

Session 23-20 a Regular Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on October 9, 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
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS
LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER
SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CARROLL
RECREATION MANAGER ILLG
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA
CITY ATTORNEY GATTI

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 23-108, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Confirming the Assessment Roll, Establishing Dates for Payment of Special Assessments and Establishing Delinquency, Penalty, and Interest Provisions for the Tasmania Court Water and Sewer Special Assessment Districts. City Clerk. Final Assessment Roll attachment to the Resolution **PUBLIC HEARING** Ordinance 23-49, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Title 2, Chapters 2.32 Departments and Boards, 2.44 Department of Administration, 2.48 Public Library, and Enacting Chapters, 2.46 Department of Information Technology and 2.57 Department of Community Development. City Manager. Written public comments. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** FY23 4th Quarter Financial Report and Memorandum from Acting City Manager Re: Homer Fury Exercise **RESOLUTIONS** Resolution 23-110(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Certifying the Results of the City of Homer Regular Election held October 3, 2023 to Elect Two City Council Members for Three Year Terms each. City Clerk/Canvass Board. Certificate of Election and Election Percentages Report.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA (Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If a 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 Councilmember.)

- a. Homer City Council Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2023. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. Memorandum CC-23-228, from City Clerk Re: Authorizing travel for the Mayor and up to Six Council Members to attend the Alaska Municipal League Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, December 4 - 8, 2023. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum CC-23-229, from City Clerk Re: Expressing Non-Objection to the Renewal of the Standard Marijuana License Renewal for Alaska Loven It, LLC dba Wildflower Farms. Recommend approval.
- d. Ordinance 23-52, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating an Additional \$7,000 from the Port Fleet Reserves Fund to Purchase a Plow Truck. City Manager/Port Director. Recommend dates Introduction October 9, 2023, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 23, 2023.

Memorandum CC-23-230 from Port Director as backup.

- e. Resolution 23-103, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving a Sole Source Contract with Fritz Creek Welding in the amount of up to \$18,000 to Fabricate Custom Metal Parts for the Beluga Slough Green Infrastructure Project, and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 23-231 from Public Works Director as backup.

- f. Resolution 23-104, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving a Sole Source Contract with Jay Rand in the amount of \$85,000 to Fabricate a Custom Concrete Vault for the Beluga Slough Green Infrastructure Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 23-232 from Public Works Director as backup.

- g. Resolution 23-105, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing a Change Order to Coble Geophysical Services, LLC in the Amount of \$23,000 to Continue Work on the Beluga Slough Green Infrastructure Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and

Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 23-233 from Public Works Director as backup.

- h. Resolution 23-106, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Accepting the Donation from Homer Drawdown of Wind Chimes for Trails Enhancement and as a Display of Appreciation for the Volunteers who have Worked to Improve the Experience and Condition of Homer's Local Trails. City Clerk/PARCAC. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 23-234 from PARCAC as backup.

- i. Resolution 23-107, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving a One Year Subscription in the Amount of \$15,500 to Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. for GIS Software and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manger/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 23-235 from Public Works Director as backup.

- j. Resolution 23-108, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Confirming the Assessment Roll, Establishing Dates for Payment of Special Assessments and Establishing Delinquency, Penalty, and Interest Provisions for the Tasmania Court Water and Sewer Special Assessment Districts. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- k. Resolution 23-109, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the 2023 City Council Meeting Schedule for November and December by adding a Regular Meeting on November 13th and deleting the meeting on December 11th. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda with recommendations.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

- a. MAPP Community Health Assessment - Hannah Gustafson & Derotha Ferraro (15 minutes)

Derotha Ferraro and Hannah Gustafson presented a power point and an overview of the 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment. They addressed the four sections of the assessment which are community themes & strengths assessment, local public health system assessment, community

health status assessment, and forecast of change assessment. They shared information regarding data limitations and comparisons of the changes in each section since the initial survey in 2008, recurring themes, demographics, and general findings.

b. Walking Action Plan - Pat Case (10 minutes)

Pat Case reviewed the Walking Action Plan he developed in partnership with Alaska Walks for the Walking College of Alaska & New Mexico. It's developed primarily for the downtown Homer area and his interest is promoting sidewalks in the community. He shared an overview of America Walks Walking College and how the cohort worked between Alaska and New Mexico and the member's task of developing an action plan for their own community. His plan includes three main goals which are improve pedestrian safety, connect walking network and ensure accessibility for all, and promote overall community health and wellness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS (5 Minute limit per report)

a. Worksession Report

City Manager Dumouchel reported Council received a presentation from Recreation Manager Mike Illg about the future of a multi-use community center and options for locations given ongoing issues with the current HERC site. Council Members Aderhold and Erickson will be working on a resolution for future consideration on how to move forward.

b. Committee of the Whole Report

Council Member Aderhold reported Council discussed Resolutions 23-103,104, and 105 about creating green infrastructure at the Beluga Slough wetlands, Ordinance 23-49 regarding city department re-organization, and an article regarding drug cartels targeting Alaska.

c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner reported he's given a lot of thought about the concept of having Council champions on a variety of topics he thinks the Council is interested in getting accomplished. He proposed designating two champions for each topic, and he would be the third so he's aware of how things are going procedurally. A memorandum would be used to get items on the Council's agenda under new business, then a resolution in order to get things moving. Mayor and Council Members discussed this concept and the notion of establishing champions for projects by memorandum to support the work to be done. He will have a memo or a resolution for them to consider regarding Council champions and process.

d. Borough Report

e. Planning Commission

f. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 23-49, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Title 2, Chapters 2.32 Departments and Boards, 2.44 Department of Administration, 2.48 Public Library, and Enacting Chapters, 2.46 Department of Information Technology and 2.57 Department of Community Development. City Manager. Introduction August 14, 2023, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 9, 2023.

Memorandum CC-23-177 from City Manager as backup.

Memorandum CC-23-226 from Library Advisory Board.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Kate Finn, city resident & Library Advisory Board Member, commented the Library Advisory Board supports the independent Library Department and IT Department. She addressed the importance of role the library plays in our community.

There were no other comments and the hearing was closed.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 23-49 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE SECOND WEEK IN APRIL.

Council Member Erickson said she supports the change for the Library and IT, but has concerns about the functioning for recreation in this proposal. She'd like to see how this will play out and would like to push it back to the spring. It was noted the departments and divisions have been functioning for some time. When asked what would need to happen between now and April, Council Member Erickson explained there's a perception that recreation is a low priority but the community is asking for this. Community recreation has the structure working and she thinks recreation should become a fully functioning department.

Council Member Lord commented she doesn't support postponing to April, echoing that there isn't clarity on what the metrics would be or what would be different between now and April. She's considering a postponement until after the November Recreation Work Session. She feels mollified with this as a stepping stone.

Council Member Davis noted the sticking point on this seems to be this big super department of Planning, Economic Development, and Parks and Rec, and asked that since they've been functioning like that, is there something we would learn over six months?

City Manager Dumouchel explained parts of this ordinance have been in operation, like IT and the Library, and there are some teams that are in the Community Development structure. He provided some history of how the departments have integrated and changed in the past, the organization chart,

and that typically any time we get in to the quality of life and rec center conversations, planning and economic development elements are there.

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

Motion failed.

VENUTI/ADERHOLD MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE NEXT MEETING ON THE 25TH

Council Member Venuti hasn't heard from the Planning Commission regarding this and they have a joint work session scheduled for next week.

Council Member Lord reminded that the work session is a continuation of their joint work sessions focused on training with the advisory bodies and not about this ordinance.

In response to a question, City Manager Dumouchel explained the work session on November 27th is the follow up on the Resolution 23-047 and possible pathways to a Parks and Recreation Department within 10 years.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO THE FIRST MEETING IN JANUARY.

Council Member Erickson explained this is the next meeting after the November work session and it would give Council time to consider the work session information.

Council Member Lord commented she's heard enough information to feel comfortable moving forward with this ordinance. No matter what happens between now and the next time this comes back, there is one FTE in recreation and until it's staffed up there aren't more resources there. She understands now that we have to take steps to get to that place. She does not support postponing.

Council Member Davis supports postponing and have the Council Members championing recreation to look at what we can do to emphasize to the community and ourselves that we take parks and rec seriously.

VOTE (amendment): YES: HANSEN, VENUTI, LORD, DAVIS, ADERHOLD, ERICKSON

Motion carried.

Council Member Lord encouraged that during the postponement others to think of a path forward they can propose.

VOTE: (main motion as amended): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 23-51, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a State of Alaska Public Library Assistance Grant for FY24 in the Amount of \$7,000 for Books and Library Materials. City Manager/Library Director. Introduction September 25, 2023 and Public Hearing & Second Reading October 9, 2023.

Memorandum CC-23-218 from Library Director as backup.

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

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 23-51 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dumouchel reported on the International City Manager's Association conference he recently attended and announced the upcoming Panel Discussion on What's Driving Change in Homer public meeting.

He responded to questions regarding the status of the airport sidewalk repairs, explaining that the project has been out to bid twice with no response so the plan is to advertise in the spring, and work with Public Works on ways to help make the problem area visible until then. Regarding the Mattox property clean-up, the property owners have not responded so the City will be moving forward next steps.

There was discussion on the audit update memorandum and financial reporting, regarding historical timing of receipt of the audit, the need for better reporting is most important, and accurate information on a monthly basis.

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 23-110, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Certifying the Results of the City of Homer Regular Election held October 3, 2023 to Elect Two City Council Members for Three Year Terms each. City Clerk/Canvass Board.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-110 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 23-110(S) FOR 23-110.

There was no discussion on the motion to substitute.

VOTE (substitution): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no discussion on the main motion.

VOTE (main motion): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Mayor Castner thanked all the candidates who ran for election this year.

City Clerk Jacobsen administered the oath of office to Council Members Lord and Venuti.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Pat Case, city resident, commented he'll be promoting his plan for community benches to extend walking distances.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Gatti had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen commented regarding the Finance team, their commitment to their work, and their ongoing efforts to complete the 22 audit, and preparation for 23. She also reported openings on City advisory bodies.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dumouchel announced job openings in City Planning and encouraged interested people to apply.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Caster commented about a movie about places around the earth called blue zones where people live to be 100 years old. There were several attributes but the biggest was that everybody that lived there walked.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Hansen congratulated Council Members Lord and Venuti on their re-election.

Council Member Erickson said it's a pleasure working with Council Members Lord and Venuti.

Council Member Davis thanked the City Clerk for working with him on reporting election percentages.

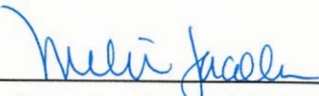
Council Member Aderhold congratulated Council Members Lord and Venuti and encouraged applying to Board and Commission openings. She'll be at Conversation with a Council Member at the library, she encouraged attending the Tempest at the Mariner Theater, and shared about her recent trip to Ireland.

Council Member Venuti shared it's an honor to serve and thanked everyone who voted. When she was campaigning she saw a lot of unsafe drivers coming out of Heath Street exit of the high school. She recognized the middle school soccer teams on their great season.

Council Member Lord said she's glad to be back for another term, she appreciates everyone who voted, but is bummed about the overall voter turnout. She said the Tempest was great and also encouraged seeing it. Today is Indigenous Peoples Day and Alaska was the second state in the nation to recognize it in 2017. She's thankful for our tribes and the first peoples of Alaska. She honors the sovereignty of the nation and relationship we have with the tribes on paper, and the work they do to see it exist in reality.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Work Session at 4:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: October 25, 2023