

Session 24-05 a Regular Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on March 11, 2024 by Mayor 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
SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CARROLL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER ENGBRETSSEN
FINANCE DIRECTOR FISCHER
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KORT
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 supplemental items: **CONSENT AGENDA** Homer City Council Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2024 and Minutes Excerpt from Library Advisory Board as backup to Resolution 24-028, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the City of Homer Fee Schedule under Library Fees **ANNOUNCEMENTS REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS** Finance Champions Report Written report and adding a Business License report **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** Written public comments.

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

Pat Case, city resident, expressed his appreciation of the appointment of Council Member Venuti to the ADA Advisory Board.

Heath Smith, city resident, commented regarding Ordinance 24-17. He understands this is a re-appropriation and reminded that what was approved by voters was an annual disbursement from the HART fund to the general fund for road and trail maintenance. It was not meant to be a pool of money

to take from after the disbursement was made. He expressed his concern that this is what's happening with Public Works.

Scott Adams, city resident, commented in opposition to Ordinance 24-17. He's observed Council turn down a truck for Public Works, and then authorize \$40,000 for the Arctic Shark ice beater that's had minimal use, and now the truck is back in the same cycle. He's against the reallocation and purchasing a tractor because he believes it's less expensive to use a contractor for mowing.

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 February 26, 2024. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. Memorandum CC-24-056 from Mayor Castner re: Appointment of Caroline Venuti to the ADA Advisory Board. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum CC-24-057 from City Clerk re: Liquor License Renewal for The Alibi and Detour Food and Drink. Recommend approval.
- d. Ordinance 24-17, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Re-Appropriating \$118,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Purchase a Tractor and Heavy-Duty Truck. City Manager. Recommended dates Introduction March 11, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading March 26, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-058 from City Manager as backup.

- e. Resolution 24-027, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Adopting the Bayview Park Plan. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-24-059 from Parks and Trails Planner as backup.

- f. Resolution 24-028, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the City of Homer Fee Schedule under Library Fees. City Manager/Library Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-24-060 from Library Director as backup.

- g. Resolution 24-029, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Creating a Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force and Establishing the Scope of Work and Parameters by which the Task Force will Operate. Lord/Venuti. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-24-061 from Assistant to the City Manager/Sister City Coordinator as backup.

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda and recommendations.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

- a. Legislative Update - Senator Gary Stevens (10 minutes)

Senator Stevens reported tomorrow the Legislature will be addressing 12 executive orders from the Governor, some will likely pass easily and others will have a lot of discussion and debate. He sees the two biggest ones will be the Alaska Marine Highway Board and a regulatory board for midwives as they've heard the most objection to those two executive orders. Next they're waiting to see if the Governor will veto the education bill that passed both the House and Senate. He reviewed the allocations in the bill and said it's the most money that's been given at one time to education. He explained next steps if the education bill is vetoed and confirmed if the veto is overridden the Governor can come back and veto elements of the education bill through the budget process. Senator Stevens also discussed the notion of general obligation bonds related to the State's capital budget, the PFD, and upcoming budget hearings.


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

- a. Committee of the Whole Report

Council Member Lord reported Council discussed Ordinance 24-17 and the re-appropriation to purchase a heavy duty truck and a tractor, business licensing in the city, and the finance champion report.

- b. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner reported regarding his recent meeting in Anchorage with AKDOT regarding the Diamond Creek underpass that has been extended to 2027 budget for a \$2 million project. They asked us to look into right-of-way acquisitions and to give them a better idea on how things connect. They also discussed Kachemak Drive and how the sponge project relates to water management along the eastern part of the City, and pedestrian problems along the road. It probably won't be included in the STIP and they're concerned because of the condition of the road and it being an emergency evacuation route from the Spit. He expressed his concern about the upcoming Comp Plan work session and that it's premature. Right now all the emphasis has been on quality of life issues, and there

needs to be balance in also including economic vitality, and maintenance required for our physical plant and existing programs. 

- c. Borough Report
- d. Planning Commission
- e. Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Chair Kathy Carssow reported at their last meeting they made updates to the participation plan, the project website and flyer, and worked on a plan for the consultants visit the week of March 20th.


- f. Finance Champion Report

Council Member Lord reviewed the written report provided in the packet.

- g. Business License Report

Council Member Venuti reviewed the written report provided as a laydown item.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 24-16, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act Grant from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the Amount of \$41,950 for Phase I of the Fish Grinding Building Replacement Project. City Manager/Port Director. Recommended dates Introduction February 26, 2024, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 11, 2024. 

Memorandum CC-24-051 from Port Director as backup.

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

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE 24-16 TO THE MARCH 14TH SPECIAL MEETING FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING.


It was noted that the Homer News ran an incorrect notice in last week's paper so this public hearing is being re-noticed for March 14th.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. City Manager's Report 

City Manager Dumochel noted his written report and highlighted that the City has been selected to receive the Excellence in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Award for our Seawall Armor Rock project, the Homer All-Ages and Abilities Pedestrian Pathway (HAPP) project was awarded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funds, the video pilot project previewing City Council agendas and providing brief recaps after Council meetings, and the mid biennium budget process.

Council Member Erickson asked about public notices and challenges with the newspaper. City Manager Dumouchel acknowledged challenges with local papers consolidating or going out of business. We need to look at our code to see what we're requiring and we do notice in more places than the newspaper.

Council Member Lord expressed appreciation for Special Projects Coordinator Carroll's work on the HAPP grant project, requested an update on the Ben Walters Sidewalk Project and a fiscal note with the balance of funds for Ordinance 24-17 and the fleet management plan, and asked for information regarding the upcoming airport closure.

Council Member Venuti noted Senator Murkowski's FY25 appropriations request portal deadline that's coming up and looking at it for funds for graders and perhaps a heavy duty truck. She also expressed concern about the City not contracting for lawn mowing and impacts to the service providers.

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Pat Case, city resident, thanked Council Member Lord for mentioning the design criteria updating, it contains so much information and our focuses and needs have changed since it was developed, and it probably does not meet current ADA requirement standards. He recommends consulting with the Independent Living Center on the project.

Heath Smith, city resident, noted upcoming sidewalk projects mentioned and reiterated the importance of preserving the balance in the HART that doesn't get extracted by Public Works for other purchases. He noted the mid-year budget review and the frustration of not having audits in place for guidance. Not having good books in front of Council is a problem and he encouraged corrective action.

Scott Adams, city resident, recognized the Homer High School Girls Basketball team for going to the State tournament. He noted the public comments in the packet regarding camping on the spit and shared his concern about taking away camping spaces. He reviewed historical information on City audits and that the City is using the same audit group. If we can't have the books, it's unacceptable.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Gatti had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen announced openings on boards and commissions, and the upcoming Running for Local Office event.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dumouchel noted current job openings on the City website.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner commented he's received all the evaluations for the City Manager and packets will be available tomorrow.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Lord said she's excited about the Bayview Park Plan that was adopted tonight and appreciates the ADA Advisory Board and PARAC's involvement. She commented about the recent School Board meeting that was held in Homer and recognized the 2nd graders violin performance, the high school student put together a video about the school, and accolades for Chapman School's recent chess tournament. She appreciates this community.

Council Member Venuti reminded members to sign the card in the Manager's office that's going to Teshio. She's also excited about Bayveiw Park and gave a shout out to Linda Rinehart for the violin performance and Andy Haas for the Chess Club. She reminded that the next meeting will be on a Tuesday because Monday the 25th is Alaska Day¹, and shared some history.

Council Member Aderhold gave a shout out to the water and sewer staff for their efforts in assisting the residents when their water usage increases significantly and helps them locate leaks. She shared about her recent experience with a leak. She announced the Kachemak Bay Science Conference next week, and provided an update from the AML Legislative Committee highlighting a bill regarding tax exemptions. She hopes everyone is enjoying the birds.

Council Member Davis provided a Chamber of Commerce update on the upcoming Winter King Tournament coming up next weekend, and the following week Agnew::Beck will be in town to launch the public engagement process on the Comprehensive Plan update.

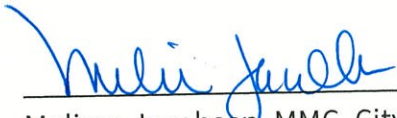
Council Member Erickson commented about the recent Fun Run and Homer Epic events. She shared regarding a gathering of stakeholders for community recreation to look at putting together a Friends of Parks and Recreation Group. Mike Miller from the Homer Foundation provided information about financial options and Andy Haas addressed what becoming a corporation looks like. It's a place where the community can help fund recreation. People who are interested can reach out to her City email.

HOMER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 11, 2024

Council Member Hansen said it's nice to hear Linda Rinehart is still doing amazing music programs with the students, her kids partook in the programs when they were younger. She emphasized the need for the base student allowance to keep these programs in the schools.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. Work Session at 3:00 p.m. and a Special Meeting March 14, 2024 at 4:00 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: March 26, 2024

ⁱ March 25th is Seward's Day.