



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: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
DATE: August 21, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for August 26, 2024 Council Meeting

What's been happening in the parks over the summer?

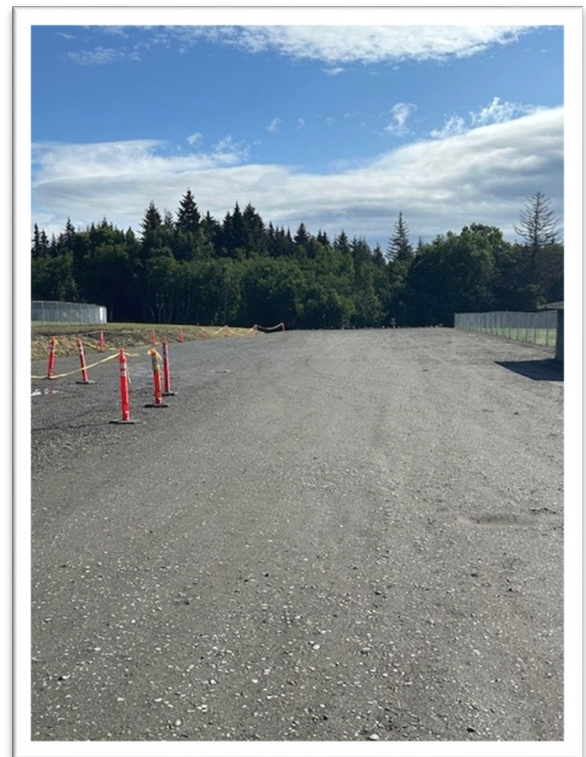
Karen Hornaday Park road was cleaned up and new diggers were installed at the playground.



A new swing set was installed at Ben Walters Park and the area around the Bartlett St. restroom was cleaned up and hydro-seeded.



And, Jack Gist Park had a drainage and parking lot overhaul.



This is just a sampling of what our Public Works and Park crews have been doing to improve parks over the summer. In addition to these highlights, there are always the ongoing responsibilities of equipment maintenance, lawn care, beautification projects, working with partners in coordinating their events, along with a variety of other behind the scenes needs to keep the City going.

Alaska Municipal Managers Association and AML Summer Conferences

I had the great pleasure of travelling to the City of Kodiak to attend the AMMA and AML Summer Legislative Conferences last week. I enjoyed making connections with the Managers from other municipalities, learning about their struggles and successes, and sharing about Homer's. We discussed strategic planning, retention challenges, and had a great presentation by the City and Borough of Sitka's Administrator on a program he's implemented with their employees to improve the culture of their organization. AML staff also presented about current and potential new resources they have available to municipalities.

At the AML conference one of their lobbyists shared an overview of big policy issues at the legislative level including energy issues i.e.: focus on the rail belt and gas lines and shortages in Cook Inlet; also, education funding, PERS, and health care. A team from King Cove presented on the impacts to their community with the Peter Pan fish processing facility closing. Other presentations were about outmigration in Alaska communities, employee retention, public education, and AML resources for community development and public works. The last day we had a breakout session where attendees could gather at various tables to discuss a variety of topics that impact municipalities to provide to AML to consider. I made a stop at the table discussing Title 29 and added public notice to the list of topics related to that title. During discussion of the topics with the entire group as we closed the day, I shared the challenges Homer has encountered with public notice over the last few months and the need to have web-based notice included in the statute. I received a few applause and head nods from others who are struggling with the same limitations.

Attachments:

- Homer Harbor Expansion Monthly Report
- City of Homer Job listings at <https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/>
- City Council Worksession Schedule



MEMORANDUM

City Managers Report
City Council
August 26, 2024

Homer Harbor Expansion Study Monthly Written Update

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor and City Council
Date: August 21 , 2024
From: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager and Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Purpose: This memorandum provides the Homer Harbor Expansion Study monthly written update to Homer City Council per Resolution 23-037.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Development Team (PDT)

Continuing study activities:

- Transmitted an updated 1002 notification letter to the City identifying the current schedule of feasibility study milestones (attached).
 - a. Release of draft feasibility study for public comment and concurrent review: 29 August 2025.
 - b. USACE submits final feasibility report: 19 October 2026.
 - c. Signed Chief's Report: 22 February 2027.

The milestone dates are pending alignment with the Regional Integration Team and USACE Headquarters, so dates could slightly change. An updated 1002 letter will be transmitted to the City after the study schedule waiver is signed.

- The USACE Environmental team will complete their fieldwork over the next month, with visits scheduled for August 20 and September 20. They have been conducting beach seining and bottom trawls and will be collecting water samples for eDNA analysis. eDNA analysis is a technique used to assess the biodiversity of a habitat by detecting genetic material shed by organisms into water, allowing researchers to identify the presence and types of species.
- The USACE Geotech/Geophysical team is preparing to review geophysical, hydrographic, and topographic survey data collected by subcontractors this month, after which they will discuss a plan for supplemental geotechnical drilling. Drilling data will be used for settlement predictions and other geotechnical information that will inform preliminary design of alternatives.
- Building upon previous community input on Local Service Facility (LSF) needs, the USACE Economics and Hydrology/Hydraulics teams are collecting and analyzing moorage demand data and arranging focus groups with harbor users to help determine the appropriate basin size and local service facilities (LSF) as they pertain to the regional and national economic benefits.

HDR – Owner Representative:

- Subcontractor wrapping up geophysical, hydrographic and topographic survey work-in-kind. The work included using a multi-beam sonar to collect information about the seafloor terrain to (a) detail water depths and map underwater topography, and (b) illustrate the depth, density and shapes of the terrain up to 100' below the seafloor.
- Supporting USACE with an analysis of moorage demand to help inform basin size.
- Coordinated with two periodicals to secure placement of feature articles about Homer Port & Harbor this fall (*Alaska Business Monthly* and *Alaska Contractor*); one written by the publication and one written by the HDR team featuring Harbor users.
- Provides communications support as-needed; keeps [Homer Harbor Expansion website](#) updated. Recently identified and are working to deliver tactics targeted at raising awareness about the importance of the Homer Harbor in general, and additionally the expansion specifically. Social media and additional story placement are a focus of the efforts.
- Attended monthly USACE Project Development Team meeting and weekly meetings with City.

City of Homer staff:

- Attended monthly USACE Project Development Team meeting and weekly meetings with HDR.
- Participated in three discussions with USACE to review and discuss Local Service Facilities (LSF) USACE may include in the designs and cost benefit analysis. USACE works with the minimum LSFs required to meet the objectives of the study.
- Staff interviewed by Alaska Contractor magazine for story about how Port and harbor projects support economic vitality in Alaska.
- Ongoing communications/outreach: Information and updates about the study are being disseminated through the [Homer Harbor Expansion website](#), the City's quarterly newsletter, the [City of Homer Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages and through HHE email subscriber list as needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational Only.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALASKA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

14 August, 2024

Melissa Jacobsen
City Manager, City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Ave
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Ms. Jacobsen:

Thank you for your sponsorship. I appreciate the support and continuing cooperation that you have given to the Homer Navigation Improvements, AK Study. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (USACE) team values the close working relationship that has been established and looks forward to producing a high-quality product through our partnership in this study. In accordance with Section 1002 of WRRDA 2014, I am updating you on the status and proposed schedule of the following milestones for the project.

- a. Release of draft feasibility study for public comment and concurrent review: 29 August 2025.
- b. USACE submits final feasibility report: 19 October 2026.
- c. Signed Chief's Report: 22 February 2027.

The milestone dates are pending alignment with our Regional Integration Team and USACE Headquarters. Once our vertical team has aligned on the proposed dates above, I will send a follow up letter confirming the dates. If I can be further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. For specific information about the project, please contact the project manager Mr. Curtis Lee at (907) 753-2539 or via email at Curtis.D.Lee@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey S. Palazzini".

Jeffrey S. Palazzini
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

[Documents](#) [Job Openings](#) [Helpful Links](#)

Current Job Listings

[Jobs \(/jobs/\)](/jobs/) [Login \(/account/login.php\)](/account/login.php)

Below is a list of the current openings with our company. Click on the job title to learn more about the opening.

Search Jobs

[Hide Filters](#) [Clear All](#)

<input type="text" value="Search Jobs"/>	City <input type="text"/>	State <input type="text"/>
Employment Type <input type="text"/>	Department <input type="text"/>	Sort By <input type="text"/>

Number of Jobs: 3

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN – GRANTS COMPLIANCE & PROCUREMENT OFFICER (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3449310>)

[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3449310>)

Finance | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time | \$30.05 - \$39.07 per hour
Posted: Aug 02, 2024 Closing Date: Aug 31, 2024

Building Maintenance Tech I or II (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3470589>)

[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3470589>)

Building Maintenance | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time | \$22.26 - \$28.63 per hour
Posted: Aug 20, 2024 Closing Date: Sep 17, 2024

Deputy City Clerk I (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3448505>)

[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3448505>)

City Clerk | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time | \$22.38 - \$23.94 per hour
Posted: Aug 01, 2024 Closing Date: Aug 23, 2024

Sign Up For Job Alerts!

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WORK SESSION

AGENDA CALENDAR 2024

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
Monday, January 8	<i>Exempt Employee Wage Scale</i>
Monday, January 15 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, January 22	<i>Homer Harbor Expansion Baseline Conditions Report Overview – Ronny McPherson & KC Kent HDR</i>
Monday, February 12	
Monday, February 26	<i>Ord 23-61 Amending HCC Title 5 to add Chapter 5.48 Short Term Rentals</i>
Monday, March 11	
Monday, March 18 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board Rescheduled to August</i>
Tuesday, March 26	<i>3:00 start Comp Plan Meeting with Agnew:Beck and Planning Commission (tentative)</i>
Monday, April 8	<i>Longevity Pay/City Manager Transition</i>
Monday, April 15 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Port & Harbor Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, April 22	<i>Water & Sewer Rate Model</i>
Monday, May 13	<i>Health Care Renewal Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustments (if time allows)</i>
Monday, May 20 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Library Advisory Board</i>
Tuesday, May 28	<i>Mid Biennium Budget Amendments Water Sewer Rates</i>
Monday, June 10	<i>HCC Chapter 11, vegetation in the ROW</i>
Monday, June 17 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Economic Development Advisory Commission Rescheduled to October</i>
Monday, June 24	
Monday, July 22	<i>Tentative e-session @4pm</i>

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
Monday, August 12	<i>E-session: Cyber Security Risk Assessment Review</i>
Monday, August 19 Off-Cycle	<i>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board</i>
Monday, August 26	<i>Capital Improvement Plan & Legislative Requests</i>
Monday, September 9	<i>Vessel Haul Out/Camping Land Allocation</i>
Monday, September 16 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Worksession with Economic Development Advisory Commission Rescheduled</i>
Monday, September 23	<i>End of Year Financial Worksession</i>
Monday, October 14	
Monday, October 21	<i>Joint Worksession with Planning Commission</i>
Monday, October 28	
Tuesday, November 12	
Monday, November 18	<i>Joint Worksession with Economic Development Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, November 25	