



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

DATE: June 22, 2023

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for June 26, 2023 Council Meeting

Boat Fire Contained by HVFD

Homer Volunteer Fire Department has been very busy this summer. On June 20th, the crew responded to a boat fire at 10:15pm. Homer provided an engine and tanker and a total of eight personnel (including two volunteers). An additional three personnel responded from KESA and one from Anchor Point (WES). The fire was kept to the vessel and there were no injuries to the crew or the public.



2023 Property Tax Figures from KPB

I received notice from the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assessor regarding the 2023 certified main roll taxable values for the City of Homer as of June 1, 2023. They are as follows:

	Assessed	Taxable
Real Property	\$1,547,404,200	\$940,906,000
Oil & Gas Property	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$42,715,533	\$38,465,196
Total 2023 Certified Main Roll Value	\$1,590,119,733	\$979,371,196

The \$979M in taxable property for 2023 is an increase of \$108M (12.4%) over 2022's taxable property values. Based on the numbers provided by the Borough, we should see upwards of \$285,000 above what we budgeted for in FY24 for property taxes.

First Quarter Sales Tax

First quarter sales tax from the Borough for calendar year 2023 saw a very small dip in all jurisdictions within the Kenai Peninsula. Homer had \$35,142,391 in taxable sales which translates into approximately \$1.7M in revenue to the City. The sales tax revenue for 2023 is roughly \$57,543 behind last year's performance for the quarter. For reference, the first quarter is by far the smallest quarter for the City. The taxable sales in the second and third quarters are generally double and triple that which we see in the first quarter.

First quarter sales tax from the Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Commission is up quite a bit from 2022. In the first quarter of calendar year 2023, we have an estimated \$212,086 in revenue which is a \$51,324 (31%) increase over the year prior.

City Planner Update

Upon the departure of former City Planner Rick Abboud, Special Project Coordinator Ryan Foster stepped in as acting City Planner and has been doing a great job of keeping the Planning Division on track through the busy season. I've asked Ryan to make the switch permanent and he has agreed to become our full-time City Planner. Ryan will official make that transition in July.

Potential AML Grant Partnerships

There are two grant programs open right now for which the Alaska Municipal League (AML) is assembling select coastal communities for potential partnership. One is related to public electric vehicle charging infrastructure which is titled the "Connecting Alaska's Coastal Communities with Charging Infrastructure Project." This is connected to a federal grant that had been evaluated by staff but not pursued because the cost to the City in local match would be very high (\$200,000+) at a time when we're trying to build up funds for future harbor float replacements and harbor expansion projects. Under the proposal being written by AML for the State, the local grant match would be carried by the State of Alaska making this a much more attractive program for the City. The concept and application are still under development by AML and I can share more as things progress. A second grant underway at AML is focused on coastal resilience funding for Alaska Communities that would come from the NOAA Inflation Reduction Act Climate Resilience Regional Challenge. AML is still waiting for the official release of the notice of funding opportunity, but they have proactively reached out to communities like ours to gauge interest and possible support in the future. More to come as that opportunity develops.

Special Events and Food Trucks Code Update Follow Up

In March of 2022, Council adopted Ordinances 22-15(S)(A) and 22-14 which updated regulations related to mobile food service (i.e., food trucks) and special events. A little more than a year has elapsed and I took a look back with staff at how the changes have been working out for the City and those seeking permits.

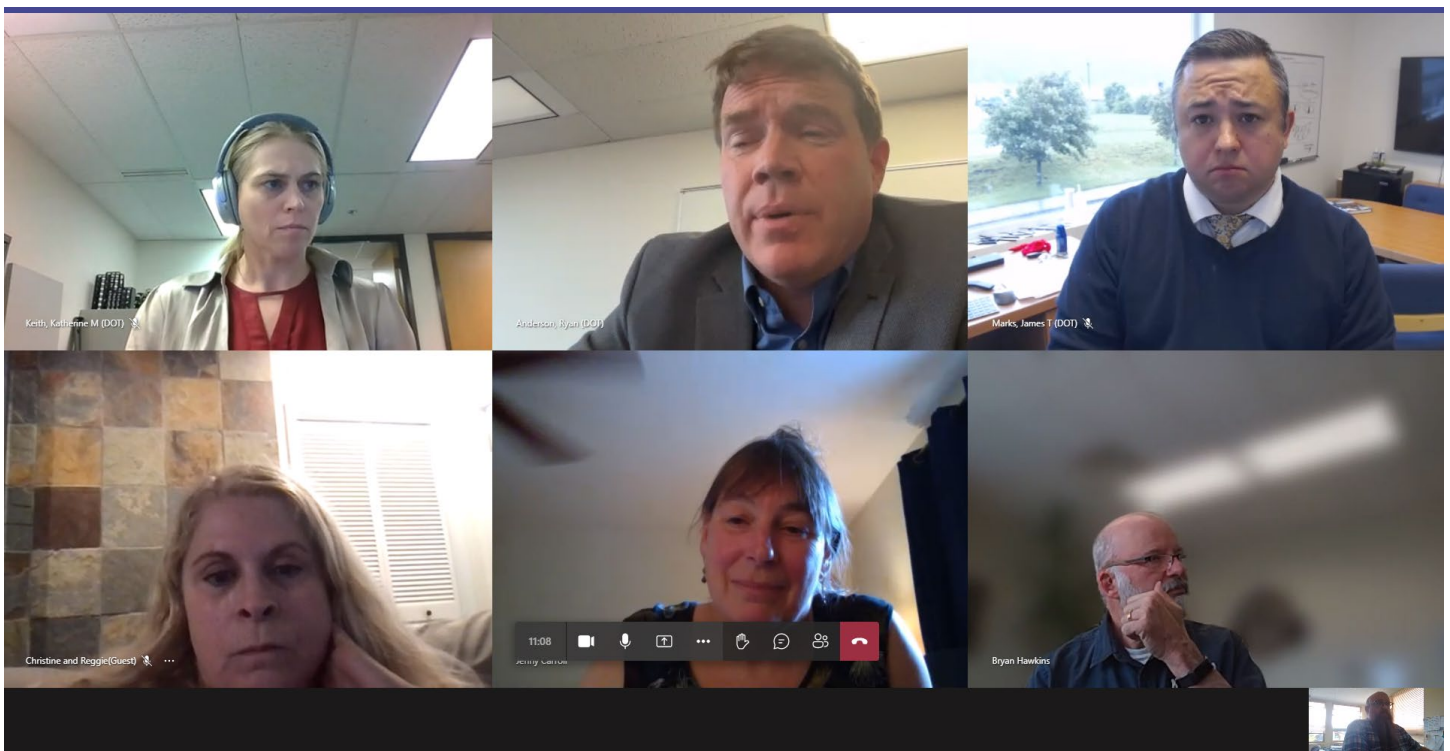
Mobile Food Service: The move from the Police Department to Planning for mobile food service permitting was very smooth and Planning has proved to be a much more user-friendly place to get permitted. At this time, most permitting is being handled online. The streamlining of our permitting process has been very appreciated by food truck operators and we've received positive comments from the Chamber of Commerce who has hosted food truck events within the City since the passage

of the update. The change that allows food trucks in parks as part of a permitted special event has been particularly popular and appreciated by the public.

Special Events: We have been quite busy with special event permitting and the updated program has been going very well. It is administered in the City Manager's office at this time. We have also instituted pre-event meetings for particularly complicated events (i.e., annual fireworks), or first time events, in an effort to make event implementation as smooth as possible with minimal surprises for the City and the event permit holders. In the code update we created some fines for egregious violations of code. So far, we have not had to use any punitive fees to maintain public health and safety related to special events. We hope to keep that streak alive. Staff is preparing to host an internal meeting to discuss areas in which we may benefit from some small changes or improvements at a level below amending City Code.

Meeting with Alaska Department of Transportation

Special Projects Coordinator Jenny Carroll, Port Director Bryan Hawkins, Christine Hess from J&H Consulting, and I met with Commissioner Ryan Anderson, Deputy Commissioner Katherine Keith, and Director of Planning & Program Development James Marks to discuss potential partnerships for federally funded grant programs. We focused this meeting on spit erosion mitigation. We had a very positive meeting and have planned a follow up to see if we can successfully collaborate on a grant application this summer. We have met frequently with Commissioner Anderson since he was appointed by the Governor in 2021, and we are very appreciative of his willingness to meet with us directly on topics important to Homer and the Southern Kenai Peninsula.



AML Summer Conference Coming Soon!

The AML Summer Legislative Conference is scheduled for August 9-11th here in the City of Homer. We will be hosting local government officials from all over the state. The first day of the conference involves meetings of the Alaska Conference of Mayors and the Alaska Municipal Management Association. The rest of the conference is focused on State legislation and generally well attended by Mayors, Councilmembers, and City

Managers. City staff continues to coordinate with AML to ensure they're getting the local support they require to make the event a success.

Professional Development Update

This spring I graduated from the Master of Business Administration program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), my diploma was delivered while I was out on leave. Throughout the program I completed courses like Organizational Theory for Managers, Financial Markets & Strategy, Quantitative Methods for Managers, Project Management, Public Policy and Accountability, Strategic Leadership, Strategic Collaboration, and Administration & Management of Criminal Justice Organizations. Across the last year I have also been enrolled in the Master of Security and Disaster Management at UAF, and I expect to finish that degree program at the end of the year.