

Session 26-01, a regular meeting of the Homer City Council, was called to order on January 12, 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
CITY CLERK WOODRUFF
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KORT
PLANNING DIRECTOR FOSTER
FIRE CHIEF JAGER
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR CARROLL
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA

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

Mayor Lord announced the Supplemental Items: Under **MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS** the mayoral recognition Remembering and Recognizing Elaine Grabowski.

Under **PUBLIC HEARINGS** item a. Ordinance 25-71, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code 11.04.050, Master Roads and Street Plans-Adopted, 11.04.058, Design Criteria Manual-Adopted, and 11.04.060 Geometric Design Requirements., attachment to Memo CC-26-16 and public comments received

Under **ORDINANCES** item A, Ordinance 26-07, an Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Adopting the revised Port of Homer Terminal Tariff No. 1., public comment received

Under **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** item A, City Manager's report, Public comments received
Under item B, FY26 Q1 Financial Report, updated fund balance report
ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- a. Remembering Elaine Grabowski

Mayor Lord read the proclamation recognizing Elaine Grabowski, expressing profound gratitude for her extraordinary contributions to the Homer Volunteer Fire Department and to the community as a whole. Homer Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jaeger and Captain Arndt came forward with Elaine's fire helmet and presented the helmet and signed proclamation to Elaine's husband, Gary Kulesza.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Camille Johnson, non-resident, spoke in support of trails at Karen Hornaday Park, and suggested putting funds towards trail design instead of engineering.

Satchel Pondolino, non-resident and Clean Water Lead with Cook Inletkeeper, spoke in support of Resolution 26-007.

Catie Bursch, City Resident, spoke in support of the Woodard Creek Loop trail.

Meghan Gervais, City Resident, spoke in support of the trails above Karen Hornaday Park.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Homer City Council Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2025 Recommend approval
- b. Memorandum CC-26-001 authorizing the issuance of a Letter of Non-Objection to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Regarding Liquor License renewal for Salty Dawg Saloon. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum CC-26-002 approving the appointment of William Wuestenfeld to the Library Advisory Board. Recommend Approval.
- d. Memorandum CC-26-003 Travel Authorization for Mayor and Councilmembers to Attend the Alaska Municipal League Winter Conference in Juneau, Alaska February 17-19, 2026. Recommend approval.
- e. Ordinance 26-01, An Ordinance of The City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$10,000 from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance Fund for the Purpose of Purchasing and Installing an Accessible Push Button Door Opener at City Hall. Venuti/Parsons. Recommended Dates Introduction January 12, 2026, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 26,2026.
- f. Ordinance 26-02, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating Principal Forgiveness Subsidy from a Loan from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) under its Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program in the Amount of \$1,331,882 for the A-Frame Transmission Line Replacement Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Loan Agreement. City Manager. Recommended Dates January 26, 2026

Memorandum CC-26-004 from Public Works Director as backup.

- g. Ordinance 26-03, an Ordinance of The City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating an Additional \$25,000 From the Homer Education and Recreation Complex (HERC) Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund for the Repair, Resurfacing

and Repainting of Lines on the Floor in the Gymnasium in the HERC 1 Building. City Manager/Recreation Manager. Recommended Dates Introduction January 12, 2026, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 26, 2026

Memorandum CC-26-005 from the Recreation Manager as Backup

- h. Ordinance 26-04, an Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a Donation from the Homer Pickleball Club in the Amount of \$7,000 for the Purpose of Assisting with the Repair, Resurfacing and Repainting of Lines on the Floor in the Gymnasium in the HERC 1 Building.

Memorandum CC-26-006 from the Recreation Manager as Backup.

- i. Ordinance 26-05, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating an Additional \$20,000 From the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund and \$20,000 from the HART Roads fund to the Purchase of the Trackless MT7 Municipal Sidewalk Tractor. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended Dates Introduction January 12, 2026, Hearing and Second Reading January 26, 2026

Memorandum CC-26-007 from the Public Works Director as backup.

- j. Ordinance 26-06, an Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code 2.84 Release of Public Record Sections 2.84.010 Policy, 2.84.020 Definitions, 2.84.050 Regulations, and 2.84.070 Appeals. City Manager. Recommended Dates Introduction January 12, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 26, 2026

Memorandum CC-26-008 from the City Manager as backup.

Ordinance 26-06 moved to Ordinances item a. Aderhold.

- k. Resolution 26-001, a Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Designating Signatories of the City of Homer Accounts and Superseding Any Previous Resolutions So Designating. City Manager/Finance Director. Recommend Adoption.
- l. Resolution 26-002, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Confirming the Appointment of Elizabeth Fischer as Treasurer and Jenna De Lumeau as Deputy Treasurer for Calendar Year 2026. City Manager. Recommend Adoption.
- m. Resolution 26-003, a Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Confirming the City Manager's Appointment of Julie Engebretsen as the acting City Manager for Calendar Year 2026
- n. Resolution 26-004 A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Authorizing the Staff of Homer Volunteer Fire Department to Apply for a 2026 Alaska Department of Natural Resources Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) Grant. City Manager/Fire Chief. Recommend Adoption.

Memorandum CC-26-009 from the Fire Chief as backup.

- o. Resolution 26-005, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska , Approving a Sublease Between the City of Homer and Alaska Bus LLC, D.B.A Alaska Bus Company for 384 Square Feet, More Or Less, of Office and Cargo Space and Designated Parking at the Homer Airport Terminal and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Port Director. Recommend Adoption.

Memorandum CC-26-010 from the Port Property Associate as backup.

- p. Resolution 26-006. A Resolution of the City of Homer, Alaska Adopting an Alternative Allocation Method for the FY26 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program and Certifying that this allocation Method Fairly Represents the Distribution of Significant Effects of Fisheries Business Activity in FMA 14: Cook Inlet Area. City Manager/Port Director. Recommend Adoption.

Memorandum CC-26-011 from the Port Director as backup.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS (10 minutes per visitor)

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

- a. Worksession Report

City Manager Melissa Jacobsen reported on the worksession at 4:00 which discussed Ordinance 25-71 and Ordinance 25-71(s). City Engineer Leon Galbraith provided information on road design. Council discussed amendments proposed in the memo provided by the City Manager.

- b. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Erickson reported that the council discussed an increase in the City's insurance costs and midbiennium budget adjustments. Personal property taxes have increased. The City is nearing the end of the sales tax increase that funds the construction of the Police Station, and that could sunset at the end of 2026.

- c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lord welcomed Council back and noted that she didn't get caught up over the month of December, but is glad to be back and starting the new year. She expressed sincere gratitude to HPD, HVFD, and Dispatch for responding to emergencies, and to SPH for providing care to community members. Under the Rural Health Transformation Program , a lot of federal money is coming in to the state all at once.

The Mayor noted that January 20th is the start of the second year of a two-year legislative session, and a Council-approved resolution with City priorities is in the works. She will not be able to attend the AML legislative conference. School Board meets tonight, quarterly worksession meetings tomorrow, there are continued discussions around school pools and school consolidation. School pools will continue to put pressure on the borough's budget so we may need to explore other options to keep the Homer pool open.

d. Borough Report

Assemblymember Kelly Cooper agreed that the school funding will continue to be an issue. Could consider a borough-wide service area for recreation, and there may be movement towards a Southern Kenai Peninsula service area. Borough is beginning budget conversations. SPH Service Area Board spoke to KPB about Rural health transportation. The KPB Assembly is preparing a list of capital requests, even knowing that there are very limited state capital funds. A group at the borough level is meeting to talk about how to do recycling. Borough is doing some housekeeping, adjusted code to define the borough's website as a newspaper. The Borough will be changing code related to presentation time to specify that the time is only set aside for items that relate to the Borough's powers – planning, financial, school district, service area boards for the hospitals. Resolution of support for east side set net fishery disaster declaration for 2025. She noted that the borough will not be asking Air BnB to collect and remit sales tax – the borough has a very complex sales tax law, and there are lots of hurdles to handle. It makes the most sense to continue to collect it locally.

e. Planning Commission Report

f. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

g. Library Advisory Board Report

Board Member Deb Curtis handed off the report to Student Representative Daniel Crist. He reported that the Library Advisory Board (LAB) viewed a training video at a worksession in December. At the regular meeting, Library Director Dave Berry provided an update on the library security grille project, and a new printing system. The LAB is fundraising in collaboration with Friend of the Homer Library and the Homer Foundation. At the regular meeting the LAB refined the timeline for events related to the 20th anniversary of the current Library Building. Thanks to Doug Baily for his service on the board and welcome to William Wuestenfeld.

h. Travel Report: Alaska Municipal League Conference

Memorandum CC-26-012 from Councilmember Erickson
Memorandum CC-26-013 from Council member Davis
Memorandum CC-26-014 from Councilmember Aderhold
Memorandum CC-26-015 from Councilmember Parsons

There was some discussion from councilmembers who attended the conference expressing appreciation for the opportunity and for the varied perspectives and experiences represented in the reports.

i. Title 21 Update

Planning Director Ryan Foster provided a brief update on the progress of the project. The City held an open house in early November to get feedback from the community. The virtual open house is open through the 16th of January on the project website. The Planning Commission has had a series of worksessions discussing key concepts like housing, environmental considerations, process, and zoning. Staff has also worked one-on-one with some commissioners who want to dive deeper into a specific subject. Staff will be doing a final deep dive worksession on January 21st to address remaining items of interest prepare for the Public Review Draft process. Council will be doing a worksession with the Planning Department on January 26th to discuss the steps forward. The Public Review Draft version will be available for the 45-day public review in approximately early February.

j. Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council Report

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 25-69, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a State of Alaska Online With Libraries (OWL) Grant for FY26 in The Amount of \$6462 for Internet Service, and Authorizing the City Manager/Library Director Introduction November 24, 2025. Public Hearing and Second Reading January 12, 2026

Memorandum CC-25-265 from Library Director as backup.

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

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-69 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 25-70, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$7,000 from the Homer Education and Recreation Complex (HERC) Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) for the Replacement of the Floor of the Activity Room in the Herc 1 Building. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction November 24, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 12, 2026.

Memorandum CC-25-266 from Public Works Director as Backup.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-70 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 25-71, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code 11.04.050, Master Roads and Street Plans-Adopted, 11.04.058, Design Criteria Manual-Adopted, and 11.04.060 Geometric Design Requirements. Davis/Parsons. Introduction November 24, 2026 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 12, 2026.

Ordinance 25-71(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code 11.04.050, Master Roads and Street Plans-Adopted, and 11.04.060 Geometric Design Requirements. Davis/Parsons.

Memorandum CC-25-274 from Councilmembers Davis & Parsons as backup.
Memorandum CC-26-016 from City Manager as backup.
Public Comment Received.

Mayor Lord opened the public hearing.

Jan Keiser, City Resident, expressed gratitude to Councilmembers Davis and Parsons for their work. She thanked City Engineer Galbraith for his testimony and recommended the Complete Streets policy as a way to provide flexibility, asking Council to refrain from passing this ordinance until the City has a Complete Streets policy.

There were no further comments and the hearing was closed.

DAVIS/PARSONS MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-71 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING

DAVIS/PARSONS MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 25-71(S)

Discussion noted that the wording in the substitution came from a meeting with the City Engineer and City Manager to allow more flexibility for engineering with a lot of City streets. The substitution removes references to specific widths.

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

Motion carried.

Discussion included revisiting the road design criteria manual since street widths in code are quite large and narrower streets would create a neighborhood feel. Public testimony from road builders and operators of large vehicles during the worksession was valuable, and we need to make sure that the streets will meet the needs of all users. The importance of flexibility and responsiveness to specific circumstances through a system such as Complete Streets was mentioned by multiple councilmembers. Other factors that could increase or decrease safety of a roadway were discussed, including snowfall or speed limits.

DAVIS/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND LINES 55 TO STRIKE “TO A 28-FOOT WIDTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF A LOCAL RESIDENTIAL STREET” AND REPLACE IT WITH” IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TABLE IN 11.04.060(F)”.

There was no discussion.

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

Motion carried.

DAVIS/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND LINES 103 TO 105 TO READ “HCC 11.04.060(F) WIDTH, RIGHT-OF-WAY, TRAVELED WAY, AND SHOULDER-WIDTH STANDARDS FOR CITY STREETS SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:”

There was no discussion.

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

Motion carried.

The City Manager commented to remind the Council that there are roads in the City that are up West Hill, East Hill, and out East End Road, and those property owners may still have water or fuel delivered to their homes. She asked that the Council keep those residents in mind as well when amending standards.

Davis/Parsons moved to postpone Ordinance 25-71(S)(A) to January 26, 2026 with another public hearing

Councilmember Parsons expressed gratitude for feedback and recognized the City Manager’s comment, noting that he would like to bring flexibility that addresses those other areas in addition to the city center.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

D. Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustments

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

ORDINANCE(S)

Ordinance 26-07, an Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Adopting the revised Port of Homer Terminal Tariff No. 1. City Manager/Port Director. Recommended Dates Introduction January 12, 2026, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 26, 2026.

Memorandum CC-26-017 from the Port Director as backup.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 26-07.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO AMEND TO ADD A NEW BULLET ON LINE 447 CALLED 10-DAY TRANSIENT TO REFLECT A 10-DAY TRANSIENT FORMULA TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE PORT STAFF, AND FOLLOW WITH THE CURRENT LANGUAGE ON LINE 448.

Discussion ensued regarding the discrepancies between daily and monthly rates, noting that many boats use the harbor to prepare for their season. It's important that there's another option for the fishermen at a reasonable rate. The spirit of the motion is good, however, this language is not specific.

Port Director Bryan Hawkins acknowledged the idea of the new rate, saying that it is a long process to change the rate schedule. The daily rate is 3% of the annual, Monthly is 17%, Semiannual is 67%, of the annual. It's a process that can't be put in place in a short period of time. It could be talked about for the next year, and it's not clear what the cause and effect would be. The City would have to agree on the rate, change the schedule, change the software. At this point after 6 days, you are automatically moved to the month because it's more cost effective.

Councilmember Erickson noted that she'd envisioned the rate as a flat rate.

Councilmember Aderhold wondered whether the Council should send a memo to the Port & Harbor advisory commission to provide direction for items to evaluate when reviewing the tariff for 2027.

Is this fair to all user types? Fishing boats, charter boats, private boats? Can we do this for just one user group?

The Mayor noted that the Moorage rate calculation is very complex, even more so than the water/sewer rate. She encouraged voting down the amendment and bringing the proposal back to staff and the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission.

VOTE (amendment): NO: VENUTI, ERICKSON, ADERHOLD, PARSONS, DAVIS, HANSEN

Motion failed.

Discussion noted that the record associated with amendment does not include details of all the discussion that the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission (PHC) had relating to the tariff. Insurance amounts have changed, consider an exemption for recreational vessels 24' and under. Councilmember Erickson committed to work with the mayor on a memo to PHC.

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

Motion carried.

Ordinance 26-06, an Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code 2.84 Release of Public Record Sections 2.84.010 Policy, 2.84.020 Definitions, 2.84.050 Regulations, and 2.84.070 Appeals. City Manager. Recommended Dates Introduction January 12, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 26, 2026

Memorandum CC-26-008 from the City Manager as backup.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 26-06 .

Councilmembers directed questions to City Staff related to the changes to language.

- Lines 41-45, why is this language removed?
- Why does this change appeals to go straight to Superior Court instead of to a Public Hearing Officer as with other recent code changes that moved appeals away from City Council?
- Why are lines 245-248 changed?

City Manager Jacobsen spoke, saying that the ordinance adds new language at the top, striking the old policy language and adding more robust new policy language that emphasizes that it is the City's responsibility to provide prompt and reasonable access to non-confidential public records to the citizens. That language is stronger and more direct that references to a 'good faith effort.'

Jacobsen noted that change to the appeals process is aligning with what other municipalities in the area do. The appeal could be directed by code to go to the court or to the administrative hearing office. There are still costs associated with an administrative hearing, and it could be appealed to the court after that anyways. Council is welcome to make an amendment, this ordinance has been reviewed by the City Attorney and he did not have edits to that portion.

Council discussed points including that while in general, it's been good to get appeals away from City Council, this may be a case where Council would be comfortable having the appeal go to them. Some people like to jump to the superior court. We need a middle step. Maybe some people would think twice about it if a mediator were involved.

City Manager Jacobsen noted that the parameters for denials of records requests are very specific and laid out in code, and an appeal of a records request denial is less nuanced than an appeal of something like a conditional use permit.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

The City Manager reviewed items from her written report including the Karen Hornaday trail system and Water Quality testing.

Council asked questions related to the proposed trail in Karen Hornaday Park, including:

- Please confirm that there is no need for additional direction from Council to the City.
- Will bikes be allowed on the trail?

City Manager Jacobsen confirmed that there is no need for additional direction and that the trail is not suitable for bikes.

A Councilmember asked whether the City could install solar panels at the reservoir, City Manager Jacobsen said that the group could definitely talk about it.

Mayor Lord summarized the memo describing the City's choices for election dates now that the Kenai Peninsula Borough has changed its election date to November and is terminating the Memorandum of Agreement under which the City and Borough shared election expenses. Discussion included:

- The City would need to co-locate with State and Borough elections in a single venue if we were to change our election date.
- The cost of going it alone seems quite high.
- October is preferential so that local elections don't get lost in the shuffle, but it's really valuable to continue to partner with the borough.
- There is such a difference between October and November weather.
- Election has been proposed as a national holiday—it would be important to be a part of that day if that happens.
- The cost for a 2026 election would be similar to the 2025 cost shared in the memo.
- Other cities in the borough including Soldotna and Kenai are switching to November.
- City elections are non-partisan. It's part of what makes us successful. Being on the same day as the national and state elections could slot City candidates into party 'favorites'.
- The Election Day working group that met prior to the borough vote went through all the reasons why it's a bad idea. In Wasilla, their voter turnout plummeted when they kept the October election date. Our local election will be forgotten.
- It is preferable not to move the election date, but Council is concerned about cost.
- It seems we will have to move the date because of price and resources, have to talk to the community about it. It's not fun but sometimes you have to go along with it just to keep things going.

PENDING BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 25-105, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Awarding the Contract for Design & Construction of the Homer Harbor's System 4 Float Replacement to Turnagain Marine Construction of Anchorage, Alaska in the Amount Of \$22,459,855 and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/City Engineer.

Resolution 25-105(s), a Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding the Design-Build Contract of the Homer Harbor's System 4 Float Replacement to Turnagain Marine Construction of Anchorage Alaska in the Amount of \$515,000 for Phase 1 Engineering and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/City Engineer.

Memorandum CC-25-277 from the City Engineer as backup.

Memorandum CC-26-018 from the City Engineer as backup.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-105

ERICKSON/ADERHOLD MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 25-105(S)

There was no discussion.

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

Motion carried.

ERICKSON/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND LINE 44 AFTER AUTHORIZES THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS ADD **“AND ISSUE NTP #1 ONLY. THE CITY MANAGER IS ONLY AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE NTP #2 FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL AWARD OF THE 2025 PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS AND EXECUTION OF ALL PAPERWORK REQUIRED BY MARAD TO ALLOW THE CITY OF HOMER ACCESS TO THE GRANT FUNDS.”**

There was no discussion.

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

Motion carried.

There was no discussion.

VOTE (Adoption of substitution as amended). NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 26-007, A Resolution of the of City Council of Homer, Alaska Providing Comments on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for the Alaska Region. Aderhold.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 26-007

Discussion included

- Even if the City doesn’t pass the resolution, this is a way to let the public know that this opportunity for comment is out there.
- The City Council has commented on a number of things in the past, including the Northern Edge training that the Navy was putting on. We have provided comments on Oil and Gas lease sales, lease sale 258.
- Discomfort with the resolution—it’s fine if people want to comment individually, but the City needs to be careful moving forward. We have a lot of things dealing with the federal government, and something that might seem political against oil and gas could sabotage ourselves. Appreciate the concern, there are lots of studies, they understand where we’re coming from.
- Most statements are calm factual statements of fact that are directly relevant to the question. Three areas that that we might amend are more subjective or off topic—line 53, “demonstrates a disrespect to local residents,” paragraph about navy training, and on Line 70 – trying to second guess what we think the oil companies would want to do.

DAVIS/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND BY STRIKING LINES 61-65 AND LINES 70-74, AND, IN LINES 53 AND 54, STRIKE “DEMONSTRATES A DISRESPECT TO LOCAL RESIDENTS”, REPLACE WITH “SEEMS ILL-ADVISED.”

There was no discussion.

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

Motion carried.

VOTE(RESOLUTION AS AMENDED).

YES: ADERHOLD HANSEN, PARSONS, VENUTI, DAVIS

NO: ERICKSON

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

William Roth, non-resident, commented that Homer has gotten rid of the work skiff exemption which will hurt small businesses. He asked Council to support another moorage rate between daily and monthly rates that will offer a more cost-effective rate to boats that are staying slightly longer but not for a full month.

Daniel Christ commented that it would be valuable to know the cost of purchasing election equipment to see whether that is more cost effective than changing the election date to November.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Woodruff commented that there is a seat open on the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Jacobsen commented that there is \$9,530 remaining in the travel budget for Councilmembers to attend the AML Winter Legislative Conference.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Lord apologized for getting mixed up in the agenda script, and expressed gratitude for serving with each and every person on Council.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Venuti thanked Daniel Christ for his report and for serving on the Library Advisory Board. She remembered Tarri and Marlon, the artists of Moose Run Metalsmiths who created the beautiful library doors. She thanked the Council for supporting the ADA improvements to City Hall, and that it is just the beginning of improvements. The ceiling failure at the Homer High School Theater that led to equipment falling is a reminder of the importance of capital maintenance, and the CARMA accounts at the City that support that. She said thank you to the wonderful hospital in Homer and to the Surgeons who supported her family during an emergency surgery during Christmas.

Councilmember Parsons thanked City staff, who worked through the break in Council meetings. He said he is pleased to see things coalescing in the Clerk's office. He appreciated the time spent in the meeting kicking ideas around and finding a way forward.

Councilmember Aderhold noted that this was a beefy first meeting of the year, which is what happens when City staff keep working while Council was off for a few weeks. She expressed appreciation for the efforts and for staff's ability to answer questions. She said she is reflecting a lot on all the wonderful people that we lost in 2025. She will be out of town for the next meeting but may try to participate remotely.

Councilmember Davis said that the borough has not heard the last from him when it comes to having Air BNB collect sales tax on behalf of the borough. Even if they take a percentage of the tax, that might not be much different from the amount we pay to the third party that collects Amazon sales taxes. He wished everyone a happy new year.

Councilmember Erickson thanked the fire department for coming and honoring Elaine. Learning of her passing was a gut punch because she was such a huge part of our community, and the safety net at the fire department when you were in crisis. Galen Gordon also passed away after 90 years of life, 89 of them in Homer. She will be at the Library at noon for Conversation with a Councilmember. There is a QR code to donate to the Rec Center fund and it's exciting to see people get behind the vision.

Councilmember Hansen said she appreciated a little break from meetings but the holiday season was odd this year and she's so glad to be back with everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Lord Adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, January 26, at 6 p.m., Worksession at 4:00 pm., Committee of the whole at 5:00 p.m. Special meeting Monday, January 19, at 5:30 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Amy Woodruff, City Clerk

Approved: _____