



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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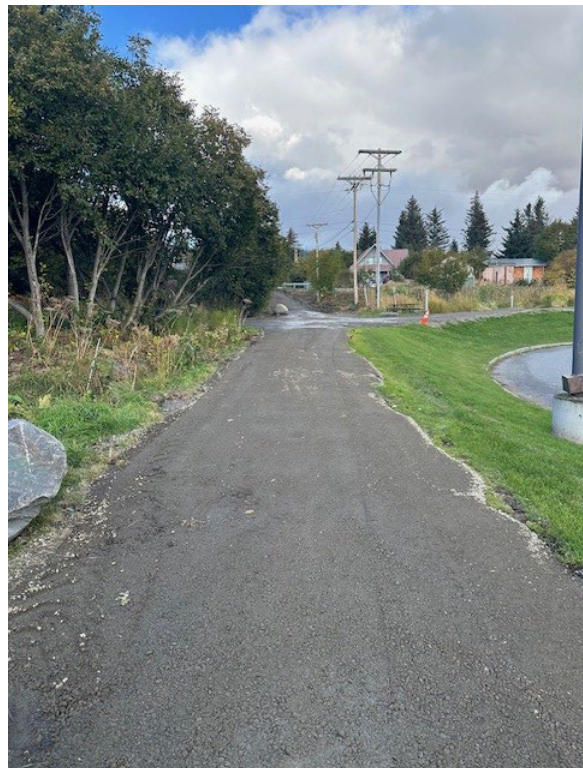
(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
DATE: October 9, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for October 14, 2024 Council Meeting

Library Trail – West Lot and Storybook Trail and Lucky Shot Trail

This project was completed on October 8, 2024 with in-house resources rather than contracting out the work as originally intended. Based upon previous work completed, it is estimated that the Public Works Department was able to save the City approximately \$50,000 by conducting this work using in-house resources. The Public Works Roads staff provided additional equipment and labor to support the Parks Division staff at completing the project. The only remaining work to be completed on the Storybook Trail portion of the project is the installation of the Storyboards. The installation of the Storyboards was not intended to occur this construction season as part of this effort and will be installed early next summer. Even though the Storyboards were not installed, wide spots in the trail were constructed as part of this effort to accommodate the Storyboards. The wide spots were constructed so the folks stopping to read the storyboards are not in the main trail. The Parks Division of the Public Works Department recognized the opportunity to save money by making improvements to the Lucky Shot Trail during the same mobilization effort, so this work was added to the project. Adding this work allowed for a seamless transition between the two trails. Photos below show before and after images of the Lucky Shot segment.



2024 Homer Transportation Plan

The 2024 Homer Transportation Plan has been submitted to the Kenai Peninsula Borough for final adoption. Staff expects the adoption process to be complete during the first quarter of 2025. In the meantime, now is a good time to be thinking of which projects and policies are priorities. All implementation requires staff time, funding, or a combination of both. The upcoming budget process is the ideal time to identify funding and staff resources for transportation related projects.

Utility Billing Vendor Update

The program the City uses to process autopay for City water and sewer monthly bills is aging out and will no longer be supported after November. The Finance Department has identified a new vendor to provide this service and is working towards implementing the replacement prior to the old system going offline. Similar notice will be going out to utility customers in our monthly bills in October and November. Customers will have to setup a profile with our new vendor to continue autopay services after November. Periodic updates will be provided as we move through the implementation process.

Homer Harbor in the News

Homer Harbor has recently made headlines, catching the attention of the media. Staff was interviewed for an article in the Alaska Contractor Magazine fall 2024 issue titled *When the Ship Comes In- Port and harbor projects support economic vitality in Alaska* and staff collaborated with HDR on an article for the Alaska Business Monthly about capacity issues at Homer Harbor, which ran in the October 2024 issue.

Homer Harbor Critical Float Replacement Project Funding Update

The City was recently informed that the planning and design phase of the Systems 4 & 1 Critical Float Replacement project, with a total estimated cost of \$2,205,000, was selected by the Denali Commission for a \$1.1 million Waterfront Improvement grant. This grant will assist with completing 100% design, environmental review, and permitting. Staff is currently responding to the Denali Commission's request for information for drafting a funding agreement. Once the Obligating Award Document is complete, staff will bring an Ordinance approving and accepting the funds for Council consideration. Denali Commission funds could potentially be in place to begin engineering and design activities in the first quarter 2025.

This funding, combined with a potential additional \$250,000 Federal appropriation submitted by Representative Peltola and contained in the FY25 House Department of Transportation Port Infrastructure Development Program Appropriations bill, will be instrumental in kick-starting the predevelopment activities for this critical project. Together, these funding sources would cover approximately 61% of the total design and permitting cost, significantly advancing the project's feasibility and timeline.

Homer Animal Shelter First Friday Event

The Homer Animal Shelter (HAS) hosted a First Friday Open House on Oct. 4 to help showcase local artists, as well as meet community members who may have never visited the City's shelter. Around 40 folks visited over a couple of hours to meet the animals and staff while taking a tour of the building. Volunteers provided food, face painting, and photos to support the event. HAS provides a safe haven for Homer's homeless pets, offers resources to pet owners in need, and enforces the City's animal ordinances by providing animal control services.



Attachments:

- October Employee Anniversaries
- Current job openings
- City Council Work Session Schedule



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TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: October 14, 2024
SUBJECT: October Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Charles Lee	Police	4	Years
Kathy Vogl	Comm Rec	1	Year



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Current Job Listings

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Number of Jobs: 3

Firefighter/ ALS EMT/ Driver Operator (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3514515>)

Fire | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time
Posted: Oct 01, 2024 Closing Date: Oct 31, 2024
[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3514515>)

Part-Time Port Property Associate (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3515932>)

Port and Harbor Administration | Homer, AK, USA | Part Time | \$25.32 - \$26.34 per hour
Posted: Oct 02, 2024 Closing Date: Oct 31, 2024
[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3515932>)

Port & Harbor Administrative Assistant (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3515893>)

Port and Harbor Administration | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time | \$22.38 - \$23.94 per hour
Posted: Oct 02, 2024 Closing Date: Oct 31, 2024
[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3515893>)

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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 Rescheduled</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 To be Rescheduled in Early 2025</i>
Tuesday, October 21	<i>Comp Plan Event, Islands & Ocean Visitor Center</i>
Monday, October 28	<i>Future Use of Pier One Area Land Allocation Plan</i>
Tuesday, November 12	
Monday, November 18	<i>Joint Worksession with Economic Development Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, November 25	