

Session 19-03 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on January 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Ken Castner 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 (telephonic), ERICKSON, LORD, SMITH, STROOZAS, VENUTI

**STAFF:** CITY MANAGER KOESTER  
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN  
HARBORMASTER HAWKINS  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MEYER  
CITY ATTORNEY WELLS

Council met for a Special Meeting at 4:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole 5:00 p.m. to discuss the HERC community conversation and Resolution 19-007 in Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

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 2.08.040.)

The following changes were made: **VISITORS** Opioid Task Force Quarterly Update – Copy of presentation slides; **ORDINANCES Substitute Ordinance 19-07(S)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2019 Capital Budget by Appropriating FY2019 Community Assistance in the Amount of \$177,172.05 from the Police Station Fund to Set Free Alaska for the Purpose of Securing Matching Funds to Establish an Addiction Treatment Center in Homer. Smith/Erickson, Letters of Support; **CITY MANAGER’S REPORT** Thank you letter from Homer Council on the Arts; **RESOLUTIONS Substitute Resolution 19-007(S)**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Establishing a Transportation Advisory Task Force with the Expressed Purpose of Advising the Advisory Planning Commission on the Homer Area Transportation Plan. Erickson; Amend item 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS Item B to City Attorney Report.

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

### **MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

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

## 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 January 14, 2019. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 19-012** from Mayor Re: Reappointment of Mark Zeiset and Steve Zimmerman to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission. Recommend approval.
- C. **Memorandum 19-013** from City Clerk Re: Liquor License Renewal for the Kannery Grill. Recommend approval.
- D. **Memorandum 19-014** from Homer City Council Re: Planning Commission Review of Updates to Homer Transportation Plan. Recommend approval.
- E. **Memorandum 19-015** from Mayor Appointing Councilmember Aderhold to the KPB Election Stakeholder's Group. Recommend approval.
- F. **Memorandum 19-016** from Councilmembers Smith and Erickson Re: Planning Commission Review of Regulatory Requirements for Flood Elevation on the Homer Spit. Recommend approval.
- G. **Memorandum 19-017** from City Clerk Re: Vacation of a Portion of Eric Lane right-of-way West of West Hill Road as dedicated on Lillian Walli Estate Plat HM 88-16. Recommend approval.

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda and recommendations into the record.

Mayor Castner asked for a motion for the approval of the recommendations of the consent agenda as read.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

## **VISITORS**

### **A. Opioid Task Force Quarterly Update (10 minutes)**

Stephanie Stillwell, facilitator of the South Kenai Peninsula (SKP) Opioid Task Force, addressed the SKP Roadmap for Success in Treatment and Recovery from Substance Use Disorder. In 2017 the group assessed what services were available and identified gaps in services including no detox facility on the peninsula, no residential treatment facility, limited recovery efforts and 12 step programs, limited accessible treatment services for addiction, and no sober living or peer support services. She reported some of those gaps have been filled over these two years that include:

- A detox facility available through Central Peninsula Care Transitions
- Full time services are now available through CICADA
- Expanded services through Ninilchik Traditional Council Clinic including Peer Support Staff and an office in Homer
- Expanded services through South Peninsula Hospital including medication assisted treatment for pregnant women, and medication assisted treatment in the emergency department
- Improved relationships between law enforcement and treatment services
- Growth with all the agencies that have been engaged with the Task Force
- Peer Support and Recovery Groups
  - including NA and AA groups,
  - Parent to Parent Support Group,
  - Fit to Recover Program,
  - The syringe exchange program

Ms. Stillwell reported there will be a Peer Support Training in April and May and the Task Force continues to work on prevention efforts. They are continuing the community conversation, and events and outreach efforts to de-stigmatize addiction and recovery.

### **B. Set Free Alaska, Substance Abuse Treatment (10 minutes)**

Philip Licht, Executive Director of Set Free Alaska, shared a success story of four men who participated in and graduated from an 18 month intensive program with over a year of sobriety, they were all employed, and through the program were able to get their driver's licenses back and become productive members of the community. He explained Set Free

Alaska is a Christian program and their vision is Freedom from Addiction. They have a belief that everyone is valuable, they have incredible worth, and they have something to give this world, and the program champions them in the road to recovery. Their program services all individuals regardless of their belief system, gender, and age, through evidence based, best practice means.

Mr. Licht provided an overview of Set Free Alaska's program in the Valley where they have an outpatient adult counseling program that serves about 130 people, and a 16 bed women's residential facility that serves women with children and/or women who are pregnant. They have a children's behavioral health program for kids who have are struggling because of traumatic experiences and treat them to the end of prevention because they are at high risk to become substance abusers later in life. There are around 50 kids in that program. They have 45 to 50 professional staff members and peers that include seven graduated clients who are in recovery and have been hired and give back to the program. They've been certified by the State since 2010 and he shared the statistics of the positive results and success with their program, which are significantly and statistically greater than the statewide average for outpatient and residential treatment services. Initially the thought for Homer was sober support and outpatient but after receiving feedback from the Task Force, providers and the community, the real need is residential services and the majority of the clients that are being referred are men. They have decided to move toward a men's residential facility and it's a project that is substantially more expensive to launch. Set Free Alaska submitted a proposal for a \$1.5 million grant and he feels they have a strong possibility to launch and sustain the program within one years' time. They have commitment of a \$400,000 donation towards a facility, a \$200,000 invitation for a grant to go toward the project, and are asking for consideration of the \$177,172 from the city. This will help leverage other funding toward the project and help show the State there is a local match. This will bring money into the local economy with the remodel, and bringing in staff. He noted the letters of support for the grant that were provided by local organizations.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/ COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Mayor Pro Tem Report on Committee of the Whole Discussion**

Councilmember Smith reported Council discussed the HERC community conversation that was held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and Resolution 19-006 regarding requesting letters of interest from potential users.

### **B. Councilmember Report on Worksession Discussion (when applicable)**

Mayor Castner reported there was a Special Meeting scheduled instead of a worksession. There was no action taken to go into executive session and it was rescheduled to their next meeting to allow for better notification of the topics to be addressed.

C. Borough Report

Kelly Cooper, Borough Assembly Member, reported the Governor introduced legislation that pulls back the one time appropriation of \$20 million to public education, which equates to \$1.4 million for the Borough. She encouraged people to look at the information on the website and reach out to legislators. The assembly has appropriated \$425,000 for the design and replacement of the boiler plant at Homer High School, and people should expect to see additional things come up to be replaced at these aging buildings. They approved the lease purchase of two diagnostic ultra sound machines for South Peninsula Hospital funded through the SPH Service Area Capital Project fund, entered into agreement to ask for an extension for the Kachemak Silo school project, appropriated \$450,000 for earthquake response and repairs, and are participating in AML working group to establish a centralized sales tax administrator for online sellers. The assembly introduce ordinances to appropriate \$2,322,000 for phase II closure of the Homer Landfill, and to adopt the 2018 Homer Comprehensive Plan. They accepted the final installment of \$75,000 from the Tesoro Foundation Grant for their Public Safety Communication Center. She and Assembly Member Smalley have introduced an ordinance to enact local provisions for the protection of whistleblowers. The Assembly established the Borough's 2019 State Capital Project Priorities for road projects allowing them to apply for grants to supplement road projects, and established Capital Project Priorities for Public Safety. Their number one priority is the self-contained breathing apparatus for all borough and municipal fire department volunteers, and that includes the City of Homer.

There was brief discussion about the age of the roof at the high school and that the City had a section in code regarding whistle blowers.

D. Commissions/Board/Committee Reports (5 minute limit per report)

1. Library Advisory Board

Kate Finn, Library Advisory Boardmember reported the Board hasn't met since her last report and gave an overview of upcoming events at the library.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission

3. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Karin Marks, Economic Development Advisory Commission Chair, reported the Commission continues their work on wayfinding, streetscape, and walkability. Now that there is discussion on the Transportation Plan which correlates with what the Commission is talking about, they are looking at trying to bring other interested parties into the discussion and trying to figure out how to consolidate this and do it in a workable form to have a chance to vet some of the ideas before they bring them to Council.

4. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Dave Lewis, Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commissioner, reported the Commission met on January 17<sup>th</sup> and discussed the Ben Walter's Park Celebration scheduled for Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., hosting the March 29<sup>th</sup> Native Youth Olympics, the RFP for Art for the Police Station Project, and donation of a bench to the City.

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

Steve Zimmerman, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Chair, reported at their last meeting the recommended a lease amendment for Alaska Custom Seafoods with conditions that the Commission and Council receive immediate notification from city administration when there is a problem, rather than trying to handle it in-house. They reviewed the Land Allocation Plan and recommend adding one small piece of property to be available for overslope development lease across from Lot 9A on Fish Dock Road. The Anchorage Boat Show is next month and the Marine Trades Association and the City participate in that, it's a great show and introduces Homer to people who haven't been here yet. He encouraged people to attend if they're in Anchorage.

6. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

Councilmember Aderhold report the committee hasn't met since her last report.

7. Attorney Report

City Attorney Wells provided a brief summary of legal work the firm has been doing for the last month including the Griswold matters, most recently Mr. Griswold's appeal of the Hearing Officer's decision granting and approving a conditional use permit on a local bike shop. They've been looking at the implications of a Federal District Court case involving Juneau and the imposition of use fees, and clarifying Homer City Code regarding public utilities, waste water and water systems, and how fees are assessed, to make it easier to understand and more user friendly.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

- A. **Ordinance 19-01**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2019 Capital Budget to Provide for Replacement of the Water Treatment Plant Chlorine Generation Cell by Appropriating Funds from the Water Reserve Fund in the Amount of \$23,600. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction January 14, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 28, 2019.

Memorandum 19-005 from Public Works Director as backup

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

Mayor Castner asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 19-01 for second and final reading.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- B. **Ordinance 19-02**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2019 Capital Budget to Provide for Rehabilitation of the Spit Fish Grinding Lift Station by Appropriating Funds from the Harbor Reserve Fund in the Amount of \$31,275. City Manager/Harbormaster. Introduction January 14, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 28, 2019.

Memorandum 19-006 from Public Works Director as backup

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

Mayor Castner asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 19-02 for second and final reading.

VENUTI /ERICKSON SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- C. **Ordinance 19-03**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2019 Revolving Energy Fund to Provide for Lighting Upgrades at Six City Buildings in the Amount of \$69,175. Stroozas. Introduction January 14, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 28, 2019.

Memorandum 19-007 from Public Works Director as backup

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

Mayor Castner asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 19-03 for second and final reading.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- D. **Ordinance 19-04**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Repealing Homer City Code Chapter 2.96, Civil Defense. Mayor. Introduction January 14, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 28, 2019.

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

Mayor Castner asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 19-04 for second and final reading.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.



- E. **Ordinance 19-05(A)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code 2.08.100-2.08.120 Regarding Telephonic Participation at Meetings. Erickson. Introduction January 14, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 28, 2019.

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

Mayor Castner asked for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 19-05(A) for second and final reading.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

Councilmember Lord commented briefly about the City of Soldotna's recent work on the same subject, only they were addressing increasing the amount of times they could teleconference, not reducing.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

### **ORDINANCE(S)**

- A. **Ordinance 19-06**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2019 Operating Budget to Fund Anticipated Repairs to the Seawall by Establishing Authority in the 2019 Budget for Emergency Repairs to the Seawall. City Manager. Recommended dates Introduction January 28, 2019, Second Reading and Public Hearing February 11, 2019.

Mayor Castner asked for a motion for the introduction of Ordinance 19-06 by reading of title.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- B. **Ordinance 19-07**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2019 Capital Budget by Appropriating FY2019 Community Assistance in the Amount of \$177,172.05 from the Police Station Fund to Set Free Alaska for the Purpose of Securing Matching Funds to Establish an Addiction Treatment Center in Homer. Smith/Erickson. Recommended dates Introduction January 28, 2019, Second Reading and Public Hearing February 11, 2019.

Letters of Support

**Ordinance 19-07(S)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY 2019 Capital Budget by Appropriating FY2019 Community Assistance in the Amount of \$177,172.05 from the Police Station Fund to Set Free Alaska for the Purpose of Securing Matching Funds to Establish an Addiction Treatment Center in Homer. Smith/Erickson.

LORD/ERICKSON MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 19-07

ERICKSON/SMITH MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 19-07(S) FOR 19-07

There was no discussion on the motion to substitute.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith shared that he toured the facility in the Valley and was impressed and thinks Mr. Licht laid out a compelling case here tonight with what they've done and continue to do. He thinks they have a great road forward coming to the community. He shared an experience where the parent of a young man who was struggling with methamphetamines was reaching out for help on what options might be for their son, and the tragic result of the son taking his life in front of the parent. He emphasized there are a lot of people struggling in our community and we need to have services available to assist in their recovery.

Councilmember Venuti commented she's had people approach her about this because there isn't any information about where the facility might be located. She agrees we need these services, but the not in my backyard attitude is real in our community, and she feels the Council needs to have a plan on how to address these concerns to help people allay their fears.

Councilmember Smith agreed that Homer is small and there's nowhere in the area that isn't in our back yard. Currently it exists in its worst form. Ms. Stillwell talked earlier about de-stigmatization, and they need to be in a safe space, where ever it is, we need to be accepting of the fact that we need to help these people.

Councilmember Erickson commented that Set Free Alaska is a professional organization with trained staff, people who know what they're doing, and where ever it is, it's going to be done right. That's the way we need to approach this. We want people to address their addiction and have families come back together. She supports this program.

Councilmember Lord added that we have planning and zoning, a Planning Commission, and regulations in place and standards that have to be met, and she is a believer in that process. To consider that it's not in your back yard in some form is a form of complete denial. It's out there and they are our neighbors. As a community we can't afford for people not to acknowledge it's a truth in our community.

Councilmember Aderhold commented another piece to this puzzle is having positive outlets in the community for people to do, and that's where our discussion around the HERC come in. She wants to make sure that if we're willing to put money toward this new facility that we're also willing to put City money toward our own building to create a safe and healthy place for people to congregate.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### A. City Manager's Report

Councilmember Lord shared her appreciation that the Alaska Clean Waters Action Grant was funded. She appreciates staffs work on it in a short amount of time.

### B. Bid Report

Question was raised regarding the bid report and City Clerk Jacobsen clarified this is an informational item.

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **Resolution 19-006**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Issuing a Request for Letters of Interest for Tenants to Occupy the Homer Education and Recreation Complex (HERC 1). Aderhold/Erickson.

Mayor Castner asked for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 19-006 by reading of title only.

ERICKSON/LORD SO MOVED

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO AMEND TO ADD A BULLET BETWEEN LINES 30 AND 31 THAT READS ABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE CITY OF HOMER COMMUNITY RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND OTHER POSSIBLE TENANTS.

There was brief discussion clarifying other tenants and that there may be more than one tenant besides Community Recreation as there are multiple entities who have expressed some level of interest.

STROOZAS/ERICKSON MOVED TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT TO SAY ALLOW FOR COMMUNITY RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

Councilmember Stroozas suggested this is a simpler and cleaner statement.

VOTE (secondary amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried

There was no further discussion on the amendment.

VOTE (primary amendment as amended): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion as amended.

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

Motion carried.

- B. **Resolution 19-007**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Establishing a Transportation Advisory Task Force with the Expressed Purpose of Advising the Advisory Planning Commission on the Homer Area Transportation Plan. Erickson.

ERICKSON/SMITH MOVED TO POSTPONE TO FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES: VENUTI, SMITH, ADERHOLD, LORD, STROOZAS, ERICKSON

Motion carried.

## **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Former Mayor Bryan Zak commented he's been travelling and it's great to be back, this is the best town in the world. He's been traveling around the South China Seas and visiting nations that don't have opioid addiction because they have been addressing the issue. When thinking about the root cause in our nation we need our legislators to deal with that. It's positive that we're addressing it in our community. We can address it here, but at some point how are we going to deal with the root cause issue in our nation.

Mark Edens, local pastor, shared about a call he received from a mother whose son has gone through several rehabilitations over the last few years, and is in trouble again, and asked what to do. He replied the best thing he knows is to send him to Wasilla where Set Free Alaska is. There's no better addiction free operation out there. He's known Philip Licht for some time and views him as a professional, as fiscally responsible, and someone who has an incredible record of seeing people free from addiction.

Larry Slone commented he doesn't know anyone he's aware of who's addicted, but will take on faith everyone's information about it being a social problem. He's curious about Mayor Zak's comments and how they deal with it in Asia. He suspects he's talking about the top end and the availability of drugs and those promoting it. If that's Mayor Zak's point then more emphasis needs to be put on stopping the introduction of drugs at the top end and more severe punishment for the pushers. It comes down to cost/analysis benefit and that has to be considered.

Michael Raymond commented he's worked in residential treatment facilities for 13-15 years in Minnesota and supervised one in Iowa. The numbers presented tonight about people getting through these treatment programs with success are pretty incredible. It really stands out to him that they hire some of the people on. He shared that he has three sons in school here and he's seen it first hand in the parks, at Safeway, and his nephew was poked by a needle stuck in a pull out couch at a hotel. It's very real and it is here. He knows the concern about people not wanting it in their back yard, but it is here in our back yards. He'd like to see the people sleeping in the woods in a place where they're receiving help.

Tom Hagen commented he's been involved in this process since April, and reiterated that the problem is here in our backyards. It's our kids, our moms, and our dads, no one is exempt. The in town aspect is important to consider because when you hit bottom, it's important that things are in walking distance. Addicts are already camping in town, why not have treatment and help available in town. Set Free has exhibited a remarkable ability to successfully do this. Let's bring help to where the problem is.

Jaclyn Rainwater commented on the importance of inpatient treatment. She has five years clean and sober, she went to five different treatment centers in Washington and Oregon, has been in the system a lot and got clean in a 16 month faith based treatment center. She remembers being 19 in Homer addicted to pills and meth and wanted to go to inpatient, but there was nothing in State. She shared about the importance of having a local facility where family can visit, and it's a blessing that there is inpatient in the MatSu Valley and hopefully here in Homer.

Philip Licht, Executive Director of Set Free Alaska, acknowledged they dealt the same issue in the MatSu where a majority was generally supportive, but there were some who they lovingly termed the loud minority, and their concerns are genuine. In the Valley he met with people individually and held a community meeting to allow people to come, ask questions, and share information. Usually its fears on the unknown, and information is really powerful. He's willing to do the same thing here. The best information to give is the program has 24 hour wake staff, full security cameras on the outside, and individuals are not free to come and go without staff presence.

Josh Garvey, city resident, thanked Council for considering supporting Set Free Alaska, he's excited about the prospect of getting help from such a professional outfit. There services are desperately needed and long overdue. He believes the funds being directed to Set Free Alaska will, in the long run, make it easier on our Police Department and reduce enforcement costs to the City overall. Personally it gives him a lot of hope that we'll now have a real solution for those who want help getting better. He shared how he and his family have made a point to minister to three young men as a part of an outreach, but that can only do so much. We need professional here to be part of a solution to the current crisis.

Kate Finn, city resident, said she's thrilled about the Set Free Alaska opportunity. She acknowledged Mayor Zak's comments and questioning of how we umbrella everything that supports healthy growing up, relationships, family, and community, so we don't end up having to have people who go into rehab, here or anywhere. She noted Assembly Member Cooper's comments about the reduction in education funding and she thinks we need to do whatever we can to lobby and to help our borough and city support the organizations and facilities that support women, children, and families.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

City Manager Wells reported earlier in the meeting.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Jacobsen had no comment.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Koester had no comment.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Castner thanked Council for their work tonight. He explained he's been working with Administration on the budget and looking at how money moves in the City. He looked into the natural gas line debt and reported on an issue he discovered. It was his understanding, as well as Representative Seaton, and City Administration that they gave an aid to construction to Enstar in the amount of \$2.5 million that was going to be paid back at \$1 per thousand cubic feet of gas. He spoke to John Simms, president of Enstar, and found out that an internal rate of return of 11.075% was added. In reviewing the City's files, this isn't something the City inadvertently agreed to, it was something the Regulatory Commission had approved prior to our getting involved in the gas business. He ensure everyone that this is being addressed and the City has expert legal counsel experienced in regulatory filings working to resolve this.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilmember Venuti thanked the Mayor for this information, and for the information he shared regarding New York's efforts to ban plastic. That is coming up here locally and she doesn't want people to forget about it.

Councilmember Smith thanked the Mayor for looking into the Enstar issue. He also thanked community members who came out and testified tonight, and Mr. Licht for his presentation.

Councilmember Lord also thanked everyone for testifying and everyone who's paying attention to what's happening in the City. Addiction is so challenging because it's a community social issue and also deeply personal. She appreciated Mr. Licht's comments about treatment for everyone, regardless of faith. It's important to remember that open service doesn't have to come from a secular place. She highlighted things going on and programs she's been participating in with her kids including skiing, ice skating, SPARK open gym, the pool, the library, Bay Club kids rock climbing, SPROUT activities, and PTA after school programs at Paul Banks.

Councilmember Erickson thanked Set Free Alaska and the Opioid Task Force for being here tonight. She recognized Aaron Weisser for his efforts in putting together the New Year's Eve Fireworks event. She said she enjoyed seeing the dogs come through for the Tustumena 200 race, and encouraged people get out and enjoy the upcoming Winter Carnival and other February events. She shared stories about her grandparents and winter carnival parade floats from the 1950's.

Councilmember Aderhold commented she prefers to be there in person, but she's at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Today was interesting and enlightening with keynote speakers

sharing information about the status of our oceans. Over the weekend she had the opportunity to attend and Alaska Common Ground Community Forum that was on the cost of Alaska's economic rollercoaster and she encouraged everyone to look up the information on their website. There were six diverse panelists and an economist from ICER. Key topics were on uncertainty, which is bad for investment and increases costs. We are in a very uncertain time in the State with the new administration and one thing the group had consensus on was the need for the State to have diverse revenue sources. The CEO of Northrim Bank was a panelist and said we need to be invested in the State we live in, we cannot rely on industry to pay for everything, and a quote was "All of Alaska Together." She encourage people to participate in the Big Read events and look at the Story Walk with the story boards of cartoons by Roz Chast.

Councilmember Stroozas thanked the Mayor for his work on the issue with Enstar. He thanked everyone who came to the Hospice spaghetti feed fundraiser on Saturday night, and thanked all the local merchants who contributed to the auction.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, February 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_