

Session 20-31 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on October 26, 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 ADERHOLD, EVENSEN, HANSEN-CAVASOS, LORD, SMITH, VENUTI

STAFF: CITY MANAGER DUMOUCHEL
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CARROLL
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON
CITY ATTORNEY GATTI

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 Correct Resolution 20-105 title on agenda to read A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing the City Manager Apply for a Loan from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Drinking Water Fund, in an Amount not to Exceed \$469,874 to Finance Costs of the Alder Lane and Tasmania Court Water Improvement Projects. City Manager/Public Works Director. Memorandum 20-173 from City Clerk Re: Letter to Governor Dunleavy Re: Community Spread of COVID-19. Written public comment. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS** Planning Commission Written Report **PENDING BUSINESS** Resolution 20-100, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Establishing a Fishermen Economic Recovery Grant (FERG) Program and Approving up to \$1.3 Million from the COVID-19 Response Fund to Provide Economic Relief to City of Homer-Based Vessel Owners Engaged in Commercial Fishing who are Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mayor. Written public comment; **Resolutions** Resolution 20-111(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding the Contract for the Homer Seawall Maintenance Work to East Road Services, Inc. of Homer, Alaska in the Amount of \$45,336 and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Memorandum 20-184 from City Engineer as backup.

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 October 12, 2020. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. Memorandum 20-171 from Mayor Re: Appointment of Brenda Dolma to the Library Advisory Board. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum 20-172 from City Clerk Re: Renewal of a Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility License for Cosmic Seaweed, LLC. Recommend approval.
- d. Memorandum 20-173 from City Clerk Re: Letter to Governor Dunleavy Re: Community Spread of COVID-19. Recommend approval.
- e. Memorandum 20-174 from City Clerk Re: Letter to KPBSD Superintendent O'Brien Re: Community Spread of COVID-19. Recommend approval.

Moved to New Business item b. Aderhold.

- f. Ordinance 20-83, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the 2020 Capital Budget and Authorizing the Expenditure of \$253,193 from the HAWSP Fund to Complete the Alder Lane Water Improvement Project. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended dates Introduction October 26, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 9, 2020.
- g. Ordinance 20-84, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY2020 Capital Budget to Authorize the Expenditure of \$90,000 from the Ocean Drive Loop Special Service District Maintenance Accounts to Perform Maintenance on the Homer Seawall. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended dates: Introduction October 26, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 9, 2020.
- h. Ordinance 20-85, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY2020 Capital Budget in the Amount of \$97,000 from the HART Roads Fund and Authorizing the Homer Public Works Department to Execute an Engineered Solution to Relocate the Surface Water Discharge at the Confluence of the Sterling Highway and Mount Augustine Drive into a Natural Occurring Raving, Gully, Watercourse or Runnel. Mayor/Evensen. Recommended dates: Introduction October 26, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 9, 2020.

Memorandum 20-175 from Public Works Director as backup

- i. Resolution 20-105, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing the City Manager Apply for a Loan from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Drinking Water Fund, in an Amount not to Exceed \$469,874 to Finance Costs of the Alder Lane and Tasmania Court Water Improvement Projects. City Manager/Port Director. Recommend adoption.
- j. Resolution 20-106, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving an Amendment to the Northern Enterprises Inc. Lease for 60 Square Feet of City Tidelands known as KPB Parcel # 18107001 to Extend the term from 20 Years with Options for 2 Consecutive 5-Year Renewals to 40 Years with Options for 2 Consecutive 5-Year Renewals for an Annual Rate of \$3.74. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 20-176 from the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission as backup

- k. Resolution 20-107, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding a Short-Term Term Contract for Professional Engineering Services to Bishop Engineering, LLC and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.
- l. Resolution 20-108, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding a Short-Term Term Contact for Professional Surveying Services to Geovera, LLC, Ability Surveys, and Seabright Survey and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.
- m. Resolution 20-109, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing a Sole Source Contract with T2 Systems in an Amount not to Exceed \$85,000 to Furnish and Install Five Automatic Pay Kiosks and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 20-178 from Public Works Director as backup

Item e. moved to New Business item b. Aderhold.

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda and its recommendations.

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 Update (20 Minutes)

Lorne Carroll, Public Health Nurse, reported we're currently at the highest rate of cases known to Alaska so far with over 300 new cases today. Most of the new infection are through community spread, socializing, school, and other similar circumstances. He thanked the public health nurses and contact tracers for their work which enables us to speak to where the new infections are coming from. The age group of 20-29 still represents the largest proportion of Alaskans with newly diagnosed COVID at 24% of total cases. The virus is more easily spread from person to person than seasonal influenza and the results are different from seasonal influenza in that there are more deaths and hospitalizations because there is no vaccine for COVID. Because of that, community mitigation measures like promoting behaviors that would prevent the spread of COVID from one person to the next, contact tracing efforts, and continuing to approach things in new and creative ways of doing business. The primary goals are to slow the spread of the virus from one host to the next and aiming to protect our elders, friends, and family, and reserve our limited healthcare capacity and other systems that are responsible for building resilience factors for our community. There are still many unknowns and the goal in ending a pandemic is reducing the overall rate of transmission from one host to the next to be less than one person on average.

Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital Public Information Officer, added one of the ways to stop transmission is to limit indoor gatherings. She reported the hospital has moved from low to moderate risk level, visitation is reduced, and still closed to long term care. There are no employees who have tested positive to date, but some are quarantined due to close contact to a known positive. SPH has provided 10,985 tests, 10,755 negative, 146 positive, and the rest pending results. Since her last report to Council they've done 988 tests and 22 were positive and that give the hospital testing a 2 week positivity rate of 2.2%. She provided a brief response to testing questions from last meeting, addressing types of tests used and processes and will have a memo to Council with more information. She also reported there are two upcoming flu shot clinics, one October 27th at the Homer United Methodist Church and a drive through clinic on October 31st at the Specialty Clinic building on Bartlett Street.

Mark Kirko, City of Homer Fire Chief, reported as we see the uptick in numbers statewide and locally, the Incident Management Team has been meeting more frequently to stay current the numbers, consider what it means for our community, and get the word out again to remind the community of the safety precautions necessary to mitigate spread. He's been meeting with the City Manager and putting efforts into near and long range planning and the matrix for looking at changes in regular lifestyle in the community. New signage has come in from the State to continue to promote social distancing, mitigating large group gatherings, and keep the community informed.

In response to questions and comments from Mayor and Council there was discussion regarding hospitalizations, community transmission, and potential impacts of not having an emergency declaration in place for the city.

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

a. Worksession Report

City Manager Dumouchel reported Council had a presentation from Public Works Director Keiser on unpacking water and sewer rates, discussed some of staff's recommendations in the report, and touched on the information from the Finance Director on rate model scenarios. This is an ongoing issue that Council will continue to discuss.

b. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Lord reported Council discussed the letter to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Superintendent O'Brien, the Northern Enterprises Lease Extension, heard an overview on term contracts, received clarification on self-pay kiosk locations, and discussed extending the emergency declarations and CARES Act closeout spending priorities.

c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner commented regarding the recent Tsunami warning and evacuation. He was concerned that this was the second evacuation during the pandemic and of impacts of crowding people into other people's homes or the high school, especially if it was a non-event. He shared information about Sand Point, the closest location to the earthquake, explained the emergency response team here has a process they go through but that review doesn't involve any elected officials, including the Mayor. He spoke to Cindi Preller, a tsunami expert, who said Homer shouldn't have been included in the evacuation. She explained to him that there should have been an arrival time of a wave to Homer, that there are three entities who deal with policy involving tsunami reaction, and that elected officials should have a seat at the table when talking about the policy of declaring emergencies and moving people. There are conditions of an event that guide the decision whether to evacuate or not. This is happening with some regularity and he's hopeful from this that we raise the level of discussion about how often we're going to have evacuations, because there will come a time where people get tired of crying wolf and stop reacting.

d. Borough Report

e. Library Advisory Board

Marcia Kuszmaul, Library Advisory Board Chair, commented about the Election 101 webinars, the Food for Kids and Teens Program at the library with pick up available by the library book

drop, board game checkout, and an upcoming reading by the 2019 National Book Award Finalist and Poet Carolyn Forché' on October 30th.

f. Planning Commission

A written report was provided by Scott Smith, Planning Commission Chair.

g. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Karin Mark, Economic Development Advisory Commission Chair, reported the Commission adopted their strategies and goals and she reported on KPEDD Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update schedule.

h. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

i. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

j. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

k. Economic Relief Grant Report

Sara Perman, ERG Program Coordinator, reported the HERG Program closed out October 16th and we received 238 applications, 7 denied and 13 are still pending. The total HERG dollars awarded were just under \$340,000, leaving just over \$1.1 million remaining. There have been requests for a program extension. This morning NERG2 kicked off and she's been doing outreach on that.

Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Carroll reported SBERG2 is underway, so far 128 applications have come in, 114 were SBERG1 recipients and 14 new applicants, and 83 have been approved to date. To date just under \$1.1 million has been awarded and if the remaining requests be approved it will increase to \$1.79 million.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 20-68, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the 2020 Capital Budget and Authorizing the Expenditure of \$234,105 from the Homer Accelerated Water & Sewer Program (HAWSP) Fund to Complete the Tasmania Court Water Improvement Project. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction September 28, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading October 26, 2020.

Memorandum 20-155 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 20-68 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

A correction was noted for the date on line 36.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 20-73, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Accepting and Appropriating an FY2018 State Homeland Security Program Reallocation Grant in the Amount of \$24,376 to fund a 911 Public Safety Answering Point at the Homer Police Station. City Manager/Police Chief. Introduction October 12, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 26, 2020.

Memorandum 20-163 from Police Chief as backup

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

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-73 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 20-74, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code 14.08.040 Water Connection and Extension Permit to Require Property Owners Requesting Connection to the City's Water System be Connected to the City's Sewer System. Smith. Introduction October 12, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 26, 2020.

Memorandum 20-166 from Public Works Director as backup

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

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-74 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There were brief comments in support of the ordinance and thanking Councilmember Smith and Public Works Director Keiser for their work in bringing this forward.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- d. Ordinance 20-75, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Providing for a Grant of \$230,000 to South Peninsula Behavioral Services, Inc. for the Purposes of Recovery of Losses and Additional Costs Associated with Meeting the Challenges of the Novel Coronavirus and in Support of the Continuation of their Programs and Services. Hansen-Cavasos. Introduction October 12, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 24, 2020.

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

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-75 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- e. Ordinance 20-76, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Kenai Peninsula Borough Parcel No. 17714011, T 6S R 13W SEC 20 Seward Meridian HM PTN GL 2 BEGIN S 1/16 CORNER SECS 19 & 20 & NW CORNER OF GL 2 TH S 89 DEG 57'30" E 1094.3 FT TO PT TH S 38 DEG 0' W 310 FT TO POB TH 90 DEG W 75 FT TO CORNER 2 TH S 38 DEG W 75 FT TO CORNER 3 TH 90 DEG E 75 FT TO CORNER 4 TH N 38 DEG E 75 FT TO POB for \$35,000 from the Land Reserves Account and Designating its use as part of Bishops Beach Park. Venuti/Hansen-Cavasos. Introduction October 12, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 26, 2020.

Memorandum 20-167 from PARCAC as backup

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Rika Mouw, city resident, commented in support of Ordinance 20-76 and shared her support for extending the parkland with this purchase.

There were no further comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-76 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO AMEND LINES 13 AND 40 TO READ AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000.

Councilmember Smith noted for clarification that the property is currently listed for \$35,000.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion as amended.

VOTE (main motion as amended): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- f. Ordinance 20-77, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the 2020 Capital Budget and Authorizing the Expenditure of \$13,480 from the City Hall CARMA Fund for Finance Office Remodel and Furnishings. City Manager/Finance Director. Introduction October 12, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 26, 2020.

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

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-77 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmember Lord requested that fund balances be provided with ordinances expending funds.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- g. Ordinance 20-79, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Establishing a Fishermen Economic Recovery Grant (FERG) Program and Amending the 2020 Budget by Appropriating the Amount of \$1.3 Million from the General Fund Fund Balance to Provide Economic Relief to City of Homer-Based Vessel Owners Engaged in Commercial Fishing who are Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mayor. Introduction October 12, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 26, 2020.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Jim Herbert, non-resident, commented in favor of Ordinance 20-79 and the Fisherman Economic Relief Grant Program. Homer is the base of operations for many commercial fishing businesses and their crews and he considers this a good use of the CARES Act funds.

Aaron Fleenor, Homer Marine Trades Association Board Vice President, commented in support of Ordinance 20-79 and the Fisherman Economic Relief Grant Program. It will benefit our local fishermen and their crews, as well as benefit our local economy.

There were no further comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-79 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Question was raised regarding reference to the general fund fund balance and it was confirmed with Finance Director Walton it would be correct to amend it to read COVID-19 Response Fund.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND LINE 10 STRIKE GENERAL FUND FUND BALANCE AND REPLACE WITH COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND.

There was no discussion.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmembers Lord and Evensen shared their appreciation for the feedback from the fishing community.

VOTE (main motion as amended): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Mayor Castner called for a recess at 7:36 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 7:45 p.m.

- h. Ordinance 20-80, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Providing for a Grant of \$34,789.24 to the Homer Foundation Homer Community Chest Fund to Assist Vulnerable Populations in order to Prevent Homelessness During the COVID-19 Pandemic through the Homer Community Chest Fund. Mayor. Introduction October 12, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 26, 2020.

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

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-80 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- i. Ordinance 20-81(A), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Establishing a Mortgage and Rent Relief Grant (MARRG) Program to City of Homer Residents Experiencing Economic Hardship due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Approving up to ~~\$339,200~~ **\$763,200** to be used for MARRG, and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) for Program Administration. Adherhold. Introduction October 12, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading October 26, 2020.

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

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-81(A) BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmembers Smith expressed appreciation for Councilmember Aderhold bringing this forward, and Councilmember Evensen for the amendment. This has the ability to have a positive impact for families that have suffered.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- j. Ordinance 20-82(A), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Unencumbering the Unexpended Funds of the City of Homer Economic Relief Grant Programs and City material, service, and personnel costs in the COVID-19 Response Fund to Cover Expenses as Directed by the CARES Act Project Close Out Plan. City Manager. Introduction October 12, 2020, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 24, 2020.

Memorandum 20-179 from Special Projects & Communications Coordinator as backup

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Reid Brewer, Kachemak Bay Campus (KBC) Director, advocated for Kenai Peninsula Colleges proposed use of CARES Act funds as part of the closeout for the plan. KBC will use the funds to support distance learning and scholarships.

Todd Hindman, Fireweed Academy Principal, commented regarding Fireweed Academy's request for \$5,000 of CARES Act funding through the closeout plan to purchase a HEPA Air Filter Filtration System to provide an air exchange rate of 5 to 6 exchanges per hour.

There were no further comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-82(A) BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmember Lord commented regarding Memorandum 20-179 that outlines the close-out plan, noting she doesn't have amendments to the ordinances itself but to the memorandum.

Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Carroll noted at their last meeting they agreed by resolution to work through the CARES Act closeout plan. The unexpended funds are being unencumbered through this ordinance in order to cover expenses as directed by the CARES Act Plan and the memorandum is attached to the ordinance. Staff requests they discuss the plan and make changes as needed so staff can move efficiently ahead toward expending the funds by the end of December.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADD THE \$5000 REQUEST FROM FIREWEED ACADEMY IN WITH ITEM 6.

There was discussion that there will be sufficient unexpended funds remaining after the ERG programs close to work down this list and prioritization of the list.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmembers reviewed the information on the list. Some members expressed concerns with the justification of some of the items listed in Memorandum 20-179 and suggested other avenues for appropriation are needed. Others expressed support to funding them all with CARES Act Funds for the betterment of the community. In response to questions, Fire Chief Kirko reviewed the emergency response equipment requests and how it would be distributed to emergency vehicle for responding in the community; and Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Carroll reviewed process for prioritizing and spending the funds unencumbered by this ordinance.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED AMEND AND MOVE ALL PROCUREMENT ITEMS TO THE TOP OF THE LIST OF MEMORANDUM 20-179 IN THE CURRENT ORDER THEY ARE AND EVERYTHING ELSE FOLLOW IN THAT LINE.

Councilmember Evensen addressed the comments in the memo regarding his request for funding an erosion mitigation proposal. He feels it's justified for using CARES Act Funds and doesn't want it to be eliminated by this motion.

Councilmember Aderhold explained the amendment moves all the ERG Programs below the currently listed procurement items.

It was noted for clarification that with this amendment, there is a new number 7, \$5000 to Fireweed Academy, so items 5, 6, the new 7 through 12 would be moved to the top of the list so they can get rolling, for a total of about \$365,000. The additional funds continue to get funded underneath those.

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

Motion carried.

In response to a question, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Carroll reviewed the procurement process and timelines when making purchases with CARES Act Funds.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dumouchel reported on an update from the Clerk's office that the lobbyist RFP information had been emailed out, he attended a Volunteer Fire Fighter training over the weekend, and he and Chief Kirko have been using the general COVID plan and framework he addressed in his last report, as way to discuss the COVID context for City specific operations. We're seeing levels increase across the State and here locally so we're watching it closely.

In response to questions from Councilmember Lord, City Manager Dumouchel commented there is ongoing discussion about the open status of the library, currently it remains open and risk levels are being reviewed to make appropriate decisions on that status. He'll provide additional information regarding the GFOA award when it's available, but wanted to share the notice that the City had received it. Regarding the tsunami response there was an internal staff discussion on Thursday, on Friday there was a meeting with KPB and State and Federal agencies to share similar concerns that have been expressed tonight about the way information came in to the City. They discussed ways to better communicate and the need for better warning polygons. He agrees with the need to find better ways to loop in Council short of scheduling a meeting to talk when these events occur, and will work with staff on ways to make that happen.

Councilmember Venuti shared that she doesn't think the City can easily remove themselves from the tsunami warnings nor would we want to because there will come a time when we're impacted. These times can be used as practice. She noted his information about bears and

asked if people are being cited for leaving trash out. City Manager Dumouchel doesn't believe people are being cited, but would have to confirm that. Right now the focus is on education about it and it's his understanding it's primarily people camping right now.

Councilmember Aderhold congratulated the Finance Department on the GFOA award and all their work to receive the award. She commented about the Climate Action Plan and her participation with the Climate Cohort Group, they will continue to meet every other month or so. She noted the Community Engagement Team item in the report, she hopes we move forward with it and that other councilmembers are interested also, it reminds her of the letter they sent to the Governor earlier in the summer asking them to help us develop a mitigation plan. She thinks there are a number of ways we could get help from the State. As a Councilmember she'd like to have better information on what's happening with the local out breaks so we have a better understanding of what's happening in our community.

PENDING BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 20-100, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Establishing a Fishermen Economic Recovery Grant (FERG) Program and Approving up to \$1.3 Million from the COVID-19 Response Fund to Provide Economic Relief to City of Homer-Based Vessel Owners Engaged in Commercial Fishing who are Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mayor.

Memorandum 20-180 from Special Projects & Communications Coordinator as backup
Memorandum 20-169 from Port Director/Harbormaster as backup

Mayor Castner advised that the motion on the floor from October 12th to adopt resolution 20-100 by reading of title only and that a Revised FERG program policy in the packet.

It was noted that reference to approving funding from the COVID-19 Response Fund shouldn't be included in the title.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND LINE 9 TO DELETE "AND APPROVING UP TO \$1.3 MILLION FROM THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND"

There was no discussion.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Aderhold was glad that Council received comments regarding the program. One thing she heard from fishermen who work in Bristol Bay, Prince William Sound, or Southeast who live in Homer and spend money for marine trades but because aren't based here, they aren't eligible for funds. She wondered how others felt about it.

Councilmembers Evensen and Smith commented it's difficult to encapsulate all the fishing industry and participants in it when providing this program. It's been a similar challenge with the other programs also. This is a great effort and will work for many.

Mayor Castner added they needed to establish a connection with the City and decided harbor usage would be the connecting point.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Memorandum 20-181 Selection/Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore 2020/2021

Mayor Castner opened the floor for nominations.

Councilmember Lord nominated Councilmember Aderhold and Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos nominated Councilmember Smith.

The vote was tied and three for each nominee.

Following discussion on next steps in relation to HCC 2.08.080 which states the Mayor Pro Tempore shall be appointed by majority vote of the Council, Mayor Castner re-opened the floor to nominations.

Councilmember Venuti nominated Councilmember Lord and Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos nominated Councilmember Smith.

After a vote of the Council, Councilmember Lord was appointed as Mayor Pro Tempore for 2020/2021.

- b. Memorandum 20-174 from City Clerk Re: Letter to KPBSD Superintendent O'Brien Re: Community Spread of COVID-19. Recommend approval.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION MEMORANDUM 20-174.

Councilmember Aderhold explained Council discussed this during Committee of the Whole and the intent of the letter is to address community spread of COVID-19 resulting from interscholastic activities.

Discussion ensued and based on feedback during the Unified Command report there isn't a direct link between interscholastic activities and community spread. It was suggested that the letter to Governor that was approved under the consent agenda was sufficient in addressing Council's message regarding concerns on community spread of COVID-19.

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

Motion failed.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 20-110, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Designating Signatories of City Accounts and Superseding and Previous Resolutions so Designating City Manager.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-110 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND TO ADD RACHEL LORD AS MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

There was no discussion on the motion to amend.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion as amended.

VOTE (main motion as amended): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- b. Resolution 20-111, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding the Contract for the Homer Seawall Services to a Firm to be Announced in an Amount to be Disclosed and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director.

Resolution 20-111(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding the Contract for the Homer Seawall Maintenance Work to East Road Services, Inc. of Homer, Alaska in the Amount of \$45,336 and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director.

Memorandum 20-184 from City Engineer as backup

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-111 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 20-111(S) FOR 20-111.

There was no discussion.

VOTE (substitution): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Lord explained Public Works Director Keiser requested an amendment to include the purchase of shot rock for \$42,000 from Dibble Creek Rock that's necessary for the maintenance work.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADD DIBBLE CREEK ROCK TO THE CONTRACT AWARD FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$42,000 FOR SHOT ROCK AND ACCOMPANYING TYPOGRAPHICAL CHANGES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion as amended.

VOTE (main motion as amended): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- c. Resolution 20-112, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Changing the City of Homer's Fiscal Year from the 12 Month Period Commencing January 1 through December 31 of each Calendar Year to the 12 Month Period Commencing July 1 through June 30 of the Succeeding Year. Smith.

Memorandum 20-177 from Finance Director as backup

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-112 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Smith commented he's discussed this with the City Manager and he understands a move like this will take additional resources but it brings us in line with other entities budget schedules. Another consideration for him is the timing with newly elected members being sworn in and moving right into budget adoption when using the calendar year budget. He recognizes there is a lot going on right now but next year is a budget year so this will shorten the budget process by 6 months, and finance will need increased capacity if Council passes this.

Councilmember Aderhold agrees it challenging to come onto Council and dive right into budget. She feels like it's too much of an ask right now and wonders about delaying it for a year with everything that's going on now.

Councilmember Evensen asked the City Manager for his thoughts. City Manager Dumouchel feels that in the long run it's a net positive and something that will help us better align with

other agencies. He acknowledged it's a very significant thing to do and if we move forward on this timeline he'll need Council to provide funding for help to do it, otherwise he agrees it will be too much work and too little time.

Councilmember Lord supports this generally, but is also unsure about timing given the current burden on the Finance Department. She's concerned about the timeline presented. If they're going to spend a lot on a consultant, she's not sure it needs to happen that quickly. If it had an effective date of 2022 or 2023. When it switched to the current budget cycle in 1986 it came with a timeline of event that needed to happen, and she has concerns with the capacity to be able to do this successfully in a short timeline.

Councilmember Venuti also supports the notion and suggested it be brought back to Council with a calendar so they see what's going to happen and when.

Councilmember Evensen commented in supporting this and learning what specific resources are needed to get there.

Mayor Castner commented our most current financial statement is 22 months old, that process along with quarterly reporting and other things create a higher priority of need from the Finance Department in his mind. He'd like to see an audit timeline that is not a 12 month timeline and that we come up with quarterly reporting. He supports the change but thinks this should be done in 2022.

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

Motion carried.

- d. Resolution 20-113, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Extending the City of Homer Disaster Emergency Declaration to a Date to be Determined, Due to the Current and Expected Impacts of the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus Pandemic. Mayor.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-113 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND TO EXTEND THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION TO DECEMBER 31, 2020.

Councilmember Lord noted both Kenai and Soldotna have extended their declarations to December 31st and they can revisit at their meeting in December if needed.

Councilmember Smith isn't sure the added value of having an emergency declaration still exists, he'd like to postpone to find out what the Governor does. If the Governor doesn't renew the declaration for the State, then he doesn't know if they have grounds to. The situation will

continue to be monitored, but the hospitalization rate in our area is very low and we need to determine where the danger level is and how to respond to it.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Lord requested the City Manager comment regarding advantages and disadvantages of having the emergency declaration in place.

City Manager Dumouchel responded this has been a discussion topic internally as we work through what those would be and has reached out to other entities to get a better idea of what's going on. Having the structure in place does add value, we have partnerships with the hospital and other levels of government, its unusual in that it's an ongoing situation, and we don't know if there will be a period when things become more substantially worse. Not having the declaration could impact funding availability and he wouldn't want to be in a situation where they didn't have it in place. If Council adopts this tonight they can always revisit it if the Governor makes changes.

Councilmember Lord commented in support of retaining the declaration. Our schools are closed and we're experiencing the highest rate of transmission since the pandemic started. She hopes the lag in hospitalizations and death maintains, but she can't vote to end the emergency declaration when we're seeing more activity than we have before, when our community is trying to figure out how to work, how to take care of families, how to maintain academics, and mental health.

Councilmember Venuti expressed her support for extending the declaration.

Councilmember Aderhold also supports the extension. She's interested in having higher resolution on what's actually happening in the community and requested more consistent updates from administration.

Councilmember Evensen noted the potential significance of maintaining the declaration while they're working with their CARES Act Funding and potential of being audited and not having it in place. Consistency is important.

Mayor Castner explained the Governor announced at a Mayor's conference call that he was not going to renew the State's emergency order on November 15th. We're into the 8th month of the pandemic and it's taken a lot of time and effort to do the administrative things Council can do. He's been pressing to come up with a comprehensive plan for the City. He's not interested in continuing on under emergency order, he wants to see how we emerge from this.

Councilmember Lord noted we all want to see how we emerge from this and see responsible plans. It's been confusing and difficult but they've done a good job getting the CARES Funds

out to the community and staff has done a good job taking care of City business. We aren't in control of the infection numbers, we can continue consistent messaging, and continue to be a strong local leader, regardless of what those above us are doing.

VOTE (main motion as amended): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

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 commented absentee in person voting is still open during regular business hours up until Election Day.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dumouchel commented that he voted today and it went very smoothly. He thanked everyone, we got through a lot of stuff today and set a good path for working with CARES Act funds. The fiscal year change will be a big lift but it's also a big opportunity. He looks forward to coming back with a more fleshed out plan to execute that movement.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner thanked Council for starting at 4:00 and wading through a lot of good discussion and starts on projects that need to be addressed. He's called for a special meeting and committee of the whole on November 9th. Typically there is only one meeting in November due to AML but since its being done remotely he feels they can meeting and keep the work going.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos thanked Council for approving the money for South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services and shared words of encouragement for families and home schooling.

Councilmember Smith shared his support for the Dodgers in the World Series and his exhaustion with the election season, he's ready for it to be over. He encouraged getting educated on the issues and getting out to vote.

Councilmember Venuti commented she visited the Pratt Museum exhibit *Shifting Tides*. She felt safe being there, the air handling is improved, masks are required, and there seems to be

a real respect to keeping people safe. The quilts are colorful and beautifully crafted and the exhibit runs until November 28th. She encouraged people to get educated on the candidates and issues, and vote. Enrollment for the KBC Spring 2021 classes is open.

Councilmember Aderhold concurred with the encouragement to learn and vote. There was a lot of necessary discussion tonight and hard choices to make, she appreciates everyone's work and dedication to making good decisions for the City. She made a request of the Mayor moving forward, that he'll return to the practice of passing the gavel when he speaks. She cited the chapter of Roberts Rules of Order regarding rules against the Chair participation in debate.

Mayor Castner responded he has a superior qualification on his ability to take part in debate in the State Statute.

Councilmember Lord commented she sees passing the gavel done at the State and Borough. It's not a preclusion of engaging in the debate and conversation, it's something that's welcome, but it's passing the control of the room when speaking. That's her vague understanding from every other elected body she's watched proceed in that manner. She encouraged voting; shared about her family outing to get flu shots and thanked Homer Medical and the hospital for providing free flu shots; and on a break she learned her 7 year old lost her 4th tooth.

Councilmember Evensen commented he too has been frustrated by the last earthquakes and evacuation announcements knowing full well, as a geoscientist, there's a zero chance of the arrival of a tsunami. He's shared information about conditions necessary to generate a tsunami, not to diminish what could be a risk but there's a great deal of room for improvement in messaging. He hopes everyone stays safe with COVID.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 10:14 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, November 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. A Special Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, via Zoom Webinar.

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____