroy - high taxes and multiple regulations have kept the city from attracting new business over the years. Don't use your power to tax to support non-profits that I may not agree with - I'll support the non-profits that I want to support.	8/4/2015 9:00 AM
3	1. Do away with Store square foot maximums, invite Fred Meyer to town! This should also ease the greenies self loathing from all CO2 emissions released to shop in Soldotna! Yes, I drive to Fred Meyer all the time, Ulmers preys on suckers with no other options. 2. Stop the Public Safety Compound! Do the Math! More Building = more Expense! Heating, Staffing, Maintenance, Electricity, Water Sewer, IT, ect. 3. Get rid of the Sign Size Ordinance so that people that Don't live here can see whats available. 4. Grow some balls and stop paying hundreds of thousands in stupid studies. Do or do not there is no "Lets just throw money at it and see what happens". 5. Don't make driving on beaches illegal, instead, institute a Dog Crap Fee! and use the fees to pay for enforcement. 6. Open a Casino. 7. Sell the Library and open an internet café. (That's really all the library is used for anyway.)	8/3/2015 12:47 PM
4	I am not in favor of any new revenue streams, but should my preference not be shared by the majority of Homer citizens I fully believe any new tax should be shared by *all* residents. Bed taxes, for example, push the tax burden onto the hospitality industry and force non-residents to pay for services *we* want/consume. Nothing about that seems fair or right. Also, in future surveys it would be nice to have the option to rank several items as most/least valuable. If I were able to select from Essential, and Not Essential / Do Not Provide for each Service, the rankings would look much different and would more accurately reflect my opinions.	7/31/2015 12:49 PM
5	Quit increasing taxes. Charge people that use the library fees for using the computers and reading kindle/e-books, etc...raise user fees on all city services. It's time the homeowners quit getting dinged for everything that people outside of Homer itself use. (Fritz Creek, etc...) Increase taxes for people that are getting city water and sewer. We live in the City of Homer and we don't have either. If we don't have it, why should we pay for it? Sales tax should NOT be increased. Homer is an expensive enough place to live as it is. Fire fighters and police provide essential services. However, the cost of building them a new building is WAY too expensive. They need to live with a budget just like we do. The construction should be basic. (No exercise room. They can get the credit to go to Bay Club as they already do.) One last thing. Let the people of Homer decide how to spend city funds. Non-profits have their place, but essential services is more important. We have lived in small towns all of our life and have never seen a city that is so giving to them. Nice, but not when you are talking about the revenue stream. When city employees go to other cities because they don't get COLA and pay raises and caps on pay when they are loyal to work for the city for years and years and years, there's something wrong with that.	7/31/2015 12:09 PM
6	I am adamantly opposed to taxes that disproportionately affect lower income people. Also, please do not consider any increase of property tax on lower to moderately assessed properties. Please consider a progressive property tax. The burden of this tax would be shouldered by wealthy homeowners, high-end condos, apartment complexes, motels, and large business. These are the properties that can most afford it; exactly the same group that were given preferential discounts for the gas line assessments. It should be apparent to anyone who has been on the Spit this summer that Homer does not need to give any money to the Chamber to encourage tourism. A bed tax.....YES, YES, YES!!! And if large RV's (land yachts) could be taxed for overnight stays....do it. It is past time to make the wealthy tourists contribute the Homer infrastructure.	7/31/2015 10:04 AM
7	Tax food at a lower tax, say 2 percent, food really shouldn't be taxed at all. There are places where food is tax free, knowing even the poor need to eat, and that tax on food could make the difference in their lives, they could actually purchase more food. The city needs to stop thinking about their employees so much. Let them try to find insurance for \$400 month, and a retirement plan. Stop the waste of over plowing snow every six-eight hrs on the upper hill. We use to go w/o for days, city seems to think folds can't drive if the roads aren't plowed hourly.	7/29/2015 3:03 PM

8	<p>No sales tax cap. Toll entering the Homer area, for anyone who does not have a borough tax number or is not signed up for PFD from this area. Add bed tax, Seattle has 15.5% bed tax. The people have spoken about the food tax. Don't tax food - it is hard on the poor. Banker fees, any transactions done by bankers, making a loan, tax it, paying 1.5% interest, tax it, those are people who have money. Tax federal reserve fees, banks pay nothing for interest, banks are prominent industry in this community. Banks make a loan, they are creating money out of thin air, that loan should be taxed. Vehicle fuel and boat fuel. Surtax in addition to sales tax. Cigarettes are sales taxed 150%, add an additional tax. Gas tax, 1 cent per gallon on aircraft. Tax airplane fuel. Sports events, halibut derby, salmon harvest, by the pound, by the trip. Tax. Pharmacy tax, at time of purchase. Hospital tax. Biggest industry in Homer, this industry gets medicare, medicaid, individuals, private insurance. Tax it! Tax on alcohol, usage tax. At bars as well as at liquor stores. Tax freight that moves through Homer, including extraction and moving of gravel. Freight going across docks, tax. Commercial salmon fishing, currently pay 2%, raise it to 3% and keep 1% for City of Homer. Industrial hemp, establish and tax.</p>	7/29/2015 1:06 PM
9	<p>Annex more area into city limits</p>	7/29/2015 6:32 AM
10	<p>I feel that if you would let the borough take the fire side of things, that would give back an enormous amount of monies. The city would no longer pay for salaries, insurance, holidays, maintenance on the vehicles, ect.ect.ect. Paying higher taxes , and let's face it, if you're looking at a bed tax or increasing the "tax cap" from \$500 to \$1000 , is still a tax increase, all of which I'm so not in favor of at all.</p>	7/27/2015 11:10 PM
11	<p>giving fire department to KESA will save city over 1 million when including support from other city departments such as PW and dispatch. Service will be better and tax burden for fire removed so can be used in other needs for the city. It worked for Soldotna!</p>	7/27/2015 11:05 PM
12	<p>You do not have a revenue problem you have a spending problem we voted for you to figure it out. If we don't want to pay for it stop spending on it. Forget the revenue and stop the spending...what is it you don't get about no more taxes? Where is the revenue from the marine ports? Did you not just build a new port office? Stop runing off business and market the port! Please consider outsourcing.... Outsource the management of the port? There are several companies dying to bid on highway work both winter and summer? Send out RFP's for road service both summer and winter, why do you think this needs to be a Homer provided service. Send out RFP's for the water system maintenance..listen to what they tell you. I restrain myself from saying what I think of you and your whining about revenue you disgust me! We manage our home to keep solvent..."we don't spend what we don't have"...we don't spend what we don't have"...do you hear me? The city it is our home and we don't need you to bankrupt us!</p>	7/27/2015 10:13 PM
13	<p>Absolutely NO to any kind of Bed Tax - fishing and lodging businesses already don't get the tax cap advantage and they are the ones marketing this town to bring in visitors so the other businesses can survive so they contribute their fare share already!!! It would be so wrong to make getting visitors to come here even harder on them! Charge ALL the people that do not pay real estate property taxes for services they use for free at my expense now. If that means charging them a flat recreation tax or raising the sales tax so they start chipping in their fare share then that is fine. Charge for ambulance calls, fire calls, etc. if they do not own property (if you don't already). Require a vehicle tax for all non property owners. Somehow all the people not living in the city limits or not paying property taxes need to start sharing in this burden! They get a voice to vote for and against things but I wonder how different they might vote if there was a consequence to their pocketbook instead of mine. People say we have to look out for all the poor people because they can't afford to pay any more for anything! I say hogwash! They often times get free dental and medical services for their kids, food stamps and all kinds of other aid while I bust my tail working 2 jobs trying to keep my head above water because I make "too much" to qualify for all the freebies! If they can't afford to pay for any services then develop a program where they are required to volunteer XX amount of time to pay for each service so the City or non-profits can reduce their costs by using the volunteer bank for some services rather than wages and benefits. I am tired of paying for other people. I have never voted for the end of the seasonal sales tax and think that was the most ridiculous decision ever! I never understood how anyone thought they could make up that revenue stream. Such a huge blunder! And lastly, stop funding Homer Hockey. They should not get preferential treatment because a council member likes them. Any funding should be split fairly with all recreation users such as baseball, skiing, snowmachining, winter lake racing, kayakers, birders, etc. It is not the City's responsibility to pay for any of these services same as Boys and Girls Club or the use of the old gym. The users need to figure out how to fund these luxuries, not the taxpayers. All extra-curriculars in school require the teams to fund raise to pay for uniforms, travel, instruments, etc. so learn from that model. Recreation should be the same way and there should not be favoritism! I am very tired of this entitlement attitude. If you want something People, work for it and figure out how to pay for it or you don't enjoy it. It is not the government's job to provide your recreation!</p>	7/27/2015 6:02 PM
14	<p>small business incubator--invest in economic development by investing in ideas with more loans and incentives Thanks for holding the meeting last week--it was very informative.</p>	7/27/2015 2:37 PM
15	<p>Thank you for asking. I recognize it's a tough time for Alaska's economy. May we all have the wisdom to shelter our ecology as we find fresh creative businesses to fluff up our economic activities. Good luck and keep asking us the hard questions.</p>	7/27/2015 10:34 AM
16	<p>It's time to review all city land/property assets and sell them to the public market. Start with the spit campgrounds--they could likely generate millions in incomr, put the property on the tax roles whrrr it brlongs snd reduce city employees and overhead. SELL THOSE PROPERTIES NOW! WHAT THE HELL IS THE CITY DOING IN THE PUBLIC CAMP GROUND BUSINESS?</p>	7/26/2015 7:08 PM
17	<p>The city should focus on the essential services of public safety (police, fire & EMS) and health (safe water and sanitary waste disposal) everything else is icing on the cake that is nice to have if we can afford it.</p>	7/26/2015 9:09 AM

18	For a government entity to take money (taxes) from citizens and give out to non-profits is wrong. If the citizens wish to support a non-profit they will do so but it should not be the government deciding who to give citizen money to. The non-profit is either supported by the community or it isn't, let free market play out. Use those extra monies toward core services.	7/26/2015 7:11 AM
19	- State income tax should be supported by the City. - Reduce our dependence on fossil fuels as a community and be progressive in promoting long term energy independence. - Reduce city employee overhead. -	7/25/2015 7:30 AM
20	Encourage water and sewer connections where there are LIDs/SADs. Early retire incentives. I believe most of the small communities on the peninsula have centralized 911 dispatch. I understand the pros of having local dispatchers on call who know our community well, but we are paying dearly for that service. The dispatch position is difficult to fill, and retain qualified folks. 24/7/365. Kachemak Currents – takes time and provides a review of the past, which the radio and newspapers have already covered(some). Put energy into moving forward. Reduce the number of commission and task force meetings. Saves time.	7/24/2015 4:47 PM
21	impose a school tax on those with school age children. A tent camping fee for camping on the beach on the spit. A 1\$ Toll or fee per person for entrance onto the homer spit, except for boat owners or harbor or commercial & city staff. Increase local alcohol & tobacco tax. Parking meters in downtown homer.	7/24/2015 11:50 AM
22	Quit running business and industry out of town with city policy. No large business. No oil. No anything, just Art galleries, B&B's, and tourist trinket shops that will not take us far. Maybe more HUD, or section 8 housing projects? Mental health? Get out of the way of free markets. There are now more non producers than producers in our town. What do we produce and export? Or value added? Some fish? As some point the few producers will pack up and leave if you try to make up the shortfall with tax. Then what will the locust eat? Each other? In the end, our low functioning citizens turning to government for solutions will lead to no where but poverty. We have become dependent fools and deserve what is coming. Sad....	7/23/2015 5:49 PM
23	Sin taxes. Contact out some public works responsibilities (mechanics, plowing, etc) Consider moving fire to service area...too much duplication of service with exiting services as city fire/ems will go out side of city limits to for calls Contract out dispatch expand tourism outreach	7/23/2015 5:36 PM
24	1. Tax churches like any other business. That's what they are -- for-profit businesses operating under a "non profit" tax code. many of the churches in our town have prime view & commercial locations. they should be taxed like any other structure. 2. Invite new businesses & be more business friendly. Homer claims to be "business friendly" but let's face it -- they're not.. I've seen them "run out" a number of revenue generating business proposals (why??? who knows?). When someone asks me about living in Homer I tell them "you don't want to live in Homer; you can't make a living here; jobs are in short supply because the city is so anti-business.". One day we were in Home Depot in Anchorage asking the clerk about light bulbs to save money. He said "where do you live?" We said "Homer". He said "I'm sorry". Homer has a bad reputation throughout the state. Doesn't that give you an idea? Don't just raise the cost of living on residents -- invite more businesses and allow current businesses to operate without being "under the city's thumb".	7/23/2015 4:35 PM
25	Increasing tax cap would hurt most local businesses. Bad idea.	7/23/2015 2:31 PM
26	Sell city owned property that is unused.	7/23/2015 1:58 PM
27	The city has wasted 1.2 million and wants to waste 600,000 more for 35% design of a building we don't need and can't afford. Total cost of \$44 million meanwhile city council tells us they must tax us! Criminal misuse of the city's money.	7/23/2015 1:39 PM
28	Institute vehicle road usage tax. Year round sticker to operate your vehicle in Homer city limits \$50. Occasional use and temporary visitor sticker \$5- \$20. Depending on length of stay or usage. Fine for non compliance \$100 year round, \$50 other. Gov, and Non profit exempt.	7/23/2015 12:35 PM
29	contract out all road maintenance, contract out accounting finance department, contract out parks and rec. work, sell all or most of city land so it will be on the tax rolls, cut city employees that are not needed after contracting out services, contract out any city service that will save money, Privatize Harbor, only services that shouldn't be looked at are Police and Fire. We live in a different world now with services being done cheaper by private company's. Stop building new building that are way over priced, private company's would find a better way. I've lived in Homer for 22 years and have seen the waste this city can produce	7/23/2015 11:02 AM
30	What is Mill rate? Fees and fines: no description so difficult to gage.	7/23/2015 9:27 AM

31	<p>Cost-cutting not revenue generating: Could Parks and Rec save by planting perennials rather than annuals? Then there wouldn't need to be the expense of the City heating and lighting the greenhouses to grow plants every year, the time and maintenance of taking care of them, or the annual planting of beds. Just annual weed maintenance or watering. And the high school kids could then use the greenhouse all school year instead and improve their programs. Win win. Switch out the Harbor lights with LEDs or create some more efficient lighting system. For godsake, one City report said those lights are 3% of the City's electrical usage. Nancy Hillstrand's solar panels used to actually get a charge off of them. Improve the technology used with boards and commissions. Do you really need a staff member taking notes? Maybe there is some reason I don't see, but it seems that with all the GoToMeeting style online programs now available, one could record a meeting in it's entirety without a person present. Or delegate it to the commission members. Another way to cut on the boards and commissions front is by looking at which commissions have duplicates. The Library, for example, has a Friends of the Library board that is quite active so why not acknowledge that instead of the Library Advisory Board, giving them time at council meetings like a commission (10 minutes). Converting to some kind of commissions that are more independent like that would actually improve input because the rules prohibiting two or more members talking on city subjects without a public meeting announcement would no longer apply. A lot of business can be conducted outside of these restrictions (though I understand why they are in place...) This could also clear out the City's time spent attempting to keep inactive (lacking quorum) commissions going. Actually adding volunteer boards could help increase revenue. For example, if Community Schools had a board that could help brainstorm, do promotion, and bring in more class instructors, maybe it could come closer to paying for itself (with an accompanying rate increase for classes). Set up more like a Friends of the Library board, not a Library Advisory Board. Non-profits are a super important part of our local economy. A good way to promote economic development and cut down on costs may be to help train (bring in experts) on business models that include revenue producing streams (like the Haven House Thrift Store or the Coastal Studies tour charges) making them more self-sustaining in their operations and providing jobs in our community.</p>	7/23/2015 6:29 AM
32	<p>Cut pensions and City benefits they are inappropriate given the decline of benefits in the private sector. Cut all non profit donations (it is still fine to pay a nonprofit for a service i.e., advertising etc.). I can't believe there is no line item in here about the money saved from cutting the ridiculous employee health and pension benefits (22% per employee is outrageous given that the City has hundreds of applicants for each open position).</p>	7/22/2015 9:17 PM
33	<p>Reduce tax exemptions for seniors</p>	7/22/2015 6:56 PM
34	<p>I am VERY opposed to raising the sales tax cap. This would make problems worse by sending more people north to do their shopping, hence lost sales tax all together and hurt local businesses. The items I've checked above, if implemented would be a great start to decreasing the deficit. I voted for a bed tax (which I believe is reasonable and essential) and against both the non-prepared food tax exemption and \$20,000 property tax exemption. This state of affairs is really no surprise to me, saw the writing on the wall a long time ago. I've been in Homer since 1971; newer residents need to get a grip, but I have no idea how to convince them to vote for what is right.</p>	7/22/2015 5:29 PM
35	<p>For people who loose their dogs and find them at the animal shelter they should have to pay a fee of \$25. People loose their dogs constantly here, institute a leash law and fine those that do not obey. We hear of missing dogs on the air all the time and people drive with them to work which is just not typical in other places. Extend city limits - it is totally unfair that all the tiny subareas around homer benefit from city services and resident's taxes and they do not pay in. The fact that Kachemak city exists is a complete joke and represents the insane ideals people have here. May all be in good intent but in the long run it makes no sense and creates these terrible situations we are all facing. Property tax extra for people with a 2nd home here, if they can afford a second home they can afford it. It's almost like to afford to live here now you need to work elsewhere and the people who live here year round are punished. The middle class is gone and out of state people are increasing property value making it harder for locals to live here. Extra tax Spit stores. Most of them do not live here so they make money off Homer and then they go elsewhere to spend it. We are not keeping the tourist money in the city. Spit owners also benefit from the Chamber efforts and they do not have to be a member. It should be required that they are Chamber members.</p>	7/22/2015 4:39 PM
36	<p>Transfer FIRE/EMS responsibility to Borough.</p>	7/22/2015 3:55 PM
37	<p>I suggest an alcohol tax as well.</p>	7/22/2015 3:47 PM
38	<p>city tax on local bear viewing operations and charter fishermen.</p>	7/22/2015 3:21 PM
39	<p>We already pay a high amount of property tax, the people who pay for a views are more than paying their portion. Pretty sure current property tax will cause me to relocate out of Homer after retirement. We need income tax state wide, then the state can help municipalities. No food tax, this is unfair to lower Income families.</p>	7/21/2015 9:29 PM
40	<p>Library - close it on Mondays. Many small towns I live in don't have it open six days a week. You might walk in Homer library on a Monday and see a lot of people using it and think 'but what about all these people?' But if the library was open on Sundays there'd be a lot of people using it. They do something else on Sundays, Monday users can get by without it being open. Permitting and licensing - if currently it costs the city to issue these, raise the rates some. Some cities the fees do cover the costs is my understanding. I think there is currently a part-time Homer library position open for 'special events' coordinator. Why can't current employees handle this? I see them standing talking to each other a lot about non-library things, so seems like they have enough time. Why wasn't there any emphasis on raising additional funding at the meeting? I bet community members might have some ideas. People waste a lot of time using tv and computer for non-important stuff. Why not have a community emphasis on residents donating 2 hrs a week - 8 hrs/month to their city? I want to say I was very impressed with how staff conducted the meeting. The mayor is a very good speaker (I've been in Toastmasters before - she did pretty much everything a great speaker is supposed to do). Your staff were open and friendly. Thanks so much for giving us a say in these important matters.</p>	7/21/2015 7:22 PM
41	<p>Visitors should pay a fee that supports city services</p>	7/21/2015 6:32 PM

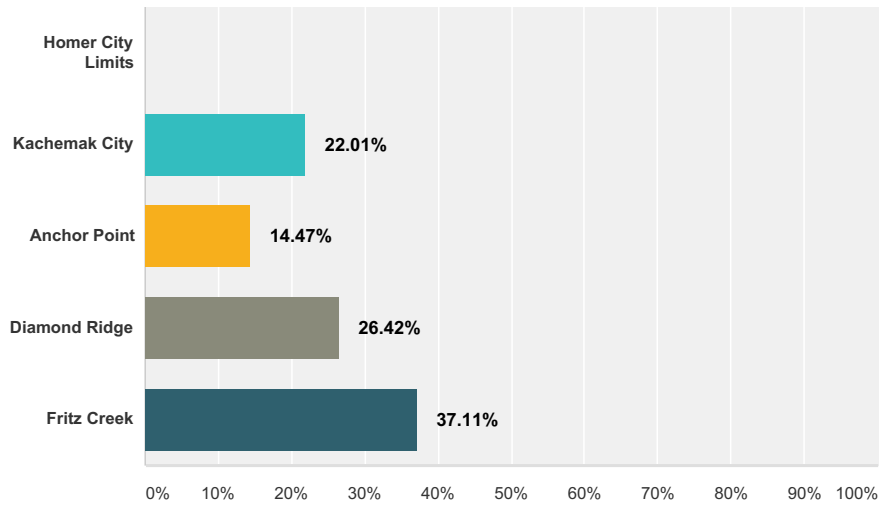
42	Please halt the public safety building project. We simply cannot afford or sustain this huge cost or building under the golden cloak of "public safety" The mayor needs to listen to the community....and the sentiment is NO. Use what we have: that's the Alaskan way.	7/21/2015 5:00 PM
43	Public safety building project needs to stop right now. Too big, too expensive. Move fire to service area.	7/21/2015 4:52 PM
44	Absolutely stop with the grandiose plan of the public safety building! Do not spend another penny on this project without public vote! Focus on repairing existing building. Pursue the idea of moving fire to borough as a service area. City department already responds to calls outside of city limits. Sin tax...dedicate revenue to help pay for police & parks and recreation services. Recreational tax on recreational boats to support parks & recreation. Cut back on library staffing as they are continue to cost more and more. They can use volunteers. Eliminate city vehicles going home. No reason for harbor director to have city car to and from home and work when there is 24 hour staffing in harbor. Look at contrasting out some of public works: mechanics, plowing etc. this will save lots of \$ on the need to purchase expensive equipment while providing jobs in the private sector. This saves \$ in the long run.	7/21/2015 4:36 PM
45	Encourage business growth and new business so more money is spent locally and not in Soldotna and Kenai. It would be nice to have more reasonably priced goods available. We can calculate how much revenue is lost from the winter food tax holiday but how much revenue is lost from the goods purchased at Fred Meyer or Walmart?	7/21/2015 4:21 PM
46	First, I would look at where and why budget shortfalls are occurring. Is it a result of external circumstances or internal inefficiency. After determining that, I would then suggest the City look at cutting Capital projects where money could be diverted back into the operating budget. Then, I would cut budgets to City departments. Then, I would cut personnel in City Departments. Last I would consider a temporary increase to City revenue by increasing fees and fines in Departments that generate their own revenue to the point of paying for that departments operation. Any increase in revenue, should have a condition (sunset clause?) that it will be reversed when revenue comes back to a level equaling the revenue 3 years prior to the shortfall year. Then, re-evaluate budget.	7/21/2015 9:52 AM
47	Alcohol tax--on prepared drinks and packaged alcohol. A visitor tax that captures RV campers. They have a disproportionate effect on roads, use City services, etc.	7/21/2015 6:42 AM
48	Put a 0.25 per gallon tax on all fuel sold in Alaska. 25% of Tax to Borough in which the fuel is sold, 25% of Tax to City in which it is sold (this Goes to Borough if fuel is sold in unincorporated area) 50% of Tax goes to the State	7/20/2015 11:04 PM
49	Much money wasted in public works	7/20/2015 10:20 PM
50	touch bases with the Borough @ lost sales taxes due to loopholes in the Borough tax code in regards to Bear Viewing. You will be surprised how much revenue is being missed. Presently if a Bear Viewing trip costs \$500 no taxes are generated because the flight to see the bears is considered non-taxable and the viewing is out of Borough, IF the trip has the "flight seeing" in it's name the entire bear viewing trip is taxable, any bear viewing or sight seeing trip originating and ending in Homer should be taxable	7/20/2015 8:59 PM
51	Explore public private partnerships, generate ideas from local businesses. Leverage the strength and each to do more together, make the tankers coming through our Harbor pay much more.	7/20/2015 8:43 PM
52	Solicit more lucrative uses of the port and harbor facilities. Increase non-tourism and off-season streams of revenue i.e. support Homer as a year-round town. Look at support of non-profits through that lens- encourage balanced economic development.	7/20/2015 7:28 PM
53	Expand what is considered "the City of Homer" and collect property tax from them as well because they use our services.	7/20/2015 5:41 PM
54	Thank you for working so hard on this. -a grateful Homer resident	7/20/2015 5:38 PM
55	The city should responsibly stop any and all project spending until both the general fund and water sewer funds (HAWSP) are in the black and revenues can support project spending. At this time, the only additional spending should be for necessary maintenance. It's the way any business or home would have to operate.	7/20/2015 3:13 PM
56	If a ticket were to be issued for every vehicle not stopping for a pedestrian trying to cross at a marked crossing, I would wager that a substantial amount of revenue could be generated.	7/20/2015 2:41 PM
57	Cease all proposed tax generated General Fund project expenses until adequate revenues are received to fund all existing fire/police/PW needs, along with funding depreciation accounts.	7/20/2015 1:36 PM
58	1) Increased tax on alcohol, tobacco & firearms 2) Broader support (e.g. permits) for marijuana dispensaries and appropriately taxing the consumers. Use Colorado as an example 3) Increase on fishing & hunting permits purchased by a non-resident of Alaska 4) Tourism tax levied to hospitality industry (hotel, rental car, cruise, vacation tours) that can be passed along to tourist. 5) Tax incentive (upfront subsidy or tax holiday) on real estate relating to franchise ownership. Would incentivize parent company to sponsor local franchises which would employ local people and generate tax revenue.	7/20/2015 1:35 PM
59	Start or increase the fines for people who park too long on the Spit. I have seen the same truck in the same spot for 2 months in the lot just west of the Harborview Boardwalk. These cars are parked weeks at a time and I never see any chalk marks on the tires like the City was doing 2 years ago. Tow them and fine them. Stop having the City employees drive home for lunch in the Cities cars and trucks. I see the same City truck coming home for lunch every day on East Hill. Lets just say this person manages the Public Works.....That's my gas he is using.	7/20/2015 1:00 PM
60	Establish a "Volunteer Corps" for people to perform routine maintenance tasks.	7/20/2015 12:59 PM

61	Other revenue streams to consider would be raising costs of permits and fees. Healthcare costs have gone up so much, that we need to look at bringing the total number of employees down below 100. The way to do this is to not refill positions after retirement. We are a community of just over 5,000 trying to serve an area of 12,000 or more. We need to ask the Kenai Peninsula Borough to raise their sales tax rate so the Animal Shelter, Library, Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, EMS and Fire all serve areas larger than the City of Homer. Question 2 on this survey should have included the percent of the total city budget in order to be able to rank order their importance.	7/20/2015 12:59 PM
62	City employees should not drive the city vehicles as if they are their personal vehicle. Why do we provide a car for them to drive home for lunch and to the gym? The health plans of city employees are above and beyond any comparable employer. If you raise my property tax, tax my food more I will have to leave Homer. It just isn't worth living in such an expensive place.	7/20/2015 12:57 PM
63	Spend wisely what revenue we have coming in. Tax and spend isn't always the answer, but wise investing is needed. Look for ways to find excess. I'm starting this in my own personal budget. Fundraising: Creative ways for people to see what their investment goes to like HOPP did with the Hornaday Park.	7/20/2015 12:55 PM
64	Limit senior property tax exemption to seniors who demonstrate need. Eliminate sales tax cap entirely and lessen the overall rate. (it is a nightmare to program).	7/20/2015 11:35 AM
65	We should tax tourists. It won't reduce tourism (seriously who looks up a bed tax when they're planning their dream trip to Alaska).	7/20/2015 10:42 AM
66	Looking at a fee schedule for non-residents of Homer. I am thinking of the library, rec activities, etc. How about charging people to use the Internet at the library. Raise all fees by \$2.00. Really market the HERC gym. This space could be used for more rec activities and events	7/20/2015 7:47 AM
67	Raise Camping fee & use fees for Parks & Rec. Increase harbor user fee. Study outside fees and come inline. Spit user fee. \$2.00 all motor vehicles Provide public transportation.	7/20/2015 12:32 AM
68	Library card fee for out of city limits user groups Cut library staff to reflect the city size rather than the library service area Incentivize a processor group so we can generate more fish tax	7/19/2015 9:24 PM
69	cut back road maintenance and park and rec	7/19/2015 3:55 PM
70	Stop the Public Works from using the alder mauler. Stop the Public Works from cutting down people's trees. Thin out the staff from Public Works. How much does it cost the City to insure the parks? The poor animals should come first. Keep the animal shelter as it is.	7/19/2015 3:47 PM
71	Forget a new city hall or a new police station Stop mowing everything all the time and concentrate on actual road maintenance. Maybe we wouldn't need quite so many year-round full-time public works personell. Stop buying brand new vehicles for the harbor master and the cops Don't cut funding to the animal shelter. They barely have enough resources as it is and they squeeze every penny they get as hard as they can. Supporting non-profits is great as a general idea, but the Homer Chamber of Commerce gets money from it's members and they suck at their job. cut them. Stop spending money building, maintaining, or repairing giant fish hooks. I saw 3 city workers with a cherry picker spend half a day out there, in which they accomplished the amazing feat of tying a cable to it. Turn off the traffic light and replace it with a four-way stop. Do the same thing at Main St. It costs us half a million bucks a year just to run those stupid lights.	7/18/2015 8:16 PM
72	Increase boat launch fee to \$15.00, with 100,000 boat launches a season it would generate \$200K. Also, keep the launch fee in place year round. Let the Nanwalek native corporation build a casino on their land on the spit with a portion of revenues going to local taxes. Invest in 6 windmills on city land on the spit or combo windmill/tidal generators in the bay, this would probably supply enough power for the port and harbor. Install micro turbines in the water line coming from skyline and sell the power generated. Push for the University of Alaska Kachemak Bay campus becoming a full 4 year school, this would provide a boost to Homer's winter economy for housing, restaurants, bars, food.	7/18/2015 5:32 PM
73	Increased fees at port & harbor	7/18/2015 4:15 PM
74	not in favor of any of the revenue increases listed above...sales tax from the new natural gas utility should generate a lot of new revenue ...if you go down the austerity road you'd better start at the top with the salaries of administration and other city workers before anything else.	7/18/2015 2:28 PM
75	Legalize prostitution and all drugs and tax it.	7/18/2015 12:55 PM
76	Sales tax is one of the best ideas because it shares the costs across the economic strata as well as allowing folks who live in the area but outside city limits to share in the support. Not filling employment slots that empty by attrition is also a good way to cut some costs and to redefine who does what making a better use of employees skills and talents.	7/18/2015 11:10 AM
77	Stop putting money into such a lofty safety building! Do not use any more money for safety building design until the project is scaled way down- focus on police station for a fraction of the cost.	7/18/2015 7:27 AM

78	This was not a very good way to do a survey. We have no idea how much many of the choices we are being asked to rate or to make cuts to are getting right now . If the animal shelter is getting \$200,000 a year -I would say cut it . If it is being run by all volunteers with one minimally paid, overworked staff person, then it probably is at minimum budget. A fire department is important . No question. But what is their budget ? I hear them asking for a bigger fire station and a million dollar ladder truck . That might be suggesting they have more funding than they really need. Without knowing what each of these departments gets now , and probably compared to 10 years ago and compared to another similar sized town -it is impossible to make anything but an uninformed stab at a wild guess. And what good does that really do anyone . I see roads being sanded and plowed when there is but an inch or two of snow . I know- fear of lawsuits ,but hey- This is Alaska and icy snowy roads are kind of to be expected.	7/17/2015 9:32 PM
79	Cut spending, simple like balancing a checkbook, only spend what you make. Sounds terrible/impossible to most City/Govt workers/Elected officials but it is called being fiscally responsible and necessary for a fruitful community and a positive healthy economic standing for our city.	7/17/2015 6:55 PM
80	Contract out fire/ ems to the Kenai borough ,	7/17/2015 6:44 PM
81	Reduce the scope of work on the public safety building to only a new police station that could be added on to when the city can afford to expand to a full public safety building. It isn't really revenue generating, but it will save the city some money. It is absolutely ridiculous to build more when the council doesn't properly fund the reserves to take care of the current city buildings. Reinstate the sales tax year round and implement the bed tax. People will continue to eat and tourist will continue to visit. There will be plenty of people whining about it, but they'll get over it and have something to grumble about, so really, they will thank you. Life will go on. Just do it.	7/17/2015 4:59 PM
82	Have city workers turn off engines when eating lunch.	7/17/2015 4:00 PM
83	Bring FredMeyers here so locals spend their money local not up the road	7/17/2015 2:46 PM
84	use cruise ship taxes for general fund	7/17/2015 1:00 PM
85	Stop capping businesses. You are cutting your own throat by not allowing businesses to come to Homer and/or grow. Safeway is a good example - it should be MUCH larger but the city prevented that. Where is Fred Meyers, Home Depot/Lowes, Walmart? All of these would go a long way to providing additional incentive to come and shop in Homer and generate jobs, taxes and services.	7/17/2015 12:46 PM
86	The city has cut operational expenses for numerous years. We now need to develop additional revenue streams and not only taxes. Homer needs to expand it's business base. I always felt that Homer would make a good college town if we could expand the U of AK system and provide housing for students.	7/17/2015 12:44 PM
87	Charge at harbor parking lots for vehicles or boats or trailers left over 47 hours. (currently boats on trailers for example can just sit 7 days while owner is in Girdwood or wherever), all they pay is yearly launch (\$115) fee now so they leave rigs here all week, come down on 6 or 7th day, launch, fish, park and leave again, over and over all summer.	7/17/2015 12:44 PM
88	Bring in big box store for more taxes and jobs. Stop giving so much money to non profits. Parking meters on the Spit.	7/17/2015 12:40 PM
89	2.00 library entry fee. No cap on camping fee sales tax. Cap sales tax at 2000.00 (150.00). Double Boat launch fees. Do not support Hockey Asso. Charge to dump fee. Increase fines	7/17/2015 12:30 AM
90	Charge the water haulers and Kachemak city more for the services that are provided by the City of Homer.	7/16/2015 9:34 PM
91	The library is obsolete, no one borrows books anymore. The library is used for movie rentals and Internet. Increase the amount of computers and charge to use them. Also, put in a cafe offering coffee and desserts for a charge. Work towards getting a Fred Meyer in Homer, generating property tax and sales tax.	7/16/2015 7:41 PM
92	Parking meters: metered parking spaces, lots, priority parking with spaces closer to things more expensive... Increased adherence to more efficient energy systems will save money in the long run. All LED bulbs everywhere, solar panels for all city buildings; some type of alternate energy farm situation to support additional energy savings elsewhere (initial costs, but long term savings). Get better snow plow people: more efficient snow plowing/sanding= less time=less money. Better yet, partner with local snowplow agencies who probably can do the work in better time-- not like we're in for much snow because of global warming. Though, maybe last few years' groups just needed practice.	7/16/2015 3:56 PM
93	ITEM NO. *2 RE: CORE SERVICES CANNOT BE SCORED BECAUSE IT APPEARS TO BE PRE-SET	7/16/2015 2:45 PM

Q1 Where do you live?

Answered: 159 Skipped: 0

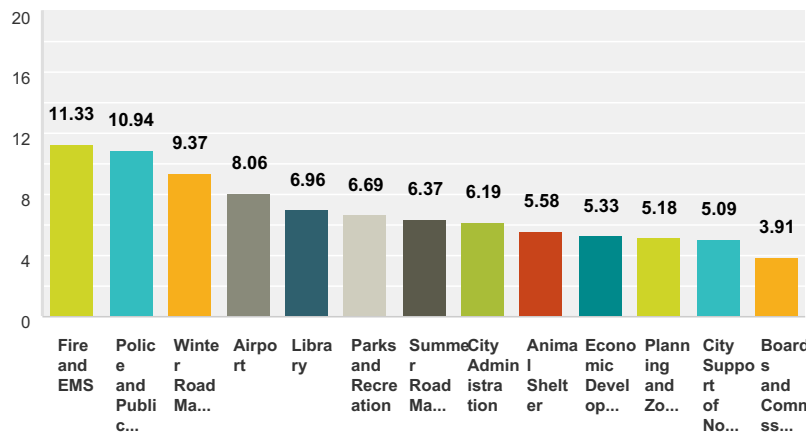


Answer Choices	Responses
Homer City Limits	0.00% 0
Kachemak City	22.01% 35
Anchor Point	14.47% 23
Diamond Ridge	26.42% 42
Fritz Creek	37.11% 59
Total	159

#	Other	Date
1	I also own 2 parcels in Homer city limits	7/28/2015 1:16 PM
2	East Skyline Drive	7/27/2015 5:50 PM
3	Own property in the City	7/25/2015 9:45 AM
4	business in homer	7/23/2015 11:46 PM
5	Eagle Earie	7/22/2015 5:01 PM
6	beyond McNeil	7/21/2015 3:37 PM
7	"Homer Bench" (between K City & Fritz Creek)	7/21/2015 10:28 AM
8	Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District	7/20/2015 9:43 PM
9	6 miles out East End	7/20/2015 8:34 PM
10	Skyline	7/20/2015 1:30 PM
11	between Kachemak City and Fritz Creek	7/19/2015 3:49 PM
12	Nikolaevsk	7/17/2015 6:22 PM
13	Seldovia	7/17/2015 3:26 PM
14	mile marker 168 sterling highway	7/16/2015 6:13 PM
15	ohlson mt	7/16/2015 9:02 AM
16	east Skyline	7/15/2015 5:40 PM
17	East Skyline	7/14/2015 5:39 PM
18	My Business and several rentals in Homer so You should take that into consideration	7/13/2015 3:12 PM

Q2 A Core Service is one that is vital to the health, safety, and strength of the Community. They tend to reflect large City investments, cannot be duplicated, and represent a large segment of the community. A Core Service is indispensable. What services the City of Homer provides do you consider a Core Service or essential? (Rank 1-13, 1 being most essential, 13 being least essential.) (Port & Harbor and Water & Sewer are not included due to the self-sustaining nature of their operations)

Answered: 159 Skipped: 0

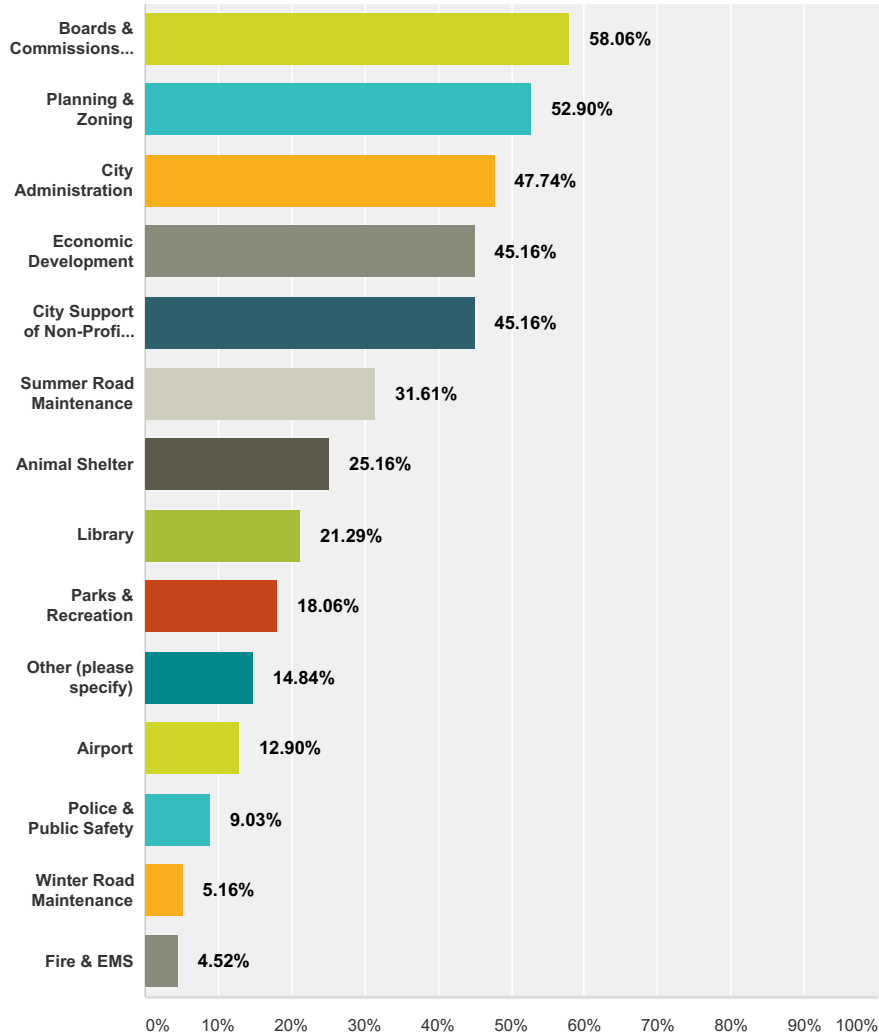


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total	Score
Fire and EMS	30.82% 49.00	40.25% 64.00	10.06% 16.00	5.66% 9.00	3.77% 6.00	0.63% 1.00	2.52% 4.00	1.26% 2.00	1.26% 2.00	1.89% 3.00	0.63% 1.00	0.63% 1.00	0.63% 1.00	159	11.33
Police and Public Safety	37.74% 60.00	25.79% 41.00	11.95% 19.00	3.77% 6.00	5.66% 9.00	3.14% 5.00	1.26% 2.00	2.52% 4.00	1.89% 3.00	1.89% 3.00	0.63% 1.00	1.89% 3.00	1.89% 3.00	159	10.94
Winter Road Maintenance	8.18% 13.00	7.55% 12.00	25.79% 41.00	17.61% 28.00	13.21% 21.00	6.92% 11.00	8.18% 13.00	3.14% 5.00	1.89% 3.00	3.14% 5.00	1.26% 2.00	1.26% 2.00	1.89% 3.00	159	9.37
Airport	3.77% 6.00	5.03% 8.00	15.72% 25.00	15.72% 25.00	11.32% 18.00	10.06% 16.00	8.18% 13.00	8.18% 13.00	6.29% 10.00	5.66% 9.00	5.66% 9.00	1.89% 3.00	2.52% 4.00	159	8.06
Library	0.63% 1.00	5.03% 8.00	5.03% 8.00	11.32% 18.00	10.69% 17.00	11.95% 19.00	15.09% 24.00	10.69% 17.00	7.55% 12.00	6.92% 11.00	6.29% 10.00	4.40% 7.00	4.40% 7.00	159	6.96
Parks and Recreation	1.89% 3.00	1.89% 3.00	6.92% 11.00	6.92% 11.00	11.95% 19.00	10.06% 16.00	11.95% 19.00	11.32% 18.00	14.47% 23.00	8.81% 14.00	5.03% 8.00	5.66% 9.00	3.14% 5.00	159	6.69
Summer Road Maintenance	0.00% 0.00	3.77% 6.00	2.52% 4.00	8.18% 13.00	10.06% 16.00	20.13% 32.00	6.29% 10.00	8.18% 13.00	9.43% 15.00	11.32% 18.00	9.43% 15.00	6.29% 10.00	4.40% 7.00	159	6.37
City Administration	5.03% 8.00	0.63% 1.00	6.29% 10.00	6.29% 10.00	10.69% 17.00	6.92% 11.00	9.43% 15.00	11.95% 19.00	6.92% 11.00	6.92% 11.00	11.95% 19.00	10.06% 16.00	6.92% 11.00	159	6.19
Animal Shelter	1.89% 3.00	1.89% 3.00	4.40% 7.00	6.29% 10.00	4.40% 7.00	9.43% 15.00	11.32% 18.00	8.81% 14.00	8.81% 14.00	10.06% 16.00	13.84% 22.00	8.18% 13.00	10.69% 17.00	159	5.58
Economic Development	2.52% 4.00	2.52% 4.00	5.03% 8.00	6.92% 11.00	3.77% 6.00	5.03% 8.00	8.18% 13.00	8.18% 13.00	8.18% 13.00	12.58% 20.00	10.69% 17.00	15.09% 24.00	11.32% 18.00	159	5.33
Planning and Zoning	1.89% 3.00	1.26% 2.00	2.52% 4.00	5.03% 8.00	8.18% 13.00	4.40% 7.00	6.29% 10.00	10.69% 17.00	13.21% 21.00	10.69% 17.00	15.09% 24.00	8.18% 13.00	12.58% 20.00	159	5.18

City Support of Non-Profits (The Pratt Museum, The Homer Chamber of Commerce, The Homer Foundation, South Peninsula Haven House, Homer Hockey Association)	3.77% 6.00	3.14% 5.00	3.77% 6.00	5.03% 8.00	3.14% 5.00	6.92% 11.00	8.18% 13.00	9.43% 15.00	7.55% 12.00	8.18% 13.00	4.40% 7.00	12.58% 20.00	23.90% 38.00	159	5.09
Boards and Commissions (used to collect public input)	1.89% 3.00	1.26% 2.00	0.00% 0.00	1.26% 2.00	3.14% 5.00	4.40% 7.00	3.14% 5.00	5.66% 9.00	12.58% 20.00	11.95% 19.00	15.09% 24.00	23.90% 38.00	15.72% 25.00	159	3.91

Q3 The City has already made spending cuts for 2015. Further cuts will be required to correct the deficit. What City provided services would you recommend reducing? (check all that apply)

Answered: 155 Skipped: 4



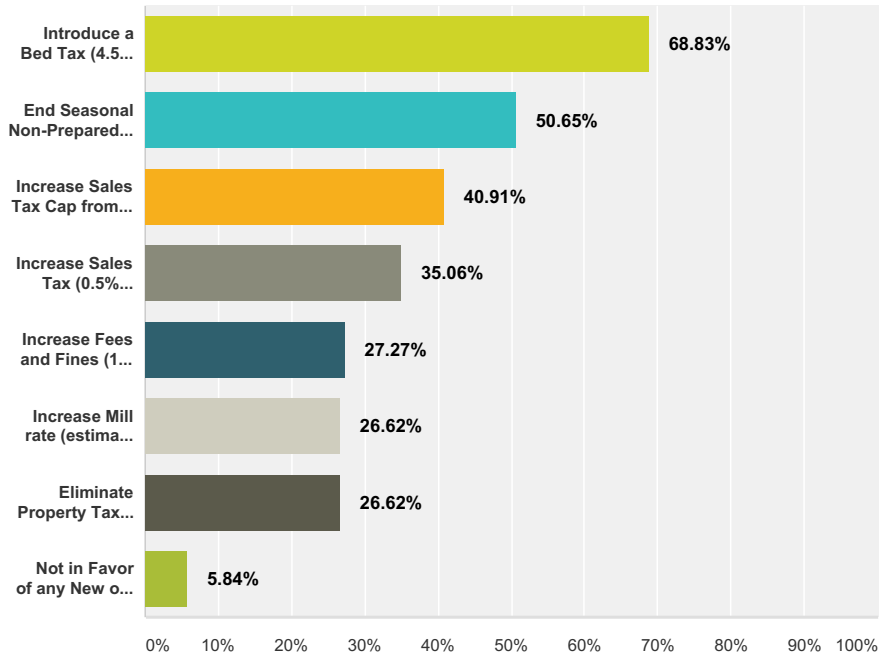
Answer Choices	Responses
Boards & Commissions (used to collect the public input)	58.06% 90
Planning & Zoning	52.90% 82
City Administration	47.74% 74
Economic Development	45.16% 70
City Support of Non-Profits (The Pratt Museum, The Homer Chamber of Commerce, The Homer Foundation, South Peninsula Haven House, Homer Hockey Association)	45.16% 70
Summer Road Maintenance	31.61% 49
Animal Shelter	25.16% 39
Library	21.29% 33

Parks & Recreation	18.06%	28
Other (please specify)	14.84%	23
Airport	12.90%	20
Police & Public Safety	9.03%	14
Winter Road Maintenance	5.16%	8
Fire & EMS	4.52%	7
Total Respondents: 155		

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Kenai Peninsula Tourism and Marketing Council	7/29/2015 12:23 PM
2	Employee Benefit pkg	7/28/2015 9:44 PM
3	City workers pay checks.....should be voluntary	7/26/2015 9:17 AM
4	City workers pay checks.....should be voluntary	7/26/2015 9:16 AM
5	The Haven House should not be dependent on the City of Homer	7/26/2015 12:13 AM
6	Explore contracting police dispatch with troopers in Soldotna and use clerks only 8-5. Explore borough wide police and fire services.	7/25/2015 9:45 AM
7	I hate checking any of these boxes.	7/24/2015 12:53 PM
8	management with ur own money	7/23/2015 11:46 PM
9	refer to my list above	7/20/2015 5:30 PM
10	All should be reduced; there is not a single entity which is immune.	7/20/2015 4:59 PM
11	The above are all core services.	7/20/2015 12:52 PM
12	more affordable new public safety building	7/19/2015 9:53 AM
13	Do NOT take over the Hockey Rink or add any more structural projects to have to maintain!	7/18/2015 1:15 PM
14	city hall-non essential services	7/17/2015 6:55 PM
15	Less money into roads	7/17/2015 6:42 PM
16	More revenue, less cuts. We citizens should invest in the community.	7/17/2015 7:05 AM
17	money spent on new infrastructure buildings like the public safety building	7/16/2015 9:58 AM
18	615000 for new safty building (if you can't staff it why build it?)	7/15/2015 5:40 PM
19	personal use of city vehicles. Reduce travel & per diem budgets across the board in administration and all city departments	7/14/2015 10:54 PM
20	Non Profits, but try to hold the Pratt, as it is an income generator. The Foundation was formed in anticipation of this day.	7/14/2015 5:39 PM
21	small across the board cuts	7/14/2015 3:20 PM
22	Bunnell Street Art Gallery does not need public funding this is riidiculous	7/13/2015 3:12 PM
23	Outrageous expense of unnecessary new port office.	7/13/2015 1:58 PM

Q4 Correcting the deficit and keeping many Core Services operational will most likely require more than just cuts. Which of the following revenue streams would you support? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 154 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
Introduce a Bed Tax (4.5% Bed Tax would generate \$540,000)	68.83% 106
End Seasonal Non-Prepared Food Tax Holiday (estimated value \$850,000)	50.65% 78
Increase Sales Tax Cap from \$500 to \$1,000 (increase max sales tax from \$37.5 to \$75.00)	40.91% 63
Increase Sales Tax (0.5% increase would generate \$855,000)	35.06% 54
Increase Fees and Fines (100% increase would generate \$20,000)	27.27% 42
Increase Mill rate (estimated value \$660,000 per mill)	26.62% 41
Eliminate Property Tax Exemption on First \$20,000 for Primary Residence (estimated value \$100,000)	26.62% 41
Not in Favor of any New or Increased Revenue Streams	5.84% 9
Total Respondents: 154	

Q5 Please share any additional revenue-generating ideas.

Answered: 34 Skipped: 125

#	Responses	Date
1	This is an intelligent discussion for which I thank you. However, if it also includes the absurd and non-sustainable idea of a new public safety building, you will deserve the very angry responses that you will get. Even the money that is proposed now for its preparation is galling and counter-productive. Take it off the table before you ask for money.	7/28/2015 1:16 PM
2	A bed tax would be my first recommendation. It does not affect local residents, just tourists.	7/27/2015 5:50 PM
3	There are frequently large ships anchored off the Homer Spit. Obviously, they are here because of services being provided, even if that is just good anchorage. Do these ships pay any fees for anchoring in Kachemak Bay. If not, why not?	7/27/2015 10:20 AM
4	The city does nothing for for kids! Most of Homer is a bunch of kid haters ! The organization that runs the city, could care less about the youth in this area ! All they care about is feeding the dogs Mc Donald's and building new bench's on the spit! You got to have somewhere for the drunks coming out of the Salty Dog, to sober up! Nasty group of folks running the show! Building a new cop shop is right up the organizations alley. Boys and girls club.....? The organization is showing the youth of this town, How to sit on a bar stool, with your dog in the backseat ! Then they DUI them and label them dead beat youth. Great programs guys ! No wonder. Everyone calls Homer a little Nazi town! Or they lets just head down to the toilet ! I'm like huh? They say Homer ! Sorry for typos...on phone !	7/26/2015 9:17 AM
5	The city does nothing for for kids! Most of Homer is a bunch of kid haters ! The organization that runs the city, could care less about the youth in this area ! All they care about is feeding the dogs Mc Donald's and building new bench's on the spit! You got to have somewhere for the drunks coming out of the Salty Dog, to sober up! Nasty group of folks running the show! Building a new cop shop is right up the organizations alley. Boys and girls club.....? The organization is showing the youth of this town, How to sit on a bar stool, with your dog in the backseat ! Then they DUI them and label them dead beat youth. Great programs guys ! No wonder. Everyone calls Homer a little Nazi town! Or they lets just head down to the toilet ! I'm like huh? They say Homer ! Sorry for typos...on phone !	7/26/2015 9:16 AM
6	Stop all spending on the new public safety building! With money so tight this is an unnecessary expense.	7/25/2015 6:47 PM
7	Do what California cities were forced to do in the 1970's after Proposition 13: contract for expensive services with larger agencies. In every instance that I'm aware of, cities Outside that contracted for regionalized services ended up saving money and getting a higher level of service. Every town can't afford to have their own police and fire department. Having a borough wide police and fire service (or contracting with the state) would end up providing a higher level of service for less money. Each city can structure it's contract each contract period to the level of service they desire. A larger agency means more specialized services, better working conditions for employees and no duplication of management. I realize this would require changes with the borough or state. Alaska is proud of doing everything their own way but they really, really should spend more time studying what was happened Outside in the past and how these issues were handled in other places. Typically, when cities initially entered into contracts for these regionalized services, the larger agencies hired the City's existing personnel and rented or leased existing infrastructure. I'm sure you could get sample contracts from various jurisdictions that do this. Law enforcement and fire service require so much management and training that it only makes sense to have larger agencies handling bigger jurisdictions.	7/25/2015 9:45 AM
8	Install parking meters on the spit, just in front of the boardwalks. Use credit card meters for ease of use for visitors. City of Homer as a regulatory authority should be able to tax a portion of marijuana sales starting next year, although of course budget issue is NOW. It's an awful situation and I wish the City all the luck. Seems like we should be willing to pay for the services we demand; so increasing taxes, while painful and complaint-generating, is probably necessary!	7/24/2015 12:53 PM
9	As a Local Business in homer I now can't a forward my health care I have only ever made so much as I've seen property taxes go up and up and every thing else miss management of government taxing every one won't to spend some one else's money well I'm here to to u there is no more money u have drove people oug of homer with taxing thim more and more every year on property increase value this make no since in there budgeting we all have fix incomes .so u tell me who stoled and miss management ower way of life in homer	7/23/2015 11:46 PM
10	Economic development is a for-profit activity and should be the goal of banks, builders, and developers/land owners. If they think a department to assist with economic development should be maintained in the city administration, perhaps they should fund the position(s). Planning and Zoning is all that is needed in city administration. Maybe we should get a Fred Meyers?? Or a big box store? Too bad we spend most of our grocery and household money in Soldotna, as most residents do. We only purchase small items in Homer. Any large purchase is made in Soldotna.	7/23/2015 5:17 PM
11	Recreation service district	7/22/2015 8:35 PM

12	Introduce cannabis sales tax on all products purchased at cannabis retail stores, cultivation facilities, testing facilities, clubs, and manufacturing facilities no more than 7%. Talk to Shane Monroe about doing some basic research on potential cannabis sales in Homer/Anchor Point area. Bed tax is appropriate because it is a "luxury" tax. Do not tax people buying food. Have some common sense.	7/22/2015 5:01 PM
13	The city needs to take a look at where the money it has is going, more than it needs to find a new revenue stream. From what I can see, based on my experiences working for a city government, the City of Homer wastes a lot of the money it has.	7/22/2015 10:16 AM
14	I think the city should break away from the current economic model and begin a discussion about a full employment economy for the region. We need to move away from this free for all idea that anybody can make as much money as possible off of any resource and then think everything is going to trickle down and make everyone happy. Wages and jobs need to match the services we consider essential. A better thought out economic system wouldn't struggle so mightily with deficits and the cutting of essential services. We are just spinning our wheels if we keep thinking this economic model is working and that we keep trying to adjust to this model. We need to start thinking outside of the box. We think that maintaining the current economic structure takes precedent and is a justification to destroy our lands, seas, lakes and rivers, or chronically pollute the air, water, and soil. This false notion that economic competition is necessary and good for the economy is absurd. Economic competition creates unemployment and forces society to demand cheap goods and services which results in people being paid unlivable wages and our basic necessities polluted and destroyed. We need to change our economy to have a full employment ideal.	7/20/2015 9:43 PM
15	Similar to Shore Bird Festival- uses mostly volunteer labor and brings in a lot of tourist business. City could support non-profits who could sponsor events of interest to other Alaskans and increase tourism. More races, perhaps a marathon, paddleboard or kite-surfing contest? It looks like food taxes bring in a lot of income, so the more people shopping, the better!	7/20/2015 6:53 PM
16	I propose defining a specific ratio; for every \$X.00 of proposed increase of revenue, there would be a \$Y.00 of reduction of spending.	7/20/2015 4:59 PM
17	The city has been running on a very conservative budget for too many years and I'm very concerned that the reserves are not being funded.	7/20/2015 2:16 PM
18	Lobby for sustainable Municipal Revenue Sharing	7/20/2015 12:52 PM
19	Pass a bed tax contingent on a borough wide bed tax. If Homer does this, perhaps the borough mayor will allow a vote on a borough wide bed tax. Get the borough and state to get rid of the senior citizen property tax exemption. Non profits in the central business district should contribute to property taxes. Stop giving away library services to non city residents.	7/19/2015 9:35 PM
20	Stop wasting money on things like: fancy public restrooms, new public safety building, attorney fees (like the gas assessment scam for condos), new offices for city employees (city manager for example),	7/19/2015 3:49 PM
21	is there a property tax exemption for seniors?-- that could be lowered. User fees for parks/recreation services and facilities, perhaps library card and/or internet fees to help support the library, what about airport-user taxes to help pay for the airport? As a nonresident I support taxes and fees that are shared by users who live outside city limits--NOT taxing food however, that is too regressive, a general sales tax increase would be better.	7/19/2015 9:53 AM
22	Increase the Library membership fee. Increase camping fees within city limits. Do not cut the animal shelter. Mahatma Gandhi — 'The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.' Tourism is a large part of Homer revenues. How we LOOK to visitors is very important!! How we treat our PETS is an integral part of how we LOOK to outsiders. Clean up the poop on Bishop's Beach and get some enforcement down there. All it takes is a little enforcement regarding the few who spoil it for others (seasonal enforcement - summertime - would be effective) and we won't need a stupid gate. Again, what are we saying to visitors when we start putting up gates?!!	7/18/2015 1:15 PM
23	Get on the marajuna issue. That revenue stream would plug some holes . Colorado sells small amounts to tourists . Make the tax more ...for non resident sales .	7/18/2015 1:05 PM
24	Can we tax residents and non residents differently. I am not sure that is constitutional, but I do not feel like summer residents are putting in a fair share but they reap the benefits.	7/18/2015 1:00 PM
25	raise taxes on the people who only summer here and dont live here year around. tax more on the junk food like mcdonalds,	7/17/2015 6:55 PM
26	Fees and fines for dog poop, for dogs off leash in leash areas, for driving on beaches, for littering. Fines for breaking zoning laws that are in place... Enforcement needed	7/17/2015 6:42 PM
27	Casino! Brown Bear Hockey games. Oilers baseball games. Drawings for LOCALS ONLY to win charters, dinners, lunches, shopping gift certificates. Pull tabs. SCRATCH TICKETS.....a REAL BINGO HALL. Dog Shows. Horse and buggy rides all year round.	7/17/2015 6:22 PM

28	I am one of the many residents "across the Bay" who keeps a vehicle in Homer. I would love to park on the Spit in the summer time, and possibly year-round, but I don't do so because the cost of a permit (\$70/month when I asked last summer) is prohibitive. For \$30/month I can park elsewhere in a secure lot. Even factoring in the cost of a couple of cab rides/month between the Spit and my vehicle, it still doesn't pencil out to park on the Spit. If the permit cost were lower - say, \$30 - \$40/month - I'd be more inclined to purchase one. I am sure I am not the only person who feels this way. This may well be a case where you can generate more revenue by lowering your prices. In terms of property tax exemptions, exemptions should be given on the lower end of property values, not the higher end. This way the people who really need the exemptions (and are more likely to spend those savings) benefit the most. Exemption caps should be placed on higher-value properties. This generates more revenue and doesn't place a greater burden on lower-income people.	7/17/2015 3:26 PM
29	Anchor Point seems to rely on the KPB and/or State for essential services like fire, ems, law enforcement, road maintenance. And private company for water. Can't Homer do the same?	7/17/2015 10:26 AM
30	The citizens of Homer and those who use Homer's infrastructure need to be educated about the importance of citizen participation/investment in their communities.	7/17/2015 7:05 AM
31	I am not a home owner, and I don't live within Homer city limits, but I feel obligated to pay my fair share of taxes in order to support the services I benefit from. This is why I support increases on sales taxes and not property taxes. Everyone should pay, not just Homer property owners.	7/16/2015 11:14 PM
32	cut Chamber of Commerce city funding	7/16/2015 6:44 PM
33	The city of Homer needs to work within their budget and take care of its residents. The city library should be for residents only. Outsiders should pay for city services. The new city toilets show just how out of control the priorities are for city spending.	7/16/2015 6:13 PM
34	Homer is a special place people flock to because of the support of non-profits and volunteers. I would hate to see those cut even more, they help support our communities, visitors and the summer months and especially schools.	7/16/2015 12:17 PM

Q5 Please share any additional revenue-generating ideas.

Answered: 57 Skipped: 81

#	Responses	Date
1	End funding of all non-profits, close the HERC, only do grounds maint on essential areas, tax on rvs and luxury campers	7/16/2015 10:11 AM
2	Increase water and sewer rates. Include motor homes and campers in the bed tax.	7/16/2015 10:08 AM
3	Have the borough take over Fire and EMS.	7/16/2015 9:16 AM
4	Funding to Haven House is an essential service and should be considered a part of public safety, rather than being grouped with other non-profits.	7/16/2015 9:12 AM
5	Just because the Port / Harbor and Water / Sewer departments generate revenue does not mean that those budgets should not be examined for potential reduction in spending. Belt-tightening should happen in all departments. These are difficult times, so everything should be on the table. The City has been neglecting its duty to provide thorough oversight of the Harbor budget for too long. It is treated like an independent entity; but the City holds all the liability. We can find ways to cut a bit in that budget just like all the others.	7/15/2015 7:56 PM
6	sell fish scraps as fuel and fertilizer instead of dumping into bay	7/15/2015 5:40 PM
7	tax air charters	7/15/2015 12:53 PM
8	I would support an increase in property taxes ONLY IF the unwarranted "exemptions" are eliminated first (ie primarily the State-mandated Senior exemption, then possibly the Primary Res exemption. Everyone, including seniors, should have proportionate "skin" in this game and be pulling their weight. It is totally unreasonable to allow "representation without taxation" in the decision-making process of budgeting.	7/15/2015 12:30 PM
9	Create a summer Homer Spit tourism tax; "camp" tax	7/15/2015 2:49 AM
10	LET VERIZON IN! ANNEX THE OTHER SIDE OF EAST END ROAD.	7/14/2015 11:31 PM
11	find ways to attract businesses to Homer	7/14/2015 8:35 PM
12	back at least 2 marijuana retail sales outlets, 1 on spit 1 in town	7/14/2015 7:25 PM
13	whatever it takes to encourage more businesses to come in including oil industry	7/14/2015 7:19 PM
14	Keep pushing shop local. Besides retail our medical facilities are a great revenue generating asset.	7/14/2015 7:12 PM
15	Maybe save money by turning Fire/EMS over to the Borough	7/14/2015 6:14 PM
16	Combine KESA and Homer. I have never understood why there is 2 departments in this area.	7/14/2015 5:52 PM
17	tax the oil companies and large corporations significantly more for any operations in Kachemak Bay, Port & Harbor	7/14/2015 5:15 PM
18	Carefully scrutinize employee overtime costs.	7/14/2015 3:58 PM
19	bring in more cruise ships	7/14/2015 2:44 PM
20	service area for area wide services, sin tax, card for low income waiver of food sales tax	7/14/2015 1:39 PM
21	get the cannabis sales going... increase alcohol and tobacco taxes, get those cops to work... there is a real need to hand out more fines, esp. in 25mph zones when drivers are speeding and on the phone	7/14/2015 12:38 PM
22	If they're costing the city \$\$\$, send them home to their parents/adult children - with a shovel and a trash bag. Let the churches 'save' them.	7/14/2015 9:43 AM
23	decrease spending on a new mega public safety building	7/14/2015 9:36 AM
24	Sales tax on non food items	7/14/2015 12:29 AM
25	Charge non-residents for use of any city services: Library, animal shelter	7/13/2015 10:55 PM

26	Eliminate tax expections for churches & other religious groups	7/13/2015 9:31 PM
27	Change with current demands of the population, so it's win-win. Everyone is strapped for money and fish populations are declining. City folks want our nature fix, and a technology connection. Increased trails and "free" things to do; i.e. camping spots and parks bring more people into town. The Spit fills up now with campers; let's build something-with-a-view for more campers overlooking the Spit. Let's have a city-run internet access building with a \$5 per half hour rate and a slew of computers and plug-in spots for power and high speed internet. (This way the library is not overloaded with people just surfing for free... computers would be there for job seekers and low income locals.) Increased summer sales tax revenues would naturally increase if there were more people wanting to be here, having less hassle finding a place to park their homes-on-wheels, a nice view, and a good place to get Internet. We want to share the beauty here - let's make it easier for folks, and gently tap their wallets for their lodging / camping / food / electrical through service charges and taxes. It doesn't have to be a huge hit, just consistency and a larger collection base - fees can increase with cost of living over time, as they naturally do. The infusion can fund prioritized needs of city services, and the initial surplus can be treated like the PFD, invested and percentages drawn as needed, in a prioritized manner. We shouldn't treat the word "tax" like it's poison - it's a means for locals and visitors alike to enjoy and live well in this fine city.	7/13/2015 9:07 PM
28	Combine city fire and ems with KPB fire service.	7/13/2015 8:00 PM
29	Eliminate tax exemption for seniors, especially since they cause our community most cost	7/13/2015 7:12 PM
30	Special tax on alcohol, tobacco & cannabis to help pay for police/parks/recreation	7/13/2015 6:17 PM
31	Voluntary association. Send all residents a letter detailing the costs and budget shortfalls of all programs and services. Provide an opportunity for residents to donate money on a one-time or reoccurring basis to be used for specific programs and services that they value.	7/13/2015 5:22 PM
32	Annexation	7/13/2015 5:19 PM
33	There must first be significant conservation (cuts to administration budgets) before additional taxation should take place.	7/13/2015 4:56 PM
34	Enforcement of fines, violations of zoning, etc	7/13/2015 4:31 PM
35	increase reveun by encouraging businss the city of Homer doesnt encourage business not matter how many times they say it...start with letting Bayview Inn open back up and then let other business works and pay sales tax. quit building 30 million dollar buildings and dont let the mayor threaten us with no police or fire department if we dont agree to build a 30 million dollar building...get a grip	7/13/2015 3:12 PM
36	invest in developing Economic Development by increasing Chamber Budget as a farmer sows seeds to reap harvest Homer needs to invest in its future	7/13/2015 3:10 PM
37	Quit building buildings we don't need.....Harbormasters office, Library, public safety building. Wuit spending the peoples money like drunken sailors.	7/13/2015 2:30 PM
38	Could a tax be levied on Charter boats be or on their costumers?	7/13/2015 2:24 PM
39	Lease old, unused harbormaster building.	7/13/2015 1:58 PM
40	charge non-City residents for library use/cards.	7/13/2015 1:47 PM
41	Allow Fred Meyers or Wall Mart into the city. I hate the thought of this but a lot of Homer residents already shop these stores in the Kenai/Soldotna area and the tax revenues and jobs go to them, not us.	7/13/2015 1:45 PM
42	Lobby to keep municipal share dollars high.	7/13/2015 1:01 PM
43	Increase employee share of health benefits. Limit benefits to employee only, not whole family (or at least not without charging a substantial portion of the cost). DO NOT build, or continue to fund planning for, the public safety building. If the current building is not an option, look into re-purposing other areas and/or separating office, jail, gun range, etc facilities where they will fit - this does not have to be in a whole new Taj Mahal building. Require fiscal notes with each proposed ordinance - show what each ordinance will cost the city in terms of actual costs, increased staffing needs, economic harm, etc. Stop contracting out all our "plans"either employee staff that is capable of writing them, or find other methods to do citizen engagement besides making Agnew Beck rich.	7/13/2015 12:57 PM
44	none	7/13/2015 12:51 PM
45	n/a	7/13/2015 11:32 AM
46	x	7/13/2015 11:14 AM

47	tourism tax- would cover not just B&B, but all tourism related services	7/13/2015 10:59 AM
48	Other than cutting and increasing taxes unless you charge people to enter Homer or include the PH Funds into the General Fund there are very limited ways to increase the city's revenue. It is not placed to make money but to take care of the citizen desired infrastructure and wants	7/13/2015 10:56 AM
49	Let's be ready to go for the cannabis dispensaries. That will generate tourist traffic to Homer and the tax generated from the recreational and medical use of cannabis.	7/13/2015 10:51 AM
50	tax out of city residents for any city service (ex. library)	7/13/2015 10:47 AM
51	Would rather see non-profits rallying their own revenue rather than my tax dollars going to the chamber and other non-profits I don't want to support	7/13/2015 10:24 AM
52	cut the budget to what we can afford.	7/13/2015 9:59 AM
53	city run marijuana dispensary	7/13/2015 9:33 AM
54	Start charging fees for library services as it cost almost \$1 million dollars a year to operate. Charge different rates for city residents vs non city residents.	7/13/2015 8:34 AM
55	0	7/12/2015 7:52 AM
56	Stop spending, stop taxing	7/11/2015 5:47 AM
57	Start charging money for the Winter King Derby. Harbormaster tells me there's NO launch fee that weekend?! But I have to fork over \$20/day just to park my car in Kenai at the beach.	7/10/2015 11:09 PM

The City of Homer is currently facing a substantial fiscal deficit. This is one opportunity for you to share your prioritization of City-provided services and revenue. The Council will use this survey and public meetings to get the pulse of the community in preparing the 2016 budget.

Thank you for taking the time to participate.

* 1. Where do you live?

Homer City Limits

Kachemak City

Anchor Point

Diamond Ridge

Fritz Creek

Other _____

* 2. A Core Service is one that is vital to the health, safety, and strength of the Community. They tend to reflect large City investments, cannot be duplicated, and represent a large segment of the community. A Core Service is indispensable.

What services the City of Homer provides do you consider a Core Service or essential?

(Rank 1-13, 1 being most essential, 13 being least essential.)

(Port & Harbor and Water & Sewer are not included due to the self-sustaining nature of their operations)

- 5 Airport
- 12 Animal Shelter
- 9 Boards and Commissions (used to collect public input)
- 7 City Administration
- 8 Economic Development
- 2 Fire and EMS
- 6 Library
- 13 City Support of Non-Profits (The Pratt Museum, The Homer Chamber of Commerce, The Homer Foundation, South Peninsula Haven House, Homer Hockey Association)
- 11 Parks and Recreation
- 10 Planning and Zoning
- 1 Police and Public Safety
- 3 Winter Road Maintenance
- 4 Summer Road Maintenance

3. The City has already made spending cuts for 2015. Further cuts will be required to correct the deficit. What City provided services would you recommend reducing?

(check all that apply)

- Airport
- Animal Shelter
- Boards & Commissions (used to collect the public input)
- City Administration
- Economic Development
- Fire & EMS
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- Parks & Recreation
- Planning & Zoning
- Police & Public Safety
- Summer Road Maintenance
- Winter Road Maintenance
- Other (please specify)

may have to all to meet revenue

4. Correcting the deficit and keeping many Core Services operational will most likely require more than just cuts. Which of the following revenue streams would you support?

(Check all that apply)

- Increase Mill rate (estimated value \$660,000 per mill)
- Introduce a Bed Tax (4.5% Bed Tax would generate \$540,000)
- Increase Sales Tax Cap from \$500 to \$1,000 (increase max sales tax from \$37.5 to \$75.00)
- End Seasonal Non-Prepared Food Tax Holiday (estimated value \$850,000)
- Increase Fees and Fines (100% increase would generate \$20,000)
- Increase Sales Tax (0.5% increase would generate \$855,000)
- Eliminate Property Tax Exemption on First \$20,000 for Primary Residence (estimated value \$100,000)
- Not in Favor of any New or Increased Revenue Streams

5. Please share any additional revenue-generating ideas.

Support tourism & visitors to bring in revenue to area.
Support business to bring in jobs & revenue
Quit being anti-business with regulations and zoning.
Do not take more money from people — support money to the people and reduce the roll of government — we don't need all the gov. we have.
Reduce the benefits package for employees — it is unsustainable.

Closing the Gap: City of Homer

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- Winter Road Maintenance
- Other (please specify)

Cut all areas a percentage

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- Not in Favor of any New or Increased Revenue Streams

5. Please share any additional revenue-generating ideas.

Support the fishing hole and ice rink
to bring in visitors,

Sell the city to bring in businesses and
people. Don't tell people it is too expensive
to live here!!

Quit hassling people who try to build a
house or ~~business~~ business in the city
limiting, forcing them to build outside
the city.