

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Session 26-07, a Regular Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on March 9, 2026 by Mayor Lord at 6 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, PARSONS, VENUTI

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER DAVIS

STAFF: CITY MANAGER JACOBSEN
CITY CLERK WOODRUFF
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR BROWNING
FIRE CHIEF JAGER
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KORT
POLICE CHIEF ROBL
INCOMING POLICE CHIEF SCANLON
FINANCE DIRECTOR FISCHER

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

ERICKSON/ADERHOLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- a. Mayoral Recognition of Outgoing Chief of Police Mark Robl

Mayor Lord read aloud the recognition of Chief of Police Mark Robl and posed for photographs.

The Mayor requested a brief recess to show appreciation for Chief Robl and enjoy cupcakes. The meeting recessed at 6:05 pm and reconvened at 6:11 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Scott Adams, City Resident, commented on the funding sources for the land purchases in Ordinance 26-17, saying that the City should use the land fund instead of the water fund. He spoke in support of Ordinance 26-18.

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 23, 2026. Recommend Approval.
- b. Ordinance 26-17, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY26 Capital Budget to Appropriate \$240,000 from the Water CARMA Fund for the Purchase of Two Properties for Future Water Treatment Needs and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the

Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Community Development Director. Recommended dates Introduction March 9, 2026, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 23, 2026.

Memorandum CC-26-053 from Community Development Director as backup.

- c. Ordinance 26-18, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY26 Capital Budget to Appropriate \$100,000 from the Land Fund and \$40,000 from the General Fund Unrestricted Fund Balance Fund for the Purchase of Two Properties for Conservation and Water Utility Needs and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Community Development Director. Recommended dates Introduction March 9, 2026, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 23, 2026.

Memorandum CC-26-054 from Community Development Director as backup.

- d. Resolution 26-018, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving the Participation Agreement with the State of Alaska to bring the Police Chief Position back into the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Personnel Director.

Memorandum CC-26-055 from City Manager as backup.

- e. Resolution 26-019, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Authorizing the Staff of Homer Volunteer Fire Department to Apply for the Southern Region EMS Council FY27 Code Blue Grant. City Manager/ Fire Chief

Memorandum CC-26-056 from Fire Chief as backup.

- f. Resolution 26-020, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Authorizing the Staff of Homer Volunteer Fire Department to Apply for the U.S Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) Slip-on Tanker Units Grant. City Manager/Fire Chief

Memorandum CC-26-057 from Fire Chief as backup.

ERICKSON/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

- a. Hannah Gustafson and Anna Meredith, Planet Youth Homer report of 2025 student data and next steps

Hannah Gustafson and Anna Meredith presented on the work of Planet Youth Homer, which is a framework based on the Icelandic prevention model. It helps communities reduce risk factors and build protective factors for their youth. They noted highlights from the results of data collection from students at Homer High, Homer Flex, and the local homeschool community. Strengths included the connected community, engaged families, relationship-centered schools, active youth, and low overall substance use. Areas for growth

identified by students in the survey included Mental Health, reducing contributing factors to youth substance use, sleep, and screen time.

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

a. Worksession Report

At the worksession council discussed updates to HART policy manual. Proposed changes will go to the Planning Commission and PARCAC for their review before coming back to Council in May for adoption.

b. Committee of the Whole Report

The Committee of the Whole discussed the definition of the slip-on tanker mentioned in a resolution on the regular meeting agenda, it is essentially a skid load that goes in the back of a ¾ ton truck with water, hose, and a hand truck. The Committee also discussed Ordinance 26-16(A) and information about election process. Council discussed whether they wanted to try something different like voting on dedicated seats. There are pros and cons with both ways but we're happy with where we're at. We're going to try to make sure that the election percentages are easily understandable. Council also discussed the Heath Street crosswalk, the City can add a temporary crosswalk safely at the curb cuts above the library and people can walk across back to the post office. The City is a year and a half or two years out from redoing Heath street, so this will be a temporary measure with a permanent crosswalk to be installed as a part of that redo.

c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lord referenced her Substack newsletter, deskofthehomermayor.substack.com. There is a letter sent to the Planning Commission and to Council regarding Title 21 and the process for that ordinance that is linked from that newsletter so that anyone in the public can see. This code rewrite is a very long and very complicated process. Title 21 first draft was over 200 pages long—this code is dense and massive, and just like the Comprehensive Plan process, nothing is getting forced through. This process is slow and it should be slow. A public review draft will be out in a few weeks. At that point there will be continued conversation, engagement, and deep dives before the Public Hearing draft comes before Council. Continue asking questions and sharing your perspectives.

Kate Kuhns Aquatic Center: A continued conversation. The borough owns the building, the school has operated the pools but no longer has the funds. There are a lot of questions about the costs of operating the pool, so there are efforts to get the borough and the school district at the same table to discuss what needs to be done. Kachemak Swim Club, Lap Swimmers, Senior Swimmers, all use the pool and live both in and outside of City limits. School District will be making a presentation to the Seward City Council in early April, so we may have one as well. Funding ends June 30 but we are confident that there will be a solution. Thank you for your patience and we will figure this out.

The legislature is deep in budget season, this Wednesday through Friday House Finance committee will be taking testimony on the State Operating Budget.

d. Borough Report

Assemblymember Cooper reported that she also spoke with Mayor Micciche regarding the pool closures. The borough is introducing an ordinance on Tuesday for retention and sale of real property obtained through foreclosure. Auction day is April 25, maps will be on the Borough website by the end of March. Property assessments have gone out to all borough property owners in the mail, and the folks in the Borough Assessor's office are very helpful.

The Borough Mayor presents the budget, and the Assembly amends or approves it. With assessments just coming out, the Assembly has two months of long meeting days ahead of them as a part of the budget process. There are a lot of concerns from the school district as well as all the other departments when it

comes to budgeting. The mayor will be holding community meetings in each area this year, and Kelly will let us know as soon as the Homer area meeting is scheduled. Kelly's phone continues to ring because people are asking for a recreation Service Area. A citizen initiative could drive that process, and there are lots of options.

At some point during Assemblymember Cooper's presentation Councilmember Venuti's Zoom participation was dropped.

- e. Title 21 written report
- f. Planning Commission

Commissioner Schneider provided update on the Planning Commission's March 4th regular meeting. The Commission began a review of their bylaws and passed a motion of support to submit a memo to Council on the subject of Short Term Rentals.

- g. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

h. Memorandum CC-26-058, AML Legislative Conference Trip report from Councilmember Aderhold
Councilmember Aderhold noted that there are a lot of small conversations that take place in the halls at trips like this that end up being really valuable conversations.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 26-14, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating the Amount of \$1,553.56 from the Land Fund for the Purchase of a Tax Foreclosure Property and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Community Development Director. Introduction February 23, 2026, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 9, 2026.

Memorandum CC-26-046 from Community Development Director as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

ERICKSON/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 26-14 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 26-15, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 From the Port Reserves Fund for the Purchase of Additional Timber to Repair the Spare Deep Water Dock Fender. City Manager/Port Director. Introduction February 23, 2026, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 9, 2026.

Memorandum CC-26-047 from Port Director as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

ERICKSON/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 26-15 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 26-16(A), an Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Title 4, Elections Sections 4.01.040 Date of Election, 4.01.100 Expense, 4.10.010 Declaration of Candidacy, 4.10.050 Prohibitions, 4.20.020 Voting Procedure at the Polls, 4.30.020 Eligibility, 4.30.060 Issuance of Ballot By Mail or in Person, 4.35.010 Review of Election Documents by Canvass Board, and 4.40.020 Runoff Election – Date and Notice. City Clerk. Introduction February 23, 2026, Public Hearing and Second Reading March 9, 2026.

Memorandum CC-26-048 from City Clerk as backup.

Memorandum CC-26-049 from Councilmember Davis as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

ERICKSON/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 26-16(A) BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Aderhold noted that this change is a big deal. We don't want to change our election date but we need to have our election aligned with the borough's election or voter turnout will drop even lower than it already is.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Jacobsen noted that her written report is in the packet. The HERC closure will run from March 9th through 29th to refinish gym floors. When it opens back up, we'll have new floors in both the multipurpose room and the gym. The memo from Planning Commission mentioned under reports, above, will be in the next meeting packet, and the March 23rd meeting will provide an opportunity for Council to give direction on Short-Term Rentals.

Councilmember Venuti rejoined the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

In response to a question about Airport Terminal revenue and utilization, City Manager Jacobsen replied that the City is working on the lease agreement with Alaska Bus Company and getting them ready to move into the airport terminal. With respect to marketing another small airline coming into Homer, the City can try to encourage it but there are limited opportunities for small airports, hopefully we can get more service.

- b. FY26 2nd Quarter Report

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Mike Dye, treasurer of the South Peninsula Hospital Board of Directors, commented that a key message from the recent hospital bond conversation was that the hospital needs to do more to talk about strategic and long term plans. He invited Council and everyone listening to an upcoming March 18th meeting at the college. Hospital Board and Leadership Team will present on long term plans and get feedback from the community. City of Homer is very important to the Hospital's success and we hope to see you all there. He noted that the Hospital Board monthly meetings are open to the public and available on zoom.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager commented for the listening public that the City is accepting applications for seats on Boards and Commissions for anyone who's interested in getting involved.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Lord noted that advisory body seats are also available for non-residents, and that she is happy to talk to anyone who has interest or curiosity.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Venuti commented that during her recent hospital stay she got to see so many Kachemak Bay Campus graduates working as phlebotomists, CNAs, nurses, and more. KBC is actively training a workforce that wants to stay in Homer. Her surgeon was a Homer High grad, there are 9 doctors now at the hospital who are HHS grads. She thanked well-wishers for their emails, cards, and visits. Homer is a beautiful place. Chief Robl will be missed and he leaves behind big shoes to fill. His style of leadership encourages a lot of improvement instead of throwing people into the judicial system. Footloose will be coming up at the high school, check that out.

Councilmember Parsons thanked the clerks for keeping things smooth and noted that he plans to attend the Hospital meeting. Last three meetings have felt really smooth, speaks to our City Manager, our department heads, and all of our staff. He will be hosting Conversations with a Councilmember at the Library tomorrow, and can promise homemade chocolate chip cookies and beautiful blue skies.

Councilmember Aderhold commented on the nice stretch of weather we've been having. She offered congratulations to Chief Robl on his retirement, and welcomed incoming Chief Scanlon. Chief Robl set us up really well. The pass-off is great, and our Police Department will continue to be in good hands.

Councilmember Erickson noted that it has been a couple really wild weeks. Big outdoors events like SNOMADs snowmachine run, the Homer Epic this weekend. Even with cold weather we're still out there doing things. On the Planet Youth survey, I saw that the families that are invested in their kids—it made me really proud of our community to see that kind of our engagement. It's so empowering. One of the funnest things to watch is how many young people are coming back to Homer to raise their families and taking over family businesses or starting other businesses. Thank you to Chief Robl, we've had some really good people. Thank you Melissa, you've been making some really good choices in filling some big shoes, so that we feel like we're okay with these major changes in our community.

Councilmember Hansen noted that sometimes weekdays are hard to participate in events during lunch hours. Evening would be helpful for hospital outreach events. We've had some amazing local shows at Alice's that are worth checking out.

There being no further business to come before the council, Mayor Lord adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Next Regular Meeting is Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6 p.m., Worksession at 4:00 p.m., Committee of the whole 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.