



# 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: June 3, 2026  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for June 8, 2026 Council Meeting

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### Homer Terminal Update

Regarding the airport, we've issued an RFP for professional engineering services for airport water damage repair. The structural report has identified the cargo area, baggage claim, and bathrooms as the areas as the primary focus of repairs. There will be some work necessary in the waiting area and counter area as well. Dan and I are keeping the conversation about ADA accessibility active in the project and design. This work provides the opportunity to get the bathrooms in compliance and check it off in the Transition Plan.

### Why Aren't we Improving the HERC?

At the May 26<sup>th</sup> worksession Council discussed some next steps for a Multi-Use Recreation Center and a question was raised as to why we aren't using the existing HERC building. A quick jaunt down memory lane turned up [Resolution 14-084](#) that acknowledges the potential expenses to bring the entire HERC facility up to city code exceeds the potential useful life of the facility and the results of PARC Needs Assessment supported that notion. Also the [HERC Feasibility Study](#) that was developed by the Council appointed HERC Task Force that was included with the May 26<sup>th</sup> materials recommends that *the 60-year-old HERC 1 building without substantial repairs may not have safe, ongoing or efficient use beyond 5 years. If a long term solution is not implemented over a five-year period, options for HERC 1 could range from planning a new facility, demolishing HERC 1 and 2 (or taking advantage of any major changes that are not foreseeable right now), while reserving the property as a park until a long term plan for the property is developed for the site.* It seems the Council and many in the community have recognized the limitations and challenges of attempting to renovate the big HERC.

### Sterling Hwy MP 157-169 Rehabilitation - Phasing Update

In an email from the Central Region office of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT), the City has been advised that DOT leadership has given direction to combine the two phased projects back into a single project and DOT is working to get the project advertised this year. This is good news that the road improvements from Anchor Point all the way to Baycrest Hill will be completed more quickly,. Unfortunately, it means the discussion of an underpass and trail at Diamond Creek will need to be deferred to another project. I was advised that the best way to move that forward is to work with DOT's Planning section to develop a new project.

### Summer Road Maintenance

After winter thaw, Homer's gravel roads are drying out, creating dusty conditions. Before applying dust control, Public Works must wait for roads to fully thaw and dry enough to support heavy equipment, then grade them to restore proper surface and drainage. Once ready, Calcium Chloride is applied to reduce dust and strengthen the road and applying it too early can cause costly damage. Because the product needs some moisture to be effective, crews may add water until rain helps. Treating about 30 miles of roads takes 2-3 weeks, and not all roads are ready at the same time due to varying conditions.

A summary of routine summer maintenance includes:

- Sweeping all paved City roads
- Cleaning storm drains using a vac truck and tool cat working from the roadside.
- Cutting brush in the Right of Ways as needed throughout City limits for visibility, equipment passage and ditch maintenance.
- Re-grading all the roads as they thaw and dry out enough to support the weight of the grader.

After the roads are graded and reshaped from winter break up:

- Apply dust control to all gravel roads
- Ditch areas with poor drainage
- Replace culverts damaged over the winter

Please stay clear of equipment when possible and drive with care when passing work crews. We appreciate the community's patience as we conduct this important maintenance. Your road safety awareness and keeping the right of ways clear allows our local Public Works crew to do their work safely and efficiently.

### **City of Homer Surplus Sale**

Don't miss out! The City is having a Surplus Sale and the closing date is June 11<sup>th</sup>. All items will be sold online at Public Surplus and may be viewed at [www.publicsurplus.com](http://www.publicsurplus.com). After going to [publicsurplus.com](http://publicsurplus.com), select the Alaska Region and select City of Homer as the agency and you will see our surplus equipment, which includes items such as office-related equipment, printers, and other miscellaneous items. All items are sold in "as is, where is" condition, no warranties expressed or implied. Inspection of items may be arranged by contacting the respective department at the phone numbers shown on item listing during regular office hours through Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### **Attachment:**

- June Employee Anniversaries
- SBDC 2026 Jan-Mar Report



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## Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LORD AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: Andrea Browning  
DATE: June 8, 2026  
SUBJECT: June Employee Anniversaries

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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>Melissa Jacobsen</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Mike Illg</b>	<b>Admin</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Mike Szocinski</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Bethany Christman</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Russell Anderson</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Randon Birchette</b>	<b>Dispatch</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Years</b>



April 27, 2026

City of Homer  
491 E. Pioneer Ave  
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Homer Community,

This letter serves as our quarterly report for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2026. We regret to share that longtime Homer Business Advisor Robert Green departed from the Alaska SBDC during the quarter. The Alaska SBDC moved quickly to post the position and received a strong pool of qualified candidates. We anticipate hiring a new Homer Business Advisor during the first half of the upcoming quarter. Kenai Peninsula Center Director Cliff Cochran, the longest-tenured advisor at the Alaska SBDC, will lead training efforts for the new hire and provide co-advising support until they are fully established in the role. Here is a summary of deliverables to the Homer community during the quarter:

Advising Hours: 90.4	Jobs Supported: 35
Clients Advised: 22	Capital Infusion: \$2,200,000
New Businesses Started or Bought: 3	Client Surveys: 100% positive

The next section provides lists of the top advising topics and top industries obtaining technical assistance from the Alaska SBDC in Homer. This quarter, financing and capital remained at the top of the topics list, with business planning and legal issues joining the list. For industries, food services remained atop the list for a sixth consecutive quarter, by a wide margin, followed again by manufacturers, with service, professional, and administrative business models joining the list.

#### Topics

1. Financing/Capital: 27.1 hrs (30%)
2. Business Planning: 24.5 hrs (27%)
3. Startup Assistance: 17.3 hrs (19%)
4. Buy/Sell Business: 9.0 hrs (10%)
5. Legal Issues: 4.0 hrs (4%)

#### Industries

1. Food Services: 41.8 hrs (46%)
2. Manufacturers: 13.5 hrs (15%)
3. Services: 9.8 hrs (11%)
4. Administrative and Support: 6.5 hrs (7%)
5. Professional and Technical: 5.5 hrs (6%)

We would like to thank the City of Homer for its continued support of the Homer Business Advisor position. We appreciate this partnership and look forward to welcoming a new Homer Business Advisor soon. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

*Kendra Conroy*

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Kendra Conroy  
Acting State Director  
Alaska SBDC