

Introduced by: Assembly Members and Mayor  
Date: 01/02/24  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 2024-001**

**A RESOLUTION URGING ADDITIONAL STATE OF ALASKA MATCH FUNDING  
FOR THE HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION GENERAL INVESTIGATION STUDY IN  
THE AMOUNT OF \$288,523**

- WHEREAS,** Homer’s Port & Harbor is a regional port, serving the needs of commercial vessels operating across southcentral and western Alaska, and the Arctic in the maritime industrial, marine transportation and commercial fishing industries and, over time, the increased demand for services provided by the Homer Port & Harbor has outgrown Homer harbor’s ability to safely and efficiently serve this fleet; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Homer (“City”) has identified a new large vessel port expansion among its highest ranked priority capital improvement projects since 2004 to (1) meet the growing needs of our commercial fleet, (2) address overcrowding and associated navigational safety concerns and high maintenance costs, and (3) support emerging regional and national economic opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** in recognition of this need, the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) entered into a Federal Cost Share Agreement in March 2023 to initiate a Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation (“GI”) that investigates all planning aspects needed to build a large vessel harbor at the Homer Spit including, but not limited to: selecting a preferred design alternative and construction methods, evaluating social, economic and environmental factors, determining costs and conducting a cost benefit analysis; and
- WHEREAS,** the initial cost of the Homer Harbor Expansion GI study was set per the USACE Project Management Plan (PMP) at \$3,000,000, as a shared partnership between the USACE, the State of Alaska, and the City (\$1.5M federal/\$750,000 State of Alaska/\$750,000 City of Homer; and
- WHEREAS,** after reaching the study’s Alternatives and Measures Milestone, the USACE project development team updated the PMP to include two additional activities in the GI scope (geotechnical analysis and ship simulation) so that the study would have sufficient data to develop the most realistic benefit to cost ratio; and
- WHEREAS,** the additional work increases the cost of the GI study by \$1,154,093 to be similarly shared between the Federal and local partners; and

**WHEREAS,** the success and continuation of this project lies in continued active partnership and investment at the local, state and federal levels; and

**WHEREAS,** Homer City Council passed Resolution 23-130 agreeing to the revised scope and cost of the GI under the PMP, stating it is prudent to continue to explore options for a harbor expansion to relieve congestion and improve navigational safety within Homer's Port and Harbor; and

**WHEREAS,** consistent with the shared local match partnership, Homer City Council Resolution 23-130 additionally expresses the City of Homer's intent to appropriate funds in the amount of \$288,524 for fifty percent of the required local sponsor match and to seek State matching funds for the remaining fifty percent; and

**WHEREAS,** investment in the GI aligns with the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Comprehensive Development Plan, which prioritizes Homer's large vessel harbor expansion in order to meet current moorage demand and improve the Kenai Peninsula's support capabilities to the regional and statewide marine transportation network; and

**WHEREAS,** the purpose of this resolution is to state the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly's support of the completion of the GI study for the Homer Harbor Expansion project, and thereby take the next step in building a large vessel harbor that will support current moorage needs as well as emerging regional and national economic opportunities on the Kenai Peninsula;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Assembly urges the State of Alaska to provide \$288,523 in additional match funds in the FY25 State budget in order to fully fund local match requirements for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation study in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Homer as the development of this public facility will help enhance safety and economic prosperity among the many Alaskan communities who depend on services operating out of Homer Port and Harbor.

**SECTION 2.** That a copy of this resolution will be sent to Governor Dunleavy.

**SECTION 3.** That a copy of this resolution will be sent to State Senator Jesse Bjorkman and State Senator Gary Stevens, State Representative Ben Carpenter, State Representative Justin Ruffridge, State Representative Louise Stutes, and State Representative Sarah Vance.

**SECTION 4.** That a copy of this resolution will be sent to the borough's congressional delegation.

**SECTION 5.** That this resolution is effective immediately.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 2ND DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.**

*Brent Johnson*

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

*Michele Turner*

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson  
No: None  
Absent: None

**From:** [janie leask](#)  
**To:** [Ken Castner](#); [Donna Aderhold](#); [Rachel Lord](#); [Caroline Venuti](#); [Storm Hansen-Cavasos](#); [Shelly Erickson](#); [Jason Davis](#); [Department Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Eric Tutt](#); [Paul Allan](#); [Kathy Vogl](#); [Shan Burson](#); [Holly Van Pelt](#); [Christopher Mullikin](#)  
**Subject:** City Ordinance 43-9  
**Date:** Monday, January 8, 2024 1:27:06 PM

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To Mayor Castner and Members of the City Council

I'm writing in support of the substitute Ordinance 43-9(S) which is up for a Public Hearing tonight.

This substitute, offered by Council members Shelly Erickson and Jason Davis will delete Community Recreation from the new Community Development Department proposed by the Administration.

Members of the Community and PARCAC have voiced support for the creation of a separate Parks & Community Recreation department going back to the now 8 year-old 2015 PARCAC Needs Assessment which recommended the City should: *Consider a centralized City Parks and Recreation Department with additional City of Homer recreation staff (existing staff are currently at capacity, and the City could potentially leverage increased community involvement toward providing services and completing park improvement projects with additional staff.)*

As I've stated in previous testimony, over 60% of Alaskan communities have taken steps to combine parks and community recreation into one department - communities like Soldotna, Seward, Kenai, Kodiak, Wrangell, Bethel, Wasilla, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. Why can't we?

There continues to be strong support to create a stand-alone Department of Parks & Community Recreation and opposition to merging it into a department which, in my opinion, it becomes lost.

Excerpt from the November 20, 2023 Memorandum from PARCAC to the City Manager:

PARCAC unanimously supported the creation of the Library and Information Technology departments but for the following reasons does not fully support including Community Recreation within the proposed Community Development department because:

1. the benefits were not clearly defined,

2. the organizational chart does not facilitate the elevation of Community Recreation's function as it would no longer directly report to the City Manager,
3. there is no connection to the Planning, Building or Code Enforcement Divisions and limited connection to Economic Development Division under the Community Development Department

PARCAC stated support for the creation of a Parks & Community Recreation Department to bring forward the importance and value of Community Recreation as expressed by the strong community support. Their recommendation was to amend and adopt the Ordinance creating Library, IT, Community Development Departments without Community Recreation and consider creating and passing an ordinance to create a Parks and Recreation Department.

I support 43-9(S) and the position/recommendation forwarded to the Council by PARCAC.

By supporting Ordinance 43-9(S), the Council will send a clear message to the Administration and have more time to thoroughly consider all aspects of creating this new stand-alone department.

Thank you for your time,

Janie Leask  
Homer Resident  
USA Pickleball Ambassador for Homer  
President, Homer Pickleball Club