



# City of Homer

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## Office of the City Manager

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### Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager  
DATE: June 23, 2022  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for June 27, 2022 Council Meeting

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#### **Main Street Sidewalk**

Based on an update from the contractor, we're expecting work on the Main Street sidewalk to commence July 12<sup>th</sup> and run through mid-August. As Main Street is a major route for public safety purposes, the contractor will be communicating regularly with dispatch to ensure they know when and where any temporary road closures may be located. To help get the word out that work is beginning soon, the City will be placing ads in local media about the project.

#### **FY24/25 Budget Prep**

June 30<sup>th</sup> marks the end of FY22 and the beginning of the planned preparation period for the FY24/25 budget. Finance Director Elizabeth Walton and I are working on our plans to kick off the first phase of this process with the leadership team. We've purposefully given ourselves a significant amount of time to produce the FY24/25 budget to allow for contemplation of new ideas and maximum opportunities for public participation.

#### **Water/Sewer Rates**

Public Works Director Jan Keiser, Finance Director Elizabeth Walton, and I have been meeting to discuss an update to water and sewer utility rates. We've learned a lot in the last year that will be factored into the next staff proposal. Our current timeline is to prepare a work session presentation for the Council meeting in July and follow that at the next meeting with legislation to enact a rate update.

#### **Volunteer Action Plan**

Staff has begun working on a first-ever City of Homer Volunteer Action Plan. This concept was pitched during the visioning session in March and is on our 2022 project list. Working together with special project coordinators Jenny Carroll and David Parker, we have the idea for the report sketched out and plans for how we will research and review relevant data. Currently, staff from Fire, Library, Parks, Recreation, and the Clerks are gathering information that will allow us to do a full inventory of volunteers, existing programs, forms, waivers, etc. We will be working on this throughout the summer and I expect to do some stakeholder outreach as part of the project once we're further along in the process.

#### **Short Term Rentals**

Short term rentals (STRs) have been a big topic this year with the externalities they've caused on the community by taking housing typically rented to seasonal workers out of circulation and repurposing it for tourist needs. Special Project Coordinator David Parker has initiated a research project that will evaluate the

state of Homer's housing market and the impacts of STRs on the community. This research will lead to a review of City code and, most likely, the development of an STR permitting program to control the rapid expansion of this commercial enterprise. We will be integrating stakeholder engagement activities into the project at a later date.

### **Procurement Code Update**

The Finance Stakeholder Group, consisting of representatives from all departments and led by Port Admin Supervisor Amy Woodruff, continues to work their way through existing procurement code, processes, procedures, etc. and making suggestions for improvements. As a reminder of previous updates, the group conducted an internal survey earlier this year and produced a memo with recommendations for me. I asked the group to move forward with many of the recommendations. They met June 21<sup>st</sup> and are preparing a new set of documents for me to review. We are nearing the point where I will be looking to bring Council into the conversation. Expect more later this summer.