

Session 20-34 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on November 23, 2020 by Mayor Ken Castner at 3:30 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, VENUTI

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER SMITH

STAFF: CITY MANAGER DUMOUCHEL
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
CITY ATTORNEY GATTI

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

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

Tad Russell commented in support of Resolution 20-127. He said he read the resolution carefully and it seems we're all on the same page. He's lived in Homer and commercial fish for 25 years, all his friends are fishermen, a lot of my neighbors are fishermen, and Homer is a fishing town. He thinks it's very important that we take the stand here.

Matt Haakenson, Fleet Manager for Pacific Star Seafood, thanked Council for bringing this forward and commented almost all the salmon landed in Homer from upper Cook Inlet are caught in the EEZ, so if EEZ was closed, it would mean pretty much that there would be no more salmon landings from upper Cook Inlet. It could also mean the closer of their facility in Kenai.

Dan Anderson commented in support of Resolution 20-127. Most of his comments were inaudible.

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 20-127, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Strongly Opposing Alternative 4 in the Public Review Draft Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review for Proposed Amendment XX to the Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska that would Close all Federal Water in Cook Inlet to Commercial Salmon Fishing and Finding that Implementation of Alternative 4 would have a Significant Adverse Impact on the Economy of Homer. Mayor/City Council.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-127 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Aderhold and

VOTE: YES: VENUTI, EVENSEN, ADERHOLD, LORD, HANSEN-CAVASOS

Motion carried.

Councilmember Aderhold thanked everyone for agreeing to meet today and for staffs and Evensen help in pulling this together quickly. She included information from the EARIR showed Homer would have the greatest impact the of any of the communities in the fishery. She also included language that this will be a significant adverse impact. That was very purposeful because that's language in the National Environmental Policy Act related to whether you need an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement, and this is currently an environmental assessment. just letting them know letting the federal agency National Marine Fisheries Service know that that if they want to pursue this alternative seriously they, I believe, or we if we pass this we as the City believe that there would be significant impacts to our community and that would require them writing an environmental impact statement.

Councilmember Evensen thanked everyone who provided input and everyone who helped pull this together on short notice. He questioned if language should be added that the proposed closure would shorten the season and by shortening the season, it creates a logistical difficulty for fish processors to operate.

Mayor Castner responded that he feels the resolution contains all the necessary language supporting Council's position regarding the proposed amendment.

VOTE: YES: VENUTI, EVENSEN, ADERHOLD, LORD, HANSEN-CAVASOS

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Malcolm Milne, President of the North Pacific Fisheries Association, thanked Council for scheduling this meeting and adopting Resolution 20-127, he appreciates the document they came up with and that they're willing to stand up for the commercial fishing families here and on the peninsula.

Ian Pitzman thanked Council for adopting Resolution 20-127 and commented regarding the significant impact the proposed change could have on the commercial fishery.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Committee

HOMER CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 2020

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.

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____