

Session 20-15 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on May 11, 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: COUNCILMEMBERS: ADERHOLD, EVENSEN, HANSEN-CAVASOS, LORD, SMITH,
VENUTI

STAFF: CITY MANAGER YODER
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON

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** Resolution 20-044, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Recommending the Kenai Peninsula Borough Enact Ordinance 2020-24 which would Provide for a Vote By Mail System for Elections Borough Wide. Aderhold/City Clerk. Written public comment **Reports** Planning Commission Written Report **City Manager's Report** Memorandum from City Clerk Re: Commission and Board Meeting Suspension, Police Station Building Update, and 4th quarter expenditure report and **Pending Business** Resolution 20-008(S-2), A Resolution of the Homer City Council Designating Homer Spit Amended Lot 31, Known as Seafarer's Memorial, as Green Space and Adopting a Land Management Policy that Preserves Lot 31 for Wildlife and as a Natural Agent for Erosion Mitigation. Evensen/Hansen-Cavasos. Written public comment.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

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 Regular Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2020. City Clerk. Recommend approval.
- b. Resolution 20-042, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding the Contract for the Public Works Gravel Supply for 2020, 2021, and 2022 to the Firm of R/C Land Improvement

of Anchor Point, Alaska and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 20-057 from Public Works Superintendent as back up

- c. Resolution 20-043, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving A Lease Assignment from Icycle Seafoods, Inc. to Ocean Beauty Icycle, LLC, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents for the Continuation of the Current Twenty Year Lease with Term Ending December 31, 2036 with Options for Two Consecutive Five Year Renewals for Lot 41 & 42, as Shown on the Subdivision Plat 89-34 Entitled Homer Spit Amended ADL 18009, at an Initial Annual Base Rent of \$69,876.96. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 20-059 from Port Director/Harbormaster as backup

- d. Resolution 20-044, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Recommending the Kenai Peninsula Borough Enact Ordinance 2020-24 which would Provide for a Vote By Mail System for Elections Borough Wide. Aderhold/City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Moved to Resolutions item d. Aderhold.

Item d. was moved to Resolutions Item d. Aderhold.

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda and recommendations.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

- a. Unified Command Update (10 Minutes)

Lorne Carroll, Public Health Nurse, shared the a COVID-19 situational update, that currently there are 4.1 million confirmed cases and 290,000 deaths globally, and in the United States is just over 1 million confirmed cases reported and 80,000 reported deaths, and 233,000 recovered. As of noon in Alaska we're at 379 cases, 10 deaths, and 324 have recovered. Kenai Peninsula has 24 cases, with two in Anchor Point, four in Homer and three recovered in Homer. He shared about the national guidance regarding reporting of COVID -19 deaths, and fishing industry mandates with the goal of decreasing transmission.

Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital PIO, reported SPH has submitted 548 COVID-19 tests. 505 were negative, four were positive and 39 are pending. 17 antibody tests have been sent to the Mayo Clinic, none have resulted in positive to date. The hospital remains prepared to care for one or an influx of COVID-19 patients as necessary. She shared about the accommodations being made and ability to quickly expand as needed.

Jenny Carroll, City of Homer PIO, reviewed Phase Two of the Reopening Alaska plan and recent mandates. She highlighted general guidelines including continued social distancing, cloth face coverings, regular hand washing, telephone and online ordering and pickup, pre-shift screenings and symptomatic or ill employees not allowed to work, and allowance for walk-ins provided a log is kept with sufficient information to be able to contact the visitor. She also touched on capacity limitations for various businesses as outlined in the plan.

Fire Chief Mark Kirko reported on the efforts of the Incident Management Team working in a Unified Command Structure that includes the City, SPH, the Public Health Office in the parameters of the State EOC and plan. The priority is keeping everyone as safe as possibly through information sharing and details to work with safe practices handed down from the State's Incident Management Team. He commented regarding the efforts being made to help with the reopening locally of City operations.

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

a. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Lord reported Council met and discussed CARES Act funding that is pending, Resolution 20-044, further action regarding economic impacts on City operations and budget questions, a City Manager Hiring update, and scheduling for their May 18th executive session and worksession focused on the seawall.

b. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner reported on the Fly-Over of the US Air Force and National Guard jets, CARES Act funding noting there are limitations on what the funds can be used for and the City is waiting on its first of three payments. He addressed the lessening of health mandates and encouraged people to remember the virus is still out there, and remember it all summer long. He commented regarding businesses re-opening and the safety of employees.

c. Borough Report

Borough Assembly President Kelly Cooper reported the Assembly is working to refinance their 2010 school bonds for a potential savings of \$699,000 and they can be reissued as tax exempt bonds. She cosponsored an ordinance to establish a Resilience and Security Advisory Commission in response to the 2019 Comp Plan and primary goals to guide our response to changing climate, support energy and food security, improve efficiency of buildings and transportation, and increase lifetime of our land fill. The 2019 Swan Lake Fire cost \$46 million to suppress and the SBA declared the Peninsula an economic injury zone with an estimated loss of up to 20% of the annual revenue. An ordinance has been introduced regarding Borough Elections to provide for a hybrid vote by mail election, time between regular election and runoff, and remove proposition statements. Per the agreement with Alaska Human Rights Commission they specified they'd have an ADA compliant election process in place by the end of 2020. The Assembly is working diligently on the KPB budget, receiving presentations from Service Areas and Departments, and public hearings on May 19 and June 2. They're expecting a \$10 million in revenues for FY2021. The proposed budget reflects a 3% decrease from the prior year's budget, no tax increases have been suggested, and proposed school district funding is \$50 million, \$2.5 million below

the cap. They are expecting to spend about \$16 million of their fund balance and have a plan for a three year recovery.

d. Planning Commission

Mayor Castner noted a written report from the Planning Commission was provided in the supplemental packet.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

ORDINANCE(S)

- a. Ordinance 20-21, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code by Repealing 2.08.100 Teleconference Participation in Meetings, 2.08.110, Teleconference Procedures, 2.08.120 Teleconference Limitations, and Reenacting 2.08.100 Teleconference and Web-Hosted Meetings. City Clerk. Recommended dates: Introduction May 11, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading May 26, 2020

Memorandum 20-056 from City Clerk as backup

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 20-21 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Discussion points noted the change doesn't address who would run the meeting in a circumstance where only the Mayor was participating telephonically, limits on teleconferencing, and process regarding connectivity. It's more nuanced, than what is being proposed, and they'd like to see a substitute at the next meeting.

VOTE: YES: VENUTI, ADERHOLD, LORD, EVENSEN, HANSEN-CAVASOS
NO: SMITH

Motion carried.

- b. Emergency Ordinance 20-22, An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2020 Budget by Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$80,000 from the General Fund Fund Balance for the Purpose of COVID-19 Preparation and Response. City Manager. Recommended dates: Introduction and Public Hearing May 11, 2020

Memorandum 20-058 from City Manager as backup

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 20-22 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Mayor Castner commented with the emergency order there was a directive that the costs be isolated and we were supposed to create a separate account. The Council appropriated \$50,000 and administration decided to account for stuff in one category and salaries in another, the account ran over \$80,000 and now Council is being asked to fix it.

Councilmember Lord said she's under the impression the overtime hours are being tracked and she expects to have numbers from administration in terms of salaries and overtime that have coded to

COVID-19. There is already personnel overtime in the budget and where there are unexpected overtime costs in general, such as a water main break, it's a point of discussion we have, but not something Council manages.

Councilmember Smith noted there is information in the packet about what the \$80,000 being requested is for, and he doesn't believe any of that money has been spent yet. He shares the concern about the overtime money being spent for COVID-19 related activities and labor and that's something they should be appraised of prior to the expenditure of the money, and appropriate the money beforehand, then once we bump up against that ceiling, additional funds can be requested, rather than finding out about it after the fact.

Finance Director Walton explained that personnel costs that are COVID related are being tracked accordingly, both for regular time and overtime. It was interpreted that the emergency ordinance appropriating \$50,000 covered direct expenditures and not personnel costs. Personnel costs were addressed in the amendment to the personnel regs to allow exempt employees to receive overtime and emergency hires when an emergency is declared.

Councilmember Lord noted there is \$280,000 budgeted in FY20 for overtime costs in the general fund and she'd like an update on where we are with overtime and personnel costs.

Mayor Castner emphasized the need for clear accounting of spending specific to COVID, including personnel, social distancing and so on, to defend when we apply for funding and make allocations to reimburse the funds.

Councilmember Lord concurred and suggested they get a regular financial update in the City Manager's report.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

Interim City Manager Yoder commented in addition to his written report is the 4th Quarter report from December 31, 2019 that was provided as a laydown and in the report the general fund total revenue through 2019 was in excess of what was budgeted. We're fortunate to have budgeted conservatively last year with more revenue and less expenditures. We want to continue to follow up monthly. In doing some research today on industry impacts, hotels are down considerably for May and June, but holding steady for July and August. At this point it looks like things may pick up, but it could easily change.

Mr. Yoder also reported Northern Enterprises got permission from the State to lease more land so they'll be extending their tideland lease, the grant for the Fire Hall generator has been approved so we're moving forward on that, and that challenges with opening camp grounds and recreation that are being worked through.

PENDING BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 20-008(S-2), A Resolution of the Homer City Council Designating Homer Spit Amended Lot 31, Known as Seafarer's Memorial, as Green Space and Adopting a Land Management Policy that Preserves Lot 31 for Wildlife and as a Natural Agent for Erosion Mitigation. Evensen/Hansen-Cavasos.

Memorandum 20-052 from Deputy City Planner as backup

Resolution 20-008(S-3), A Resolution of the Homer City Council Designating Homer Spit Amended Lot 31, ~~Known as~~ **Adjacent to** Seafarer's Memorial, as Green Space and Adopting a Land Management Policy that Preserves Lot 31 for Wildlife and as a Natural Agent for Erosion Mitigation. Evensen/Hansen-Cavasos.

Mayor Castner noted there is a motion on the floor from April 27th for the adoption of Resolution 20-008(S-2) by reading of title only.

EVENSEN/LORD MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 20-008(S-3) FOR 20-008(S-2).

Councilmember Evensen explained the changes made were in response to concerns raised at the last meeting and incorporate suggestions from Planning.

VOTE (substitution): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

LORD/ MOVED TO AMEND LINE 42 TO ADD AFTER UNDEVELOPED LAND LEFT "AT THE END OF"

Councilmember Lord noted its appreciating there's actually substantial open space that's excellent habitat along the spit.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND LINES 58-61 TO DELETE THE CURRENT WHEREAS AND REPLACE WITH: WHEREAS, EROSION IS A CRITICAL CONCERN ALONG THE HOMER SPIT, AND CURRENT BEACHES, VEGETATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE WILL BE CONSIDERED AND ASSESSED AS PART OF THE GENERAL INVESTIGATION STUDY FOR HOMER SPIT EROSION MITIGATION AND SUBSEQUENT SPIT EROSION MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN THE CITY IS ACTIVELY PURSUING WITH THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

Councilmember Lord explained it felt important to bring that into the resolution regarding erosion and the spit, since it's ongoing.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND LINES 69-73 AFTER BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT ADD “A SURVEY SHALL BE COMPLETED TO ESTABLISH THE CURRENT SPATIAL EXTENT OF THE CURRENT PARKING AREA ON LOT 31 AND” AND AT THE END DELETE BEYOND REGULAR PARKING SPACE MAINTENANCE, WHICH IS SPATIALLY LIMITED TO PRESENT 45 PARKING SPACES.

Councilmember Lord commented this is in regard to giving more guidance to staff and better clarify what they're talking about. Also that a survey is going to be important to establish those boundaries and not prescribe the number of parking spaces or how it's managed as parking, that information is pending a parking study for the entire spit.

Councilmember Smith shared his agreement with the need for the survey and with removing the reference to 45 parking spaces.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Aderhold noted the written comments provided by Port and Harbor Commissioner Mark Zeiset and read the questions he posed into the record for discussion. The questions addressed whether the resolution restricts Homer from dealing with beach erosion along the spit, can the greenspace be updated to include a proper trail for kids and the elderly, could there be benches or picnic tables and trash receptacles added, and who will manage and fund the greenspace.

Councilmember Evensen noted the concern about the path has been addressed through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant that's noted in the resolution. Regarding the funding concern, the purpose of this is to keep the land intact and preserve it, he doesn't see a need to have a large cost involved with this.

Councilmember Smith noted an aerial photo he provided that shows the trails that are already established by people making their way to the beach which doesn't necessarily preserve critical habitat. He agrees we should have some level of conservation in the area but thinks the resolution is somewhat of an overreaction. The Planning Commission looked at the CUP application and recognized the value of the land, took into account what the public said about it, and ruled it wasn't in the best interest to develop the property as proposed. He takes some exception to suggesting the property is something that it isn't. He feels there's already a process in place to protect the area, and shared some of the history of Planning Commission actions in that area.

Councilmember Evensen reviewed the history of the resolution that was first brought forward in January, he feels it's been well vetted and is a strategic move to incorporate the Spit Comp Plan and addresses erosion mitigation. He feels it's a desperate measure to save the area at the end of the spit. In reference to the aerial photo, he explained that it doesn't show the birds that use that land as habitat. He thinks it's a great step forward, it will get better with time and gives us a more defined purpose for it.

Councilmember Lord shared that is a birding spot and without this resolution we'd be in the same spot. What would move us forward is looking at a management plan that includes the acknowledgment of the public interface there, it's a highly trafficked space in a busy area during the summer. In reference to Mr. Zeist's comments about trash cans, signage, and places to sit, you have to acknowledge the people and manage the interaction to the benefit of all. True preservation and celebration of that space would require further input from PARCAC and some level of funding and actual management of the public space at the end of the spit.

Councilmember Aderhold concurred and added to preserved as habitat, there needs to be funding allocated toward it and make it what the purpose of the resolution indicates.

VOTE: YES: EVENSEN, VENUTI, HANSEN-CAVASOS, ADERHOLD, LORD
NO: SMITH

Motion carried.

Mayor Castner called for a break at 8:06 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 8:12 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 20-045, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Recognizing and Celebrating Graduating High School Seniors and Committing City Support to their Graduation Ceremonies and Celebrations During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Lord/Hansen-Cavasos.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-045 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Lord congratulated Councilmember's Smith and Hansen-Cavasos who have graduating seniors this year, and shared her appreciation for the work the school district and students have done in working through ideas about how to navigate their graduation. She noted the efforts by the City through Mike Illg and Community Recreation, and also Public Works.

Mayor Castner also noted the cooperation from the Police Department for compensations with the parade, and he regrets he won't be dealing cards for their Senior Party this year. Senior graduation is a big deal, he congratulated the graduates and wished them well, and encouraged everyone to listen to class valedictorian Ruby Allen's speech on KBBI.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- b. Resolution 20-046, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Addressing the Impacts COVID-19 has on City Finances, Requesting Additional Financial Support to Restore Shortfalls in Anticipated 2020 Revenues from the State of Alaska and Federal Government, and Thanking State and Federal Officials for their Response to the Pandemic. Aderhold.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-046 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Aderhold commented the goal of the resolution is to allow them to make statements if they need to testify to the State Legislature or Congressional Delegation regarding the pandemic. She felt they needed something on the books with a statement they to use as backup.

There were comments supporting and appreciating Councilmember Aderhold's work drafting the resolution.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- c. Resolution 20-047, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Supporting an Adjustment to the 2020 Halibut Charter Fleet Regulations. Mayor/Venuti.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-047 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ALLOW PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME.¹

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Ben Martin, city resident, commented in support of Resolution 20-047. He shared the concern of the fishery that the current 14 day quarantine state mandate will the reduced tourism to fishing communities around the state, and they're looking for ways to incentivize Alaska residents to travel around the state and use charters. This action will suspend the 2020 regulations that were put in place and revert back to catching two fish of any size and no annual limit restrictions for a limited time.

Greg Sutter commented in support of Resolution 20-047, he shares the same sentiments and added information about deadlines to submit support. Operator bookings are down and relaxing the regulations will help get Alaskans out on the boats.

VENUTI/LORD MOVED TO AMEND LINE 31 TO REPLACE THE WORD MODIFICATION WITH LIBERALIZATION.

Councilmember Venuti shared that in-state fishing reservations have gone down and this is an important time to support our fisherman.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

¹ Council suspended the rules to allow the public who registered to comment but were unable to connect through the web based meeting under public comments.

Councilmember Lord noted lines 23 and 24 and agrees that the bookings are reduced and won't turnaround quickly, and questioned if there is tracking of the seasonal quota fill for the charter fleet. Mayor Castner replied the commercial fishermen agree the quota would not be reached under the circumstance. There was brief discussion regarding fishery quotas.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND LINES 8 AND 32 TO ADD IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.

There was brief discussion regarding using the word restriction.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT TO READ IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 HEALTH MANDATES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE (secondary amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion of the amendment.

VOTE (primary amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- d. Resolution 20-044, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Recommending the Kenai Peninsula Borough Enact Ordinance 2020-24 which would Provide for a Vote By Mail System for Elections Borough Wide. Aderhold/City Clerk.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-044 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Aderhold noted the written comments Council received both for and against the resolution. She shared the history that lead to the development of the ordinance proposed by the Kenai Peninsula Borough, beginning with the development of the Election Stakeholders Group that was formed in February 2019. The group was formed in response to a complaint filed by a disabled voter who was unable to vote independently at a Borough election. The group addressed issues related to voting and the end result was a list of recommendations to the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The number one recommendation was to change to a Vote by Mail Hybrid System (VBMS), and this resolution supports the Borough taking the next step in that direction. VBMS allows voters to vote by mail or in person at vote centers around the Borough. The Borough currently uses a vote by mail system in several remote locations and this would formalize it and make it Borough wide. She noted the report from Resource Data outlines the rigorous process for verifying voted ballots. She shared that she's always been a proponent for voting on Election Day, but through the course of the Election Stakeholders Group work she came to believe that for approving accessibility for voters and voter turnout in general, this is the way to go.

Questions were raised regarding the signature verification process, the Borough's readiness to proceed in this year's election, and security.

City Clerk Jacobsen explained how signatures are collected by the Division of Elections through voter registrations and Election Day voter registers and saved to assist in signature verification. She was unsure about collecting signatures through PFD applications, but added that other verifiers, such as a voter's birth date, driver's license number, last four of social security number, or a witness signature may also be used.

Councilmember Aderhold expressed her agreement that our election system needs to be secure and her confidence that the Borough will be ready, which is why they've introduced based on their readiness. She noted the security information in the Resource Data report that explains how they use stand-alone systems that are not connected to other networks.

Councilmember Lord commented in support of the resolution. We always have been and will continue to be on guard for voter fraud. She's voted absentee many times and she appreciates the work that's gone into this. She's done research trying to understand where we are on voter fraud nationally, it exists and the instances of voter fraud are not as robust as some feel they are. This will help people who are housebound, have disabilities, are traveling, or working remotely have the ability to vote consistently and in a secure way. She applauds the work of the Borough moving in this direction, and clarified this is the City supporting the Borough moving in this direction.

Councilmember Venuti noted her support as well and shared the benefits to young voters who may have limited opportunities to get to their polling location on Election Day, or want to have their ballot at home to talk through the issues at hand. She believes it will increase the numbers of young people that vote. She also commented about potential difficulties in getting election workers at the polling locations during the pandemic.

Councilmember Aderhold noted this is the Borough going in this direction, but we will part of it and the City elections will be a vote by hybrid system as well.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO AMEND LINE 54 ADD AFTER VBMS ADD " , A HYBRID SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS A VOTER TO EITHER VOTE BY MAIL OR IN PERSON AT A VOTE CENTER ESTABLISHED IN EACH MUNICIPALITY".

Councilmember Aderhold noted this clarifies what a vote by mail hybrid system is and it allows for voting by mail, using one of the drop boxes, or in person.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith commented in principle he agrees with doing what we can to increase voter participation. He'd like to see a few things done before implementing this, one is cleaning up the voter rolls and we have a verification process in place. He reviewed information from Anchorage elections

related to turnout and cost. He isn't convinced of the overall benefit and that this will make the difference in generating this desire to participate.

VOTE: YES: VENUTI, ADERHOLD, LORD, EVENSEN, HANSEN-CAVASOS
NO: SMITH

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Gatti had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Yoder reported Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Carroll is working on an EDA Grant for communications out at the port that will require a 20% match from the City. As we look at trying to open campgrounds and the library, the Emergency Operation Center is doing a great job in reviewing the mandates and making sure we're following the right processes.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner reported on an update from the House Majority that the funding is \$568 million and he suspects the Governor will send us money soon. He asked people to be cautious now that the sun is out, fishing is better, all the good stuff, but the virus is still out there. He encourage increasing the measure of personal responsibility, make a personal protection plan and be safe.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Evensen congratulated our high school graduates. A unique and different graduation and commencement can also a very special thing. He hopes the graduates take time to appreciate and celebrate their accomplishments, and celebrate the uniqueness of it.

Councilmember Venuti noted flags are at half-mast in honor of former Lt. Governor Byron Mallott who passed away this week. She shared that the Kachemak Bay Campus will be open in the fall and encouraged students who may need to take classes to check it out. She encouraged the community to be careful and to wear masks to help keep themselves and others safe.

Councilmember Aderhold commented this past weekend should have been Shorebird Festival Weekend. She hopes people have been getting out and seeing the migrants moving through. She discovered out by the Deep Water Dock there is a memorial to dead seabirds that died last year in the bird die off in the Chukchi Sea. The memorial has a representation for every bird that was marked as dead. It's a good reminder of the seabirds that are dying in our marine eco-system and their connection to the food chain.

Councilmember Smith shared when he was at AML in Juneau a few years ago, Lt. Governor Mallott spoke at one of the sessions and it was apparent how he cared deeply for the State, and he appreciates his service. The graduates are embarking on an adult life now, and it's an important rite of passage. There's a lot of uncertainty on what the fall is going to bring, but it's about embracing what you do have and enjoying what's presently before you. He trusts things are going to play out just right. In listening to the community, COVID-19 is different things to different people because it can have a very different effect on whoever contracts it. He wants us to be respectful to those differences and somehow make the community safe for everyone to be out in. It may mean we need to compromise in the way we go out in public and interact, and he thinks that's perfectly reasonable.

Councilmember Lord echoed the condolences and note of appreciation for Lt. Governor Mallott, she also had the pleasure of meeting him and hearing him speak. She appreciates his service to the State, the Tlingit People, and his community. The Mayor of Nome, Richard Beneville, died and she offered condolences to his community. She's been spending time delivering flowers and listening to the soundtrack from Hamilton, and it incorporates all the things she loves, hip-hop, political history, and musicals. It's been an interesting time to listen and think about our nation, what we stand for, and what we're trying to do. We're a nation founded on extreme differences of opinion that are valid and important, so we have to be able to have civil discourse as neighbors and community members, and still help each other out. She's proud of our local government, it's truly a community.

Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos noted she works for Homer Medical and commended the South Peninsula Hospital health care staff for their great and efficient work. She became ill and was very worried and nervous, she didn't want to be a statistic but knew she had to get tested. She was tested for strep and went back to test for COVID. The staff was primo, respectful of her privacy and she felt very taken care of. She tested negative and got better. She's proud of our high school seniors for taking all of this with grace as they move toward graduation. She share a happy belated Mother's Day, and her appreciation for her mother.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held virtually by Zoom Webinar from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____