



City of Homer

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Memorandum

Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL
FROM: MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK
DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 2020
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

VISITORS

Tsunami Alert Follow-up – David Snider, Tsunami Warning Center

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From: [Wayne Aderhold](#)
To: [Caroline Venuti](#); [Rachel Lord](#); [Joey Evensen](#); [Donna Aderhold](#); [Storm Hansen-Cavasos](#); [Heath Smith](#)
Cc: [Department Clerk](#); [Mayor Email](#)
Subject: City Council mtg (11/9/20); Tsunami: awareness, alert system, and response
Date: Saturday, November 7, 2020 8:11:27 PM

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Council (and Mayor and Clerk),

I offer the following comments regarding “tsunami awareness, alerts, and response” as this subject has come up during the last Council meeting and a related item appears on the agenda for the upcoming (11/9) meeting:

In reference to the recent (10/19/20) tsunami warning and the Mayor’s comments at the last meeting, I agree with the City Manager that “continuous improvement” is appropriate. I believe our focus should be on matters that are within our control. It doesn’t hurt to learn more about the difficulties and “bugs” of the Federal/State/Borough alert system, however that issue appears to be outside of City control.

In my opinion, the top item on the list of things that is within our control is improvement in the awareness of both residents and visitors of where they are physically located with respect to projected danger when a tsunami emergency is declared. Only by knowing the relevant danger posed by their location can people make an informed decision on whether to evacuate, or not.

There’s a wise adage in emergency situations similar to the “do no harm” guidance in healthcare: “don’t add to the emergency” (by inappropriate action). With proper understanding, “staying where you are” (while keeping informed) can be the best action to take. Evacuation is not a benign action – particularly when it occurs in the middle of the night, in bad weather conditions.

Homer has made good progress since the issuance of the accepted hazard maps for the area in 2018, but we still have much room for improvement.

As an example that lessons have been learned, the Homer area schools all stayed in place on 10/19. On the other hand, some individuals who were above the so-called “Blue Line” (the “Maximum All Scenarios” elevation of 50’ ASML) evacuated anyway. In some situations, this could add to the difficulty of evacuating those who should be moving.

Besides learning the details of the “Blue Line” as a community, we also have a duty to inform newly-arrived residents and visitors of the basic hazard parameters. The City’s posted information on its website is a great resource. Getting the information in the public eye, and then absorbed, is another matter.

Real time education is best accomplished by signage and other physical markings or monuments, as well as audio (radio) messaging. I can assure you that KBBI, your public radio station, is constantly working on ways to improve our emergency broadcast content as well as online content. This effort is currently including a concise verbal (broadcast) description of the Blue Line to supplement visual information (website & Facebook). We recognize that in an emergency situation, not everyone has access or can take the time to go online.

The more we work locally on developing our own knowledge of the relationship of our

physical position to tsunami hazard during non-emergency times, the more we can reduce panic and confusion and thereby assure a more orderly response during an actual tsunami event.

Let's put our efforts (and money) into developing a first-class system of "Blue Line" awareness and response for Homer, something we DO have control of, ... and let the "alert" people keep working on their end of the effort.

Sincerely,
Wayne Aderhold (City Resident)



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CARES Act Economic Relief Grant Programs Update

November 9, 2020

Household Economic Relief Grant (HERG)

The City of Homer's Household Economic Relief Grants closed out on Friday, October 16, 2020 at 5:00pm. The program's close-out totals are as follows:

238 Applications received (**102** paper/**136** online)

226 Approved applications

\$ 336,878.92 Total grants awarded (out of \$1,500,000.00 available)

Nonprofit Economic Relief Grant Program - Round 2 (NERG2)

Round 2 of the NERG program ran from Monday, October 26 – November 8.

26 Applications received (**5** paper/**21** online)

\$ 357,009.01 requested (out of \$516,927.50 available)

- 25 pending applications
- 1 denied application

Fishermen Economic Relief Grant Program (FERG)

The FERG program launched today, Monday, November 9. Staff began advertising for the FERG two weeks ago and there has been a great deal of interest in this program already. The Chamber of Commerce is offering application assistance for fishermen interested in applying.

STATE CARES ACT FUNDS

11/9/2020

1st Disbursement Appropriations		\$3,867,758.79		
2&3 Disbursement Appropriations	\$	4,031,326.50		
		\$7,899,085.29		

	Relevant Legislation		Appropriated Amnts	Estimated Actual	11/9/2020	Unappropriated from ERGS/Materials	
Small Business (SBERG) Relief Grant	Ord 20-25(S)	\$	(3,000,000.00)	\$	(1,068,000.00)	\$ 1,932,000.00	
Personnel costs for ERG programs	Ord 20-25(S) and Ord 20-41	\$	(90,000.00)	\$	(36,610.00)		
City material/service expenses	Ord 20-22 and Ord 20-16	\$	(130,000.00)	\$	(130,000.00)	\$ -	
City COVID-19 personnel expenses	Ord 20-25(S)	\$	(445,000.00)	\$	(445,000.00)	\$ -	
City material/service expenses	Ord 20-45(S)	\$	(222,537.00)	\$	(170,835.00)	\$ 6,750.00	* CRec Hand Sanitiz
City COVID-19 personnel expenses	Ord 20-45(S)	\$	(108,312.00)	\$	(108,312.00)	\$ -	ICS Trainings
Household ERG - closed 10/16	Ord 20-45(S)	\$	(1,500,000.00)	\$	(336,778.92)	\$ 1,163,221.08	
Nonprofit ERG	Ord 20-45(S)	\$	(750,000.00)	\$	(322,972.50)	\$ 427,027.50	
Social Services ERG	Ord 20-45(S)	\$	(200,000.00)	\$	(148,034.00)	\$ 51,966.00	
Childcare Business ERG	Ord 20-45(S)	\$	(150,000.00)	\$	(75,000.00)	\$ 75,000.00	
South Pen Hosp direct grant	Ord 20-45(S)	\$	(200,000.00)	\$	(200,000.00)	\$ -	
AK Municipal League direct grant	Ord 20-45(S)	\$	(20,680.00)	\$	(20,680.00)	\$ -	
City Handwash Stations & Porta Potties	Ord 20-48(S)	\$	(29,100.00)	\$	(29,100.00)	\$ -	
Chamber of Commerce direct grant	Ord 20-50(S)(A)	\$	(60,000.00)	\$	(60,000.00)	\$ -	
City material/service expenses	Ord 20-63(A)	\$	(620,000.00)	\$	(620,000.00)	\$ 765.27	*CRec Fans
City COVID-19 personnel expenses	Ord 20-65	\$	(271,281.00)	\$	(271,281.00)	\$ -	
FERG	Ord 20-79	\$	(1,300,000.00)	\$	(1,300,000.00)		
Homer Foundation Community Chest	Ord 20-80	\$	(34,789.24)	\$	(34,789.24)	\$ -	
Mortgage & Rental Assistance (MARRG) w/AHFC	Ord 20-81(A)	\$	(763,200.00)	\$	(763,200.00)		
Nonprofit ERG Round 2		\$	(516,972.50)	\$	(357,009.01)	\$159,963.49	*excluding pending
KPC Direct Grant		\$	(43,600.00)	\$	(43,600.00)	\$ -	Pratt request
Fireweed Academy Direct Grant		\$	(5,000.00)	\$	(5,000.00)	\$ -	
City Emergency Comms & Emergency Transport Equip		\$	(321,975.88)	\$	(321,975.88)		
TOTAL				\$	(6,868,177.55)		

Total Sate CARES Act Funds		\$	7,899,085.29		
Estimated Spend		\$	(6,868,177.55)		
Subtotal		\$	1,030,907.74		
Unappropriated from City Materials & Services		\$	7,515.27		
TOTAL CURRENTLY AVAILABLE		\$	1,038,423.01		

KPB CARES Act Funds

KPB Disbursement		\$	2,251,059.85			
Homer Senior Center direct grant	Ord 20-67	\$	(225,000.00)	\$	(225,000.00)	\$0.00
The Center (SPBHS) direct grant	Ord 20-75	\$	(230,000.00)	\$	(230,000.00)	\$0.00
SBERG2*	Ord 20-87(A)	\$	(1,776,059.85)	\$	(1,776,059.85)	\$0.00
SBERG Admin Fee	Ord 20-66	\$	(20,000.00)	\$	(20,000.00)	\$0.00
TOTAL KPB FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS APPROVED/PENDING		\$	(2,251,059.85)	\$	(2,251,059.85)	\$0.00

*SBERG2 estimated requests above Borough allocation \$1,321,678.15