



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Office of the City Manager

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### Memorandum

TO: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council  
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager  
DATE: November 21, 2024  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for November 25, 2024 Council Meeting

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#### **Harbor Float Replacement Not Selected for Competitive Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant Funding**

I regret to inform the City Council that our application for the Homer Harbor Critical Float Replacement project was not selected for federal grant funding through the FY24 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). The following link will take you to the Maritime Administration's awards announcement:

<https://www.maritime.dot.gov/newsroom/investing-america-biden-harris-administration-announces-nearly-580-million-ports>. The only large project awarded in Alaska was for the Don Young Port of Alaska to replace a cargo terminal. Five small awards, ranging from \$9 million to \$11 million were also awarded to Alaska projects.

This was the City's second submission to the program. Our FY23 application scored well and made it to the Secretary of Transportation's desk, and revisions were made to the FY24 application based on agency feedback and suggestions from the Maritime Administration's Pacific Northwest and Alaska Gateway director, but was ultimately not awarded funding. Funding of the PIDP under the Federal Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act will continue through 2026; staff will request a debrief from the Agency to learn about areas to improve competitiveness of a potential third application, which could potentially be requesting a lower grant amount for System 4 only.

The Homer Harbor Critical Float Replacement Project was successful in garnering Denali Commission and potentially appropriation funding for design, environmental review and permitting activities, which could help another application's PIDP competitiveness. Staff is currently working with the Denali Commission on a grant award agreement, which will come to Council for consideration in early 2025. Maintaining the port and harbor float system infrastructure is a top priority, and we remain committed to seeing these improvements through. As we look ahead, we recognize the valuable role our Congressional Delegation plays in federal funding decisions. Engaging our federal legislative advocates more extensively in future grant applications may help strengthen our position in these competitive processes.

#### **Utility Billing Software**

The City has successfully transitioned to Xpress Bill Pay to accept secure online water and sewer bill payments. Customers are encouraged to pay their utility bill online automatically, and those who already had autopay set up will need to set up an Xpress Bill pay account before December 15<sup>th</sup> when the next bills are due. Easy to follow instructions are on the City's website <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/finance/create-log-and-make-utility-payments-xpress-bill-pay> or contact the Finance Department at 907-435-3114 during regular business hours.

#### **November 16 Storm Surge and Coastal Erosion**

On Saturday afternoon, November 16<sup>th</sup>, the west side of the Homer Spit was hit with a 23-foot-high tide and strong southwesterly winds sending waves up and over the Homer Spit Road damaging the road, depositing debris on the bike path across the street, damaging buildings, and severely eroding an area of the beach past just past the revetment wall.

We really appreciate the State's quick and coordinated response to make repairs to road, and QAP and their team who were quick to staff up and get rock delivered and placed to secure the roadway. I'd like to give a shout out to our Fire Department, Police Department, Port and Harbor and Public Works staff for their speedy response to manage traffic immediately following the tidal event and to respond at the affected areas to ensure utilities were intact and look for immediate potential safety issues. A team from State Emergency Operations Center and Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management were onsite Wednesday to conduct a preliminary assessment and initiate coordination with other entities who can assist with recovery.



Attachment:

- Revised FY26/27 Budget Development Schedule
- Employee Anniversaries December

**City of Homer**  
**REVISED Budget Development Schedule**  
**for Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event</b>
July 2024	Begin FY26/27 budget discussions with departments
7/22/2024	Budget Development Schedule delivered to Council
August - October 2024	Budget Worksessions (Council and Commissions)
10/28/2024	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget priorities for the coming year
	Regular Meeting, Public Hearing - public input on budget priorities for the coming year
Beginning of November 2024	Submit to departments, budget work sheets including salary and fringe benefit costs
11/25/2024	During Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss Revenue Sources for General Fund and preliminary budget assumptions.
End of December 2024	Departmental Draft Budget and narratives to Finance
January 2025	City Manager - Begin Budget Review with Finance Director and Department Heads
1/20/2025	Worksession (4-7pm) - Department Budget Discussions
2/3/2025	Worksession (4-7pm) - Department Budget Discussions
2/10/2025	Worksession - Utility Rate Model Discussion
2/24/2025	Worksession - Utility Rate Model Discussion (if needed)
3/24/2025	Worksession - Reserved for Budget Discussions
4/14/2025	City Manager's Budget (Proposed Budget) and Utility Rate Model to Council
	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing
4/28/2025	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	Regular Meeting - to introduce Budget Ordinance and Fee/Tariff Ordinances
5/12/2025	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
5/27/2025	Committee of the Whole, Council to discuss budget
	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing
6/9/2025	Regular Meeting - Public Hearing & FY 26/27 Budget Adoption



# MEMORANDUM

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## December Employee Anniversaries

**Item Type:** Informational Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor Lord and City Council  
**Date:** November 20, 2024  
**From:** Andrea Browning, HR Director  
**Through:** Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

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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.

<b>Mark Robl</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Bryan Hawkins</b>	<b>Port</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Todd Cook</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Sean Perry</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Mike Zelinski</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Josh Mershon</b>	<b>Port</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Regina Johanos</b>	<b>Library</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Jenna Luchaco</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Del Masterhan</b>	<b>Port</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Matt Dominguez</b>	<b>IT</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Years</b>