



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: October 20, 2022
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for October 24, 2022 Council Meeting

Main Street Sidewalk Construction

We have pavement! The sidewalk and disturbed portions of Main Street were paved on October 20th. Staff will be working on an idea for a sidewalk ribbon cutting in the near future. I'll provide more information when it's available.

Computer Aided Dispatch

The Computer-Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system went partially live on October 18th. CAD allows the dispatch center in the police department to relay more detailed information to police and firefighters in the field and makes it easier for dispatchers to handle multiple streams of data at once. CAD is up and running inside the station and officers have been testing it out on their laptops. Hardware has been installed in vehicles. As of right now, there are still two hurdles to clear: connecting internet service in vehicles and connecting the fire department's iPads to the Borough system. We anticipate both issues will be solved within the next few weeks.

Fire Department Open House

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department is hosting an open house on Friday, October 28th with programs running from 6-7:30PM and 7:30-9PM. There will be a chat with the Chief, home fire safety demonstrations, snacks, and drawings for home safety gift baskets.

Alaska Parks & Recreation Association Conference

I was able to attend one day of the Alaska Parks & Recreation Association's (APRA) annual conference hosted in Soldotna. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the parks and recreation scene here in Alaska and meet folks from across the state who run departments, programs, and facilities of various sizes. I was able to participate in sessions about biases, creating intergenerational park destinations, invasive species management, and non-motorized transportation. The invasive species and non-motorized transportation sessions featured Homer based speakers like Parks Superintendent Matt Steffy and a representative from Homer Drawdown.

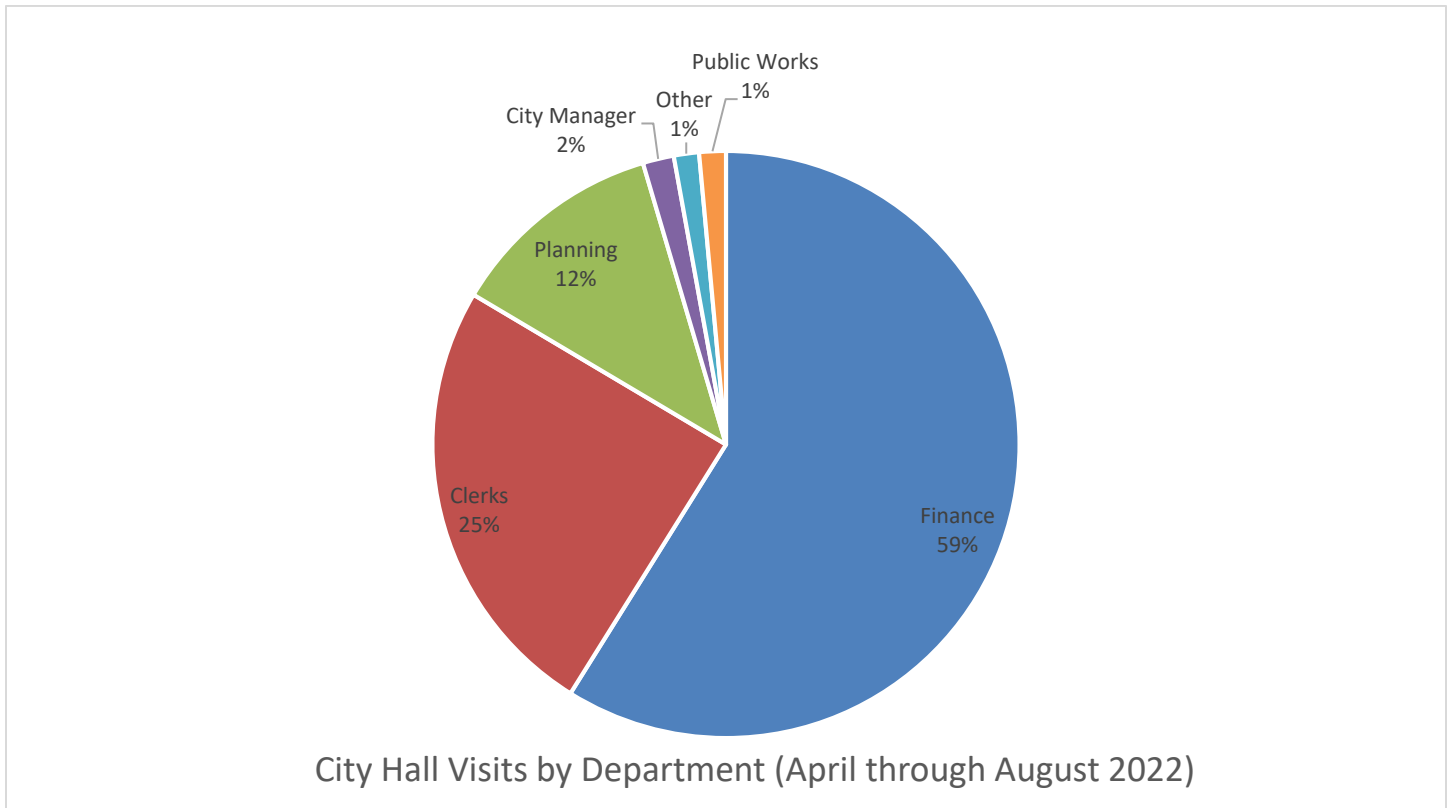
KBBI Coffee Table

The Mayor and I joined together for a Coffee Table discussion on KBBI. We had a wide-ranging discussion about the budget, housing, water and sewer rates, transportation, public participation, current legislation, and other topics.

City Hall Access

At our previous meeting, a public commenter discussed the fact that City Hall has physical barriers in place that stop members of the public from accessing interior portions of the building without permission. In case there were any lingering questions or concerns from Council about that line of commentary, I wanted to address it directly. Changing that flow of public traffic was a very intentional decision made largely for operational safety purposes. I strongly believe that there is no practical reason for the general public to walk freely through staff work spaces. While Homer is a very safe community, we have had instances in the past involving interactions with aggressive individuals at City Hall that required police intervention. In the past two years, we have hosted de-escalation training and active shooter training for staff. Both are very real concerns in public buildings.

The current configuration of City Hall access allows the public to do the vast majority of their City business on a walk-in basis. We've been tracking walk-in visitor data at both City Hall entrances since April and have developed a good idea of how many people visit, when they visit, and what department or division they are intending to visit. Visits related to Finance and the Clerk's Office account for 84% of all visits to City Hall. Finance and the Clerks both have public facing counters that are available Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm. The other 16% of visitors are there to see Planning, the City Manager, or another City-related function. Many of those visitors either show up to City Hall with an appointment, or end up making appointments for return visits. My observation is that individuals who have specific business with the City are easily able to get most common tasks accomplished at one of our public counters. The rest are able to make appointments with specific professionals to handle their business.



Enclosures:

1. Homer Volunteer Fire Open House Flyer

2. Quarterly Report from SBDC

WELCOME TO
OUR

OPEN HOUSE

HOMER VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28TH 6-9 PM



FREE DRAWING
FOR
HOME SAFETY
GIFT BASKETS
VALUED OVER \$200.00



Please join us for 1 of 2
Fire Safety Demo's & Tour:
1st Demo @ 6-7:30 PM
2nd Demo @ 7:30-9 PM



Presentation from
Fire Chief Kirko



Kitchen Safety Demo



Disaster Preparedness Info.



Fire Extinguisher Demo

Followed by:

Hot Chocolate & Cookies



& Drawing **Must be present to Win**



NATIONAL
FIRE PREVENTION
-WEEK-



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October 14, 2022

City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Ave
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Mayor Castner, City Council, and City Staff,

This letter serves as our quarterly report for the period July 1 to September 30, 2022. The Homer Business Advisor, Robert Green, had a busy quarter, not only advising business owners and entrepreneurs, but also providing presentations to the Homer EDAC and City Council for local funding support. At the start of the COVID pandemic, there was such high demand for SBDC services in Homer, the Alaska SBDC invested part of its temporary CARES Act funding to set up a business advisor in the community. With Robert excelling as the Homer Business Advisor, demand has remained strong, as shown by the figures below. We appreciate the time and energy the EDAC, City Council, and city staff have put into this project, to keep the Homer Business Advisor position funded. Here is a summary of deliverables to the Homer community during the quarter (year):

Client Hours: 158.6 (485.2)	Jobs Supported: 172 (331)
Total Clients: 34 (96)	Capital Infusion: \$15,750 (\$1,132,650)
New Businesses Started or Bought: 3 (13)	Client Surveys: 100% positive (89% positive)

The contract rate for a business advisor is \$55 per hour, which includes salary, benefits, fixed, and administrative expenses. In addition to local expertise, the Alaska SBDC provides IBISWorld industry reports, retailing for \$925 each, and ProfitCents financial analyses, valued at \$2,750 each, to clients free of charge. Here is a summary of value provided to the Homer community during the quarter (year):

Business Advisor: \$13,860 (\$41,415)
IBISWorld Industry Reports: \$12,950 (\$32,375)
ProfitCents Financial Analyses: \$5,500 (\$30,250)
Total: \$32,310 (\$104,040)

We would like to thank the City of Homer for their support of the Homer Business Advisor position. Not only has Robert excelled in Homer, but he has become a valued part of the Alaska SBDC staff. We greatly appreciate the knowledge, experience, and consistency he brings to our team. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Jon Bittner
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Jon Bittner
Executive Director
Alaska SBDC