

Session 24-02 a Regular Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on January 22, 2024 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
LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS
FINANCE DIRECTOR FISCHER
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR DYAL
CITY ATTORNEY GATTI

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

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Castner announced the supplemental items: **CONSENT AGENDA Memorandum CC-24-025** from City Clerk re: New Liquor License for Homer Spit Oyster Bar. Memorandum from Police Chief and email from AMCO as backup. **Ordinance 24-08**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24/25 Operating Budget to Provide for Necessary Adjustments Connected to the Creation of an Exempt Wage Scale. City Manager. Financial Supplement Form as backup. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/ PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS Memorandum CC-24-026** Council Finance Champion Written Report **PUBLIC HEARINGS Ordinance 24-06**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-motorized Trails and Trailhead Connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to the Proposed Highway Underpass. Davis. Written Public Comments and Draft letter from Mayor to AKDOT Commissioner as backup.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Jan Keiser, city resident, thanked Council for considering her appointment to the Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission. She commented regarding a matter regarding an increase in salary for the Public Works Director and that her retirement had nothing to do with her feeling that she wasn't paid enough, she was satisfied with her salary.

Scott Adams, city resident, commented regarding Ordinance 24-09 revising the Port and Harbor Tariff and compared it to Seward's fees. His concern about pricing ourselves out and suggested a commercial use annual fee.

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 January 8, 2024. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. Memorandum CC-24-022 from Mayor Castner re: Reappointment of Carla Stanley to the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum CC-24-023 from Mayor Castner re: Appointments to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Recommend approval.
- d. Memorandum CC-24-024 from Mayor Castner re: Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission, and the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission. Recommend approval.
- e. Memorandum CC-24-025 from City Clerk re: New Liquor License for Homer Spit Oyster Bar. Recommend approval.
- f. Ordinance 24-07, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Clean Water Fund Loan in the Amount of \$228,704.19 for the Tasmania Court Sewer Improvement Project. City Manager/Finance Director. Recommended dates Introduction January 22, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading February 12, 2024.
- g. Ordinance 24-08, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24/25 Operating Budget to Provide for Necessary Adjustments Connected to the Creation of an Exempt Wage Scale. City Manager. Recommended dates Introduction January 22, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading February 12, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-029 from Personnel Director as backup.

- h. Ordinance 24-09, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Adopting the Revised Port and Harbor Tariff No. 1. City Manager/Port Director. Recommended dates Introduction January 22, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading February 12, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-030 from Port Director as backup.

- i. Ordinance 24-10, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Operating and Capital Budget by Authorizing Pass Through Funds from Doyon, Limited Related to Delivery of a Traffic Impact Analysis Prepared by Kinney Engineering. City Manager/Finance Director. Recommended dates Introduction January 22, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading February 12, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-034 from City Planner as backup.

- j. Resolution 24-011, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving a Sole Source Contract in the Amount of \$195,000 to Comforts of Home Services to Purchase Three Mobile Restrooms and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-24-031 from Parks Superintendent as backup.

- k. Resolution 24-012, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Supporting the State of Alaska's Continued Partnership in the US Corps of Engineer Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation and Requesting Additional Local Sponsor Match Funding in FY25 in the Amount of \$288,523, Consistent with the Shared Local Match Partnership Established in 2023. Lord/Hansen. Recommend adoption.

- l. Resolution 24-013, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska in Support of Raising the Maximum Available Annual Award per Municipality from \$5,000,000 to \$7,500,000 for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program. City Manager/Port Director. Recommend adoption.

- m. Resolution 24-014, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving Issuance of at Term Contract to Alaska Harbors Consulting, LLC for Marine Engineering and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Port Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-24-032 from Port Director as backup.

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda.

LORD/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. Community Resource Connect - Annie Garay, BSN, RN, SPY Community Health and Wellness Educator and Cinda Martin (10 minutes)

Annie Garay and Cinda Martin presented on the upcoming Community Resource Connect event on January 30, 2024. It's a one day event for those facing financial instability, homelessness, and for those who are at risk of being houseless. The mission is to collect and provide data, connect people to services, build a more compassionate community, and reduce stigma. They addressed needs for donations and volunteers and shared other ways to help.

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

- a. Worksession Report

City Manager Dumouchel reported Council had a presentation from HDR on Homer Harbor baseline conditions. Their team analyzed a mix of existing and new data to conduct modeling related to wind, waves, and sediment transport that will be presented to the US Army Corps of Engineers.

- b. Committee of the Whole Report

Council Member Lord reported Council discussed Ordinance 24-08 regarding the exempt employee wage scale, Ordinance 24-09 regarding the terminal tariff update, Resolution 24-015 and a base student allocation increase, Memorandum CC-24-025 for a new liquor license, and shipping costs for the mobile restrooms purchase. There was an audience comment on the timeline for the Harbor Expansion and she explained the project management plan has a timeline within it and the general investigation study is on a slowdown as we wait for federal funding.

- c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner commented there have been a lot of questions raised about the Harbor Expansion and there isn't a clear path forward that he can discern. There should be some charting where this project is going to go. He's been attending a lot of commission meetings this month and they're working hard on what Council has sent them.

- d. Borough Report

Assembly Member Kelly Cooper commented regarding the Community Resource Connect and the benefits of volunteering for the event, and regarding House Bill 250 regarding elections and how it effects municipalities. She reported the Assembly budget season has begun and the Finance Director

has been meeting with service areas to get them prepared with their budget requests, and shared regarding the South Peninsula Behavioral Health DeStig movie series at Homer Theater.

e. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Commissioner Mel Kim reported the Commission held a work session regarding short term rentals that was well attended and points were raised that assertions made in the ordinance weren't supported with specific evidence that short term rental create pressure on housing. They'll be having another work session on February 13th. At their regular meeting they worked on their strategic plan, and they continue to have housing on their agenda for discussion. He touched on the notion of a winter survey to engage with businesses in town and are looking at ways to interface and work with the Chamber of Commerce for topics and questions.

f. Planning Commission

Commissioner Mike Stark reported at their last meeting the Commission voted no on re-platting the Lighthouse parcel primarily because it conflicted with the vacation on B Street. The Commission will deliberate on CUP 23-08. He shared appreciation for the Mayors attendance at their meetings, encouraged Council Members to attend also, and shared the Commission's interest in more joint work sessions with Council.

g. Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission

Commissioner Robert Archibald reported on the Commission's recent work session with Council where they discussed their role with the City, their strategic plan, needs for parks and beaches, and revisiting policy and procedures. At their regular meeting they had updates on winter parks and trails maintenance, and City Council action related to PARCAC and community recreation. They discussed the three proposals for the Karen Hornaday Park campground and supported the option to have a partial campground and an area for events, but more discussion is needed. They discussed Ordinance 24-06 and the pedestrian culvert on the Sterling Highway, Homer Trails Alliance explained their perspective and the benefits to the community for connecting the trail system, and they voted in support of the ordinance. They discussed the top three sites for the Homer Multi Use Community Recreation Center, three were identified to have positive potential. They also discussed the master plans for Karen Hornaday Park and Bayview Park, and plan to have a work session on the master plans. He appreciates the appointment of Jan Keiser, he thinks she'll be a good addition to the Commission.

h. Library Advisory Board

Board Member Kathy Carrsow reported at their last meeting the Board continued work on their strategic plan and goals, and they plan to focus on building the library endowment fund through community education and concerted effort on the part of the LAB members to encourage donations. Director Berry brought the Library's 2020-25 strategic plan to begin participation in its updating. They applauded the City Council's action on making the Library a stand-alone department. They also

thanked the people who gave to the Library's giving tree, and she shared regarding the Friends of the Homer Library Big Read events. ○

i. Conversations with a Council Member - Council Member Venuti

Council Member Venuti reported nine people attended and they discussed ADA accessibility at some facilities, and a suggestion to implement an alcohol and cigarette tax to fund recreation.

j. Council Finance Champion Report - Lord/Davis

Council Member Lord reviewed the written report that was included in the supplemental packet.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 24-01, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the Official Road Maintenance Map of the City of Homer by adding 3,735 Lineal Feet (.71 miles) of Urban Road on Shelly Avenue, Robert Avenue, Lillian Drive, Tajen Drive, and Sanjay Court. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-007 from Public Works Inspector as backup.

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

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 24-01 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 24-02, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Title 3 Revenue and Finance Chapter 3.1 General to add Section 3.01.037 Donations to the City to Allow Acceptance of Money or Real Property Donated, Devised or Bequeathed for a Public Purpose. Lord/Venuti. Introduction January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-033 from City Clerk as backup.

Memorandum CC-24-008 from Library Director as backup.

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

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 24-01 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING. ○

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO AMEND THE TITLE ORDINANCE 24-02 BY ADDING AFTER PUBLIC PURPOSE “AND AMENDING CHAPTER 18 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, SECTION 18.06.010 REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS.”

There was no discussion the amendment.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no discussion on the main motion as amended.

VOTE (main motion): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 24-03, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Re-Appropriating \$77,500 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to Install a Mobile Restroom at Jack Gist Park. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-009 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Mike Jones, city resident, commented regarding the ongoing maintenance for these mobile restrooms and encouraged considering roles, responsibilities, and funding for cleaning, and maintaining these assets as necessary.

There were no other comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 24-03 BY READING OF TITLE FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There were comments regarding bathroom maintenance. It’s responsible to have bathrooms at the parks for the amount of use they see.

City Manager Dumouchel responded that in the last budget cycle an additional janitorial position was added and bathroom maintenance is handled by the janitorial staff.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- d. Ordinance 24-04, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Re-Appropriating \$150,000 from the Homer Accelerated Water and Sewer Program (HAWSP) Fund to Purchase Two Mobile Restrooms to be Placed at Karen Hornaday Park. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-010 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Mike Jones, city resident, commented regarding the ongoing maintenance for these mobile restrooms and encouraged considering roles, responsibilities, and funding for cleaning, and maintaining these assets as necessary.

Robert Archibald, city resident and PARC Commissioner, noted they've been talking about bathrooms at Hornaday Park for a long time. The mobile units are plumbed with water and sewer, and moveable so when we have funding to build a restroom, these can be used elsewhere. He supports the ordinance.

Scott Adams, city resident, commented in support of purchasing mobile restrooms, it's a plus and it moves us in the right direction.

There were no other comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 24-05 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Question was raised whether they could be used in a location where they can't be connected to water and sewer. City Manager Dumouchel responded these units aren't designed that way.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- e. Ordinance 24-05, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 and 25 Capital Budget by Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$288,524 from the Port and Harbor Match Reserves to Meet the City's Increased Local Match Requirement for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation Being Conducted in Partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Alaska. Lord/Hansen. Introduction January 8; 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-011 from Council Members as backup.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Scott Adams, city resident, commented he supports Ordinance 24-05 and encouraged not spending the money until the other two partners commit. We can't do this ourselves.

HANSEN/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 24-05 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Council Member Lord noted the backup information in the packet related to funding and she appreciates Council's continued support of moving forward with the General Investigation. She noted comments from their earlier meeting regarding the timeline for this and having it brought forward in a different way than is outlined in the project management plan. She and Council Member Hansen can work on that with staff.

Council Member Erickson was encouraged during their work session and their report from HDR. She supports continuing to pursue funding for the General Investigation and thinks we might find we're in a better position than we think.

Mayor Castner added that after the work session Mr. McPherson with HDR confirmed that the only information gap right now is this bottom survey.

Council Member Aderhold appreciates the work being done to keep things moving with the Harbor Expansion Study. She acknowledged the public comment expressing concern about spending the money allocated by this ordinance. In this instance she doesn't feel the City is getting ahead of itself because she doesn't think the state will be willing to pass a capital budget item if the City hasn't allocated funding for this purpose.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- f. Ordinance 24-06, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-motorized Trails and Trailhead Connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to the Proposed Highway Underpass. Davis. Introduction January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-036 from City Clerk as backup.

Memorandum CC-24-021 from Councilmember Davis as backup.

Mike Jones, city resident, questioned if the City has thought and looked forward to the roles, responsibilities, and potential funding necessary to cover things such as vandalism, crime, and

homelessness that is sometimes is associated with underpasses. This seems like a good thing to do, but let's go in with eyes wide open.

Robert Archibald, city resident, commented about the amount of time volunteers have put in to looking at this. He and other have tried to map out and look at routes through the state and city parcels, it's going to be interesting. It's a great area with a lot of potential.

Scott Adams, city resident, supports this because he once envisioned that we'll be like Anchorage with bike paths for people to venture out. There are some hurdles to get through but the city and state can work through this issue.

Brad Parsons, city resident, commented he was involved with the beginning of this process and he fully supports it. DOT is going to improve the road and there's a lot of energy to connect these non-motorized paths and the only way to do it is to go underneath the highway.

Jan Keiser, city resident, commented in support of Ordinance 24-06, the city has been working toward connectivity in the trails it owns in this area, there's a master plan that shows it. This is a modest amount of money to put some time and energy into surveying and conceptual design.

Karin Marks, city resident, commented in support of Ordinance 24-06, she agrees with others comments and added this is taking the opportunity to do something quickly. It will be good for safety, our physical betterment as people, and our economic life.

DAVIS/ERICKSON MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 24-06 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Council Member Lord appreciated the inclusion of the Diamond Creek Recreational Management Plan information provided, it was helpful information was helpful. She noted in Homer we lack summer trails on this side of the bay.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

- a. Ordinance 24-11, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$20,000 from the General Fund Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund for Events, Exhibits, and Programs Celebrating the 40th Year of the Sister-City Relationship between the City of Homer and Teshio, Japan. Lord/Venuti. Recommended dates Introduction January 22, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading February 12, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-035 from Library Director as backup.

VENUTI/LORD MOVED TO INTRODUCE 24-11 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Council Member Venuti shared that this is a way to learn about another culture and continue with our 40 year relationship with Teshio. Alternative plans are being considered in the event Teshio is unable to send a delegation, so this funding will be needed regardless.

Council Member Lord noted this has been a City hosted project and is also a community project as many people have been participating and brainstorming for the event. She added she feels it needs to be a City task force. There hasn't been any success in finding another group to spearhead this effort.

Mayor Castner commented about the ongoing relationship between Homer and Teshio and ongoing efforts to maintain the relationship.

There was discussion in support of creating a task force for this event.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dumouchel highlighted items in his report, including Ordinance 23-61 is moving through the advisory bodies for review and it's due back to Council at the second meeting in February. He also addressed work on a grant related to Homer Spit Climate resiliency.

There were comments supporting the work on the grant related to Homer Spit Climate resiliency.

Council Member Lord asked for Comprehensive Plan status updates in his regular reports. City Manager Dumouchel reported there was a kick-off with Agnew Beck and weekly operational check-ins with them. They recently walked through a first draft of a public outreach communications plan and are looking at conducting a public outreach event per month in early spring and early summer. A goal is to get out and find people where they are and have a standard way to hold a conversation with a group when staff is out in the field, to get usable data that fits into what the consultants are looking for.

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Memorandum CC-24-027 from Council Members Erickson and Davis re: Parks Art Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan.

Council Members reviewed the information in the memorandum. It's intended to be Council's ideas to the Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission (PARCAC) following their joint work session. There was concurrence that a resolution be drafted to direct PARCAC for Council's next meeting.

- b. Memorandum CC-24-028 from City Clerk re: City Manager Evaluation Process.

There was brief discussion regarding scheduling City Manager Dumouchel's evaluation. It was recommended they hold it on an off council meeting evening so they have adequate time to conduct the evaluation, and suggested that there be questions they can give feedback on rather than a rating scale from 1 to 10.

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 24-015, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Requesting the State of Alaska to make a Meaningful and Timely Increase in the Base Student Allocation for Public Schools. Aderhold/Lord.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-015 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Council Member Aderhold explained Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Member Tyson Cox sponsored a similar resolution that passed unanimously, and he reached out and asked if she'd bring a resolution forward. She expressed her view on the importance of public schools for teaching K-12, and their importance for attracting employees to Homer to work for businesses in our town. She feels it's in the purview of the Council to take this action due to the importance of schools to a community, and because we couldn't maintain the Community Recreation program without the schools in the Homer area.

Council Member Venuti sees this as a message of support to the teachers, administrators, staff, and parents, to show that we understand the importance of education. She added she's reached out to our State Representative about the relationship between low education and sex trafficking. If we don't do this right, that's what happens.

Council Member Lord apologized for not including the KPB resolution because the language is almost identical, and reiterated their unanimous passage. She explained education is the single largest line item in the Borough's budget and solid waste is next. We've worked with the Borough on solid waste matters, like seven day access to the transfer station because it impacts us as a public service. There is an economic tie between the cities and education at the borough level. If we want working families to live here and encourage economic development, it will be increasingly hard pressed if we continue to go down this path with our school funding. She expressed that when we're in a scarcity mindsets worrying about if we'll have to lay teachers off every year, it reduces the ability to move beyond and think creatively. The school district is looking at an over \$13 million budget deficit, and having

followed the KPB School District budgets and financials for the last 5 years, she doesn't see it born out that the funding goes to the teachers and not the students, as was commented earlier at the work session.

Council Member Erickson commented there are federally mandated programs that have to be in the school, but there isn't the money to pay staff to keep the people they have for those programs. She wished there was a way for the state to take ownership to ensure funding for those support people who work with special needs children.

Council Member Davis shared his strong support of this resolution. The excellence of the schools was the deciding factor that brought his family to Homer. There are several class mates of his daughter who have been accepted to MIT and other schools of a similar caliber. We have a gem here and it would be a shame to lose it due to lack of funding.

Council Member Hansen expressed that the public school system is vital to families, and single working parents.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, commented regarding the book *A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door* that addresses the unsubtle attack on public schools, he highly recommends it. He commented about the recent Nordic Ski Club Besh Cup races and the Big Read book club events that are happening.

Scott Adams, city resident commented regarding the Port and Harbor website and conflicting information regarding parking fees and expressed concern about the launch ramp fees and long term parking. Regarding Ordinance 24-06, he requested they come up with legislation to look at the end of the project at Kachemak Drive, and we need a turn lane there. He also commented regarding the 2022 audit and repercussions for those involved.

Mike Stark, city resident, encouraged consideration of public/private partnerships regarding the new recreation center, they can accelerate and help in many ways. He commented about accountability related to the audit, it's crucially important to get timely information and noted consequences for deliverables not being met, like a reduction in their fee. Audits are necessary for strategic planning.

Brad Parsons, city resident, thanked Council for their support of Ordinance 24-06. He recognized the Homer Trails Alliance for their work to make this happen and encouraged continued work with them.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Gatti had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen noted openings on the ADA Advisory Board and the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dumouchel announced job openings with the City for a Fire Fighter, Mechanic, and Port Property Associate.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner commented there are only a couple of places to pull money to pay for a bond for a new rec center. It will take a general obligation bond and he's intending to bring forth an ordinance to ask the voters at the next election if they want to continue the sales tax once the police station is paid off.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Hansen had no comment.

Council Member Erickson commented regarding upcoming events, including the Epic Tour, Fun Run, and ice races on the lake. She thanked everyone for good discussion tonight.

Council Member Davis commented that he Chamber will be celebrating their 75th anniversary with an event with their membership, and about the upcoming Winter Carnival Parade.

Council Member Aderhold commented the Besh Cup race was a great event where skiers can earn points towards going to national skiing events. She shared information from the AML Legislative Committee regarding their discussion on HB250 that removes municipal control of when and how they hold elections. It would mandate municipal elections occur on the same day as state elections, change all terms from three to four years, and municipal elections would only occur on even numbered years. It would make Election Day a holiday, and it was pointed out that would be costly as there are a lot of people who have to work on that holiday. She plans to bring a resolution on this matter at their next meeting.

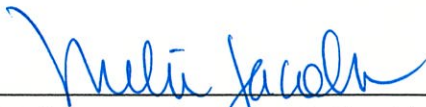
Council Member Venuti thanked Jan Keiser for wanting to participate on PARCAC following her retirement. She noted Coops Coffee will be accepting donations for the Community Resource Connect event, the upcoming promotion of two Fire Captains at the fire hall, and the upcoming Winter Carnival Parade.

Council Member Lord thanked everyone for a good meeting, and noted she'll be telephonic at the next one. She'll be in Juneau with her new job working for the Alaska Food Policy Council and she's excited to be participating in her first Food Security Week Fly-in with 50 other food advocates from around the state. She spent Saturday listening to the House Rules Committee that started at 10 a.m., she was able to testify at 2:30 p.m. and they finished around 4:45 p.m. The legislature's in process and we have phenomenal resources through Gavel Alaska to listen and participate in meetings. The legislature's

website has a tremendous amount of information and Amber at our LIO Office can provide many resources and help with understanding issues people may be concerned about or interested.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:00 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: February 12, 2024