



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: July 22, 2021
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for July 26, 2021 Council Meeting

Emergency Response Appreciation

The Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Office of Emergency Management sent our staff a plaque recognizing the efforts put forward by the City of Homer in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. KPB was a key partner throughout our declared emergency and I appreciate them acknowledging and recognizing the contributions made by the City to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. A letter provided by KPB is attached to this report.



Jenny Carroll, Public Information Officer; Chief Mark Kirko, Incident Commander; & Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

American Rescue Plan Act Update

After the Council passed Resolution 21-046, staff was able to complete the request to the State of Alaska for our share of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) local recovery funds. The State has not yet confirmed the amount the City will receive, but it is anticipated to be between \$1.2M and \$1.4M in funding spread between two years. One of the options for the use of the funds is revenue replacement which is driven by a calculation provided by the Federal Treasury. Porter & Allison, one of the City's financial services partners, conducted the analysis and calculation for the City and has found that we are in a position to use all of the ARPA funds as revenue replacement. Staff is conferring with our auditors and conducting additional research to ensure we

fully understand the mechanics and limitations of revenue replacement under the ARPA legislation. Once we have a specific dollar amount from the State, we will come back to Council with recommendations on how to move forward.

FAA Outreach

At the June 28th Council meeting I received feedback from Council that they had been receiving complaints about aircraft noise and flight patterns in the City. I reached out to J&H Consulting, our lobbying partners, for help on determining the best pathways for different types of complaints. Working with the Juneau Flight Standards Office I have been able to get some more specific contacts with whom we can work to resolve local issues. After the submission of this report, I will be meeting with select staff members to discuss how we can more effectively communicate aircraft related complaints to the FAA and connect the public to the appropriate offices within the agency.

Fiber Optic Installation at Library

With Resolution 21-024, the City Council authorized upgrades to the library's data connection, taking advantage of a federal government program to offset 70% of the costs (a savings of approximately \$20,000 from the budgeted amount). GCI has now completed physical installation of a new fiber-optic cable with a capacity of 400 megabits/second in both directions, a significant increase from the current 250 Mbit/sec download and 15 Mbit/sec upload capacity. The new cable also includes an option for future upgrades without extensive site work. Configuration and testing has been underway and the connection is scheduled to go live on July 23.

911 System Update

IT has been working diligently to conform Homer's 911 system to meet the recently updated NG911 system deployed by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. This has required extensive changes to the dispatcher workstations and the routing of police "admin" phone lines. Two dispatch stations are fully functional except for minor ergonomic adjustments. The third dispatch station is awaiting delivery of the 911 hardware from the manufacturer.

Payment Kiosk Update

Self-service kiosks were installed at the RV dump station near Public Works and the airport. Service is up and running on the RV dump station. The airport station is fully connected and will be operational as soon as it successfully completes test transactions. Kiosks for the campgrounds are waiting on concrete foundations and will be configured at that time.

Kachemak Drive Speed Signs

In September 2020, Council adopted Ordinance 20-51 appropriating funds from the Police CARMA fund (156-0394) to purchase speed radar signs as a traffic calming measure for Kachemak Drive. The devices were acquired by the Police Department and arrangements were made with Alaska Department of Transportation to install the pole-mounted signs. The signs are now installed and operational on Kachemak Drive.

Better Late than Never

A man from California who camped here in Homer back in the 1970s recently wrote the City a letter. He camped in Homer for a night and didn't have the \$3 cash required to pay for his stay. He promised to make good on that debt when he returned home. As a thank you for our patience, he instead sent us a check for \$100. My office responded with a handwritten card and a City of Homer pin.

COVID Update

There has been a noticeable spike in COVID cases on the Kenai Peninsula in the last month with many cases located here in Homer. Although the emergency declaration has expired, I have an internal COVID working group focused on organizational issues which continues to meet on a regular basis. If cases continue to increase, I may move to reinstate some mitigation measures in City facilities for staff and visitors. This situation is developing.

Personnel Updates

Lead Mechanic Levi Stradling retired on July 9th, here is a brief update from the Public Works Director:

Levi Stradling retired from his job as Lead Mechanic after 19 years of service to the City. Levi was a Master Mechanic, who kept our rolling stock rolling. He was also a Master Craftsman, with an enviable ability to fabricate parts, gizmos and widgets out of seemingly thin air, often, with YouTube How-To videos as his guide. Levi's relocating to Boise, where he plans to buy a motorhome and tour the country, footloose and fancy free. We wish him happy trails!



We also recently said goodbye to Dispatcher Jed Frazier after almost five years with the Police Department. He started out as a jailer before transitioning to dispatch.



Homer Police Department
July 14 at 4:00 PM · 🌐

Family isn't always blood and sometimes your lucky enough you get to choose them.

You may have noticed we recently advertised for a dispatch position. Mr. Frazier will be plugging in his headset for the last time this weekend after 5 years with us. If you don't know, Jed is somewhat of a savant in Homer history and his 80's - 90's music and movie references are on point.

Please join us in wishing Jed the best in his new adventures. The door is always open our friend.



Enclosures:

1. July Employee Anniversaries
2. Letter from KPB Office of Emergency Management



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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: July 26, 2021
SUBJECT: July Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|
| John Wythe | Public Works | 30 | Years |
| Lori Sorrows | Finance | 22 | Years |
| Dan Olsen | Public Works | 20 | Years |
| Julie Engebretsen | Planning | 19 | Years |
| Rick Abboud | Planning | 13 | Years |
| Dave Welty | Public Works | 13 | Years |
| David Bernard | Library | 10 | Years |
| Jason Hoffman | Public Works | 6 | Years |
| Clinton Scritchfield | Police | 3 | Years |
| Jason Hanenberger | Public Works | 2 | Years |
| Mark Kirko | Fire | 2 | Years |
| Glenn Rauh | Public Works | 1 | Year |



Office of Emergency Management

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Charlie Pierce
Borough Mayor

June 24, 2021

City of Homer
City Manager Rob Dumouchel
491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

Dear City Manager Dumouchel:

Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic from early 2020 until now, the breadth and depth of work that has been accomplished on behalf of the communities across the Kenai Peninsula Borough has been nothing short of inspiring.

The COVID response initially focused on testing supplies and resource requests for personal protection equipment. Since last December, the greatest efforts have been towards COVID vaccinations as they became available in our communities.

As summer progresses into full swing, we would like to take a moment to recognize and thank you for your efforts during the pandemic response. No individual, agency, group, or organization can accomplish everything on their own. The pandemic requires strong collaboration and teamwork from multiple partners in each community.

This plaque is a small token that conveys recognition and acknowledgment of what we have accomplished in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. While the work of the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, we pause for a moment to say a sincere thank you for your past work, and appreciation for what you will continue to do in the days ahead on behalf of our residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Dan Nelson
Emergency Manager

Bud Sexton
Operations Manager