



Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

City of Homer Action Agenda

City Council Special Meeting

Monday, March 23, 2020 at 5:00 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER, 5:00 P.M.

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

Councilmembers Aderhold, Lord, Venuti, Hansen-Cavasos and Evensen participated telephonically.

Department Heads may be called on to participate

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

APPROVED without discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DISCUSSION TOPIC(S)

- a. Resolution 20-023, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Issuing a Request for Proposals for a Lobbyist to Represent the City at the State Capital. Smith.

City Council, Mayor and City Manager Koester discussed varying points on reconsidering the two candidates, Adam Hammatt and Michael Bork for the position of City Manager versus hiring an interim city manager and re-advertising the position noting the following:

- existing conditions with the COVID 19 virus threat
- importance of previous experience
- consensus as opposed to majority vote
- timelines and expense
- time commitment required from the interim City Manager
- reapplication by previous candidates if interested

- b. Memorandum 20-035 from City Manager Re: City Manager Transition

Discussion was included in the previous topic, no additional discussion ensued.

City Manager Koester provided an update on the City's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Two people commented.

ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 5:50 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting is Monday, April 13, 2020 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.

Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Session 20-10 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on March 23, 2020 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: COUNCILMEMBER: SMITH

TELEPHONIC: COUNCILMEMBERS: ADERHOLD, LORD, HANSEN-CAVASOS, VENUTI AND
EVENSEN

STAFF: CITY MANAGER KOESTER
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR BROWNING

APPROVED suspending the rules to allow participation telephonically.

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** Homer City Council unapproved Special Meetings of February 25 and 26, and March 9, 2020 and Regular Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2020. Copy of meeting minutes **VISITORS** City of Homer, South Peninsula Hospital, and Public Health will provide a COVID-19 update. **ORDINANCES** Ordinance 20-18, An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code Chapter 5.42 Single Use Plastic Carryout Bags by Adding Section 5.42 Suspending the Chapter until the State of Emergency Due to COVID-19 is Lifted. Smith. **RESOLUTIONS** Resolution 20-030, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska,

Approving an Employment Contract for Interim City Manager with Marvin Yoder and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Amended contract.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Four people 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 Meetings of February 25 and 26, 2020, March 9, 2020 and Regular Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2020. Recommend adoption. (Supplemental Packet)
- b. Memorandum 20-041 from Mayor re: Reappointment to the Library Advisory Board and Economic Development Advisory Commission. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum 20-042 from Deputy City Clerk re: Liquor License Renewals for Capt. Pattie's Fish House, Little Mermaid, Save U More Liquor #6, Salty Dawg, BPO Elks Lodge #2127 Recommend Approval.
- d. Resolution 20-027, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Adopting a Point of Dispensing Plan as Part of the City of Homer Emergency Operations Plan. City Manager/Fire Chief.
- e. Resolution 20-031, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Assigning the Management and Use of the Old Homer Police Station to the Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) with Operating and Maintenance Costs Associated with the Building Funded out of the HVFD Budget. Smith.

ADOPTED without discussion.

VISITORS

- a. South Kenai Peninsula Opioid Task Force

A written report was included in the packet. There was no discussion.

- b. City of Homer, South Peninsula Hospital, and Public Health will provide a COVID-19 update

HVFD Chief Kirko, Jenny Carroll, Public Information Officer (PIO), Lorne Carroll, Public Health Nurse and Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital Public Relations and Marketing Director representing the Unified Command provided COVID 19 status updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS (5 Minute limit per report)

a. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Lord reported Council discussed Memorandum 20-040 and received an update from City Manager Koester on the City's Continuity of Operations Plan and discussed the hiring process for the interim city manager.

b. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner commented on the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic noting that it was incredibly communicable disease and the economic impact affecting the world. Reminding everyone that they should self-isolate if they are returning from outside the state and to come together as a community.

c. Borough Report

f. Library Advisory Board

g. Planning Commission

City Clerk Jacobsen read a report submitted by Chair Franco Venuti via email into the record.

h. Economic Development Advisory Commission

City Clerk Jacobsen read a report submitted by Commissioner Arevalo via email into the record.

i. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

j. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

i. Memorandum from Deputy City Planner re: Overslope Recommendations

k. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

ORDINANCE(S)

- a. Ordinance 20-14, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code Chapter 5.42, Single Use Plastic Carryout Bags, Section 5.42.040, Exceptions, to Change the Deadline for Providing Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags from February

14, 2020 to September 15, 2020. Smith. Recommended dates: Introduction March 23, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading April 13, 2020.

APPROVED with discussion.

- b. Emergency Ordinance 20-15, An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Suspending the Proceedings of the City of Homer Advisory Commissions, Board and Committees for 60 Days or Until the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration is Lifted, with the exception of Planning Commission business Related to Quasi-Judicial and Other Time Sensitive Actions Legally Required in Homer City Code, Statute, Order or Regulation, and Review of City Leases on the Homer Spit by the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission. City Manager.

APPROVED with discussion.

- c. Emergency Ordinance 20-16, An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2020 Budget by Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$50,000 from the General Fund Fund Balance for the Purpose of COVID-19 Preparation and Response. City Manager.

APPROVED with discussion.

- d. Emergency Ordinance 20-17, An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, to Allow for Telephonic Meetings of Homer City Council to Mitigate Spread of Novel COVID-19. City Manager.

APPROVED as AMENDED with discussion.

Amended Line 7, 15 and 23 to insert the words “or Web Hosted” after the word “telephonic or telephonically”

Amended Line 26-27 insert “and internet” before the word “providers”.

- e. Emergency Ordinance 20-18 , An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code Chapter 5.42 Single Use Plastic Carryout Bags by Adding Section 5.42 Suspending the Chapter until the State of Emergency Due to COVID-19 is Lifted. Smith

APPROVED with discussion.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Koester reviewed her report and provided some good news on the status of a grant; planning to work on a telephonic transfer of duties; Chief Kirko will be taking over the

Incident Command, she will be teleconference with each Councilmember and Marvin Yoder so that he is aware of what the Councilmembers are focusing on.

PENDING BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 20-020(A), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Establishing a **Library Endowment** Field of Interest Fund with the Homer Foundation, Outlining the Process for Oversight of those Funds and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. Aderhold/Venuti.

Resolution 20-020(A)(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Establishing a **Library Endowment** Field of Interest Fund with the Homer Foundation, Outlining the Process for Oversight of those Funds and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. Aderhold/Venuti.

ADOPTED Substitute with discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Memorandum 20-040 from Councilmember Evensen re: Revisiting City Manager Candidates

FAILED with discussion.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 20-028, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending City of Homer Personnel Regulations, Chapter 1, Adding Section 1.8, Emergency or Disaster Declaration; Chapter 3, Amending Section 3.9, Emergency Appointments; and Chapter 5, Amending Section 5.9.3, Exempt Employees. City Manager/Personnel Director.

ADOPTED without discussion.

- b. Resolution 20-029, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Ratifying the Disaster Emergency Declaration Issued for the City of Homer and Extending the Declaration Due to the Current and Expected Impacts of the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus Pandemic. Mayor.

ADOPTED without discussion.

- c. Resolution 20-030, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving an Employment Contract for Interim City Manager with Marvin Yoder and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager.

ADOPTED with discussion.

AMENDED contract to remove Item D, Section 2, Page 2 “or Professional Development Expenses”

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was one who commented.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Gatti commented on the interesting debate and hard decisions that were before the Council and the most important being the selection of City Manager. He noted the savings that may be realized with the Harbor Bonds and he will be discussing this with the Finance Director and City Manager. He believes that the city is working very hard and is keeping status quo. He expressed his enjoyment working with City Manager Koester and praised her work ethics and wished her well in Juneau.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Koester commented on the immense amount of work that has been done in the last two weeks, it has made it really hard to leave and the team has really come together, especially to see staff volunteering and stepping up to the challenge. She stated that she was a child of Homer and feels like she is being launched out into the world. Ms. Koester stated she will be back as a visitor and especially if she can get some of Councilmember Venuti’s chocolate cake.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner stated that City manager Koester has requested a release date if April 3, 2020 and asked Councilmembers if there was any disagreement with that date since it was a week earlier than stated.

Councilmember Smith responded, “Make it so.”

City Manager Koester stated that she will probably be leaving sooner and will be working the final week remotely due to possible travel restrictions.

Mayor Castner then reported receiving a call from a Ms. Bolling from Ketchikan who was interested in lobbying for the City. He requested the City Manager to see if the RFP for the Lobbyist could be completed before she left if possible.

Mayor Castner further stated that he understood the stress everyone is under including the stores in trying to provide essentials to the community. HE requested everyone to try to be patient and kind to each other.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Lord thanked City Manager Koester and City Clerk Jacobsen for running through this process and keeping the public informed. She thanked everyone for their patience. Moving forward, she stated that the RFP for a Lobbyist would be pretty low on her list, hoping that the City Manager and Human Resources will work on getting the Council a plan on hiring process two so that they have something to guide them for this very important decision. A reminder to everybody, that they should know our supply chains are intact, please do not binge buy and create an illusion of shortages that actually do not exist; this actually creates a lot of stress in the community beyond the stress that everyone is feeling. We will be picking up totes on Tuesday from Paul Banks to embark on whatever distance learning looks like for our kiddos and this is a really big undertaking and I appreciate the effort. She related her feelings during this event and noted that this is a moment in time and they will get thru it. She thanked everyone for their patience with the telephonic meetings and echoed the Mayor's sentiments to be kind.

Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos complimented the schools and community, stating that they are amazing and appreciated the Council for working together from afar and requesting the Council's attention on some very important matters.

Councilmember Smith commented that this is not a test and as challenging as that may be and as serious as the circumstances are he would hope that people keep things in perspective. Over the course of time and history they have seen challenging times come before, not only this nation but the world and made it through. He would hope that they can stay positive more than anything and that they do their part. That they are clear with those around us what the expectation to secure the community. People are returning home, he related that his daughter and 8 other college students returned home and they were able to find a place for them for the next two weeks. We may need to get creative in the ways that we provide for those instances and we should not expect any less from anyone in the community. He related a personal experience from a family member who had friends in Italy. More importantly he believes that they need to stay positive and on that note related that the singer/actor Kenny Rogers passed away recently at 81, he then read the lyrics to the song by Mr. Rogers called The Greatest:

*Little Boy, in a baseball hat
Stands in the field with his ball and bat
Says I am the greatest player of them all
Puts his bat on his shoulder and he tosses up his ball*

*And the ball goes up and the ball comes down
Swings his bat all the way around
The world's so still you can hear the sound
The baseball falls to the ground*

*Now the little boy doesn't say a word
Picks up his ball, he is undeterred
Says I am the greatest there has ever been
And he grits his teeth and he tries it again*

*And the ball goes up and the ball comes down
Swings his bat all the way around
The world's so still you can hear the sound
The baseball falls to the ground*

*He makes no excuses, He shows no fears
He just closes his eyes and listens to the cheers*

*Little boy, in a baseball hat
Picks up his ball, stares at his bat
Says I am the greatest the game is on the line
And he gives his all one last time*

*And the ball goes up like the moon so bright
Swings his bat with all his might
And the world's so still as still can be
And the baseball falls, and that's strike three*

*Now it's supper time and his mama calls
Little boy starts home with his bat and ball
Says I am the greatest that is a fact
But even I didn't know I could pitch like that*

*He says I am the greatest that is understood
But even I didn't know I could pitch that good.*

It is all perspective.

Councilmember Aderhold thanked the Community and everyone on the front lines and she admitted to being on an emotional rollercoaster herself just like everyone else. Everybody take a deep breath and be kind to one another and be patient with one another. She reminded everyone that it is still Census season and is something that can be done in social distancing, this will come back to the community in federal Funds so take a few moments and respond. She then reported on attending a three hour Climate Workshop via video conferencing with Councilmember Evensen and Deputy City Planner Julie Engebretsen on March 19, 2020 regarding Climate Planning. The workshop partnering with a non-profit organization called Geo Institute to form a Alaska co-hort on climate planning to seek grant funds to pay for that

planning effort. She then expressed her appreciation for City Manager Koester's integrity and professionalism and that Katie had really taught her a lot. She will be missed.

Councilmember Evensen appreciated Councilmember Aderholt's comments on the Climate Planning look for more to come there. He then provided information on the use and effects of bleach in cleaning and recommended the use of alcohol in cleaning which offers better, healthier and safer option. He wished City Manager Koester bon voyage and a great journey and complimented the Mayor on his mayoral report and leadership during the these difficult times.

Councilmember Venuti commented that she did learn to mute, so it wasn't her, she wanted to express a big WOW for those working on the Police Station it is looking really good she took a tour of the new facility and it is really looking great. She expressed her appreciation for KBBI, would not know what they would do without them; city employees for stepping up; HEA for keeping the power on, relating her experiences getting through the Earthquake in Kodiak with power and water. She expressed her appreciation for the Mayor and the proclamation and the issued a request for the community to assist the Food Bank as they are low on donations and funds. Ms. Venuti then expressed her appreciation of City Manager Koester and that she will be missed greatly.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is Monday, April 13, 2020 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.

Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.