

Session 18-17 a Special Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on July 2, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. by Mayor Bryan Zak at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: ADERHOLD, ERICKSON, LORD, SMITH, STROOZAS, VENUTI

STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

The following change was made: **Resolution 18-059**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Requesting the Alaska Board of Fish to Consider the Topic of Salmon Enhancement in Prince William Sound at the Regularly Scheduled Fall Meeting Instead of the July 17, 2018 Special Meeting. Erickson/Smith.

Written Public Comments.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Ron Keffer, city resident, commented in opposition to Resolution 18-059 noting procedural and substantive issues with the resolution and the process in bringing it forward.

Jack Cushing, city resident, commented it's in the Councils purview to address regional issues but expressed his disagreement with scheduling a special meeting on short notice.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Resolution 18-059**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Requesting the Alaska Board of Fish to Consider the Topic of Salmon Enhancement in Prince William Sound at the Regularly Scheduled Fall Meeting Instead of the July 17, 2018 Special Meeting. Erickson/Smith.

SMITH/ERICKSON MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 18-059 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY

Councilmember Aderhold raised the issue of potential conflict of interest for Councilmember Erickson or her direct family members if this resolution passes and if the Board of Fish listen to the resolution and not include it on their July emergency meeting agenda.

Councilmember Erickson deferred to City Manager Koester who explained Council has to decide on conflict of interest and that transparency is always paramount, and noted a conversation with the City Attorney on this topic that this resolution itself is not the decision making point on this issue.

Mayor Zak ruled that Councilmember Erickson does not have a conflict of interest.

Councilmember Aderhold requested Councilmember Erickson disclose the potential interest as that's the transparent method to take.

Councilmember Erickson explained her brother in law and his three sons are fishermen in Prince William Sound and she gets no financial gain from them. Her son is a wheel netter and is getting out the industry, so there would be no gain there either.

No further issues were raised and discussion ensued.

Councilmember Smith agreed the the timing isn't great but the comment period ends July 9th and to be responsive to constituents who brought this to him, it has to happen now and not later. There is no public comment at the Board of Fish meeting but they do receive written comment. He shared a brief history of the Solomon Gulch Hatchery permit amendment request and its challenges, and how at the 12th hour there are groups trying to circumvent a process that's already taken place.

Councilmember Lord agrees it's a process issue and is opposed to the resolution because the Board of Fisheries has a process by which they determine emergency petitions. It happens where they have emergency situations and petitions. The hatchery issue is huge, and the Board will take it up as part of their ongoing discussion at their scheduled meetings. She would likely oppose this regardless of the timing because it's the Board of Fisheries going through their process of determine whether or not they find the emergency consideration valid. She agrees it's reasonable and appropriate to weigh in all sorts of issues that affect our community, but she isn't willing to weigh in on the established process of another group working to managing our fisheries.

Councilmember Aderhold also opposes the resolution noting the the blanket statement commercial fishing is a vital part of the Homer economy, which she agrees with, but there are a lot of commercial fishermen who rely on wild fish fisheries and increasing hatchery fish has the potential to harm the wild stocks. She also agrees with Councilmember Lord's comments.

Councilmember Venuti comes from a fishing family and understands some of the changes that have happened in fisheries because of the data that's coming through. There are concerns out

there about the impacts of the pink salmon on the eggs of other fish. She supports wild salmon and trusts the biologists and their data, and that the Board will listen. She does not support the resolution.

Council continued discussion sharing concerns and reiterating similar points in support and in opposition to Resolution 18-059.

VOTE: YES: SMITH, STROOZAS, ERICKSON

NO: VENUTI, ADERHOLD, LORD

Mayor Zak voted no to break the tie.

Motion failed.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Tom Zitzmann, city resident, noted the discussion regarding process and that it's ironic that Councilmembers can skip a meeting, appearing to thwart the ability of the public to address an LGBTQ issue, but when convenient be very interested in process. He encouraged honoring the process, and the commitment to the people.

Steve Gibson, city resident, has no vested interest in the fishery, but does have interest in this process. He note it wasn't great attention to process when three people abdicate coming to a meeting where LGBTQ were to be discussed, but then an emergency meeting is suddenly called to discuss this issue today. This encourages divisiveness.

Jack Cushing, city resident, noted when dip netting for reds across the bay when someone lands a pink you have to release them immediately. When they are netted the general thought is "I hope they don't take over the stream". It's a local fishery that stands to be impacted.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Zak adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, July 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. and a Special Meeting July 2, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: _____