Office of the City Manager 491 East Pioneer Avenue

491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603





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Memorandum

TO:	Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM:	Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE:	November 23, 2022
SUBJECT:	City Manager's Report for November 28, 2022 Council Meeting

Sulfur Export Project

Earlier this year, approximately 20,000 tons of crushed bulk sulfur were delivered by truck to the cargo storage terminal on Freight Dock Road. Under current market conditions, this is about \$4M worth of materials. The sulfur was stored on the Chip Pad while the owners of the materials waited for a vessel and the right market conditions to export them. The sulfur is off to Mexico for use in fertilizer products. This past week, North Star Stevedoring and Kar-a-Van Transport loaded approximately 10,400 bags onto the M/V TBC *Praise*. The stevedoring effort included 54 longshoremen, split into two crews, running 12-hour shifts, 24/7 until the loading was complete. The Port Enterprise will benefit from this project in the form of wharfage, dockage, and storage costs that are estimated to total over \$215,000.



Transportation Plan Update

Economic Development Manager Julie Engebretsen and contractor Brad Parsons (ILC) have been busy over the past few weeks, presenting to Homer High School students, attending a luncheon at the Senior Center, conducting interviews with individuals with disabilities, and talking with taxi companies.

Special thanks to Councilwoman Shelly Erickson for helping staff connect with truck and bus drivers. Julie Engebretsen and Jan Keiser held two focus group sessions for commercial drivers. Staff met with seven attendees, including the manager of Lynden Transport in Soldotna, the Homer Boat Yard that moves fishing vessels to and from the Homer Spit, gravel trucks and equipment movers, and fuel trucks. A common theme is the difficulty of turning large rigs through Homer's busy intersections, pictured below left, and planning for the long term movement of freight and materials to support the southern peninsula.



Large rig turning right on East End Rd. from Lake Street.



November 9th Transportation Plan Meeting at KBC.

City staff, and consultant Kinney Engineering, held a public meeting at the college on November 9th, above right. About 25 members of the public turned out to learn about the survey results so far and comment on draft goals.

To date, 283 survey responses and 450 map comments have been received. Already, common themes have emerged, as seen below, that will help with priorities. Both surveys will close on Wednesday the 23rd, right before Thanksgiving. Over the holidays, general comments can be submitted via the project website. In the first quarter of 2023, outreach will resume as the draft plan comes together.



1st Quarter Sales Tax Revenues

Last week, the Kenai Peninsula Posted the taxable sales numbers for the first quarter of FY23 (third quarter of calendar year 2022), and we've set another record for the City of Homer. Taxable sales are reported at \$99,553,824, a \$6M increase over last year. The City expects to receive approximately \$4.8M in revenue which will be shared between the General Fund, HART, HAWSP, and the Police Station.

CTP and TAP Project Submission Update

Last week, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) notified us that the following City of Homer non-motorized transportation projects meet the initial eligibility requirements and may be invited to submit a full application for funding under the State's Transportation Alternatives Program: Ben Walters Lane Sidewalk, Svedlund/Herndon Sidewalks, the Homer All Ages & Abilities Pedestrian Pathway and the Kachemak Drive Non-motorized Pathway. Meeting eligibility requirements is the first step in the project application process. The next steps are to wait for the State to publish timelines and guidelines for submitting a full project application and to work with our Regional DOT&PF planner to build project scopes and cost estimates. We have yet not heard back on the three road surface projects submitted for Community Transportation Program eligibility yet. I will keep you updated as the process progresses.

Borough-wide Joint Information System Review

Last week, Jenny Carroll, as the City's Public Information Officer, met with other emergency response personnel at the Kenai River Center in Soldotna to help update the Borough-wide Joint Information System (JIS). A JIS is a mechanism for affected and participating organizations to integrate and coordinate incident information to ensure timely, accurate, accessible, and consistent messaging during a crisis. The workshop, hosted by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management, gave an overview of the current Borough-wide Joint Information System Agreement (last updated in 2016), how it can be called upon and solicited recommendations on how the JIS Agreement could be updated and improved after two large two scale events: the Swan Lake Wildfire and the Seward landslide near Lowell Point. A final draft of the JIS Agreement will be distributed to local, Tribal, state, federal, and nongovernment partners for formal approval by their governing bodies. While the City, fortunately, has not had to call on area partners to activate the JIS, we are happy the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Emergency Operating Plan includes this formal mechanism for information gathering and sharing, which is vitally important when an incident surpasses local resources and capabilities.

Special Assessment District Regulation Review

Special Assessment Districts have been a challenge for the City in many different ways. I have tasked Special Project Coordinator Ryan Foster with an in-depth review of code, past and current practices, processes, etc. to help us reform the program to ensure it is useful for the public and reasonable for staff to manage across the multi-decade lifespan of many Districts. This project is in its early stages, but I expect we will come to Council next year with a work session, and more than likely, a proposal to update parts of City code.

Attachments: November & December Employee Anniversaries KPEDD Industry Outlook Forum Save the Date Flyer

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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Andrea Browning

DATE: November 14, 2022

November Employee Anniversaries SUBJECT:

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.

Dave Shealy	Police	25	Years
Jenna deLumeau	Finance	13	Years
lan Overson	Police	11	Years
Cinda Nofziger	Library	1	Year
Pedro Ochoa	Public Works	1	Year

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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Andrea Browning

DATE: November 28, 2022

December Employee Anniversaries SUBJECT:

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.

Mark Robl	Police	38	Years
Bryan Hawkins	Port	23	Years
Todd Cook	Public Works	13	Years
Sean Perry	Police	8	Years
Mike Zelinski	Public Works	8	Years
Josh Mershon	Port	3	Years
Regina Johanos	Library	2	Years
Jenna Luchaco	Public Works	1	Year
Del Masterhan	Port	1	Year



INDUSTRY OUTLOOK FORUM

discuss:

- Childcare
- Housing

SAVE THE DATE 01.5.2023

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH HOMER, ALASKA

TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT: HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/JQOEUNGZVLBIADXH9

Featuring a Homer Panel of experts to

• Transportation • The future for the community of Homer