

Session 15-28 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on September 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Mary E. Wythe at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: BURGESS, LEWIS, REYNOLDS, ROBERTS, VAN DYKE, ZAK

STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER
CITY CLERK JOHNSON
CITY ATTORNEY KLINKNER
CITY ATTORNEY WELLS (telephonic)
FINANCE DIRECTOR LI
LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON

The Council met for a Worksession from 4:00 p.m. to 4:49 p.m. to discuss Revenue Sources for General Fund. From 5:00 p.m. to 5:35 p.m. the Council met as a Committee of the Whole to discuss Revenues Sources for General Fund, Memorandum 15-153, from City Manager, Re: Status of Natural Gas HSAD Payments and Proposed Grace Period, and Consent and Regular Agenda Meeting items.

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

(Addition of items to or removing items from the agenda will be by unanimous consent of the Council. HCC 1.24.040.)

The following changes were made: **CONSENT AGENDA - Ordinance 15-33**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a Code Blue Grant From the State of Alaska in the Amount of \$95,500 and Appropriating the Required Local Match in the Amount of \$84,500 for Replacement of Medic 1 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. Burgess. Written documentation on grant award for Medic 1. **Resolution 15-080(S)**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Awarding the Sale of the Camp Fee Collection Cabin to Pam Fleming of Homer, Alaska, in the Amount of \$5,755 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** - Written public comments. **COMMITTEE REPORT** - Report from Vessel Haul-Out Task Force. **RESOLUTIONS - Resolution 15-081**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Confirming the Assessment Roll for Condominium Units in the Homer Natural

Gas Distribution Special Assessment District, and Establishing Delinquency, Penalty and Interest Provisions for Those Special Assessments. City Manager. Written public comments.

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

ZAK/ROBERTS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments of the public.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

(Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda at the request of a Councilmember.)

- A. Homer City Council unapproved Regular meeting minutes of August 24, 2015. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 15-147**, from Mayor, Re: Appointments of Councilmember Francie Roberts, Dr. Dorothy Sherwood, and Casey Moss to the Sustainable Animal Control Review Committee.
- C. **Memorandum 15-150**, from Assistant City Manager, Re: 2016-2021 CIP; FY 2017 Legislative Request Schedule Update.
- D. **Memorandum 15-153**, from City Manager, Re: Status of Natural Gas HSAD Payments and Proposed Grace Period.
- E. **Ordinance 15-32**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending Homer City Code 7.04.030, Traffic Fine Schedules, and Homer City Code 7.06.020, Use of Jake Brakes Prohibited, to Substitute a Generic Term for the Trademarked Term “Jake Brake,” and to Prohibit the Use of Improperly Muffled Engine Brakes. City Manager. Recommended

dates: Introduction September 14, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading September 28, 2015.

- F. **Ordinance 15-33**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a Code Blue Grant From the State of Alaska in the Amount of \$95,500 and Appropriating the Required Local Match in the Amount of \$84,500 for Replacement of Medic 1 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. Burgess. Recommended dates: Introduction September 14, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading September 28, 2015.
- G. **Ordinance 15-34**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a 2015 State Homeland Security Program Grant From the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) in the Amount of \$114,300 for a Backup Generator at the Homer Public Library and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommended dates: Introduction September 14, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading September 28, 2015.
- H. **Resolution 15-078**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Amending the Library Advisory Board Bylaws to Establish 5:30 p.m. as the Regular Meeting Time. City Clerk/Library Advisory Board. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 15-154 from Library Advisory Board as backup.

- I. **Resolution 15-079**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Awarding the Contract for Ambulance Billing Services to the Firm of Amerik Medical Billing, LLC of Lake Forest, California, in the Amount of 4.5% of Collections Deposited Into the Lockbox and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Moved to Resolutions.

- J. **Resolution 15-080**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Awarding the Sale of the Camp Fee Collection Cabin to Pam Fleming of Homer, Alaska, in the Amount of \$5,755 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Resolution 15-080(S), A Resolution of the Homer City Council Awarding the Sale of the Camp Fee Collection Cabin to Pam Fleming of Homer, Alaska, in the Amount of \$5,755 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 15-152 from Public Works Director as backup.

Item I, Resolution 15-079 was moved to Resolutions, Item B. Lewis.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the approval of the recommendations of the consent agenda as read.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

Mayor Wythe welcomed the Homer High School students in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS

- A. Borough Report
- B. Commissions/Board Reports:
 - 1. Library Advisory Board

Pat Brown, LAB Chair, expressed appreciation for the Homeland Security grant of \$114,300 for a generator for the library. It will save time and energy as the backup will prevent the system from shutting down and requiring several hours of personnel to fix it. Holly Brennan passed the IT certification which will relieve stress on IT allowing them to respond to urgent and timely matters. The Friends of the Homer Library purchased and donated picnic tables. Police and citizens' reports tell us that clearing the area allows people to enjoy the park, and provides a greater sense of comfort and ease. Police are now able to patrol the area and

people are taking walks and kids are riding bicycles. In the next weeks the Council will be barraged with money saving tips. The library is a key resource; it is not just a bunch of books in a building. The computer resources allow customers to move businesses forward by researching grants. Chair Brown will be meeting with Margaret Cisco of Assisted Technology of Alaska (ATLA) for people with disabilities. ATLA is looking at using the library as a test site for accessibility for impaired folks. Library Director Ann Dixon and the entire library staff have been patient and helpful to assist those needing resources.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission
 - a. Minutes of August 19, 2015
3. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Karin Marks, EDC Commissioner, reported the commission has focused their attention to the city budget and is looking at increasing the economy through development. They are reviewing Pioneer Avenue revitalization to include Adele Person who was instrumental in the revitalizing of Old Town. The commission is looking at new inventions and gathering information to create a comprehensive plan to market Homer and be ready for inquiries. The EDC welcomes suggestions the Council may have in formulating a marketing plan.

4. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

Bob Hartley, Port and Harbor Advisory Commissioner, reported a tremendous summer on the Spit with the most people ever seen there. At times there were 3,000 cars parked on a weekend. The commission heard public testimony supporting the construction of a pavilion in the old harbormaster building area. The general consensus is to look into providing the facility. It would be of great benefit to the visitors at the harbor. A report from the Vessel Haul-Out Task Force will follow. The commission has been discussing harbor rate increases for many months and is waiting for a report from Northern Economics that will provide guidelines on structuring rate increases to be fair and good public policy. On the Capital Improvement Plan wish list, the commission wants to continue work done to promote the East Boat Harbor and provide for a barge and moorage facility and haul-out on list. Those projects will add to the general economy. Spit parking is very crowded and sometimes

chaotic. The commission has asked the harbormaster to begin formulating a program to control the situation and develop revenue from parking. The first phase to be implemented next year will charge for parking trailers. We need to get a handle on it to make people more responsible. Last year there were 30 to 40 trailers impounded. The harbor has nine temporary employees and we could have used more.

The load and launch ramp will be closed September 15 to the end of December. The harbormaster will provide other provisions to move boats.

6. Cannabis Advisory Commission
 - a. Memorandum 15-151 from Cannabis Advisory Commission, Re: Recommendations on State Proposed Regulations Regarding Cannabis
 - b. Memorandum from Attorney Wells, Re: Proposed Comments Regarding State of Alaska Marijuana Regulations

Councilmember Burgess reported the CAC has been reviewing the draft State regulations for cannabis. The ABC Board has come out with proposed regulations with the last revision due in November. The CAC has offered the Council recommendations on their behalf. Many of the recommendations have been addressed by the ABC Board in previous rounds and updates. The CAC wishes to pass on elements still relevant to the ABC Board at the State level. Keeping municipal and borough control over Title 21 zoning enforcement codes is important. One of the big tenants of the federal government not intervening in states where cannabis is legal for recreational use is that we restrict access to minors and keep criminal elements out of the industry. The City Planner has recommended we follow drug free zone school setbacks, but the ABC Board is recommending less restrictive setbacks. Recommendations to pass on to the ABC Board include: defining brokerage facility, gifting, and objecting to regulations for zoning. At the September 28th or October 12th council meeting a resolution can be brought forward; the last opportunity for the Council to comment will be October 26th. The Council

authorized the City Manager to proceed with the recommendations from the CAC to the ABC Board.

C. AML Summer Legislative Conference Report by Councilmember Zak

Councilmember Zak reported the State is looking at their revenue needs and we are looking at our own. Citizens in the community are affected by both. The City will be having a public budget meeting on September 23rd and community participation will be helpful for the Council.

Representative Seaton will be holding another meeting in October to provide the State's budget information.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

A. **2016-2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND FY 2017 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS**

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

B. **Homer Natural Gas Special Assessment District – Condominium Assessments**

Mayor Wythe recused herself from discussion due to her standing conflict of interest with gas line related subjects. She passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts.

Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts opened the public hearing. In the absence of public testimony, Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts closed the public hearing and returned the gavel to Mayor Wythe.

Councilmember Lewis questioned Mayor Wythe's continued conflict of interest in the gas line since the gas line is completed.

City Attorney Klinkner advised the Council out of caution the Mayor was advised to recuse herself from gas line related matters. The premise for her recusal was her employment with Homer Electric Association who is a competitor for energy costs. The Mayor's recusal was when the Council was deciding if the city should have natural gas or not. Now we are dealing

with financing and the premise of conflict no longer applies. Attorney Klinkner advised that the Mayor should participate in future conversations.

Mayor Wythe expressed her disagreement with the attorney's opinion.

- C. **Ordinance 15-31**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2015 Operating Budget by Authorizing the Expenditure of \$150,000 for the Purchase of a New Dump Truck From the General Fund, Authorizing the Application of a Loan for Said Purchase, and Authorizing the City Manager To Execute All Appropriate Documents. Burgess. Introduction August 24, 2015, Public Hearing and Second Reading September 14, 2015.

Memorandums 15-125 and 15-135 from Public Works Superintendent as backup.

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

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 15-31 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- D. **Resolution 15-074(A)**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Amending the City of Homer Fee Schedule Under Sewer Rates. Mayor/City Council.

Memorandum 15-155 from Finance Director as backup.

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

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 15-074(A) by reading of title only.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS - SO MOVED.

BURGESS/ROBERTS – MOVED TO AMEND LINE 65 TO AMEND \$76.30 TO BE \$81.20 AND AMEND \$89.05 TO \$93.95.

The amendment will keep things in line with the rate structure and correct any errors.

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

Motion carried.

VOTE: (main motion as amended) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

A. City Manager’s Report

Letters of Support for Kachemak Bay State Park Trail Projects

Last year City Manager Wrede wrote a letter of support for Kachemak Bay State Parks to apply for a trail restoration project on the Saddle Trail through the Recreation Trail Grant (RTG) Program within AK State Parks. Phase 1 of the project is complete and the Park is requesting City support for another RTP grant to continue with Phase 2.

They are also requesting City support for a RTP Grant for the south end of the Moose Valley and Poot Peak Trails. I have included draft letters of support in the City Manager’s report and will forward them on to the local State Park office with your approval.

Update on the Natural Gas Special Assessment District (SAD)

Memo 15-153 includes updates relating to the status of payments on individual parcels and the proposed grace period for the assessment deadline. However, there are other items related to the Natural Gas HSAD I would like to update the Council on.

First Loan Payment to Borough

The City of Homer made a payment to the Borough on August 31 (\$205,836 in interest and \$4,094,163 in principal). This represented almost a third of the total amount due (\$12.3M) and probably our single largest payment as we were able to combine the assessments that had been paid to date, including many in full, the free main allowance and the payments on City lots. The City will likely make another payment towards principal once the first payments are collected in an effort to minimize the amount of interest the City accrues. The City of Homer has paid \$586,977 in interest so far for 2015. Outstanding balance as of August 31, 2015 is \$8,265,224.

Change in Due date of Loan Payments

I will be asking the Council to request the Borough to change the date our loan payments are due from April 1 every year to September 1. The City collects payment on July 1, it does not make sense for us to hold on to the payments for 10 months and pay interest on them. The Borough has been very agreeable to this change and I expect to have an Ordinance before you at the next meeting.

Low Income Deferrals that Come in After September 1

Ordinance 13-07(A)(S) outlining the procedure for low income deferrals states that applications for a low income deferral are due on the first due date of the assessment for the first year and by April 15 every subsequent year. September 14 is the last date for the Council to consider low income deferrals that were filed in a timely manner for 2015. Subsequent years low income deferrals are due by April 15th. However, Ordinance 13-07(A)(S), does allow the City to waive the requirement to file a timely application for good cause. There is no provision that says the applicant must be in good standing. Therefore, the Clerk's Office will continue to forward low income deferral requests to Council.

CERT Class

Chief Painter will be conducting a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class starting at the end of September. The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. See the attached flyer for more information.

Homer Public Library Staff Increasing Skills

Homer Public Library employee Holly Brennan passed her Comp TIA+ test in Anchorage and now is certified in many aspects of IT services at the library. This means that the library has someone on staff to troubleshoot and help with IT issues. Congrats Holly!

Janitor Request for Proposal (RFP)

In an attempt to see if privatizing janitorial services could save the City money, the City Council authorized an RFP for janitorial services. Superintendent Dan Gardner details results of the RFP in the attached memo. Combined with the cost the City would incur in penalties from the state (PERS) for terminating a class of employees, it would not be economical to privatize janitorial services. Public Works will fill the vacant janitor position permanently, that has been filled with a temporary hire all summer. Janitorial staff has not increased at the City in years, meanwhile we have acquired hundreds of square feet of space: new Library, City Hall, Port and Harbor building, etc. Public Works is committed to finding ways to help the current staff keep up, including considering reducing the level of service at facilities with less traffic, such as City Hall.

Homer Best Place to Retire in Alaska According to SmartAsset

According to a study funded by SmartAsset, a financial technology company, Homer is the number one place to retire in Alaska. SmartAsset ranked the cities with the most recreational and social opportunities for retirees. Their index factors in the number of recreation centers and retirement centers available to seniors as well as what percentage of the city's population they represent.

Beach Policy Memo

As a follow up to the conversation surrounding City of Homer Beach Policy and the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, City Attorney Klinkner has drafted the attached memo, regulation of motorized vehicles on beaches.

City Manager Koester reported the City made a \$4M payment to the Borough for the loan on the natural gas special assessment district. There is over \$12M that property owners will be paying back.

A Request for Proposals was issued for janitorial services and the proposals were not favorable. It would have cost more to privatize the services.

Premera Blue Cross is proposing a 10% increase for employee health insurance premiums.

B. Bid Report

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

A. City Attorney Report – August 2015

COMMITTEE REPORT

- A. Public Arts Committee
- B. Permanent Fund Committee
- C. Employee Committee Report
- D. Public Safety Building Review Committee
- E. Vessel Haul-Out Task Force

A written report was provided in the supplemental packet.

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. **Ordinance 15-23**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending Homer City Code 21.40.070, Requirements, Regarding Standards for Impervious Coverage in the Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District. Planning. Introduction June 29, 2015, Public Hearing July 27, 2015, Referred to Planning Commission, Second Reading September 14, 2015.

Memorandums 15-100 and 15-148 from City Planner as backup.

Motion on the floor from July 27th for the adoption of Ordinance 15-23 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion to postpone Second Reading to October 26th.

BURGESS/REYNOLDS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Memorandum 15-149**, from City Clerk, Re: Deferred Assessment for Lowe, Williams, Weeks, Prevost, Kratz, Gordon, and Bushell for the Homer Natural Gas Special Assessment District.

Councilmember Burgess requested a vote on the Mayor's conflict of interest on natural gas related issues.

Mayor Wythe passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts.

BURGESS/LEWIS - MOVED THAT MAYOR WYTHER DOES NOT HAVE A CONTINUING CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN DELIBERATIONS REGARDING HOMER NATURAL GAS SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS OR ADMINISTRATION THEREOF.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. LEWIS, BURGESS, ROBERTS, REYNOLDS, VAN DYKE
VOTE: NO. ZAK

Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tempore Roberts returned the gavel to Mayor Wythe.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the approval of the recommendations of Memorandum 15-149.

BURGESS/ROBERTS - SO MOVED.

There was discussion on Johnny Bushell requesting two deferrals. The Clerk's letter to the Bushell's indicated only one lot was allowed for deferral.

City Clerk Johnson clarified that a person is only eligible for deferral on the lot they reside on in a single-family dwelling. Blank lots are not eligible for deferral.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

- A. **Resolution 15-081**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Confirming the Assessment Roll for Condominium Units in the Homer Natural Gas Distribution Special Assessment District, and Establishing Delinquency, Penalty and Interest Provisions for Those Special Assessments. City Manager.

Resolution 15-081(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Confirming the Assessment Roll for Condominium Units in the Homer Natural Gas Distribution Special Assessment District, and Establishing Delinquency, Penalty and Interest Provisions for Those Special Assessments. City Manager.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 15-081.

ROBERTS/REYNOLDS - SO MOVED.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the substitute of Resolution 15-081(S).

LEWIS/REYNOLDS – SO MOVED.

Resolution 15-081 had a date specific for assessment payments. Resolution 15-081(S) removes the date specific when payments will be due. It is amended to allow City Manager Koester to set the assessment due date since we are waiting for information from the condominium owners' attorney.

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

Motion carried.

VOTE: (main motion as amended) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. **Resolution 15-079**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Awarding the Contract for Ambulance Billing Services to the Firm of Amerik Medical Billing, LLC of Lake Forest, California, in the Amount of 4.5% of Collections Deposited Into the Lockbox and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk.

Councilmember Burgess declared a conflict of interest since he was on the plan holders list for the RFP. There was no objection from the Council.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 15-079.

LEWIS/REYNOLDS – SO MOVED.

Councilmember Reynolds requested information on the bidders since the council packet did not include a bidder's list.

Finance Director Li reported a four-person committee comprised of the Deputy Clerk, and representatives from the Fire, IT, and Finance Departments reviewed the four proposals. All bids were similar. The fee structure and compliance were reviewed, along with customer service. Customer service and the fee structure were favorable for Amerik. Bidders fee structures ranged from 4.5% to 7% and Amerik was 4.5%. Although Amerik has not done business in Alaska, they have done business on the east and west coast.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Nancy Hillstrand, city resident, told Council they should be fearless and cut the budget. Cuts are going on in businesses and at the State. We need to live within our means and get back to where we were as a city. She asked that the Bridge Creek Watershed District be protected since water is the most precious thing we have here.

Guy Douglas, city resident, commented on the heavy truck traffic on Meadow Drive. His grandchildren visit him and their parents are afraid for their well-being. The Arno

Construction truck drivers are using their compression brakes and are very noisy. He requested a reduced speed limit for Meadow Drive.

Bill Oswald, city resident, commented on the beach policy. There was over 600 pages of testimony and opinions. The HPD says it can't enforce speeding traffic and loose dogs. He questioned the liability the City going to assume by providing access for public use for areas of private property.

Tom Zitzmann, city resident, commented on the delay on the beach policy. He supports the delay if the Council needs more time. He thanked Francie Roberts for her endless volunteer hours to the community. She has been on the council, worked as a meteorologist, is a teacher, and a legislator. He wished her good luck. He wished Councilmember Burgess good luck on his reelection and knows he too commits hours of volunteer service.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Klinkner had no comment.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Johnson announced absentee voting opens on September 21st and is available during regular office hours until the October 6th election.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Koester had no comment.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Wythe requested that City Clerk Johnson provide a tentative schedule regarding an election runoff and confirm the protocol for current seated candidates up for re-election. She requested a resolution at the next meeting to change the December meeting to Monday, December 7th instead of the 14th due to a conflict with her upcoming graduation for her master's degree. As to the discussion on sales tax driving sales out of town, she believes driving to Anchorage or Soldotna is more of a cultural behavior than to do with the sales tax structure in the City of Homer. If you drove to Soldotna to buy groceries the last four year you have paid sales tax since they never stopped collecting sales tax on food. People shop on Amazon to get items you cannot get here. There are more varieties to shop in Soldotna and Kenai. People drive to Anchorage to get away for the weekend. Mayor Wythe recognized city council candidates Donna Aderhold, Heath Smith, and Joni Wise in the audience.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Roberts welcomed the high school students from the government class. She thanked Councilmember Zak for his report and for representing the City at AML.

Councilmember Zak commented it was a pleasure to attend the AML conference and is so important for the City of Homer to be represented at AML. He thanked the commissioners for their reports. The commissions are gaining a tremendous amount of momentum and the Council appreciates and values their input. The EDC is looking proactively at long-term suggestions; the system is working well.

Councilmember Van Dyke thanked everyone that showed up including the candidates and the commissioners. Without the commissioners' tireless work the Council's job would be a pain.

Councilmember Reynolds thanked the commissioners for their volunteer time. The Homer Volunteer Fire Department will have a 12K rescue run on Saturday from the fire hall to the new Skyline Fire Station. Since the last meeting she has realized that she is proud to be in Homer and to see what a great place it is. The Council works hard to support the infrastructure so the Homeric Market Traders were able to garner a \$50,000 grant as a small business incubator. They have put a lot of work in the business and are on good track. Many local businesses are trying to flourish. She attended the MAPP meeting where the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership brought three people from Anchorage to see how we are collaborating with nonprofits to share resources and strengthen the community. They are looking to us as leading the way. When working on minutes at work today, it boggles her mind the job that Jo and Melissa do in capturing everything so succinctly and managing to get everything right.

Councilmember Burgess commented it was a great and good meeting. We heard from people on why we are delaying the beach policy. Council will definitely get to the issue and will have something forthcoming; we don't intend to disregard the work the task force did on it. On the budget people are debating things and say the choices are between big corporate government and raising taxes. But the choice is really between core city services and raising revenues. If you want police, fire, EMS, port and harbor, and roads maintained at current levels he doesn't see a way without raising revenues. It is not a popular viewpoint but we need to be genuine with the facts. He heard there was vandalism at the burning basket over the weekend. This is an important cathartic event and people put a lot of hard work and effort into it. He asked those people involved in the vandalism to come forward and apologize. It is sad to think of this taking place in Homer.

Councilmember Lewis referenced Resolution 15-081 so people can look up what each condominium will be assessed for natural gas as compared to the private homeowner. Since 2008 he has been on the Council and we have been cutting the budget. We are now at the

point where you can't cut any more without cutting muscle and bone. When you vote think about Proposition 1 and what it means across the whole peninsula. Think about what you are allowing people that live outside a municipality to tell the people that are living inside the municipality. We now have seven boys playing on the hockey comp phantom team out of Kenai. They have beaten out Kenai players to be on the team. Five girls are playing on the U-6 team out of Kenai and last year they made it to nationals.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, September 28, 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.

JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: _____