



Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

City of Homer Action Agenda Worksession Committee of the Whole City Council Regular Meeting Monday, April 22, 2019

WORKSESSION

CALL TO ORDER, 4:00 P.M.

Mayor Castner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL (Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg. 6)

APPROVED without discussion.

REPORT ON THE HOMER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There were two who commented.

ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 4:50 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting is Monday, May 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., Worksession 4:00 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.

Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Castner called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL

APPROVED without discussion

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

LEGISLATIVE REPORT (10 minutes or as time allows)

- A. AML Report
- B. HB79
- C. HB130
- D. SB110

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 5:50 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting is Monday, May 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., Worksession at 4:00 p.m. and 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.

Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Session 19-12 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on April 22, 2019 by Mayor Ken Castner at 6:00 p.m. 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
LIBRARY DIRECTOR ANN DIXON
INCOMING LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY
CITY ATTORNEY MCKENNA

AGENDA APPROVAL *(Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg. 6)*

APPROVED without discussion.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- a. Recognition of Ann Dixon

Councilmember Venuti read and presented the recognition to Library Director Dixon and thanked her for her service. Library Director Dixon thanked the Council and the community for the support over the years. She looks forward to enjoying the library as a patron.

b. Swearing in of 2019 Firefighter Recruit Class

Fire Chief Purcell presented the graduating Fire Fighters from the 2019 Recruit Class to receive their Oath of Office, explaining that each of these individuals has completed extensive training, requiring hundreds of hours of study, classroom presentations and practice of the necessary skills, all to be able to provide their services to this community, as volunteers of HVFD. They have successfully met the National Fire Protection Association's "Standard for Professional Firefighter Qualifications".

Mayor Castner administered the Oath of Office to Nick Adamson, Jonathon Bectel, Casey Fetterhoff, Brenda Ibarra, Rayce Johnson, Devon Kennelty, Tessa Kern, Luke Rubalcava.

Graduates who were unable attend included Austin Dash, Robert Dash, and Troy Morgan.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

There were three who commented.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

(Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If a 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 Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2019. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. **Memorandum 19-045** from City Clerk Re: Vacate the 30' Wide Public Access Easement Adjoining the North Boundary of Tract A, A.A. Mattox 1958 Addn, Plat HM 3746. KPB File 2019-026V. Recommend approval.
- c. **Ordinance 19-16**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending HCC Chapter 5.06, Nuclear Free Homer, to Update and Reflect Current Practices and Terminology. Erickson. Recommended dates Introduction April 22, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading May 13, 2019.
- d. **Ordinance 19-17**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2019 Capital Budget by Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$40,000 from the Port and Harbor Reserves Fund for a Consultation Contract that Evaluates Options and Lists

Recommendations for Optimizing and Upgrading the Ice Plant. Recommended dates Introduction April 22, 2019 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 13, 2019

- e. **Ordinance 19-18**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2019 Capital Budget to Appropriate Funds in the Amount of \$229,452 from the City Hall Reserve Account for the City Hall Roof Replacement Project. Recommended dates Introduction April 22, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading May 13, 2019.
- f. **Resolution 19-023**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting Revisions to Homer City Code Chapter 3.05, Budget that Codify a Biennial Budget. Mayor. Recommend adoption.
- g. **Resolution 19-024**, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Approving the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan for City of Homer Facilities. Aderhold. Recommend adoption.

ADOPTED without discussion.

VISITORS

- a. Southern Kenai Peninsula Opioid Task Force (10 minutes)

Dr. Sara Spencer reported the Opioid Task Force is growing and continues to meet monthly. They recently collaborated with another organization to bring the Natural Peer Leadership Workshop to our community to empower those in recovery to be Peer Support Specialists. Amber Coila shared briefly that she's been involved with addiction for over a decade in several different ways and through the Peer Support Workshop she's learning about the mental, physical, and emotional effects of addiction and mental illness, and how to properly help and understand those affected. She hopes this continues to spread to other communities. Dr. Spencer added the Task Force has been reaching out to many places including the Homer Police Department to try to get information to them about addiction treatment services, and a Peer Support worker can be called in to talk to someone who's in the jail and help them get assistance. Saturday is National Drug Take Back day and there is a collection point at the Homer Police Department for all unused medications. The Opioid Task Force has started a new working group focused on events and outreach and at their first meeting they discussed making a calendar of fun sober events and fundraising for the local exchange. Foot, a member of the group, shared that she's traveled all over the country being houseless and has had a lot of firsthand experience with people who've dealt with addiction. In Homer she's had friends who are 12 and 13 years old who were using needles so she's passionate about getting information out. She noted the dynamic membership of the group ranging from those in recovery to impacted family members, and doctors. Through social media there are people in this town who feel very negatively about the needle exchange and addicts in general, and a lot

of that is due to lack of education on what things actually work. She's been doing events for her own project which is focused on the de-stigmatization of houseless people and a fundraising event on May 17th to raise money for the needle exchange program to function for a year, which is about \$4,000, and be able to donate 20% of proceeds to get Sharps Boxes for people to appropriately dispose of their sharps (needles). Lastly Dr. Spencer shared that the Task Force will have a table at the upcoming Clean Up Day to be available to hand out materials to collect sharps and a place to dispose of them.

b. Homer Foundation Annual Report (10 minutes)

Joy Steward, Homer Foundation Executive Director, reviewed the annual report on the City of Homer Grants Program that the Foundation administers in partnership with the City of Homer. She noted the complete report is in the packet and highlighted a few points for those listening. Homer Foundation has been administering the program since 2000 as a community service and encourages the City to continue to support Homer's vibrant non-profit community. This year they had \$27,732 and had 14 applicants, more than they've ever received. She announced the grant recipients and said the most difficult part of the review process is that the organizations are very different. In the review process they look closely at the organizations mission, their governance structure, and they're always impressed by how high functioning these organizations are and what they bring to our community. She provided a brief summary of statistics that emphasizes the importance of nonprofits as economic drivers in our community. In 2018 they generated over \$5.9 million in revenues, including \$2.4 million in new money from outside sources, foundations, and federal and state funding. They employ 105 full time, part time, and seasonal employees with combined personnel expenses exceeding \$2.9 million. She noted there are up sides and down sides to more applicants. The upside being it shows the value and need for this kind of support, but the down side is it results in smaller grants going to the recipients. It's an involved grants process both for the applicants and those reviewing them. She hopes to have some participation from the City to get feedback on how these dollars can most effectively be used for the nonprofits, and looking for an opportunity for a listening session in the Council Chambers and invited the City to that exercise.

Councilmember Lord commented she met with Ms. Steward last week to learn more about the city's fund and get some movement on providing the Council some feedback through a better understanding the needs of the nonprofit community and how to use the fund in the most effective way.

c. Sprout/Week of the Young Child – Red Asslin (10 minutes)

Jill Lush, Executive Director and Red Asselin, Outreach Coordinator of Sprout, presented to Council on the Week of the Young Child, Sprout Family Services, and Homer Early Childhood Council (HECC). They reviewed the variety of comprehensive development services Sprout offers for children ages 0-5 years that includes home visits for families with children

experiencing, or at risk for, developmental delays; a pediatric therapy clinic; developmental, hearing, and vision screenings; playgroups and parenting workshops; an early literacy program; car seat program; diaper bank, and a lending library of books, toys, and equipment for parents to borrow at low or no cost. Currently, Sprout has more than 400 children enrolled in one or more programs. Sprout houses and leads the Homer Early Childhood Coalition, a coalition of individuals, organizations and businesses whose mission is to bring opportunities for early learning to the young children of this area. The Coalition centers its work around three typical actions: Daily Facebook Posts for families looking for early childhood opportunities in the Homer area, producing and updating the Family Resource Guide booklets, and organizing Week of the Young Child, kicking off today. They emphasized that young children need good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences and shared some statistics that show families can often be faced with challenges due to economic instability that can have negative impact on those primary needs of young children. As many as 41% of babies and toddlers are living in households with incomes less than twice the federal poverty line. However, Alaska has, for example, a higher prevalence of resilient families, compared to national average. Alaska has a higher prevalence of resilient families, compared to national statistics, but has a lower ranking when it comes to the percentage of income-eligible children with access to Early Head Start and the percentage of young children receiving IDEA Part C services, 2.6% Alaska, 3.0 nationally. They highlighted this week's events for the Week of the Young Child, including an Open House at Head Start, Elder-Kinder Circle at the Friendship Terrace, Hungry Caterpillar Story Time with crafting at The Bookstore, and the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair and Bike Rodeo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

(5 Minute limit per report)

a. Worksession Report

Councilmember Erickson reported that Fire Chief Purcell gave an in depth presentation about our fire department. He provided some informational statistics, current staffing needs, and volunteer retention and support. We are currently looking for a new Fire Chief and we also need an Assistant Fire Chief as well as an Assistant EMS Chief to allow for the 24 hour staffing that's needed.

b. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Smith reported Council had a legislative report on some things going on in Juneau and an AML report on online sales tax. House Bills 79 and 130 and Senate Bill 110 were discussed.

c. Mayor's Report

i. Letter from Mayor to Dave Kemp, Regional Director DOT-PF

ii. Letter to Emblem Club

- Municipal Clerks Week May 5-11
- Public Service Recognition Week May 5-11
- International Firefighters Day May 4
- Elks National Youth Week May 1-7

Mayor Castner reviewed the letters he submitted that were included in the packet and announced the upcoming recognition days and weeks.

d. Borough Report

Kenia Peninsula Borough Assembly member Kelly Cooper wished everyone happy Earth Day and reported that the Assembly met in Seward last week. They toured the Bear Creek Fire Station and heard a report from their Flood Service Area Board. She recognizes that Homer is in great shape when thinking about what Seward goes through with their flooding. They held a public hearing on the proposed School District \$2.4 million supplemental funding for FY19 that passed 5/4. There was a resolution to set the floor for School District funding this year. The School District requested \$52.5 million, based on the allocation of \$5930 per student and a number that hasn't changed since 2017. The Mayor proposed setting the floor at \$47.3, and setting the floor can be adjusted when they do their budget. She touched on an issue where the Borough employee's union and School District union are struggling whether they should be funded appropriate. She noted for the listening audience that the Borough only appropriates the fund to the Borough and the same for the School District, and it's up to the School Board to manage their budget and our Mayor to manage his budget. When there are concerns heard from Borough employees that they are in a hiring freeze and there are many vacant positions, know the Assembly funded the budgeted fully for all positions last year. The management of the budget is up to the Mayor. The resolution to have the Borough join as an intervener in the Enstar issue passed unanimously, and South Peninsula Hospital was approved to get 33 new patient monitors that will be installed soon.

e. Library Advisory Board

Marcia Kuszmaul, Library Advisory Board Chair, recognized the efforts of Library Director Dixon during her 8 year of service, including brining the library collection up to date with newer publications and books and also digitizing it. We have over 20,000 e-books in the collection, 14 data bases, including popular learning platforms like Linda.com. She's also increased access, particularly among youth and families with programs and circulations. The library has changed dramatically under her tenure and we're very appreciative of that. Tuesday, April 30th there will be a sendoff for Ann at the Library from noon to 2:00 p.m.

Mark Massion, Board member, gave an update on upcoming library events including signups for the Summer Reading Program starting May 13th, and the Book and Plant Sale coming up this weekend.

f. Homer Advisory Planning Commission

g. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Karin Mark, Economic Development Advisory Commission Chair, reported the Commission reviewed and amended their bylaws that will be coming to Council at their next meeting, and they are working on ways to have better organization. The Commission has an open seat and anyone interested can apply at the City Clerk's office. They are working on establishing their strategic plan and goals, and continue to review issues from the Business Retention and Expansion survey they reported on earlier in the year. The Commission is finding there is some overlap into some of the other Commission's purview and they'll be reaching out. They did a presentation to the Planning Commission on Wayfinding and Streetscapes and sent a letter of support to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission for the Barge Mooring/Large Vessel Haul Out Repair Facility and Harbor Expansion, and offering help if needed. They are hoping to work with Planning on some of the concerns regarding signage. Looking forward there are some larger issue to look at that include our workforce development and housing.

h. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Jon Sharp, Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission, reported the also reviewed their bylaws and will be sending recommendations forward to Council, the biggest being to reduce their membership from 9 to 7. They looked at the Library stored art collection and are going to start the process of deaccessioning that. There is a new piece of art going in at the Homer Volunteer Fire Station pocket park and their drafting a letter to the editor regarding that. They also held a Comprehensive Plan review and looked at the need for sidewalks in the City.

i. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

j. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

Councilmember Aderhold thanked Council for approving the Transition Plan on the consent agenda. That's the bulk of the work they've been doing for the last few years and it's good to have it done.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. **Ordinance 19-15**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the 2019 Capital Budget to Appropriate funds in the Amount of \$1,697,865 from the Police Station Project Account for Project Management, Design Support, Early Site Civil Construction and Land Purchase Repayment Associated with the New Homer Police Station Project. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction April 8, 2019 Public Hearing and Second Reading April 22, 2019.

There was one who commented.

ADOPTED without discussion.

ORDINANCE(S)

- a. **Ordinance 19-19**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code Title 14.08, "Water Rules and Regulations" to add HCC 14.08.015, "Water Service Area" and Prohibiting the City from Providing Water Service Outside the City of Homer Unless Authorized by Ordinance or Required by Law and Requiring the Adoption of Extraterritorial Public Utility Agreements by Resolution. Aderhold. Introduction April 22, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading May 13, 2019.

POSTPONED Introduction to May 28th worksession and regular meeting with discussion.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Koester commented on the high tide and moderate winds on Thursday that resulted in some significant erosion on the spit both on City lease property and private property, a sewer main has been exposed, and lost about 20 feet of roadway between a couple of the boardwalks. Staff is aware of the issue and have reached out to DOT and ACOE as it's a coordinated effort, but have not had a response from them yet.

- b. Bid Report (information only)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Memorandum 19-046** from Councilmember Aderhold Re: City Council Retreat Planning.

Discussion item, proposed consideration of scheduling in the fall.

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen noted that the AML Conference is scheduled a week later than normal this year so the last weekend in October or one of the first two in November might be times to consider for retreat scheduling.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Koester offered kudos to the ADA Committee and City Clerk Jacobsen for their work on the Transition Plan. This came to her attention a few years ago and she couldn't be more proud of how not only the Committee ran with this need but also how Melissa stepped up and added it to her work load and produced a wonderful product. She feels privileged to work with such go getters who don't say they're over worked, which they are, but yes take on the projects.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner commented he reviewed the plans for Pioneer Avenue and it's been advertised as having pedestrian crossing improvements, but they are the same as what we have now with the only improvement being is incising them into the pavement instead of painting them on, but that doesn't help in the winter. He'll be bringing forward a resolution at the next meeting encouraging DOT to submit a change order for better signage or flashing signage. People drive too fast along Pioneer Avenue and he had a niece who was killed in a crosswalk in Massachusetts, so crosswalk safety is important to him. He also commented the Alaska Supreme Court decided a case brought by Frank Griswold which found the language used in Homer City Code regarding standing. The case has been remanded back to be heard by the Board of Adjustment or a Hearing Officer.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Stroozas commented that the 21st annual Clean-Up Day is on Saturday, May 4th and encouraged everyone to participate.

Councilmember Aderhold said she's glad the sun's out again and wished everyone happy Earth Day.

Councilmember Erickson announced the Choir for Peace is coming up on May 3rd and 4th, and the kids musical Star Truck is happening at the Mariner Theater. She commented that over the weekend her dog became suddenly ill and contacted the vet, come to find out we have a lot of little dogs who are getting marijuana crumbs from brownies or the buds and it's very dangerous for little dogs. She hears it's also happening on the beach where dogs are getting into things people are leaving behind. She encouraged people to pay attention. She also encouraged people to take some time and clean up their yard for clean-up day and make sure things are secured. They had two propane bottles from their RV park during the night.

Councilmember Lord thanked the Homer Volunteer Fire Department, it was great to see the new recruits who have put in a lot of time, get sworn in. She welcomed new Library Director David Berry and thanks to Ann Dixon for her efforts. She loves the library and she and her kids

spend a lot of time there, and she really appreciates it. She thanked Sprout and those working for young children in our community and encouraged everyone to celebrate the Week of the Young Child. She said the HECC Facebook page is always being updated and she checks it regularly when she's trying to find things to do with her kids. Not every kid is lucky to have parents in the home who have the resources or capacity and it really takes a community. She believes for all children, the number of safe loving adults they are in touch with is more important than so many things. Whatever role we can play in being or supporting other safe adults kids can turn to is huge for the generation moving forward. Happy Earth Day, happy community, and all of those thing.

Councilmember Smith recalled being in 4th grade and Hobo Jim coming and singing Abiyoyo and is something he's remembered over the years. The Lions Club will be cooking hot dogs and bike raffle at the Clean-Up Day. He's typically gone out with the Scout Troop to clean up Baycrest Hill to McDonalds, getting out and being involved with that is important. He pointed out it has snowed prior to clean-up before too and this wasn't the first Easter he recalls having snow on the ground. He shared his appreciation for Chief Purcell's leadership to the Department and shared how he used to spend time there when he was young with is friend who were volunteers. He attended the Hunter Safety Course and was pleased to report he passed the test and qualified at the range despite the snow and wind.

Councilmember Venuti thanked the Mayor for his efforts regarding Pioneer Avenue crosswalk improvements. She wished everyone happy Earth Day and with the upcoming clean up reminded people the vote for the bag ban is coming up, and education efforts are kicking off. April is National Volunteer Month and she shared a quote "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy, you only vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote everyday about the kind of community you want to live in". She thanked all the people who volunteer in our community.

ADJOURNMENT

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Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.