

REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 28, 2023

Session 23-06 a Regular Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on March 28, 2023 by Mayor Ken Castner at 6:00 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:** COUNCILMEMBERS ADERHOLD, DAVIS, ERICKSON, HANSEN, LORD, VENUTI

**STAFF:** CITY MANAGER DUMOUCHEL  
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN  
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS  
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER  
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA  
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR FOSTER  
NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR SULCZYNSKI  
CITY ATTORNEY GATTI

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

Mayor Castner announced the supplemental items: **Consent Agenda Resolution 23-027**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding a Task Order in the Amount of \$45,000 to HTRW, LLC of Anchorage, Alaska to test for PCB Laden Materials at the Homer Education and Recreation Complex (HERC) Buildings and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Informational materials from Council Member Davis; **Resolution 23-028**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Supporting the Alaska Legislature Adopting Definitions Related to Electric Bicycles and Allowing Municipalities to Regulate Them. Aderhold. Written Public Comments **Visitors** Update on Old Town Planning Meeting, Draft goals of Transportation Plan, Timeline for 1<sup>st</sup> public draft of Transportation Plan Presentation materials; **Public Hearing** Draft FY24/25 Budget and Written Public Comments **Pending Business** Appropriation Reduction related to Ordinance 23-11 and Veto of Resolution 23-017 in accordance with HCC 2.08.070 Mayor's veto. Written Public Comments **Audience Comments** Written Public Comments

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**3. MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** (The public may comment for three minutes on agenda items not schedule for public hearing.)

Scott Adams, city resident, commented in support of Resolution 23-027. He shared his understanding from the Committee of the Whole is that this contactor is the only one interested in taking this on. He thinks it's best to test both buildings.

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Mike Illg, city resident, commented in support of Resolution 23-029. We don't get a second chance to educate our children and there isn't another issue more important than supporting the base student allowance increase.

Marilyn Sigmund, city resident, commented in support of postponing Resolution 23-026 and allowing more time for public comment on the Harbor Expansion General Investigation. With the veto of funding for the Comprehensive Plan she'd like to see more clarification on the whether the current Comp Plan addresses and makes accommodation for all the potential impacts of this project.

Robert Archibald, city resident, commented regarding Resolution 23-026. He hopes they've had a chance to look at the 2016 harbor study and what's changed to make this a viable project. A lot of money is going into this study. He questions at what point we pulled the plug before and if we'll end up spending the full amount and find out it isn't a viable project. There needs to be a clear understanding what we're looking at. He also commented regarding changes to Parks staffing.

Anne Coray, non-resident, commented in support of postponing Resolution 23-026. It's important to look at how this expansion is going to impact the community at large. She shared about growth throughout Alaska, that Homer is a wonderful town as is, and long term planning is necessary for big projects like this.

Katie Gavenus, city resident, commented in support of postponing Resolution 23-026. Setting out a resolution that has clear expectations for the process of the project is a good place to start. She thinks things have moved fast and people don't understand what is happening or why. She also commented in support of 23-029 and increasing the base student allowance in the state budget.

Nancy Hillstrand, city resident, commented in support of postponing Resolution 23-026. She shared concerns about the harbor expansion, and that residents don't know what's going on. She thinks the Comp Plan needs to be consulted and keep the residents involved.

Rika Mouw, city resident, commented in support of postponing Resolution 23-026, she's inspired by others who have spoken to this, she concurs and feels there needs to be more community discussion if this is the direction we want to go. She commented in support of Resolution 23-029 and increasing the base student allowance in the state budget.

Roberta Highland, city resident commenting on her own behalf, commented in support of postponing Resolution 23-026. She supports a well-advertised public meeting to explain what's going on with the harbor expansion. She supports an override of the Mayor's veto of the Comprehensive Plan, we need to get a vision that we can all come together on and that would be a good place to start. She supports Resolution 23-029 and an increase in the base student allocation in the state budget.

##### 5. RECONSIDERATION

6. **CONSENT AGENDA** (Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda at the request of a Council Member.)

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- 6.A. Homer City Council Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2023. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- 6.B. Reappointment of Karin Marks and Tulio Perez to the Economic Development Advisory Commission; and Reappointment of Clark Fair and Appointment of Kathryn Carsow to the Library Advisory Board. Mayor. Recommend approval.
- 6.C. Liquor License Renewal for Fat Olives. City Clerk. Recommend approval.
- 6.D. Ordinance 23-15, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code Section 11.20.070 to Specify that a Performance Guaranty is Required for New Subdivisions. City Manager/ Public Works Director. Recommend Introduction March 28, 2023 Public Hearing and Second Reading April 10, 2023.
- 6.E. Ordinance 23-16, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY23 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a 2023-2025 Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) Grant from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) in the Amount of \$153,307 for the Beluga Slough Green Infrastructure Storm Water Treatment System. City Manager/ Public Works Director. Recommend Introduction March 28, 2023 Public Hearing and Second Reading April 10, 2023.
- 6.F. Resolution 23-025, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing a Task Order to RESPEC in an amount not to Exceed \$15,000 for Conceptual Design of the Fish Waste Grinder Building Replacement Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend approval.
- 6.G. Resolution 23-026, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska in Support of Entering into the US Army Corps of Engineers General Investigation Study for the New Large Vessel Harbor and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend approval.

Moved to Resolutions. Venuti.

- 6.H. Resolution 23-027, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding a Task Order in the Amount of \$45,000 to HTRW, LLC of Anchorage, Alaska to test for PCB Laden Materials at the Homer Education and Recreation Complex (HERC) Buildings and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend approval.

Moved to Resolutions. Davis.

- 6.I. Resolution 23-028, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Supporting the Alaska Legislature Adopting Definitions Related to Electric Bicycles and Allowing Municipalities to Regulate Them. Aderhold. Recommend approval.

Item 6.G. moved to Resolutions 14.B. Venuti, and Item 6.H. moved to Resolutions 14.C. Davis.

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ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**7. VISITORS**

7.A. Legislative Update - Senator Gary Stevens

Senator Stevens reported they're about halfway through the legislative session. He provided updates on the status of Senate Bill (SB) 42 and House Bill (HB) 65 that propose increases to the base student allocation in the state's budget. SB 88 brings back the defined benefit program for teachers and public employees, it's a very complex issue and mistakes will be costly, so it will probably not be resolved this year. HB 39 is the operating budget, the House takes it up this year and the Senate next year. They passed a supplemental budget from the Governor that both House and Senate agreed to, that addresses funding for the SNAP benefits program, and the Office of Public Adequacy and Public Defender. He touched on the State Capital Budget, State Fiscal Plan, and changes to oil and gas tax credits.

7.B. Update on Old Town Planning Meeting, Draft goals of Transportation Plan, Timeline for 1<sup>st</sup> public draft of Transportation Plan – Jan Keiser, Public Works Director

Public Works Director Keiser reported on the goals of the Transportation Plan that include increase safety of interactions between different modes of travel, provide a connected network of local and collector roads and trails that balances the modes based on land use contexts, maintain transportation network to be usable year-round, and provide expanded transportation options for year-round residents and seasonal travelers to support City of Homer goals for environmental preservation and climate threat reduction. These goals were developed through responses the Transportation Plan Survey. She reviewed the objectives of the goals as shown in the information provided in the supplemental packet to Council.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS (5 minutes each)**

8.A. Committee of the Whole

Council Member Aderhold reported at Committee of the Whole they discussed Resolution 23-026 related to the Harbor Expansion General Investigation Study, Resolution 23-027 and the task order to HTRW and PCB testing at the HERC, and Resolution 23-029 supporting increasing the base student allowance in the state budget. They also heard from City Manager Dumochel regarding the FY24/25 budget and his overview memo provided in the supplemental packet.

8.B. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner reported he met with the auditors while they were here last week, they're a little bit behind in the audit and it won't be before Council until the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, he hopes they'll have a draft in a week or so.

8.C. Borough Report

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Borough Assembly Member Lane Chesley reported on the Borough's purchase of new voting tablets and ADA compliant voting machines. He attended the Community Conversation on Housing this weekend and commended City Planner Abboud for his facilitation at the event. He noted comments he heard from the attendees related to eliminating sales tax for rentals and offering property tax incentives. He reminded listeners that the Boroughs need to fund schools, their 911 call center, fire and ambulance emergency services, solid waste, roads, and emergency management. He shared information about work being done to inventory properties in Homer and the surrounding area to look at ways to help. He also commented conversations regarding the hazardous waste testing for the HERC.

#### 8.D. Planning Commission

Planning Commission Chair Scott Smith reported at their last meeting the Commission approved conditional use permits at 3375 Sterling Highway for a storage area and a multi-family dwelling on Lakeshore Drive. They've been dealing with some plats that have received a lot of attention. It's helped them understand they need to work on upgrading the plat application process.

#### 8.E. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Economic Development Advisory Commissioner Tulio Perez reported at their last meeting they heard a report from the Public Works Director on the Transportation Plan update. They reviewed some work on the wayfinding and streetscape plan, and heard from the Marine Trades Association on their training programs and emerging needs. They reviewed banner designs in the wayfinding and streetscape plan and continued work on their vision statement-*The Economic Development Advisory Commission provides a forum for civic and business engagement on behalf of the City of homework, with the goal of fostering a sustainable and diverse community while preserving its cultural and natural heritage to maintain a high quality of life.* They'll be taking up the mission statement at their next meeting.

#### 8.F. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

#### 8.G. Library Advisory Board

Library Advisory Board Member Michael McKinney reported at their last meeting the Board heard from Karin Marks about the Community Housing Conversation event and online survey, and from Public Works Director Keiser on the Transportation Plan update. Library Director Berry updated the Board on ongoing projects at the library, and they addressed their strategic plan. Mr. McKinney gave an overview of upcoming events at the library.

#### 8.F. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commissioner Bruce Friend reported at their last meeting they had a work session to discuss harbor fee updates. At their regular meeting they had a presentation from Economic Development Manager Engebretsen about Old Town and a presentation about ebikes and infrastructure on the spit. They reviewed two leases coming up for renewal and he reviewed their work and recommendations on the lease renewals.

#### 8.G. AML Legislative Report – Council Member Aderhold

Council Member Aderhold reported the AML Legislative Committee reported on their discussion on SB 88 and defined contribution transition and AML's efforts regarding amendments that will benefit municipalities.

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8.H. Lunch with a Council Member – Council Member Lord

Council Member Lord reported about 10 people attended lunch with a Council Member and they talked about invasive species, the Comprehensive Plan and Title 21 and the veto, seasonal and nightly rentals, and a bed tax.

9. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

9.A. FY24/25 Budget

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Castner called for a 10 minute recess at 7:23 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 7:33 p.m.

10. ORDINANCE(S)

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

11.A. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dumouchel reported on his trip to Kodiak for a tsunami disaster management classes, provided an update on the purchase of a ladder truck for the fire department, and postponement of the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Council and Board and Commission work session. He recognized Christine Drais whose last day is today and welcomed Bella Vaz who will be moving upstairs from the Planning Office.

In response to questions City Manager Dumouchel reviewed the changes with Port & Harbor staff taking over management of the spit campgrounds, noting the goal of leaning in to larger teams with the result of better facilities and experiences for the public with a more sustainable model. Regarding the short term rental services, he explained the contract is signed and they've held a kick-off meeting. There is a bit of set up work to do and planning to launch in May if all goes as planned. Regarding budget process he commented in response to differentiating between "parks" and "recreation".

12. PENDING BUSINESS

12.A. Appropriation Reduction related to Ordinance 23-11 and Veto of Resolution 23-017 in accordance with HCC 2.08.070 Mayor's veto. Mayor.

Mayor Castner announced the motion on the floor from the March 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting - ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO OVERRIDE THE MAYOR'S APPROPRIATION REDUCTION FOR ORDINANCE 23-11.

He opened the floor for discussion.

Council Member Aderhold commented regarding her experience at the Community Conversation on Housing and that something that was discussed is something our municipality can do is comprehensive planning and zoning. It was a diverse cross section of people from the community and there were active conversations happening. There was a mortgage lender in her group who said in the Homer area there are 15 houses available for less than \$300,000 and only 2 of them would be able to get a mortgage through her. That's very restrictive for someone who needs financing. This is an opportunity to use that event as a launch pad for our comprehensive plan to look at what's reality now and what do we want it to look like in the future. She hopes people think seriously about our need for starting the Comprehensive Plan and vote to override the veto.

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Council Member Davis agreed with those comments, overall the event was a great thing. He was in a different group and they felt the City's zoning policies was the number one thing that needed to be changed in order for people, especially returning students, who want to live in a small apartment in a walkable area. He hopes anyone who's wavering about moving ahead with this company who has so much experience on redoing our Comprehensive Plan will reconsider.

Council Member Lord listened to the work session and one thing she hears is that we don't need to redo the Comp Plan, we just need to update the zoning code. We can update Title 21, but to make meaningful changes and address issues that people are expressing concerns about in terms of land use and development, that won't happen without a robust process that involves the community through a comprehensive planning process. This is a lot of money and Council took steps to plan for this. She will vote to override the veto.

Council Member Venuti also attended the Community Conversation on Housing, but they discussed leases, land availability and things like that.

VOTE: YES: ADERHOLD, LORD, DAVIS  
NO: VENUTI, ERICKSON, HANSEN.

Motion failed.

Mayor Castner announced the motion on the floor from the March 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting - ADERHOLD/LORD  
MOVED TO OVERRIDE THE MAYORS VETO OF RESOLUTION 23-017.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NO: ADERHOLD, HANSEN, LORD, VENUTI, ERICKSON, DAVIS

Motion failed.

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

**14. RESOLUTIONS**

- 14.A. Resolution 23-029, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Requesting the State of Alaska make a Meaningful Increase to the Base Student Allocation for Public Schools. Aderhold.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-029 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Council Member Aderhold explained she was approached by Assembly Member Cox to sponsor a resolution supporting an increase in the base student allocation. The Borough has passed a resolution and have requested support from all the municipalities in the Borough. The school district is having a budget deficit right now and they are intending to close the pools and the theaters, and those are important community resources. She feels this is in the City's wheelhouse and hopes others will support it.

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Council Member Venuti added that if the state legislators don't properly fund the schools, they aren't looking at what cuts will have to be by the school districts. She supports having the pools open, it's important that our kids know how to swim, and elementary school students get free lessons. We also have a responsibility to support our teachers.

Council Member Erickson expressed her understanding that 3% sales tax from the borough goes to the schools, but she's been told there's a formula of an amount the State will allow the school district to use, and she's like to know what happens to the remaining funds outside of the formula. She's also heard the pool and theater aren't part of the student allotment. She suggested someone from the school district present to them. Mayor Castner said he'd reach out to Assembly Member Chesley for information.

Council Member Lord commented that school funding is complicated, but the school district has a lot of resources online, including their budget document. It has a narrative that gives a clear layout of their funding, rationale, and definitions. She's heard concerns that the BSA funding is going to administration, not the classroom. She explained that KPBS has cut the central office administration significantly and we have a large district with discontinuous roads, thousands of students, and a home school program. There are around 1700 FTE's and people in the system are frustrated because there aren't enough people in the central office to administrate. She supports this resolution. The City is a large employer and we have direct ties to the school district through our recreation programs. She also noted the school district cuts aren't just pools and theaters, but also high school and middle school staff, and student support services are being considered and that still hasn't closed the deficit.

Council Member Davis shared his support for the resolution. He noted an article in the Anchorage Daily News that the headline was outrage that most of the staff in the school district weren't teachers, but there was fine print later in the article of schools where a majority of the people were teachers, including KPBS.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO AMEND LINES 48 THROUGH 50 TO REPLACE THAT WHEREAS CLAUSE WITH WHEREAS, ALASKA LEGISLATORS ARE CONSIDERING BILLS IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO RAISE THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION; AND

Council Member Aderhold noted this is because the numbers originally proposed will move so it's better to say we support raising it, without the specific numbers.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion as amended.

VOTE (main motion): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

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- 14.B. Resolution 23-026, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska in Support of Entering into the US Army Corps of Engineers General Investigation Study for the New Large Vessel Harbor



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and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend approval.

DONNA/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-026 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Council Member Lord acknowledged the concerns expressed by the public and shared her understanding that this is the agreement to start this project, develop a project management plan, and start working with the Federal partners to start having the community conversations about this project.

Council Member Erickson noted a lot of the comments tonight had to do with environmental studies and ask that it be reiterated what the study will entail.

Port Director Hawkins read from the information provided in the packet that General Investigation steps include –

- (1) specify problems and opportunities associated with the federal objective and specific state and local concerns;
- (2) inventory, forecast and analyze existing and future conditions relevant to the identified problems and opportunities;
- (3) geophysical site testing;
- (4) assesses environmental impacts under NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act of 1969)
- (5) formulate alternative plans to address the problems and capitalize on the opportunities;
- (6) evaluate the economic, environmental and other effects of each alternative plan to produce BCA
- (7) compare the alternative plans and their effects;
- (8) select a recommended plan;
- (9) Chief of Engineers issues Chief's report with recommendation on the project; and
- (10) USACE submits the completed Chief's reports to the congressional authorizing committees.

It is guaranteed to be completed in ten years, and stakeholders have input in the final plan. There will be many plans drawn up that will be evaluated through a feasibility process and be narrowed down to the final plan.

Council Member Davis added some of the comments were that the resolution should include specific requirements for environmental impact assessment. He asked if the resolution should be amended to include that. City Manager Dumouchel responded the resolution should stand as presented. The City is not the lead in this project and when we enter into the Federal environmental processes they determine what level of environmental analysis is needed.

There was brief discussion that this project has been in the top one or two spot of the Capital Projects list as far back as 2016.

Council Member Erickson added that it study determines it's not feasible to do the project, then it won't proceed. City Manager Dumouchel and Port Director Hawkins concurred.

Council Member Lord said she's looking forward to the process and shared steps that Council has taken over many years to prepare for this General Investigation.

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Council Member Aderhold explained the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process for determining levels of environmental study required for projects.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- 14.C. Resolution 23-027, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding a Task Order in the Amount of \$45,000 to HTRW, LLC of Anchorage, Alaska to test for PCB Laden Materials at the Homer Education and Recreation Complex (HERC) Buildings and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend approval.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-027 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Council Member Davis reiterated his doubts about the wisdom of testing when it's not required by the State or Federal government. According to correspondence with the Borough they're only requiring it because the consultant was pressing them on whether they could accept materials containing PCBs. His main thought is whether it makes sense to do this through a sole source contract to fully test one building, or to put it out to bid and fully test both buildings. There are other companies that do this, the company that would receive the materials has an office in Anchorage that provides this testing as well. He questioned if it makes more sense to slow this down, put it out to bid, and have it include an estimate for a remediation cost.

Public Works Director Keiser responded it does not make sense for several reasons. First, it's being implied that the consultant advised us to do testing for their own benefit and gain, which isn't the case. She reviewed the proposal that was included in the packet noting the purpose of each breakdown in costs to test HERC 2 and do a sampling in HERC 1. The Borough requires we validate whether there are PCB's present before they'll accept the demolition material, because they are responsible for what goes into their landfill. She shared health hazards and environmental hazards that can be caused by PCB's, noting improper deposits into landfills are the most common cause of release of PCB's into the environment through soil, air, and water contamination. She added that consultant and technical services are exempt from the bidding requirement, so we aren't required to do so, and it would delay what we already know needs to be done. There are very few laboratories that do this sampling and care needs to be taken in the laboratory selected. She shared examples of inaccurate testing that's been done in the past.

Mayor Castner asked the Clerk about Robert's Rules related to bringing something back again before Council, since the same resolution was voted down at a prior meeting. City Clerk Jacobsen referenced Robert's Rules of Order 11<sup>th</sup> edition, section 38 that addresses renewal of motions and directs that a motion can't come back before the body at the same meeting, but can be renewed at any later session.

Council Member Erickson asked about what the consultant had already done. Public Works Director Keiser responded at this point the consultant has only been asked to look at HERC 2. To her knowledge the consultant hasn't done any testing by wiping surfaces. She noted in the EPA information provided by Council Member Davis, they recommend a testing and development of a sampling plan, which is what the City has done. The task order includes conducting a sampling of the most likely contaminated materials in HERC 1, which is the caulking and materials in the boiler room.

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VOTE: YES: LORD, ADERHOLD, HANSEN, VENUTI  
NO: DAVIS, ERICKSON, VENUTI

There was brief discussion clarifying the motion that was on the floor.

VENUTI/ERICKSON MOVED FOR RECONSIDERATION.

There was no discussion.

VOTE (reconsideration): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion.

VOTE (main motion): YES: HANSEN, LORD, VENUTI, ADERHOLD  
NO: DAVIS, ERICKSON

Motion carried.

**15. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** (The public may comment for three minutes on any topic.)

Karin Marks commented on behalf of the Coalition that sponsored the Community Conversation on Housing. She's overwhelmed and pleased at how often it came up in Council's discussion, and the Coalition is planning to schedule a time to report to Council on the event. The Coalition wants to publicly thank everyone who attended and participated. The budget for the event was \$6500 and they want to thank the groups that provided financial backing. She reminded listeners the survey will stay up for two weeks, just google Homer Housing Solutions to participate.

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, noted the Transportation Plan update presentation and commented regarding on street parking. It has always been a no in the City, but it got snuck in on Hazel, and he does not want to see it become a precedence or an alternate for off street parking. If there's on street parking in a right of way being used mainly for the benefit of a business owner, there ought to be some way for the City to recoup some of the cost of that. He also commented regarding the plans in the presentation and how bicyclists are impacted by an on street parking lane.

Bruce Friend, city resident and Port and Harbor Advisory Commissioner, thanked Council for supporting Resolution 23-026. It's important that we move forward with the General Investigation. He appreciates the importance of listening to the community. There's been a lot of emphasis on the port expansion and opportunity for input, and there will be a lot more. He's a Board Member for the Marine Trades Association and they will be proud to hear we've moved forward.

Assembly Member Lane Chesley commented in response to Council Member Erickson question on school funding that 100% of the sales tax goes to education, there are no leftovers. This year the budget was approximately \$54.5 million, \$38 million came from sales tax and we make up the balance from property tax.

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**16. COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Gatti had no comments.

**17. COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Jacobsen had no comments.

**18. COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Dumouchel had no comment.

**19. COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Castner commented the Port and Harbor Lease Policy is that original leases go before the Commission and they have all the documents for review. City Code says that renewals are handled by the City Manager and is silent to the Commission, he thinks its reasonable for it to be something they see. He feels E-Bikes should be a city wide policy and charging stations could be the City's contribution to promoting them. He congratulated Kyle Snyder and Jennifer Norton for their production of Newsies.

**20. COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Council Member Lord commented that she saw Newsies and was unbelievably impressed, and she wished Christine Drais the best of luck. She encouraged the public to share with Council their budget priorities and what they'd like to see as public service. She shared about a recent trip to for an AmeriCorps training meeting in San Diego and her positive experience renting and riding an Ebike while she was there.

Council Member Venuti shared a comment she heard how well the students worked together in Newsies. She hates that they have to write letters of support to increase the base student allocation, but it's what we have to do. She hopes the teachers know we support them. She wished everyone happy spring.

Council Member Aderhold said she knows of a number of people who have fallen on the ice and broken bones. She shared about a young man she knows who slipped on the ice getting out of his truck and died. She doesn't know the circumstances, but he was a very smart, active and engaging young man who was doing a lot of very fine things. She encouraged everyone to please be very, very careful on the ice.

Council Member Davis congratulated the Chamber for hosting another successful Winter King Tournament. He attended a fund raiser at Grace Ridge for the Ptarmigan Art Visual Scholarship Fund. He added there's compelling narrative in the current edition of Alaska Magazine about the electric vehicle trip to the North Slope that the Mayor participated in.

Council Member Erickson requested a work session at the next meeting for an update on grants. She thought they had good discussion tonight about the Harbor, and it was good to get some talking points. She shared briefly about her recent trip to the Sportsman Show in the Valley Rec Center.

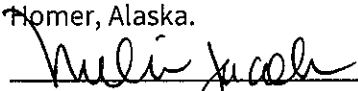
Council Member Hansen commented she missed out on some of the weekend events others attended because she took Art Koeninger's class through Community Recreation. She has worked with Community Rec for Popeye Wrestling and other events and agrees that the paperwork process is the most challenging pieces. She supports

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allocating money for software and an online program. She congratulated everyone involved in the production of Newsies, she wished she could have seen it.

**21. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Committee 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.

  
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Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk  
Approved: 4.10.23