

Session 20-25 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on August 10, 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: INTERIM CITY MANAGER ABBOUD
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR BROWNING

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: **VISITORS** Unified Command Report, **MAYOR'S REPORT** CY 21 Alaska Marine Highway Winter Scheduling Considerations; **PUBLIC HEARINGS** Ordinance 20-45, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Appropriating \$4,031,326.50 in CARES Act Funds from the State of Alaska and Providing for Administrative Flexibility in the Management of these Funds. Lord/Aderhold. Ordinance 20-45(S) An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Appropriating \$4,031,326.50 in CARES Act Funds from the State of Alaska and Providing for Administrative Flexibility in the Management of these Funds. Lord/Aderhold. Written public comment **ORDINANCES** Ordinance 20-50 An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Appropriating \$60,000 in CARES Act Funds from the State of Alaska for the Homer Chamber of Commerce to Continue Operations during the Pandemic. Evensen/Mayor. Letter from Homer Chamber of Commerce as backup **PENDING BUSINESS** Resolution 20-071, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Establishing the Nonprofit Economic Relief Grant Program (NERG), Household Economic Relief Grant Program (HERG), Social Services Economic Relief Grant Program (SOSERG), And Childcare Business Economic Relief Grant Program (CBERG) in Response to the Economic Downfall Caused by Measures taken to Assure Public Safety in the Face of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Lord/Aderhold/Venuti. Revised Economic Relief Grant Programs and 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

Hannah Gustafson, nonresident and the Southern Kenai Peninsula Resilience Coalition Coordinator, commented in support of Resolution 20-071 and the proposed Economic Relief Grants. She explained they recently conducted a needs assessment and requested Council consider addressing technology needs, if CARES Funds are available. It's become a necessity during these times and needs include hardware, data, and internet access.

Jillian Lush, Director of Sprout Family Services, echoed Ms. Gustafson's comments. She was also involve in the needs assessment and sees an increased need for internet infrastructure, subsidized costs for families needing to access the internet for pediatric services, school, other service needs.

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. City Council Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2020. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. Memorandum 20-116 from Mayor Re: Appointment of Katelyn Engebretsen as Student Representative to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission. Recommend approval.
- c. Ordinance 20-49, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the Homer City Zoning Map to Rezone 4061 Pennock Street from Urban Residential (UR) Zoning District to Residential Office (RO) Zoning District. Planning Commission. Recommended dates Introduction August 10, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 24, 2020.

Memorandum 20-117 from City Planner as backup

Moved to Ordinances item c. Evensen.

Item c. was moved to Ordinances item c. Evensen.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

a. Unified Command Report (20 minutes)

Homer Fire Chief Kirko provided an update on the use of funds that have been approved for COVID response. An improved tracking system has been set up for all purchases being made to better assist in staying ahead of our needs and spending appropriately. There are some challenges with time-frames, particularly with PPE required for this type of response and vendor back log nationally. He's been communicating with the State EOC and putting in PPE requests at the State level, and having some frustration with having to channel City of Homer requests through the Borough because it adds another layer to the already taxed process. He'll be working next week with some local contractors and City Hall staff to do a walk through and present a number for how we make the building ready to open the door and conduct business. He commended the team for handling things while he was away.

Rachel Tussey, City of Homer PIO, reported on ongoing messaging efforts on the Spit, the SBERG Program, voting in a COVID safe way, and the City Manager's office masking requirement for City facilities. She's been revising the City's COVID website to make it more user friendly and to include information that people seem to be looking for these days like the DHSS COVID data dashboard and School District updates. The COVID call line is still active with 309 callers to date. She shared her appreciation for the feedback she's received from Councilmembers and would like to continue collaborating with them on radio ads and opinion letters. She reminded listeners that local businesses who need COVID signage can use the PIO contact number on the website or call the COVID call line at 435-3197.

Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) PIO, reported to date SPH has conducted 6821 total tests with 6522 negative, 109 positive, and 190 pending. Their daily test numbers have slowed to about 50 per day and the positivity rate is down to under 1% over the last seven day, and 1.3% over the last 14 days. Testing is offered daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the main entrance parking lot, call 235-0235 in route. That number is very busy, sometimes up to 100 calls per day on that line so they're working to have more people available to answer the calls. Result turnaround time is 3-5 days, if you're testing in Homer, we still have to drive our swab samples up every morning so that adds a day. The hospital website has information on testing eligibility, a few new categories have been added. There have been no hospitalizations since June, and no employees out due to COVID positive, everyone's back to work and all is good with the residents at the nursing home. SPH priorities going forward include Dr. Tuomi is serving on the local schools COVID Smart Start Work Group to inform and support schools on decision making and provide access to local resources. They're also addressing winterization for the parking lot testing, door screenings, and daily test swab delivery to Anchorage.

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

a. Worksession Report

Councilmember Lord reported Council discussed water and sewer rates at their worksession. They talked about the rate model that was established by the Water/Sewer Rate Task Force in 2013, also the use of the reserve fund and the need for better policy regarding HAWSP. She and Councilmember Aderhold will work on drafting something to bring back to Council to consider.

a. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Lord reported Council discussed Ordinance 20-49 regarding rezoning a property on Pennock from Urban Residential to Residential Office, Ordinance 20-50 regarding providing \$60,000 of CARES Act funds to the Homer Chamber of Commerce and how it fits into Ordinance 20-45, and the Seawall Special Assessment District information in the City Manager's report.

c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner reported on the winter Alaska Marine Highway winter scheduling considerations for the Tustumena, which beginning October 1st it will be out of service until April 15th, so there's no winter sailing scheduled for the western gulf. No travel between Homer and Seldovia, between Homer and Kodiak, or the other ports in the western system. That was put out on Friday and they gave 7 days to comment, so we couldn't meet public notice requirement to put it on the agenda tonight. He encouraged the public to make comment through the State website. He felt it was unfair to have such a short period.

He reported the Borough postponed an ordinance regarding City's ability to weigh in on easement vacations to allow the City's an opportunity to give comment on the ordinance.

He expressed his appreciation to the community for the increased use of masks. It's noticeable, he appreciates the tolerance people are exhibiting, and he hopes the trend continues.

Lastly he reported the new City Manager, Rob Dumouchel, will be arriving in Homer tomorrow and starts work on Monday.

b. Borough Report

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly President Kelly Cooper confirmed the Mayors comments regarding Ordinance 2020-36 and the opportunities for the City's to weigh in before it comes back to the Assembly. They approved \$379,000 for the purchase of a new imagery system through their CARES funding to safely fulfill the requirement for Assessing's physical inspections of properties within the Borough. The imagery has high definition needed to do inspections and allows for privacy, and will help to reduce overall cost related to the inspections. The referendum to repeal the hybrid vote by mail has been certified and will be on the October ballot. They're having a special meeting Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. to address the Borough to City grant of CARES funding, and she'll bring forward a motion to allow Senior

Centers throughout the Borough who have already participated in a Borough Grant Program to be eligible to apply for Borough CARES Act funding. Other amendments address additional funds to emergency service personnel and departments outside of City limits, an air purification system installation in the Borough and School facilities, and amending grant amounts to small businesses and non-profits outside City limits. The Borough is using some of their CARES Act Funding to put out an RFP to improve internet access to residents of the Borough as a grant opportunity funded through CARES Act funding.

e. Library Advisory Board

Kate Finn, Library Advisory Boardmember, reported on the Library's recent change to eliminate all overdue fines and eliminating overdue fines at the library. The Board is turning its attention to the planned giving, a program through the Homer Foundation intended to generate funds for the library, into the future. She provided an update on the Summer Reading Program being successfully conducted digitally, the Activities to Go Program for kids and teens, KBBI Story Hour with Claudia Haines, Grab and Go Food distribution, the Bookmobile in the library parking lot, and grant money provided for Virtual Creator Visits by Shawn Harris and Yvonne Zorbitz whose books are in the Children's Library, upcoming Candidate forum for House District 31 tomorrow at 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., and an essay contest on Why Voting Matters.

f. Planning Commission

i. Planning Commission Report

g. Economic Development Advisory Commission

h. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

i. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

j. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 20-42, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the Official Road Maintenance Map of the City of Homer by adding 2515 Lineal Feet (.48 miles) of Urban Road on Ternview Place, Kilokak Lane, and Virginia Lyn Way. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction July 27, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading August 10, 2020.

Memorandum 20-103 from Public Works Inspector as backup

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/EVENSEN MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-42 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 20-43, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Section 11.08.090 Driveways, Road Approaches-Property of City, Relating to Driveway Construction Permits. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction July 27, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading August 10, 2020.

Memorandum 20-104 from Public Works Director as backup

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-43 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 20-44, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2020-2021 Operating Budget to Appropriate Funds in the Amount of \$47,080 in the 2020 and \$99,670 in 2021 for a total of \$146,750 from General Fund Fund Balance to Fund Additional Finance Department Personnel. Lord/Aderhold. Introduction July 27, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading August 10, 2020

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-44 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was brief discussion confirming this position and the added capacity in the Finance Department will positively impact the audit process and reporting for the City's financial accountability.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- d. Ordinance 20-45, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Appropriating \$4,031,326.50 in CARES Act Funds from the State of Alaska and Providing for Administrative Flexibility in the Management of these Funds. Lord/Aderhold. Introduction July 27, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading August 10, 2020

Memorandum 20-110 from Interim City Manager as backup

Ordinance 20-45(S) An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Appropriating \$4,031,326.50 in CARES Act Funds from the State of Alaska and Providing for Administrative Flexibility in the Management of these Funds. Lord/Aderhold.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-45 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 20-45(S) FOR 20-45.

Councilmember Lord noted the substitute includes a provision to shift funds from the non-profit grant program to household grant program and inserts a correct resolution number on line 90.

VOTE (substitute): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Lord explained while this appropriates large chunks of the funds within the CARES Act appropriation to the City, it also leaves some funds unappropriated in anticipation of shifting over time as we move through the grant programs and getting these funds out to the community, and also for City services required during this time.

Councilmember Evensen shared concern about the potential for the child care CBERG program and that it might be double dipping in terms of what someone could get through SBERG.

Councilmember Lord explained the rationale behind the policy is that it's not double dipping in that no one is eligible to receive funds for which they've already been funded. They have to be COVID related expenses that are not already being covered through any other source. This back filling to help those who don't qualify for the other grant programs. It is additional above and beyond funds to a particular sector and it's something municipalities around the State are doing because people are being put into difficult situations. It includes child care facilities that

are licensed, license exempt, and provide after school care. The social services grant program is also additional above and beyond funding. If they have additional expenses that aren't being met by other CARES Act funds, they'd qualify for the additional above and beyond funding.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- e. Ordinance 20-48, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the 2020 Operating Budget and Authorizing Expenditure of \$29,100 from the General Fund Fund Balance to Fund Additional Porta Potties and Hand Wash Stations and Authorizing a Sole Source Contract. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction July 27, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading August 10, 2020.

Memorandum 20-105 from Public Works Director as backup

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-48 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmember Smith questioned the verbiage that the \$24,300 may be eligible for COVID-19 related expenses, and why that determination hasn't already been made. It seems to be lined out in the Public Work Director's memo that's the case and he agrees as such.

There was discussion regarding postponing to the next meeting to address and confirm the funding source.

LORD/EVENSEN MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE NEXT MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

- a. Ordinance 20-46, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Promoting Natural Gas as a Cleaner Heating Fuel and Amending Homer City Code Title 7 Vehicles and Traffic, Chapter 7.16 Operating, Stopping or Parking of Motor Vehicles in Beach Areas Prohibited-Exceptions, by Deleting Section 7.16.020(b). Evensen. Recommended dates: Introduction July 27, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 10, 2020

Memorandum 20-109 from Interim City Manager as backup

LORD/EVENSEN MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 20-46 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Evensen shared his reasoning for bringing this forward including natural gas being a highly efficient form of heating fuel and should be promoted, the dangers of driving on the beach and potential liability to the City, the toxicity of burning coal, there are other points of beach access along Cook Inlet, and driving on beaches doesn't fit well with critical habitat areas in Homer.

Councilmember Smith commented he and Councilmember Aderhold joined Council at the end of the Beach Policy re-write, there was a lot of work that went into what's currently in place, and it was ripe for the conversation at that time. Beach access is a fundamental right and some access has already been eliminated, predominantly on the Spit and a portion of Bishop's Beach primarily to create a safe space for people to enjoy without vehicular interaction. He appreciates trying to move away from coal as a fuel, but there are number who use it and there are areas surrounding Homer that don't have access to natural gas.

Councilmember Lord was in the community and followed the beach policy work that was done. There was a huge amount of public participation and it was very controversial as it's a near and dear subject to a lot of people for a lot of reasons. She doesn't think this is an appropriate time to take this up given the lack of access in terms of people's ability to weigh in and participate in the way they are traditionally used to. She uncomfortable taking up an extremely hot topic in the middle of a pandemic. Following a huge amount of process is the only way to open this back up. She's comfortable where we landed with the compromises made in the current policy through a thoughtful process.

Councilmember Venuti shared about a phone call she received from a member of the public who drives her elderly parents to family picnics on the beach in this area and this would eliminate that opportunity. It's not all about collecting coal.

Councilmember Aderhold agrees with Councilmember Evensen in concept, however it doesn't seem like the right time. The backup memo explains the Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission (PARCAC) is slated to take up beach policy this fall, and if we were to do anything, she'd say at a later date they send a guidance memo to PARCAC to review and evaluate certain aspects of beach policy. She agreed with Councilmember Smith this was a lot of their time when they joined Council. She talked to community members on all sides of the topic and understands the need for access down the beach. She isn't comfortable cutting off access to properties along the beach, and not comfortable taking it up at this time. She could potentially support giving PARCAC some direction this fall.

Councilmember Venuti could also support having PARCAC involved this fall.

Councilmember Evensen suggested what's missing from the conversation is the issue with the deterioration of the beach. Those members who didn't grow up here don't know what it was like in the 70's and 80's with the rich intertidal ecosystem. He reminisced about the sea life and intertidal organisms that could be found along the beach. The beach has bared the brunt of this policy and we've watched it be destroyed over the years.

Councilmember Aderhold suggested she could potentially support, at a future date, a small contract to look at past data on the intertidal area that evaluates any changes over time that could help PARCAC and Council evaluate what those changes have been.

Councilmember Lord noted her support for that notion, and it would be helpful to include the human element in looking at causal relationships, including HPD reports for accidents, lost vehicles, and usage data.

Councilmember Evensen suggested introducing this tonight, holding a public hearing, and deciding at the next meeting whether to postpone.

Councilmembers reiterated their points for not wanting to introduce this ordinance at this time.

Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos noted she's been on both sides of the issue, having collected coal and spending time beach combing. She agreed with others to get more documentation and address this at a later time with PARCAC.

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

Motion failed.

- b. Ordinance 20-50 An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Appropriating \$60,000 in CARES Act Funds from the State of Alaska for the Homer Chamber of Commerce to Continue Operations during the Pandemic. Evensen/Mayor Recommended dates Introduction August 10, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading August 24, 2020

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 20-50 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Evensen noted Council discussed this briefly at Committee of the Whole, this is meant to help facilitate the Chamber of Commerce making it through the pandemic. They've done so much for the community since the onset when things got really challenging back in March. He added in their earlier discussion they addressed adjusting it for the second reading to have it fit more into the proper CARES system in terms of deliverables and the application guidelines.

Mayor Castner added praise for the work the Chamber has been doing addressing issues and funding for all local businesses, not just members.

Councilmember Smith shared his support for the Chamber. We contract with them to do an important part of marketing Homer and help businesses thrive, their role is critical. They've lost a number of volunteers and the staff has had to pick up those areas.

Councilmember Lord recapped the feedback to the sponsors from the earlier meeting for a substitute at their next meeting, including being in line with the policy of reporting and budget requirements they pass for the Nonprofit Economic Recovery Grant. She's curious on others thoughts if this is instead of or additional to the Nonprofit Economic Recovery Grant program.

Councilmember Aderhold responded to be consistent with the others, they'd be eligible for both, however they wouldn't be able to get funds for the same thing out of each program. If they have an additional need they could go to the Nonprofit Economic Recovery Grant program.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 20-49, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the Homer City Zoning Map to Rezone 4061 Pennock Street from Urban Residential (UR) Zoning District to Residential Office (RO) Zoning District. Planning Commission. Recommended dates Introduction August 10, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading August 24, 2020.

Memorandum 20-117 from City Planner as backup

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 20-49 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Evensen expressed his opposition to this ordinance. When something is changed from residential to commercial, no matter how slight it may seem, there's an undisputed risk of increased traffic. If it's a daycare you're talking about 30 cars in the morning and 30 in the afternoon, it changes the neighborhood. It may not be that obvious currently but if we undergo rapid growth he's worried the adjacent properties and the greater neighborhood will take a hit. He understands it meets the Comprehensive Plan objectives, it's a nice guide but it's not foolproof, it doesn't include an analysis of the economic impact, and it doesn't appear the Planning Commission addressed the aspect of negative economic impact in their report.

Councilmember Aderhold appreciates the argument, but noted the map that identifies the properties that were sent notification and none of them provided any input. She also noted that the property across the street from this used to be Cozy Bear Daycare, so there already has been a daycare in that spot. She's willing to move this forward based on the

recommendation of the Planning Commission. She asked at the public hearing that they have the code for Urban Residential and Residential Office Zoning districts to compare the uses.

Councilmember Venuti noted small home businesses are finding it difficult to find space in the downtown area and changes like this can help Homer grow. She supports the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Councilmember Lord supports the introduction and noted some concern about the lot by lot approach to the zoning discussion. She would need more to back up the assertion of negative economic impact to neighboring Urban Residential zoning. She can see positive benefit to neighboring properties, and most of her thoughts are neutral. She doesn't think it's fair to portray this as a slam dunk that there will be a negative impact. There are different pressures that push a community, neighborhood, street, or property in any particular direction in terms of desirable or undesirable.

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

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

Councilmember Evensen asked about campground and non-campground status, and also about masking requirements. Interim City Manager Abboud said he'd follow up with them in the next report regarding campgrounds, and the City Attorney is researching our authority in the public health realm regarding masking requirements.

Councilmember Smith shared his appreciation for the City's work during the recent tsunami warning and was impressed they evacuated the spit in an hour. He asked for a report on what they learned in the event and what steps could be taken to make the process better.

Councilmember Aderhold appreciated the update on the SBERG program and noted there are a number of issues, things to verify, and rescinding grant awards and she questioned if additional revisions are needed to make it fully workable. Interim City Manager Abboud said there are opportunities and maybe they bleed off into other programs, he thinks we addressed the issue regarding tax situations, but there are quite a few details you could always re-think. We're making sure to reinforce the rules of the program for the applicants so they understand whether they're complying and eligible. There are funds available if the Council determines there are other areas to address.

Councilmember Lord asked if Sara Perman the CARES Act Program Administrator, could be scheduled to report to the Council and answer questions. If there are places where hands are tied and Council needs to take some actions, it would be helpful to discuss that with her.

PENDING BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 20-071, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Establishing the Nonprofit Economic Relief Grant Program (NERG), Household Economic Relief Grant Program (HERG), Social Services Economic Relief Grant Program (SOSERG), And Childcare Business Economic Relief Grant Program (CBERG) in Response to the Economic Downfall Caused by Measures taken to Assure Public Safety in the Face of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Lord/Aderhold/Venuti.

Memorandum 20-111 from Interim City Manager as backup

Mayor Castner announce the motion on the floor from July 27th to adopt Resolution 20-071 by reading of title only and opened the floor for discussion.

Councilmember Aderhold noted the revised version in the supplemental packet that shows the updates in bold underline and strike out.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen announced candidacy filing for Mayor and two city council seats is open until Monday August 17th at 4:30 pm. Absentee in person voting is open at the City Council Chambers for the State Primary Election, 8-5 Monday through Friday. State Primary Election Day is Tuesday August 18th, polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm, and voters who have voted at the Senior Center in the past will vote at the Homer United Methodist church this election year.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

Interim City Planner Abboud had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner said he's happy to have appointed Katelyn Engebretsen to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission. She comes from a seafaring and boat building family and he hopes she enjoys her time on the Commission.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Lord thanked the Clerk's office for helping with the election information, she's heard some confusion about absentee ballots and how to apply for the different elections. She went to the store and felt positive about all the people wearing mask, it felt like we're part of a team. She doesn't like wearing a mask but it feels good to be doing it together. She thanked Interim City Manager Abboud for all his work filling in during this stretch of time. She shared her sadness for everyone lost in the plane crash in Soldotna. She didn't know Gary Knopp personally and there were a lot of policies she disagreed with him while he was on the Assembly and in the House, but he exuded statesmanship, and care for the State and for everyone in the State regardless of their political affiliation. He was top notch and it's a real loss to the legislature and all of us in the State of Alaska.

Councilmember Aderhold shared that August 18th marks the date the 19th Amendment was ratified, it reads "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation." Women marched and protested well over 100 years ago and without their guts and tenacity there, there are four councilmembers who wouldn't be here without the right to vote. 75 years ago the US dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan and she hopes we can all work to ensure atomic weapons are never used again in the world. August 7th was national Purple Heart Day, Homer is a Purple Heart City, and there are people in our community who were injured or killed serving our county. She reminded listeners that Homer Shares the Road so watch out for cyclists and pedestrians. Bicycles share the road with cars, it's a State statute, and we all need to use it properly. She's been thinking a lot about the midair collision that happened a week ago, luckily they're very rare, but always horrible. She hopes NTSB will be able to help us figure out how this happened so something similar won't happen in the future. She shares Councilmember Lord's sentiments and appreciates what Gary Knopp did for our State.

Councilmember Smith shared that he didn't always agree with Gary Knopp but agrees with the others and shared his condolences. He's grateful for the opportunity to vote absentee, he did it today and encouraged others to do the same. Tonight is his 25th anniversary and he expressed his appreciation for his wife. He noted she's a Census worker this year and reminded listener the Census is still on going so please do it. He shared about playing in a State Softball Tournament in Wasilla this weekend. He was invited to play on a team of young adults, including his daughter, and it was a great time with a lot of wins for the Peninsula teams.

Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos commented school is starting soon and there are a lot of unknowns right now. She appreciates the School District for their work and Facebook groups for getting information out to people. She's choosing to home school this year because two of her children are high risk. She appreciates all the people who are wearing masks, and has friends on the other side and respects their opinions also. She gave a shout out the Mark Cooper of Kostas Taxi who's assisting with getting people up to Kenai so they can fly to Anchorage for medical appointments, she appreciates the work he's doing.

Councilmember Evensen thanked Interim City Manager Abboud for his work, he's been great to work with, and thanked Councilmember Aderhold for mentioning Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Homer is a nuclear free zone, it's not always enforced at the port, which may be a discussion point at some time. COVID continues in our community and its depressing, we're in mourning for the way we used to live. The Director of the World Health Organization recently said that worldwide because of the pandemic we face a generational catastrophe for education and he feels like it's going to be a hard thing to get past. He appreciates the work that was done for the CARES funding programs, particularly the HERG which is important as it gets at this educational burden that is suddenly on families. It's a great responsibility and he thinks it will take more than what folks know and are aware of right now. He recognize many citizens fall through the cracks with respect to other CARES programs but hopes the household program will reach everyone.

Councilmember Venuti thanked the Mayor and Catherine Ulmer for Ms. Engebretsen's appointment as Student Rep to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission. Pioneer Avenue looks great with its new pavement, she encouraged shopping at our local businesses, masks are being worn and she appreciates that. Kachemak Bay Campus will be holding a Zoom meeting to answer questions about the campus on the 13th at 2:00 p.m. Information can be found on the webpage or on Facebook page. She shared her appreciation for Interim City Manager Abboud's filling in and thanked Councilmember Aderhold for the reminder about the anniversary of women's right to vote.

ADJOURN

Next Regular Meeting is Monday, August 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held virtually from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____