

Session 24-24, a Regular Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on November 12, 2024 by Mayor Rachel Lord 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 ERICKSON, HANSEN, DAVIS, ADERHOLD, VENUTI, PARSONS

STAFF: CITY MANAGER JACOBSEN
CITY CLERK KRAUSE
FINANCE DIRECTOR FISCHER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ENGBRETSSEN
POLICE CHIEF ROBL
HARBORMASTER CLARKE
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KORT
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA
SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CARROLL
RECREATION MANAGER ILLG
CITY PLANNER FOSTER

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

Mayor Lord read the supplemental items into the record: **CONSENT AGENDA** f. Ordinance 24-61, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$2,000,000 from Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Fund to the Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue Road Reconstruction Project. City Manager/Public Works Director. Detail Sheets C3.1-C3.3 Item g. Ordinance 24-62, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Authorizing the Purchase of a Road Grader in the Amount of \$428,076 from General Fund Fleet Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund and Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for Financing to Lease Over Seven (7) Years. City Manager/Public Works Director. Substitute Ordinance 24-62(S) Authorizing the City Manager to Execute and Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement with Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation to Allow for the Lease Purchase of a Road Grader and Amending the FY25 Capital Budget for a Current Year Lease Payment from the General Fund Fleet Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund and Related Matters. **REGULAR AGENDA CITY MANAGERS REPORT** Memorandum Recognizing City Staff who have served in the US Armed Forces, AP Report and the FY25 First Quarter Report.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Heath Smith, city resident, commented on Ordinance 24-61 expressing concerns on the balance and the liberal translation on the use of the HART funds.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

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 for October 28, 2024. City Clerk. Recommend approval.
- b. Memorandum CC-24-224 from City Clerk re: Travel Authorization for Mayor and Council Members to Attend the AML Annual Conference being held December 9-13, 2024 in Anchorage, Alaska.
- c. Ordinance 24-58, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a FY 2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) Award in the Amount of \$328,943 from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Municipal Cybersecurity Infrastructure Improvements. City Manager/IT Director. Introduction November 12, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 25, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-229 from IT Director as backup.

- d. Ordinance 24-59, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating an Additional \$100,000 from the Sewer Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund for the Beluga Lift Station Improvement Project. City Manager/City Engineer. Introduction November 12, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 25, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-230 from City Engineer as backup.

- e. Ordinance 24-60, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code Section 7.16.020 Operating, Stopping or Parking of Motor Vehicles in Beach Areas Prohibited – Exceptions by Changing the Time Frame Allowing Coal and Sand Collection Access from the Mariner Park Beach Access. City Clerk/Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission. Introduction November 12, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 25, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-231 from City Clerk as backup.

- f. Ordinance 24-61, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$2,000,000 from Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Fund to the Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue Road Reconstruction Project. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction November 12, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 25, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-232 from Public Works Director as backup.

- g. Ordinance 24-62, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Authorizing the Purchase of a Road Grader in the Amount of \$428,076 from General Fund Fleet Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund and Authorizing the City Manager to

Apply for Financing to Lease Over Seven (7) Years. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended dates Introduction November 12, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 25, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-236 from Public Works Director as backup

Moved to Ordinances Item a by Councilmember Aderhold.

- h. Ordinance 24-63, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating an FY 2024 State Homeland Security Program Grant in the Amount of \$330,628 from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM) to Purchase A New Radio Console Dispatch System and a Virtual Law Enforcement Training System for the Homer Police Department, Authorizing a Sole Source Request to Contract with ProComm Alaska for the Radio Console Dispatch System and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Police Chief. Introduction November 12, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 25, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-233 from Police Chief as backup.

- i. Resolution 24-115, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Designating Signatories of City Accounts and Superseding Any Previous Resolutions So Designating. City Manager/Finance Director.
- j. Resolution 24-116, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer Alaska Approving the Renewal of a Lobbyist Contract with J & H Consulting, LLC of Juneau, Alaska for a Term of One Year, commencing on December 15, 2024 and Ending on December 15, 2025 in the Amount of \$42,000 and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager.

Memorandum CC-24-234 from City Manager as backup.

- k. Resolution 24-117, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Proclaiming November 30, 2024 as Small Business Saturday and Encouraging Support of Small Businesses Throughout the Year. Mayor.

City Clerk Krause read the Consent Agenda as Amended.

ADERHOLD/DAVIS MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

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

- a. Special Meeting Report

City Manager Jacobsen reported the process used by Council to select and appoint Brad Parsons to fill the term until the certification of the election in October 2025. City Clerk Krause conducted the swearing of Councilmember Parsons.

- b. Committee of the Whole Report

- Councilmember Aderhold reported Council discussed the following:
 - Ordinances 24-61: expressing concerns related to parking in Old Town
 - Ordinance 24-62: ownership after completion of the lease period, requirement to fund the lease payment annually; life expectancy of the new equipment; Status of the CARMA funds and HART funds; insurance requirements at the Harbor for recreational vessels, questioned what Liability Insurance actually takes care of; and having a bit more detail in the minutes on points covered by the Harbor Commission's discussion.

c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lord reported on her first weeks as mayor. She noted her goal was to provide a written report to be included into the packet, expressed her concerns over the violent actions that occurred in Homer and applauded the quick and efficient actions of the police department; attending an Energy Conference and wanted to encourage them to schedule a time to speak to Council; spoke with Homer Electric on their Right of Way clearing activities; expressed ongoing concerns with the Spit and erosion issues; Megumi Beams is translating a letter to the Mayor of Teshio and spoke with a Peace Corp worker in Cameroon to assist with getting her ballot submitted for the general election. Mayor Lord intends to connect with the Chair of each advisory body and looks forward to working with them and the Councilmembers in her new role as Mayor.

d. Borough Report

e. Planning Commission

Commissioner Heath Smith reported on the activity and actions of the Commission for the October 2nd, 16th and November 6th meetings and looking forward to diving into Title 21 rewrite in the next several weeks. The Commission would like some additional training and legal advice input for the commission and to request an increase for the budget line item for review of staff reports and recommendations.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 24-56, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a State of Alaska Public Library Assistance Grant for FY25 in the Amount of \$5,171 for Books and Materials. City Manager/Library Director. Recommended dates: Introduction October 28, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 12, 2024.

Memorandum CC-24-222 from Library Director as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced the item by reading of the title and opened the public hearing. There were no members of the public coming forward to comment so the public hearing was closed and she requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 24-56 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

There was a brief comment of appreciation for receiving the balance of the funding.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- b. Budget Priorities FY2026/FY2027
Memorandum CC-24-235 from City Manager as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced the item by reading of the title and opened the public hearing noting that this was an opportunity for the public to comment on what they thought should be priorities. There were no members of the public coming forward to comment so the public hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE(S)

- a. Ordinance 24-62, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Authorizing the Purchase of a Road Grader in the Amount of \$428,076 from General Fund Fleet Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund and Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for Financing to Lease Over Seven (7) Years. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended dates Introduction November 12, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 25, 2024.

Ordinance 24-62(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer Alaska Authorizing the City Manager to Execute and Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement with Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation to Allow for the Lease Purchase of a Road Grader and Amending the FY25 Capital Budget for a Current Year Lease Payment from the General Fund Fleet Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund and Related Matters. City Manager/Public Works Director.

Mayor Lord introduced the item by reading the title and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 24-62 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 24-62(S) BY READING OF TITLE.

There was a brief discussion by Council on the annual funding needed to pay the lease and longevity of the equipment.

VOTE. Substitute. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Jacobsen provided information that the Budget Schedule presented showed an accelerated schedule and a revised and corrected budget schedule would be provided.

Councilmember Erickson commented on the increase in the projected budget and that was not met. She questioned whether they would be going back to amounts before COVID in expected revenues.

City Manager Jacobsen reported:

- Preparing a conservative budget for FY26/FY27
- Sales Tax Q1 Report is expected shortly and will be distributed to Council
- Fire Hall Sewage repair effected, they haven't expended the full amount at this time.

- b. FY2025 First Quarter Report - *Please refer to the Supplemental Packet*

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Memorandum CC-24-227 from Councilmember Aderhold re: Harbor Liability Insurance Requirements Adopted by Ordinance 24-53.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEMORANDUM CC-24-227.

Council discussed the following:

- Amount of insurance designated for recreational vessels
- Protection for the vessel owner and the city/harbor
- Commission to discuss further in detail and submit recommendations
- Questioned what the \$300,000 Liability covers and what doesn't it cover

DAVIS/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND THE MEMORANDUM TO ADD THE QUESTIONS WHAT DOES THE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVER AND NOT COVER AND FOR THE COMMISSION TO EVALUATE AND INCLUDE A SLIDING SCALE FOR SMALLER VESSELS

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, expressed congratulations to Mayor Lord and Councilmember Parsons. He then expressed concerns on the maintenance of the alleyway across from City Hall noting it is widely used by the community.

Donna Beran, resident on Diamond Ridge, expressed her deep sadness on what is occurring in the community and appreciated the efforts of law enforcement to bring the culprits to justice.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Krause commented on the elections being over, Clerk's Office being fully staffed and getting training lined up so that she will be able to concentrate on City Council to mitigate the minor errors and then announced the openings for Student Representatives on the EDC and Parks Commissions.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Jacobsen provided a report on her State of the City Address at the Chamber of Commerce function and expressed her appreciation for the Mayor Lord's and Community Development Director Engebretsen's input.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Lord expressed her appreciation for the honor to work with the Councilmembers, Staff, City Manager and serve the city and greater community in this role.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Hansen encourage people to get out and attend sporting events as they need more supporters, good enlightening meeting and welcome Brad to the Council.

Councilmember Erickson commented on the recent violence and the upcoming holidays and shortening days, still healing from the isolation brought by COVID, welcomed Brad to Council.

Councilmember Davis expressed his appreciation in the candidates and the great flexibility to get to yes and after four years he is no longer the new guy.

Councilmember Aderhold commented she was glad to be home and very happy to attend in person and many thanks to those who applied and thought about applying. It is great to know that there are people in the community that are willing to be engaged in the community. She reminded everyone about the Joint Worksession with EDC on Monday at 5:00 p.m. She expressed her concern with people solving problems with firearms and stated this community does not need violence and solve the problems in that manner.

Councilmember Parsons expressed his appreciation to his family and friends for their encouragement to apply and then provided his question that he thought of and it was what did he like about the community and it was the people who made him feel so welcomed and he issued a huge shout out to the Clerk's Office as it seemed a double whammy with elections and all the duties that they have to do and thanked the Clerk and City Manager.

Councilmember Venuti expressed her thanks for having a police department that does not shoot first and the offender will get his day court. She then expressed her appreciation for the applicants and reported that she will be attending the Conversations with a Councilmember at noon. Ms. Venuti announced an event to start Christmas Shopping at the Methodist Church, noon to 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lord adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Next Regular Meeting is Monday, November 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. A Joint Worksession with the Economic Development Advisory Commission is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.



RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

APPROVED: 