

Session 19-04 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on February 11, 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, ERICKSON, LORD, SMITH, STROOZAS, VENUTI

STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

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

Council met for a Worksession 4:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole 5:00 p.m. in Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

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: **CONSENT AGENDA Memorandum 19-019** from City Clerk Re: Liquor License Renewals for Two Sisters Bakery and Bluff Point Light House Drive-Thru Grill. KPB Non Objection Letter of the Liquor License Renewal for Bluff Point Lighthouse Grill; **Ordinance 19-09**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a \$100,000 Service Extension Fees and Authorizing the Extension of City of Homer Water Services to Lot 28, Puffin Acres Milepost 3, East End Road in Kachemak City. Mayor. Resolution 04-42(A) and Resolution 17-014(S) with back up; **PUBLIC HEARINGS 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. Back up information and public comments. **Ordinance 19-07(S-2)**, 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 **Mobilizing for Action Through Planning and Partnerships (Mapp) for the Opioid Task Force Coordination; Homer Foundation for City Of Homer Grants Related to Addiction Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction, and Recovery; and** Set Free Alaska For The Purpose Of Establishing an **a Residential** Addiction Treatment Center in Homer. ~~Smith/Erickson~~ **Aderhold/Venuti.**

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Recognition of the United States Coast Guard, 17th Fleet
- B. Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week February 7-14
- C. Brother Asaiah Bates Day, February 14th

Mayor Castner announced the recognitions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Kelly Cooper, Borough Assembly member, said she doesn't have a Borough report tonight. She commented regarding Ordinance 19-09, explaining she has the same sentiment as in 2017. It's a public process and when we make decisions as a body there should be the opportunity for the other government body this will affect to participate in a worksession and then decide on what direction they'd like to go. Public Policy is important as well as setting precedence and she's concerned there isn't a rate schedule in place for this. She supports the project, but there are many commercial properties, and others, along the road that have been wanting water. She encouraged scheduling a worksession with Kachemak City Council to discuss the issue.

David Lewis, city resident, commented regarding Ordinance 19-09. He recognizes the need for low income housing, but this could set a precedence here that may come back and bite the city later. If this place wants city water and sewer then they should ask to be annexed in. We had this discussion a couple years ago and it was voted down, and former Mayor Jack Cushing came in with some good arguments. He encouraged Council to be careful with this.

William Overway, Kachemak City Mayor, commented Kachemak City has a sewer system agreement with the City of Homer. Regarding water, he was out of town and just found out that the housing project was approved when he returned. He thinks down the road the two cities should work out an agreement regarding water service. Kachemak City Council will be talking about this for the first time at their meeting on Wednesday. They're aware of it and have some concerns, but are open to talking about an agreement.

Larry Slone commented regarding Ordinance 19-09 noting we have reached agreement between Kachemak City and the City of Homer for limited use of the sewer system and it seems it would be beneficial to extend the waterline if they're willing to pay most of the cost of the

extension and continue to use it in the future. It would provide income and infill as part of our sewer and water system. He also commented on Resolution 18-091 regarding the support of the Alaska Gas Line LNG Liquefaction Plant and Marine Terminal in Nikiski that was included in the Council's worksession packet.

Lu Lovelace commented in support of Resolution 19-009 approving the lease agreement with Alaska Custom Seafoods. She is one of Mr. Faulkner's tenants and hopes he's able to continue his lease because she plans to keep her business there for a long time.

Brad Faulkner commented in support of Resolution 19-009 approving the changes to his lease agreement, and thanked the Harbormaster for working with him. He thinks they are doing good business out there, five different businesses were active last year and there will be five this year. They deleted the food bus because they are too far from the central location. The new business this year will be Ultimate Safari's, the helicopter tour company out of Beluga Lake.

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 Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2019. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 19-019** from City Clerk Re: Liquor License Renewal for Two Sisters Bakery and Bluff Point Lighthouse Drive-Thru Grill. Recommend approval.
- C. **Memorandum 19-020** from PARC Advisory Commission Re: Approving the 1% Art Selection Committee Appointment Recommendations for the New Homer Police Station Project. Recommend approval.
- D. **Memorandum 19-022** from Mayor Re: Authorization to Spend Budgeted Attorney Dollars. Recommend approval.

Moved to New Business A. Aderhold.

- E. **Ordinance 19-08**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY 2019 Operating Budget by Appropriating \$39,500 from Fire Reserves to Purchase Replacement Personal Protective Equipment for the Homer Volunteer Fire Department. City Manager/Fire Chief. Recommended dates Introduction February 11, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading February 25, 2019.

Memorandum from Acting Assistant Fire Chief as backup

- F. **Ordinance 19-09**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a \$100,000 Service Extension Fees and Authorizing the Extension of City of Homer Water Services to Lot 28, Puffin Acres Milepost 3, East End Road in Kachemak City. Mayor. Recommended dates Introduction February 11, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading February 25, 2019.

Moved to Ordinances A. Aderhold.

- G. **Resolution 19-008**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Opposing the \$20 Million Dollar Repeal of K-12 State Aid to School Districts for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019. Aderhold.
- H. **Resolution 19-009**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving A Lease Amendment to Modify Article Six of the Ground Lease and Security Agreement Held Between Brad Faulkner of Alaska Custom Seafoods and the City. City Manager.

Memorandum 19-024 from Port and Harbor Advisory Commission as backup

- I. **Resolution 19-010**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving and Accepting the Donation from Brandi Evans of Cary, North Carolina, for a Park Bench in Memory of Johnnie and Annie Flood, Constructed by West Homer 6th Grade Students to be Placed in a Park within the City. City Clerk/PARC Advisory Commission.

Memorandum 19-023 from PARC Advisory Commission as backup

- J. **Resolution 19-011**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Deleting Language in the City of Homer Fee Schedule Under Camping Fees. Smith.

Item D. moved to New Business item A. Aderhold

Item F. moved to Ordinances item A. Aderhold

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda.

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

ERICKSON/ADERHOLD SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/ COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mayor Pro Tem Smith reported David Bell, Director of Business Development, and Lindsay Hobson, Manager of Communications with Enstar addressed the Council in relation to questions on the current rates and what they have proposed over time to address the current situation.

B. Councilmember Report on Worksession Discussion

Councilmember Lord reported at the worksession Council discussed Memorandum 19-021 from the City Manager outlining legislative priorities and their key messaging around that; and also reviewed the schedule for Council and City Manager traveling to Juneau for the AML Winter Conference next week. Councilmembers Aderhold Smith and Lord and City Manager Koester will be attending.

C. Mayor's Report

1. Letter of Support for Reappointment to North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
2. Public Comment on Pioneer Avenue Potholes

Mayor Castner reported he's spent a lot of time over the last two weeks researching the Enstar issue. He's received comments regarding the pot holes on Pioneer Avenue and understands the problems, but Pioneer Avenue is a State road and he understands that Representative Vance is helping to raise the issue with DOT. He noted his letter recommending reappointment of Buck Laukitis to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

D. Borough Report

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

1. Library Advisory Board

Connor Schmidt, Library Advisory Board member reported the Board met last Tuesday and thanked Councilmember Smith for attending. He said they a light meeting agenda and reported on upcoming Library events.

2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission

Scott Smith, Planning Commissioner, reported he attended the Alaska Planning Conference and learned that serving on a Planning Commission is a complex thing in working with staff and Council. After hearing reports from several communities, Homer has an excellent working relationship with staff and Council. He suggested they may want to revisit the CUP fee schedule, as Anchorage charges \$15,000 for a CUP and Homer charges \$200. At their last meeting Public Works Director Meyer reported on how they are working with storm water runoff at the new Police Station to help them have a better understanding on what's involved. They are working with the City Planner on how to reduce the amount of CUP's his office has to process. The primary features that trigger a CUP are more than one building, 8,000 sf, and lighting issues, so they are trying to evaluate how to codify some of those to reduce the CUP applications. Lastly he reported Planning Technician Travis Brown attended and advised them how the Planning Office follows up with applicants after the permitting is approved.

3. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Councilmember Smith reported the Commission meets tomorrow.

4. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

David Lewis announced from the audience the Commission hasn't met since their last report.

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

Steve Zimmerman announced from the audience the Commission hasn't met since their last report.

6. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

Councilmember Aderhold reported the Committee meets again in March.

PUBLIC HEARING(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. Introduction January 28, 2019, Second Reading and Public Hearing February 11, 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 19-06 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

ERICKSON/VENUTI SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- B. **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. Introduction January 28, 2019, Second Reading and Public Hearing February 11, 2019.

Letter to Mayor and Councilmembers from Set Free Alaska, Inc.
Set Free Alaska, Inc. Policy and Procedures
Letters of Support

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Adam Hykes, city resident, shared his experience of homelessness and drug addiction and his growth following treatment. He explained local AA meetings were a good start, but it wasn't until he was involved with a faith based community with a live in residence program that he could address the deeper issues. It was radically transforming for him and he'd love to see it happen for others who are stuck in the same cycles of addiction. He supports Set Free Alaska here in Homer with full funding.

Rick Alward shared his families experience with a daughter who suffered 10 years of meth and heroin addiction. He brought her back to Alaska and spent time speaking to her about

unconditional love and faith, until it finally broke through. He would like to see Set Free Alaska come to Homer, because the thing that is common among these programs is a faith based love.

Kurt Leffler thanked the two previous speakers for their bravery and courage to speak tonight. He supports Set Free Alaska. He also supports the efforts of the Opioid Task Force and grass roots movements here in Homer. He is sober two years and a former gang member in Los Angeles. As a community, we need a coalition of supports to deal with this issue. He shared about his efforts working in peer support, former criminality, marital arts, and efforts to ensure no one is left behind. He would like to see what could be done with the funding to support grass roots movements as well as Set Free's mission.

Marilyn Hueper, city resident, commented in support of Set Free coming to Homer. She shared about a guest who is a part of treatment programs in Anchorage and Wasilla and stayed at her business. The guest said she'd been wanting to move to Homer but would leave Homer when her kids went to high school because of the high risk environment here. Because of that and other interactions she feels a faith based program will have the best results and we can't afford not to do this for our kids and families if we want our community to grow and be safe.

Lanny Simpson, city resident, shared that he lives on Klondike Avenue adjacent to the property being considered. For many years he has seen homeless men come and go in the area and he thinks Set Free Alaska within the range of his home would be a solution, not a problem. There are too many men who have come through Homer with no solution and we need to tackle this issue. Set Free Alaska will be a great addition and he would feel safer.

Ginny Espenshade, city resident, shared that through her volunteer work she meets and gets to know and trust some of the people who are in the midst of the cycles of addiction, and would love the opportunity for someone who is ready to do something to be able to get help. It's a great opportunity for public/private partnership but there is also a tremendous responsibility to do it right. She referenced the letters in the supplemental packet from Dr. Spencer and Hannah Heimbuch, and comments from Mr. Leffler. They are three of the wisest people about the problem in this community and they encourage looking at it across the three prongs of the battle, prevention, treatment, and reduction of harm; and what's the best use of the funding. The supplemental ordinance is a start to that.

David Lewis, city resident, commented we do need a treatment center, but he isn't a fan of city money going toward a faith based program. In the State of Alaska conversion therapy is allowed and it's legal to discriminate against the LBGQTQ population. He shared his awareness of the effects of addiction through his nephew and he supports the idea of a treatment center. He said he wished the location was disclosed sooner so neighbors could comment, and he doesn't think city money should be used.

Amy Smith shared she has lost several loved ones to addiction, some have died and many are still living. They are family and friends, and they should all have a chance to benefit from the

services Set Free can provide. She encouraged them not to let the faith based aspect preclude them from going forward with this. She shared her experience facilitating substance abuse groups through churches and government funded social service agencies. Set Free believes in services being client centered, and these are Medicaid funded services which will help keep it sustainable. She hopes this goes forward to help people have hope and walk free from addiction, because it is possible.

Jaclyn Rainwater shared she has five years clean and sober after getting sober her fifth time around at a faith based facility. After thinking of last meeting, she commented regarding the fear of it being in our back yard. It's not a homeless shelter. She was in an inpatient facility for 16 months with a community of people trying to get sober together and learning life skills. They did kids camps and different events for the community. When sober people see a group who are trying to better themselves its very uplifting and inspiring. When someone in addiction sees another addict becoming successful and staying sober it gives them hope. She pictures this on Pioneer Avenue and seeing the the sign Set Free, just the words are a beacon of hope.

Barbara Smith, city resident, commented she's been involved with non-profit organizations for 20 years. She understands there is a large chunk of money that could be divided among several organizations to help out, or given to one organization. Her feeling is if you want to get the most bang for your buck, it to one group who has already proven they are successful.

Tom Hagen said he doesn't think anyone will deny there's a drug problem here and he applauds the Opioid Task force for all they've done. He thinks our end goal is to see less addicts and less needles needed. Through their research, Set Free Alaska acknowledged they don't need to do redundancy of what's already working well, and decided to jump in and start with outpatient and inpatient program, simultaneously. They have an existing sustainable business model that works and they need help with startup funding for a costly endeavor. He encouraged the community and Council that we want to be seen as a group who is stepping up in front of Alaska and saying we're owning this and addressing it, and not ignoring it.

Steve Zimmerman, city resident, agrees there is a lot of merit to this and there have been some good stories and he doesn't know if he's against or in favor of it, but he's interested in the funding. He questioned how taking money from the police station fund, which he assumes is the construction fund, impacts the money the voters approved for bonding to build the police station and the sales tax increase. They probably didn't vote for it to be used for this project. He's like clarification about that.

Scott Smith, city resident, thinks Homer has an opportunity to create corporate testimony. He commented about the stigma attached to living at end of the road. We have an opportunity to establish within its corporate structure and city expression, an opportunity that says I care the people who are down and out. As one of the council's constituents he encourages them to evaluate this as an incredible opportunity for Homer.

Larry Slone, city resident, referenced page 190 regarding the funding Mr. Zimmerman was questioning. He commented that is an emotional issue and it makes him nervous to make policy decisions this way and that a rational overlay of thought needs to be applied and consider issues raised tonight. The information provided by Set Free Alaska says no one will be required to submit to their faith and that they'll accommodate all persons of all persuasions and perspectives. After listening to tonight's testimony, he has a better understanding of the benefits of a faith-based program over an institutional approach and it has modified his perspective.

Mark Edens commented this is a faith-based program that doesn't endorse any particular church, but promotes faith in God. They are very fiscally responsible, very professional, and he sees it as a program that can change the face of Homer. He grew up here and Homer does have a stigma, but we can make a difference and changes some ideas that have formed out there. Set Free is positioned for a grant and ready to move forward. He supports the full amount go to the program and not be divided up.

Dori Hagan shared about her experience as a licensed professional counselor in Homer and shared that professionals in her field are bound by a code of ethics to not impose their value system on who they see. It's important to meet the client where they're at and establishing safety and coping skills; things like eating, showering, and ways to calm themselves are paramount first for addicts as they are relapse prevention type things. Set Free has the ability to bill Medicaid, but she can't working at Cornerstone Counselling, so she's limited in how often she can see a client. A lot of people need to be seen several times a week or inpatient and Set Free can accommodate that need. She also emphasized the importance of the spiritual piece with regard to healing and recovery from addiction.

Connor Schmidt commented about the prevention lessons at Homer Middle and some of the other schools in the area and a big part is focusing on the spiritual piece and emotional intelligence one needs to be able to get through life. Unfortunately not everyone learns that in their own household because of trauma and other life factors. He supports the ordinance that continues to support the prevention efforts that are already occurring in Homer like MAPP, the Opioid Task Force, and Homer Foundation.

Josh Garvey commented we've heard the substance abuse issue is already in our back yards and we aren't afraid to take the problem head on, front and center, in our community. We've heard Set Free Alaska operates in a safe, secure, and controlled environment with a high success rate and sustainable business model. We've heard faith is often seen as a critical component to successful and sustained recovery. He commented in support of dedicating all of the funds being proposed to Set Free as the best use, and diverting the funds to other organizations will water down the potential to make an impact on the community.

There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed.

ERICKSON/SMITH MOVED TO ADOPT 19-07(S) BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 19-07(S-2) FOR 19-07(S)

Councilmember Aderhold thanked everyone who shared tonight and said she is on board with a residential treatment center in Homer. She explained that the amount allocated is the entire amount of the Community Assistance funds the city received and were allocated to the police station construction project. This redirects those funds. She appreciates the effort of the two councilmembers who were able to put some time and effort into working on the ordinance, but the rest of the council saw this for the first time two weeks ago. They need time to consider this and how to spend the public's dollars, time to listen to the public testimony, and time to decide on the best way to use the funds. She's had numerous people correspond with her about concerns as most of Council probably has. She supports a residential treatment center and also the ongoing needs of the Opioid Task Force, and other organizations who have been working toward a healthier, more resilient, community related to addiction. We need to look holistically at the ways people receive treatment, and how people recover from addiction. We need to take our time, so we're all comfortable with how we're moving forward. She brought forward a revised proposal, but she's heard questions that need answering and whereas clauses in both ordinances that may need to be evaluated and revised.

Councilmember Venuti shared her concerns with urgent language in the original ordinance and feels it's based on emotion. She's thought about what's working well in the community and hasn't received much, if any, funding. She supports the other groups as well as Set Free Alaska, and doesn't believe the S-2 draft waters anything down, but recognizes we have some local things working really well and it's a fair way to distribute money. She appreciates the people who spoke tonight.

Councilmember Stroozas questioned what would happen to the \$127,000 if Set Free Alaska is unsuccessful in getting the grant because of the reduced amount and said he doesn't see this as a means to impose a faith of any kind on anyone. He sees it as an effort to mitigate as serious issue we have in our community that we've talked about for a long time and will continue to grow.

Councilmember Lord shared she is on board with this program but does have concerns with the faith based program and public money. She wants to ensure they go through a transparent process in utilizing public dollars responsibly for all citizens in the community. She appreciates the policy they shared. Following the last meeting she received feedback about other needs if the City has money. She feels like this should incorporate more people in the process to better be allocate funds appropriately. She shared some brief history of the community assistance funds resulting in allocating it every year by ordinance. The process should be a substantially public one where we work with the community to navigate. At a minimum she'd like to postpone this for more discussion, and to clarify what happens next if Set Free doesn't receive the grant.

Councilmember Smith he's conflicted because MAPP and the Opioid Task Force who have been working to help make progress are amazing and deserve whatever support they can get. He starts having heartburn because they haven't asked for money. Set Free Alaska came with a proposal of what they want to do and he and Councilmember Erickson approached it in a way to find some money. This isn't intended to be disrespectful to any other effort in the community, but is addressing a specific need that was brought to them for an over \$3 million project. We are looking at less than 10% of a match from the community and is specified to go toward the construction or remodeling of a facility. There is no transparency in suggestion with this substitute to give \$50,000 to MAPP because it doesn't say what they'll use it for, and he doesn't know if the Homer Foundation has been contacted about the funds. Regarding language in the ordinance, some of it might be taken as emotionally driven, but there is some reality to it. This is about addiction recovery, not whether its faith based or not. We're all in it together and he'd hate to see this denied because we feel a lack in process. He doesn't feel this is being rushed. He explained Set Free Alaska requested a range from \$175,000 to \$225,000 is what they would need, and they're still going to have to do some fundraising to hit it. He hears some of the concerns, but feels like this is submarining something that has the ability to do something great here.

Councilmember Erickson commented it may seem like this moved quickly, but when she talked to them, they were in the process of writing the grant and we wanted to show support of the City that we felt a facility was important. She shared some personal history about efforts that she's been involved in before and the importance of helping people in need.

There were further comments expressing appreciation for clarifying the amount requested and noting the S-2 does identify how the funds would be used. They continued to address the need for inpatient treatment, the history of service by Set Free Alaska, struggles with limited information, and the need to address questions and concerns that have come forward before making a decision.

SMITH/ADERHOLD MOVED TO POSTPONE TO FEBRUARY 25TH.

Councilmember Smith requested whatever questions are out there be presented in a timely manner so they are given the opportunity to provide the answers sought.

Councilmember Aderhold identified her questions are the ones provided through public testimony regarding the total cost, how is it being divided up, and how specifically will the money be used.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

- A. **Ordinance 19-09**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a \$100,000 Service Extension Fees and Authorizing the Extension of City of Homer Water Services to Lot 28, Puffin Acres Milepost 3, East End Road in Kachemak City. Mayor. Recommended dates Introduction February 11, 2019, Public Hearing and Second Reading February 25, 2019.

Mayor Castner asked for a motion for the introduction of Ordinance 19-09 by reading of title only.

ERICKSON/ADERHOLD SO MOVED

Councilmember Aderhold noted the information she requested in the supplemental packet that includes comments from former Mayor Jack Cushing, and a suggestion from Assembly member Cooper that was provided when this came up two years ago. This could be a bad idea and a slippery slope toward extending water outside the city. We haven't provided water to a number of residents inside the city and she feels that should be their priority. Her concern has nothing to do with the low income housing facility itself, it's something that is needed in our commuting and she wishes it was inside the city. At the least, a combined worksession with the Kachemak City Council would be warranted, she'd like to have both bodies working on this, if one is going to.

Councilmember Venuti recognizes the need for low income housing, it is a need in our area, but she isn't in support of extending water to a select group outside city limits. She acknowledged the concerns address by the people in the supplemental packet.

Councilmember Smith said was here last time this came up and he thinks it's a good idea. He thinks this is an opportunity for discussion to be had with Kachemak City. Some valid points were raised by former Mayor Cushing but what resonated with him is that we should be talking to Kachemak City if we're going to do something that affects them, but the reality is it's a deal with one person, not Kachemak City. They buy our water regardless, and waterline is already there. The City ate about \$250,000 of that cost because Kachemak City wouldn't tie into it, or because of the resolution.

Mayor Castner commented this came forward from the company that wants to put housing. They made an unsolicited offer of \$100,000 to tie into the water line. It's \$100,000 that would go into our HAWSP fund. He doesn't think it's a slippery slope, the attorney doesn't think it's a slippery slope, we aren't invading Kachemak City, and we're selling him the right to tie into our pipe.

Councilmember Stroozas commented we aren't getting any revenue from a line that's been there since 2004. Here's someone who's giving us \$100,000 plus buy water from us after the fact. He doesn't see a downside in this.

Councilmember Lord noted for clarification, water/sewer is a utility fund, not part of a general fund. Yes, there are people in the city who don't have water or sewer service, but they also don't pay for it. She touched on infill explaining when we built out pipe, that's not infill but adding more lines of pipe. Infill is taking pipe that exists and adding customers to it. She would like to see this be more collaborative with Kachemak City. We aren't a private company, we have follow process and transparency. To say there's no downside because they're going to give us \$100,000 and put it to HAWSP, that's great, but what about someone else along the line who's been asking for water for a long time but we've said no, we don't extend water service. It's not fair that someone who has a lot of money can broker a deal and get water. She recognizes the need for affordable housing, it's important for the community, but she's trying to figure out how to hold those things in balance. She wants to make sure we're working through a process working government to government when brokering deals, not with individuals or individual entities as a matter of course. We have said no to people before, we have a resolution that says we won't do this.

Councilmember Erickson agrees we need to talk about water issues with Kachemak City, council to council.

Councilmember Aderhold noted the Mayor indicated the City Attorney weighed in on this, but it isn't in the information they've been provided and she'd like to see that. A discussion they had two years ago is that there are tax implications, where someone can build in Kachemak City and still get water, but the tax structure is different as they aren't paying into Homer taxes. Those are things to consider when making this decision.

VOTE (introduction): YES: LORD, ADERHOLD, ERICKSON, STROOZAS, SMITH, VENUTI

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. City Manager's Report

City Manager Koester reminded Council about the Senior Officials Workshop for All Hazards Preparation on February 21st in the Council Chambers.

B. Bid Report

12. PENDING BUSINESS

13. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Memorandum 19-022** from Mayor Re: Authorization to Spend Budgeted Attorney Dollars.

Mayor Castner asked for a motion to approve Memorandum 19-022.

STROOZAS/ADERHOLD SO MOVED

Councilmember Aderhold commented there isn't a dollar amount identified in the memo.

City Manager Koester explained that the Council Operating Manual has direction that says if an item is going to take prolonged attorney time, it needs to come to the attention of the body. Significant time has been spent discussing the Enstar issue and Mayor Castner wanted to make sure the body is aware, and this is doing that. The Council needs be kept abreast of the dollar figure one way or another as we progress. The conversation has just developed and she has no numbers at this time, other than we haven't gone over our monthly retainer at this point.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Ginny Espenshade raised the questions she'd like addressed regarding Ordinance 19-07(S) and (S-2). She'd like for them to get a copy of the grant application because it will include a budget narrative, goals, and objectives. She'd like clarification how many years experiences Set Free Alaska has with residential treatment versus outpatient or counseling. She'd like clarification on success rates, if that can be separated out between alcohol, opioid, and other substances like meth. She'd like to know if the success rate, like 60 or 90 days drug free, includes time while they're still in the facility. If it's only been a couple of years that they have experience with residential, are those success rates indicative of a big enough statistical poll? She'd like them to clarify their approach to medicated assisted treatment, and she's encouraged they've talked to Dr. Spencer about collaborating with her. In their MatSu facility that's residential for women, what's the average length of stay in the facility. She's proud of our community tonight, this is a difficult issue and it's all hands on deck. We've got people raising hands saying no not you, or not right now. That's not what she intends the message to be. Process is important, and especially because people lives are depending on us doing this right. We need to support this program with the right process.

Connor Schmidt asked that they confirm that Set Free is not bringing any form of conversion therapy to Homer. It's something that has come up with faith based organizations in the past.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Wells was not in attendance.

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 noted someone commented earlier about how we define our community, and he thinks we define it by what we saw here tonight, a lot of very thoughtful, respectful dialog. We can have these discussions, reach resolution, and move ahead. He thanked everyone everyone at home listening and especially the folks who stayed through the meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Stroozas concurred with the Mayor's comments and said he will be telephonic at the next two meetings.

Councilmember Aderhold shared her appreciation of everyone who came out to speak to them tonight and also to those who wrote to her or any of the others, all comments are equal as far as she's concerned and she definitely reads them all. On Saturday the Homer Conversation on Addiction Recovery will be held at the Community Christian Church 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. She hopes a lot of people attend. The community members will set the agenda so if you have a topic related to addiction please come and give your agenda topic.

Councilmember Erickson also thank those who came tonight and shared. She appreciates when people share their stories and its always rewarding to see them functioning in the community in a positive way. Safe Families turned 1 year old this weekend and if you're looking for a way to help families in need, their office is located in the Church on the Rock office. Safe Families is for families that need help, sometimes it's just having someone there to help the kids if the parent has to go for an operation, or something like that. It can be challenging to bring people into your home, but it's very rewarding to see people get back on their feet again and know they have support. There's a lot coming up the next two weekends and she hopes everyone has a great two weeks.

Councilmember Lord also thanked everyone who testified and who reached out by phone, email, or a stop at the grocery store. It's invaluable to get feedback. Council is limited in the ability to talk to each other, and public feedback is helpful to try to channel it toward something that's productive that we all can get behind and feel comfortable with. She recognized the Chamber for a great Winter Carnival Parade. Paul Banks Elementary partnered with the Coast Guard on their carnival and the proceeds are benefiting the family after the loss of Chief Warrant Officer Mike Kozloski. Seeing the outpouring of love and support has been awesome. She congratulated Safe Families for Children, it's a great organization; and congratulated Brent Sass for winning the Yukon Quest this afternoon.

Councilmember Smith gave a shout out to the Mariner Hockey team for coming in 2nd in the State Championship, it was a close game with the Mariners coming back to take the lead in the 3rd period, but lost in overtime. It was an epic comeback and great representation for Homer High School. He also thanked everyone for their participation, we talked about some weighty matters tonight that are important for the community and he's all for transparency. He tends to take the ball and run, so sometimes he isn't as touchy feely with some of the aspects as others are. That's not a bad thing, it's just how he is, and he continues to learn. He wished everyone a great night.

Councilmember Venuti noted a feel good thing in the packet, and that was donation of a bench from a family in North Carolina to recognize their parents and grandparents who loved to come to Homer, and the bench will be built by our 6th graders. She attended Lunch with a Councilmember and thanked the people who joined her and City Manager Koester. The Winter Carnival was fun, the KPC student's float won for their category. She attended the Girl Scouts Indian Dinner fund raiser where they raised \$4,000 for their trip to India. She recognized Poppy Benson and the Girl Scouts for their efforts. She had a several girls approach her and tell her they are working on badges to help the community with the plastic bag ban. She wished everyone Happy Valentine's Day on Thursday, and reminded everyone to tell people you love them.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, February 25, 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.

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____