

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov (p) 907-235-8121 x2222 (f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager

DATE: April 3, 2019

SUBJECT: April 8 City Manager Report

Port Expansion Project Update: New Large Vessel Moorage Facility

With the positive results from the Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Study nearing completion, the Army Corps of Engineers require a letter of intent from the City requesting that they resume the 2004 general investigation for the Port expansion project in Homer. This formal request from the City will enable the Corps to ask that the project: (1) be accepted in their queue and (2) be introduced into their budget. At this time there are no financial commitments from the city with this request. However, when we move into this next phase of the study the city will have to commit to our share of the \$3 million dollar study cost. The original 2004 study was cost shared between 3 parties: 50% Corps, 25% City and 25% State. Work-in-Kind services provided by the City can be credited toward the City's share as long as those services occur after the agreement is signed and the study re-instated. The attached letter of intent will be resubmitted to the Army Corps of Engineers for 2019, allowing them to introduce and include the project in their upcoming budgeting process and re-engage with the state for the purpose of partnering and cost sharing on this very important project.

Kachemak Bay/ Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Update

The Kachemak Bay/Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area Plan update continues. Deputy Planner Engebretsen represents the City on this working group. Recent topics of discussion have included hazardous materials storage, such as fuel tanks on docks, and hatchery issues. The public has the opportunity to ask brief questions at the end of the meetings, but not to offer public comment. When a CHA plan is updated, public comments are solicited at specific times – unlike city business where people are invited to speak at any point along the way. When the draft plan is released, there will be a 30 day public comment. This allows everyone who wishes to comment the equal opportunity to participate. Very tentatively, the draft plan could be out in spring 2020.

Blue Line Awareness events a great success!

More than 100 adults, children and a few pets gathered at the Elks Lodge in Homer on Saturday, March 30 to run, walk, and learn about Homer's tsunami safe zone.

In true emergency preparedness fashion, the success was due to a whole community effort. I want to extend a big thanks to everyone who came out for the events, and to all who helped with the Blue Line events.

- Print Works and Homer Electric Association helped produce the blue line signs and maps;
- Red Cross and Salvation Army volunteers greeted participants with hot coffee and emergency preparedness materials at the Elks Lodge;

- Volunteers from Wells Fargo Bank, Friends of the Homer Public Library, City Council, Kenai Peninsula College, Cook Inlet Keeper and the community cheered and encouraged participants from several blue line stations along the route, and then stayed on at the stations after the run to introduce citizens to Homer's tsunami inundation maps;
- Ulmers, Nomar and Homer Saw & Cycle generously donated Grab & Go backpacks as raffle prizes;
 and
- Kachemak Bay Running Club and Homer Police Department helped keep everyone safe on the route.

Finally, when you see Wayne Aderhold out and about, please thank him for his enthusiastic planning and logistical contributions. In Wayne's words, thanks to everyone's efforts around the community, our citizens are now more aware of where they stand (literally!) and are better prepared for future warnings.

2018 4th Quarter Report

The fourth quarter financial report is completed in pre-audited status. There are a multitude of adjustments that are made during the audit process, so these reports should be viewed as preliminary until the audit is completed later this year.

The general fund fared well in 2018, primarily due to a bump in revenues and significant reductions in spending. There were a handful of positions that remained vacant through most of 2018 and this is one of the primary contributors to the decrease in expenditures (in comparison to the budget) for the general fund. Other factors include: conservative budget for liability insurance, snow removal, professional services and fuel/lube costs. All of these items are volatile and most are connected to seasonal fluctuations (ie. if winter is warm then fuel/lube and snow removal costs will be down).

The water and sewer fund finished 2018 close to its budgeted projections. There were some significant expenses that pulled the actuals above budget, but there were almost equal line items that came in under budget to offset the overages. These expenses included the ever increasing cost of chemicals for the water treatment plant and unexpected technical support to assist in the replacement of broken parts at the plant. There were also some management decisions made with the distribution of labor costs at the sewer plant, which explains the overage. However, this overage was offset within the sewer fund as the labor costs were redistributed.

The enterprise fund (Port and Harbor) basically broke even for 2018 in regards to actuals matching budgeted expectations. The revenue for the harbor is extremely volatile and that explains why some areas we are over-projecting and others we are under on. The primary over-budgeted items for harbor expenditures are electricity at the Fish Dock and the manner in which the bond payment is booked (this will be addressed during audit). These overages are almost equally offset by significant cost savings measures.

International City Manager Association (ICMA) Western Region Conference Trip Report

I had the privilege of attending the ICMA Western Region Conference in Reno, Nevada mid-March. The theme of the conference this year was innovation. I particularly enjoy this conference as it brings together City Manager's from across the west coast in an intimate (relative to the national conference where there are thousands of us!) setting that really allows for the exchange of ideas and best practices. These are the cities of California, Washington and Oregon and many of them have been able to move through issues that we are still struggling with. Ironically, a lot of the communities are dealing with the perils of prosperity with job growth outpacing housing (especially in the Silicon Valley area).

West Coast Leadership Meeting

As a board member of the Alaska Municipal Management Association, I attended the Western Region Leadership meeting where we discussed what measures different associations are taking on to grow the profession, support managers, and promote diversity. Seventy-eight percent of ICMA members who are chief executive officers are male and the average age is 56. The Alaska Association is working on a mentorship program and a new manager orientation to help forward these goals. As a state, we struggle with inexperienced members being thrown into a management role with little to no experience in small villages and towns.

Sessions on Innovation

The conference was structured to promote outside-the-box thinking and encourage organizations to promote creativity within employees through structured exercises, some of which I will be able to incorporate into staff meetings. Creating a culture of innovation can be as simple as awarding employees for innovation that improves services or reduces cost (for example, in 2018 we had a wastewater operator come up with innovative ways to reduce electricity consumption at pressure reduction stations which saved public dollars). It also can be incorporated into the evaluation process, asking employees what they did differently this year and what new ideas they have for the City.

ICMA staff Xavier Huges presented on how local government can effectively incorporate technology to solve problems and serve constituents. A couple of interesting examples were tiny robots that are geocoded and deposited into wastewater systems that are engineered to detect opioid levels in the wastewater. From this technology, public officials can determine where outbreaks of opioid abuse are highest and deploy public health resources. Another interesting use of technology was by police departments who use drones with cameras that auto deploy when gunshots are detected to survey the scene by camera, gathering evidence in the critical minutes right after a crime occurs. During the break out session, I had the opportunity to speak to the presenter about scaling innovation to a small community like Homer (where, thank goodness, we don't have a use for drones triggered by gunshot). One of his suggestions was to develop a gift authority in City Code where organizations could work with the city free of charge on emerging technology. He also suggested ways to use GIS data to visualize trends in the community that will help policy makers. These are initiatives that have so much potential, but take a tremendous amount of capacity and resources to get off the ground. I am hopeful that one day during my tenure we will be able to implement more technological resources to aid in: a) visually detecting trends and analyzing data and b) creating a more user friendly and transparent platform for managing the budget and sharing information with the public. These are goals that are not too far away, but first we have to focus on doing the basics really well before we improve upon them with innovations and technology upgrades.

Public Safety

With Police and Fire being core services many municipalities provide, there is always a session on public safety. Of course larger municipalities struggle with right sizing their force and developing formulas to aid in this – I don't need a formula to tell me that having 2 officers on at all times to provide backup is a goal we should be striving towards. Nevertheless, there is always good information shared like what level of training do we need in our EMS responders? (Hint: it should be based on the complexity of the calls). ICMA will be publishing a book on trends in volunteerism that I will be waiting for as we struggle with declining trends in volunteerism within HVFD.

Cannabis Lessons Learned from the West Coast

Another fascinating topic that west coast communities have experience in is the regulation of legal marijuana sales. I took copious notes here! Most of the communities regulate marijuana to a higher degree than Homer, which instead relies on the State to do most of the regulation and enforcement; this comes with significant costs in planning, permitting, and drug enforcement. It was common to have a limit on the number of facilities permitted as a matter of public policy. Managers cautioned that there is a tremendous amount of money in this business and to be prepared for every trick and maneuver for businesses to try and gain an edge. In some communities the pressure and lobbying on individual councilmembers became so intense that they had to remove Council from the decision making process. It will be interesting to see if that type of big business makes it to Alaska; as to date it seems that Homer's permits have been for more small scale operations. Nearly all communities had a separate tax that they levied on marijuana sales, and spent a fair amount of resources shutting down illegal operations (medical marijuana establishments that sold to the general public, for example). ICMA has some great resources on managing the emerging cannabis industry that I would be happy to share with Councilmembers if they are interested.

Of course some of the best conversations happen in the halls and after sessions as I get the opportunity to ask specific questions on how to give effective direction to support the leadership team, how to navigate incorporating more professional development and training, and what to look for in high-level positions to guarantee the right fit. I can't tell you how valuable gaining this sense of perspective and soaking up the advice of my colleagues is. I really appreciate Council supporting my attendance at professional conferences – it makes me a better manager, gives me perspective, and reinforces my role in your process and how I can help you achieve your goals. Thank you.

Enc:

April Employee Anniversaries Letter of Interest to Army Corps RE: Large Vessel Harbor Expansion Blue Line Photos 2018 4th Quarter Report CPV tax letter to KPB



Office of the City Manager 491 East Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Katie Koester DATE: April 8, 2019

April Employee Anniversaries SUBJECT:

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Joe Young,	Public Works	12	Years
Rick Pitta,	Police	10	Years
Travis Brown,	Port	7	Years
Erica Hollis,	Port	7	Years
Jean Hughes,	Public Works	4	Years
Jaclyn Arndt,	Fire	3	Years



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September 24, 2018

Alaska District Corps of Engineers ATTN: CEPOA-PM-C, Mr. Bruce Sexauer 2204 3rd Street (Bldg 2204) JBER, AK 99506-1518

Re: Homer Port and Harbor: New Large Vessel Moorage Facility

Dear Mr. Sexauer,

Please accept this letter as a formal request from the City of Homer to resume work with the Corps of Engineers on a Navigational Improvement Feasibility Study to dredge and build a new large vessel moorage facility at Homer's Port & Harbor.

Homer's Port & Harbor is a regional port, serving the needs of commercial vessels operating across southcentral and western Alaska in the maritime industrial, marine transportation and commercial fishing industries. Over time, demand has outgrown Homer harbor's ability to safely and efficiently serve this fleet. Certain sizes of commercial vessels can't access the port and harbor due to depth limits and configuration of the harbor entrance. Those that can find harbor moorage at capacity. Homer annually turns large vessels away that are seeking moorage in our small boat harbor due to their overall size, draft, or that fact that our systems are working beyond capacity and we simply lack the space.

The City has identified a new large vessel harbor as its highest priority capital project to (1) meet the current and future need of our large vessel fleet, (2) address overcrowding and associated navigational safety concerns and high maintenance costs in Homer's small boat harbor, and (3) support emerging regional and national economic opportunities such as Cook Inlet the Cook Inlet Oil & Gas industry, a possible LNG export plant in Nikiski, and the opening of the Arctic for transportation and resource development.

High demand combined with favorable changes in cost drivers (new local sources of more competitively priced building materials and an in-water option for disposal of dredge material) prompted the City and Corps to continue the general investigation from 2009 utilizing a Section 22 Planning Assistance to States Program grant.

We understand that after a positive Section 905(b) Analysis and the development of a Project Management Plan, the City will be asked to enter into a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) with the Corps to share the costs of a feasibility-level study. The City is aware that the FCSA is cost-shared (50 percent Federal and 50 percent local funds), and that all of the local share can be in-kind services. This letter is a statement of intent, not a binding contract.

We further understand that preconstruction, engineering design and construction of any recommended plan carries a potential 80/20 cost share based on water depth.

I look forward to working with the Corps of Engineers on this important project. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HOMER

Katie Koester, City Manager

Photos from Saturday's Tsunami Blue Line Fun Run-Walk





















Quarterly General Fund Expenditure Report For Quarter Ended December 31, 2018 (100%)

		Adopted FY18 Budget		Actual As of 12/31/18		Budget Remaining	% Budget Used
Revenues	۲.	2 264 074	۲	2 470 604	۲.	205 720	100 200/
Property Taxes	\$	3,264,974	\$	3,470,694	\$	205,720	106.30%
Sales and Use Taxes		6,474,133		6,620,042		145,909	102.25%
Permits and Licenses		28,588		46,514		17,926	162.70%
Fines and Forfeitures		22,154		15,980		(6,174)	72.13%
Use of Money		36,851		64,372		27,521	174.68%
Intergovernmental		697,355		658,651		(38,704)	94.45%
Charges for Services Other Revenues		594,808		559,277		(35,530)	94.03% 100%
		146.060		28,518		28,518	
Airport		146,869		203,822		56,953	138.78%
Operating Transfers		1,189,764		1,189,764		0	100.00%
Total Revenues	\$	12,455,495	\$	12,857,634	\$	402,139	103.23%
Expenditures & Transfers							
Administration	\$	1,040,613	\$	1,009,930	\$	30,682	97.05%
Clerks		713,141		668,353		44,788	93.72%
Planning		364,987		348,891		16,095	95.59%
Library		887,710		841,386		46,324	94.78%
Finance		668,649		630,034		38,615	94.22%
Fire		1,061,339		934,459		126,879	88.05%
Police		3,267,428		3,145,511		121,917	96.27%
Public Works		2,558,787		2,399,405		159,382	93.77%
Airport		211,494		188,330		23,163	89.05%
City Hall, HERC		179,019		152,863		26,156	85.39%
Non-Departmental		94,000		94,000		-	100.00%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$	11,047,164	\$	10,413,162	\$	634,002	94.26%
Transfer to Other Funds							
Leave Cash Out	\$	161,373	\$	161,373	\$	0	100%
Debt Repayment		-		-		-	-
Energy		10,703		10,703		-	100%
Adjusting Entries		-		-		-	0%
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$	172,076	\$	172,076	\$	0	100%
Total Transfer to Reserves	\$	1,236,255	\$	1,536,255	\$	(300,000)	124%
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$	12,455,495	\$	12,121,493	\$	334,002	97.32%
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$	0	\$	736,141			

These numbers are preliminary and are subject to our annual audit.

Quarterly Water and Sewer Fund Expenditure Report For Quarter Ended December 31, 2018 (100%)

		Adopted FY18		Actual As of		Budget	% Budget
Povonuos		Budget	_	12/31/18	K	emaining	Used
Revenues Water Fund	\$	2,037,962	¢	2,030,693	\$	(7,269)	99.64%
Sewer Fund	ڔ	1,797,681	Ļ	1,799,912	Ą	2,231	100.12%
Sewei Fullu		1,797,001		1,733,312		2,231	100.12/0
Total Revenues	\$	3,835,643	\$	3,830,605	\$	(5,038)	99.87%
Expenditures & Transfers							
<u>Water</u>							
Administration	\$	181,131	\$	172,345	\$	8,786	95.15%
Treatment Plant		533,568		579,991		(46,423)	108.70%
System Testing		55,803		56,177		(374)	100.67%
Pump Stations		112,329		105,573		6,756	93.99%
Distribution System		303,669		304,278		(610)	100.20%
Reservoir		45,944		49,187		(3,243)	107.06%
Meters		184,333		155,271		29,062	84.23%
Hydrants		184,290		181,170		3,120	98.31%
Sewer							
Administration	\$	161,679	\$	150,236	\$	11,443	92.92%
Plant Operations		572,039		595,980		(23,941)	104.19%
System Testing		66,006		67,454		(1,447)	102.19%
Lift Stations		186,021		169,305		16,716	91.01%
Collection System		270,471		272,617		(2,145)	100.79%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$	2,857,284	\$	2,859,584	\$	(2,299)	100.08%
Transfer to Other Funds							
Leave Cash Out	\$	19,960	\$	19,960	\$		100%
GF Admin Fees	ڔ	484,119	Ļ	484,120	Ą	_	100%
		404,119				(2,018)	100%
Debt Repayment Other		43,398		2,018			100%
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$	547,476	\$	43,398 549,496	\$	(2,018)	100.00%
Total Transfer to Other Funds	-	347,470	٠,	343,430	۲	(2,018)	100.5770
Transfers to Reserves							
Water	\$	136,215	\$	136,215	\$	-	100%
Sewer		294,667		294,667		-	100%
Total Transfer to Reserves	\$	430,882	\$	430,882	\$	-	100%
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$	3,835,643	\$	3,839,962	\$	(4,318)	100.11%
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$	0	\$	(9,357)	į		

Quarterly Port and Harbor Fund Expenditure Report For Quarter Ended December 31, 2018 (100%)

		Adopted FY18 Budget		Actual As of 12/31/18	Budget Remaining		% Budget Used
Revenues							
Administration	\$	527,240	\$	542,126	\$	14,886	102.82%
Harbor	2	2,730,986		2,804,507		73,521	102.69%
Pioneer Dock		364,326		326,707		(37,619)	89.67%
Fish Dock		549,740		591,532		41,792	107.60%
Deep Water Dock		280,500		263,149		(17,351)	93.81%
Outfall Line		4,800		4,800		-	100.00%
Fish Grinder		12,000		7,975		(4,025)	66.46%
Load and Launch Ramp		135,000		122,501		(12,499)	90.74%
Total Revenues	\$ 4	4,604,592	Ś	4,663,297	\$	58,706	101.27%
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Expenditures & Transfers							
Administration	\$	640,497	\$	747,747	\$	(107,249)	116.74%
Harbor	•	1,254,684	•	1,227,938		26,746	97.87%
Pioneer Dock		63,635		55,989		7,645	87.99%
Fish Dock		568,602		586,486		(17,884)	103.15%
Deep Water Dock		95,841		102,118		(6,277)	106.55%
Outfall Line		6,500		2,781		3,719	42.79%
Fish Grinder		22,000		30,797		(8,797)	139.99%
Harbor Maintenance		406,102		380,529		25,573	93.70%
Main Dock Maintenance		39,589		34,347		5,241	86.76%
Deep Water Dock Maintenance		50,089		50,260		(172)	100.34%
Load and Launch Ramp		85,482		68,317		17,165	79.92%
Total Operating Expenditures	Ċ :	3,229,520	ć	3,287,310	\$	(54,289)	101.79%
rotal operating expenditures	, ,	3,223,320	ڔ	3,207,310	٧	(34,203)	101.7570
Transfer to Other Funds							
Leave Cash Out	\$	57,636	\$	57,636	\$	(0)	100%
Debt Service	*	-	7	-	τ.	-	0%
GF Admin Fees		558,336		558,336		_	100%
Other		402,628		402,628		_	100%
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ '	1,018,600	\$	1,018,600	\$	(0)	100.00%
rotal transfer to other rands		1,010,000		1,010,000	Υ	(0)	100.0070
Transfers to Reserves							
Administration	\$	_	\$	_	\$	-	_
Harbor	•	_	•	_	•	_	_
Pioneer Dock		300,692		300,692		_	100%
Fish Dock		6,262		6,261		_	100%
Deep Water Dock		-		-		_	-
Outfall Line		_		_		_	_
Fish Grinder		_		_		_	-
Load and Launch Ramp		49,517		49,517		_	100%
Total Transfer to Reserves	\$	356,471	\$	356,471	\$	_	100%
The state of the server	<u> </u>	550, 17 1	7	550,771	7		100/0
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 4	4,604,591	\$	4,662,380	\$	(54,289)	101.26%
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$	0	\$	917			
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Office of the City Manager

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April 8, 2019

Mayor Charlie Pierce Kenai Peninsula Borough 144 N. Binkley St. Soldotna, AK 99669 Delivered electronically

SUBJECT: 2018 Cruise Passenger Tax Receipts

Dear Mayor Pierce:

I am writing to confirm that the City of Homer wishes to receive the 2018 Commercial Vessel Passenger Tax receipts from the Borough. It is our understanding that you will be sponsoring an ordinance that would make the Borough's share of these tax receipts for vessel landings in Homer available to the City. The City appreciates that and understands that the amount to be passed through for calendar year 2018 is \$35,815.

The City of Homer recognizes that these funds must be used for port and harbor improvements that directly benefit cruise ship passengers. The City agrees to comply with the provisions contained in AS 43.52.200 – 43.52.295 and former SB 256 and HB 310. It is the City's intention to apply 2018 funds from the Borough and the State to reimburse the Port and Harbor Enterprise fund for the construction of Ramp 2 restroom.

This project was recently completed (see attached images). Located at the center of the retail area on the Homer Spit and at the launching point for many recreational day trips, Ramp 2 is heavily used by cruise ship passengers when they are in port.

Using the funds in this manner has been previously approved by the Borough and the State. The City of Homer greatly appreciates the opportunity to pool these funds to be able to make meaningful improvements for passengers and leverage funds. In this project, the City's Commercial Passenger Vessel Tax funds leveraged Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars for a 1:1 match. If cruise ship traffic remains constant, the City expects to have reimbursed the Enterprise for the CPV portion of Ramp 2 restroom by 2021.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Katie Koester City Manager

Enc: Ramp 2 Restroom Project Summary

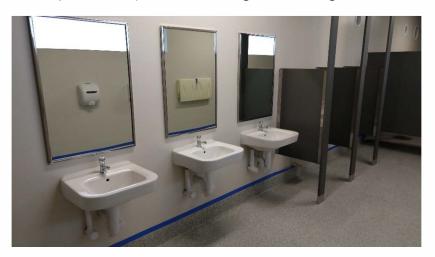
Cc: Brenda Ahlberg, KPB Community and Fiscal Projects Manager

New Ramp 2 Restroom Opens February 2, 2019

Public Works completed the final inspection of the new restroom on January 24, 2019. A punch list of work items was developed; these items will be completed in the next week. The restroom will be opened for public use early in February. Construction was completed by Beachy Construction, Homer, Alaska.



The City of Homer provided funding for the design. The construction of this project was funded



by a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant (50%) and the City of Homer/Kenai Peninsula Borough Commercial Passenger Vessel (CPV) Tax Program grant funds (50%). The \$526,680 budget for the construction project was established by the City Council, actual construction costs totaled \$473,405.

The original restroom was built in 1974 and was 45 years old when demolished in August 2018.



Old Ramp 2 Restroom



The new restroom utilizes the existing foundation and utility connections, but new design efficiencies adds extra stalls, and reduces energy use and maintenance costs. Another important improvement is that the new facility is fully ADA accessible.