

Session 26-13, a regular meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on June 8, 2026 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 ADERHOLD, DAVIS, ERICKSON, HANSEN, PARSONS, VENUTI

STAFF: CITY MANAGER JACOBSEN

DEPUTY CLERK PILLIFANT

FINANCE DIRECTOR FISCHER

Other staff may have been in attendance; a full accounting of attendees was not taken at this meeting.

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

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Pat Case, Homer Resident, commented in support of the updates to the HART manual.

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. Ordinance 26-30, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY27 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$50,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund for the Purpose of Funding Conceptual Planning for a Looped Trail above Karen Hornaday Park. Davis/Erickson. Recommended dates Introduction June 8, 2026 Public Hearing and Second Reading June 22, 2026.
- b. Resolution 26-040, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving the Renewal of a Lobbyist Contract with the Ferguson Group for a Term of One Year Commencing July 1, 2026 and Ending June 30, 2027 in the Amount of \$63,000 and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend Approval.

Memorandum CC-26-119 from Special Projects and Communications Director as backup.

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

VISITORS

- a. City of Homer Grants Program Update - Stacy Mack, Homer Foundation Director (10 minutes)

Stacy Mack provided an update on the foundation's disposition of grant funds made available through the City's endowed fund with the Foundation and through a budget appropriation.

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

- a. Worksession Report

City Manager Jacobsen reported on the worksession with Ronnie McPherson of HDR and Robin Carr of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Council got a high-level overview of what's included in the draft feasibility study.

b. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Erickson reported that the Committee reviewed and discussed the HART policy updates, an update on the Department of Transportation's work on the Sterling Highway affecting a proposed underpass, and the ordinance and resolution related to the Woodard Canyon trail.

c. Special Meeting Report

Mayor Lord confirmed that no special meeting had been held recently.

d. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lord reported that she has worked with the Borough Mayor's office and the Kachemak Swim Club to develop a proposed contract for the operation of the pool. The Borough Mayor's office will negotiate terms with the school district. She shared a story of throwing out the opening pitch for the Little League season and feeling a little intimidated but also happy to see the community activity in person. She noted that the City's Federal lobbyists flagged a proposed change to the regulation related to grants and cooperative agreements, and that she will work with City staff to bring forward a proposed comment letter at the next Council meeting for approval. She will be presenting next week to the Homer Women of Action Group about the Harbor Expansion, and the opportunity for comment on that draft feasibility study is open until June 22nd.

e. Borough Report

Mayor Lord noted that Assemblymember would not be making a report, and she congratulated the Assembly on passing the Borough budget.

f. AML Legislative Committee Report

Councilmember Aderhold clarified that she is making an Alaska Municipal League (AML) Board Meeting Report. The board met for two days earlier in the month. In the last 6 or 7 years AML has grown from a staff of 3 to somewhere around 33 employees. AML is considering restructuring in a way that reflects the new roles that have been added, and is improved internal processes to improve services to members. The City could see some changes from AML, but they will try to keep as many services as possible. Councilmember Aderhold summarized some of the AML services that she could see the City benefiting from. She reported that legislative discussion at the board meeting focused mostly on the proposed natural gas line project. Glenfarne, the project developer, has started reaching out to local governments, so the City may want to think about having a conversation with them.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 26-28, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$8,000 from the General Fund Balance and Authorizing the Use of Limited Staff Time and City Equipment for Public Information on the Ballot Proposition for the Continuation of the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Program and Reauthorizing the Three-Fourths Percent (3/4%) Sales Tax Levy for Up to Twenty Additional Years Including Without Limitation Information That May Influence the Outcome of the Election on the Proposition. City Manager. Introduction May 26, 2026, Public Hearing and Second Reading June 8, 2026.

Memorandum CC-26-106 from City Manager as backup.
Public Comment Received.

Mayor Lord opened the Public Hearing.

Pat Case, City Resident, commented in support of the ordinance, saying that it has improved infrastructure in Homer and made our lives better.

There were no further comments and the hearing was closed.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 26-28 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmember Venuti commented that Pat Case would be an excellent spokesperson for the ballot question.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. City Manager's Report
- b. FY26 Q3 Report and Capital Project Closure Report

Mayor Lord congratulated City Manager Jacobsen on 22 years with the City.

City Manager Jacobsen commented on the Airport Terminal, noting that the building can be repaired rather than rebuilt, and that this is an opportunity to look at ADA compliance in that building. The State Department of Transportation (DOT) will be rehabilitating all of the Sterling Highway from Anchor Point into town in a single project instead of a phased approach. City crews will be getting out for summer road maintenance as soon as conditions allow. The City will be coordinating the painting a crosswalk on Heath Street as previously discussed. The City Manager and Chief of Police will be working on a policy about motorized bikes, which are seeing increased presence in town.

Discussion included clarification on the quarterly project closeout report, recognition that the Police Station Project has been paid for and sales taxes will decrease at the end of the year as a result, and road conditions on state-maintained roads.

PENDING BUSINESS

- a. Ordinance 26-27, an Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the City of Homer Water and Wastewater Rates and Updating the City Fee Schedule Accordingly. Introduction May 11, 2026, Public Hearing May 26, 2026, Second Reading June 8, 2026.

Memorandum CC-26-103 from Finance Director as backup.
Memorandum CC-26-114 from Finance Director as backup.
Memorandum CC-26-115 from Councilmember Davis as backup.
Memorandum CC-26-116 from Finance Director as backup.
Memorandum CC-26-122 from City Manager as backup.

ERICKSON/ VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 26-27 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Discussion included the following:

- How to balance funding the CARMA fund with stepped or moderate rate increases for users.
- How to communicate with rate payers about the minimum charge and the effect it has on rates.
- The FY27 budget as adopted includes a 20% transfer to CARMA.
- The purpose of the model is to determine rates that will generate enough revenue to pay for the budget, including budgeted transfers, but Council can decide to pass rates that are different from those determined by the model.
- A shortfall in income would result in budgeted transfers being covered by unassigned fund balance or the operating reserves.

DAVIS/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND ORDINANCE 26-27 IN A WAY THAT THE NUMBERS WILL REFLECT THE NUMBERS OF SCENARIO TWO ON THE LAYDOWN.

There was no discussion.

VOTE (amendment). NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE (ordinance as amended). NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 26-041, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Directing the City Manager to Issue a Request for Proposals for Route Identification and Conceptual Planning for a Low-Impact Looped Hiking Trail above Karen Hornaday Park. Davis/Erickson.

Memorandum CC-26-120 from Councilmembers Davis and Erickson as backup.

ERICKSON/DAVIS MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 26-041 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY

Councilmember Davis shared that the intent of this project is to identify a low impact option to create a route that brings people back to the park from the top of the existing road that is used as a trail.

DAVIS/VENUTI MOVED TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION 26-041 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON JUNE 22ND.

Discussion noted that the sponsors of the resolution would be meeting with key City staff to make sure that everything is clear and appropriate.

VOTE(Postponement). NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- b. Resolution 26-042, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Adopting the Amended Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Policy Manual. City Manager/Community Development Director.

Memorandum CC-26-121 from Community Development Director as backup.

ERICKSON/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 26-042 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Discussion included a request that all use of acronyms be carefully reviewed for the final version of the manual.

DAVIS/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND SECTION 7 ITEM 1 TO INSERT "NOT REQUIRED BY CODE AT THAT LOCATION, OR" AFTER THE WORD "UNLESS"

Councilmember Davis explained that the amendment allows for the construction of rural roads using HART funds without building a sidewalk or a separate trail alongside the rural road.

VOTE (amendment). NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE (Resolution as amended). NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Pat Case, City Resident, commented in support of the crosswalk installation by the library on Heath Street.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

Deputy Clerk Pillifant thanked City Manager Jacobsen for all her help this week and said she's looking forward to City Clerk Woodruff's return.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Jacobsen read a list of open positions with the City.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Lord congratulated all the student athletes going to state for their hard work. She expressed appreciation for the seasonal workers in Homer, noting that it's what our community is built on. She congratulated the Harborfest team for doing a great job, and noted that the Summer Reading Challenge is starting at the Library. She noted that she'll be traveling and not attending the next meeting, so she'll see everyone at the meeting at the end of July.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Venuti congratulated Deputy Clerk Pillifant, who did a great job. She recognized the walkers who participated in the hospital's walking challenge, noting that she has seen a number of people out getting their steps in.

Councilmember Parsons commented that this meeting makes him think of the word 'fruition', having seen both the water rates and the HART policy manual come to fruition and finally get passed. It's inspiring, and he looks forward to more things coming to fruition in the future.

Councilmember Aderhold said she's happy to be here and happy to have a brain that works.

Councilmember Davis had no comments.

Councilmember Erickson gave a shoutout to Bill Bell, who has coached Mariners softball for many years. She recognized the difference he has made as well as many other volunteers who help make kids sports happen, and it is cool to see so many generations of families involved in softball and little league.

Councilmember Hansen echoed the cheers for Dr. Bell, saying he is a fine man.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Lord adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Next Regular Meeting is Monday, June 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., Worksession at 4:00 pm., 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.