



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

City Manager's Report

TO: Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager
DATE: April 6, 2016
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report - April 11, 2016

The Legislature...

At the last Council meeting I reported on SB 209 and SB 210 and their potential impact to the City of Homer. What a moving target – these bills have changed multiple times since then and are likely to change more before Monday's council meeting.

SB 209: Cost Shifting PERS to Municipalities

SB 209, which increased municipalities PERS contribution rate from 22% to 26.5% has stalled for now due to an analysis from the State's actuaries reporting that the total contribution rate is expected to decrease and general criticism that instead of making hard decisions the State was just trying to transfer the responsibility to municipalities. Linda is keeping a watchful eye on legislation that could become a carrier for that issue, but we think at this point increasing PERS rates for municipalities is dead – for now, not forever. Before SB 209 stalled, Borough Mayor Navarre called a meeting with all Peninsula City Managers that I attended on Monday. The consensus was to send a joint letter on the issue to the Legislature signed by our Mayors. Though ultimately this was not necessary, it does provide a good model for future issues when the Peninsula needs to speak as one voice and lays the groundwork for greater communication in the future.

SB 210: Changing Revenue Sharing

SB 210 was introduced as legislation that changed the name of revenue sharing, restructured it to favor smaller communities, and eliminated the mandatory senior property tax exemption. Councilmembers were prepared to testify in favor of this legislation; we all share in the pain but the State is giving local municipalities tools. Since then, the Finance Committee has pulled the senior property tax exemption language from the bill making it merely a restructuring of revenue sharing. Under the bill City of Homer revenue sharing is scheduled to be \$190,000 for the next two years and \$130,000 for 2018 before disappearing in 2019.

The Legislature adjourns in a little over 2 weeks. According to Linda, there is little chance they will come to agreement on the major issues facing them by then and a 10-day extension is anticipated.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

The Planning Office is working with the State of Alaska on a mitigation project to purchase property to be dedicated for open space. A brief description of the program and the project follows.

When an Alaskan disaster is declared, and FEMA Federal funds are received by the State, the funds are used to help reduce the risk of future disasters. In Alaska, these federal funds are distributed through the State's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) with a 25% State match. In the event that the funds are not used in the area in which the disaster occurred, funds can be applied to mitigation projects in other parts of Alaska.

FEMA supports communities interested in acquiring high risk properties to avoid future development and subsequent losses when tragedy occurs in coastal Velocity Zones. When a project is submitted, the project is in the "queue" in the event funds are available. The program is an annual re-occurring opportunity, so these parcels may be in the "queue" for several years.

The Planning Office has applied to the HMGP for the opportunity to acquire private properties that abut the Sterling Highway, Homer Spit Road, and Kachemak Bay. Properties of interest are those that are experiencing or at high-risk of erosive events and have minimal improvements. They present a challenge to provide utility connections and continued erosion may threaten the stability of the Sterling Highway. Property owners will be contacted and made aware of the program. Participation is not required and is only on a voluntary basis.

Furie and the Randolph Yost

Deputy Harbormaster Clarke and I had a meeting with the VP of Operations and Drilling Engineer for Furie who operates the Randolph Yost parked at the Deep Water Dock. It was good to have a chance to learn more about the rig and Furie's plans. One thing I did learn about was the tremendous amount of work it takes to keep a rig in working order. Crews are almost constantly working on maintenance of all the moving parts. This is good because when the rig is parked at our dock they are calling on our local businesses; just yesterday the port and harbor connected the crew with a local supplier of pipefitting. Furie will leave the dock for their drilling site in the inlet no later than May 15 when we need the face clear for summer activities and the arrival of the first cruise ship May 18. The Deep Water Dock is one of two options Furie is considering for over-wintering the Randolph Yost. In the meantime, Port and Harbor staff is working on details for accommodating the rig without disrupting regular traffic, should we have the opportunity.

ADA Trainings/ Committee

The ADA Committee had its first meeting on March 31 and is off to a great start. In the meantime, the City staff has been trained (April 6-7) in how to accommodate, identify and understand ADA issues as frontline employees, maintenance and public works staff, and supervisors. Thanks to all the staff and departments who gave up to 4 hours of employees' time for this important training.

Enc:

Memo from Chief Painter RE: Burn Barrels

Memo from Chief Robl RE: Unauthorized Camping Enforcement



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Volunteer Fire Department

604 East Pioneer Ave
Homer, Alaska 99603

fire@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3155

(f) 907-235-3157

Memorandum

TO: Katie Koester, City Manager

FROM: Robert Painter, Fire Chief

DATE: April 5, 2016

SUBJECT: Use of Burn Barrels Within City Limits

It has been brought to my attention that the State of Alaska Division of Forestry recently changed the regulations pertaining to the use of burn barrels for the disposal of Class A (wood, grass or other organic) materials. They now require permits for the use of burn barrels during the statutory burn season, April 1 through August 31). This change will affect burn barrels within the city limits of Homer as well as all surrounding areas. As such I believe we should amend our section of the code 5.20.020 – Open Burning – Permit Required and 5.20.030 Trash Burning – Approved Container to reflect these changes.

I believe that the addition of a single sentence and the deletion of the struck out section below will suffice for 5.20.020 – “Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section ~~and in HCC 5.20.030~~, no person shall burn any combustible material in the open without a permit from the City, **including in approved burn barrels**. Burning permits shall be available at the Fire Department and shall be issued only upon approval of the Fire Chief or other official with written delegation of authority from the Fire Chief”.

As for 5.20.030 Trash Burning:

“No person shall burn trash without a permit, ~~except in a screen covered container, or other trash burner approved by the Fire Chief~~”.

Until such time is these city codes are amended, we will to rely on word of mouth and getting word out via social media and the web site regarding the need for permits for the use of burn barrels anywhere on the Kenai Peninsula.



CITY OF HOMER

POLICE DEPARTMENT

4060 HEATH STREET HOMER, AK 99603-7609

EMERGENCY 911
TELEPHONE (907) 235-3150
TELECOPIER (907) 235-3151

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 30, 2016
TO: Katie Koester, City Manager
FROM: Mark Robl, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Camping Enforcement, HCC19.08.030(c)

This section of the code gives us an enforcement option we seldom use but it is important for us to have available. We typically utilize this section in the case of people camping on private property without permission. Often, these people are in thick wooded areas and they flee as we are arriving.

One example of this is campers located in the woods on private property. They can see and hear us coming and they often leave as we approach. We will go to these campgrounds for a few days in an attempt to contact them and leave letters posted at the campsite warning them to vacate the area immediately. After a few unsuccessful attempts, we will impound all of the property at the site and hold it until someone comes in and claims it.

We have never used this ordinance to forcibly detain someone or remove them from an illegal campground. If a person refuses to leave property when ordered to do so by a police officer, we can and will arrest them for violation of a state law. We do not make arrests for the violation of city ordinances.