



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

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Memorandum Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL
FROM: MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK
DATE: JULY 22, 2019
SUBJECT: AGENDA CHANGES AND SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

Worksession

HERC Next Steps

- Written public comments and link to Mosaic article: <https://mosaicscience.com/story/iceland-prevent-teen-substance-abuse/>

Page 3

Mayoral Recognitions & Proclamations

Letter of Appreciation for Chief Purcell

Page 7

Consent Agenda

Revisor Corrections to Memorandum 19-086 changing Denali Borough in first paragraph to Soldotna, AK and to Ordinance 19-34 adding referenced memo number 19-090 on line 21.

Mayor's Report

Recognition presented to Joy Steward

Page 9

City Manager's Report

FY19 Quarterly General Fund Expenditure Report

Page 11

New Business

Memorandum 19-088 from City Clerk Re: Letter from City Council to Governor Dunleavy, Senator Stevens and Representative Vance regarding effects of line item vetoes on the Homer Community

- Amended letter

Page 15

From: [janie leask](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#); [Donna Aderhold](#); [Rachel Lord](#); [Tom Stroozas](#); [Heath Smith](#); [Shelly Erickson](#); [Caroline Venuti](#); [Ken Castner](#)
Subject: July 22 Council work session on the HERC
Date: Friday, July 19, 2019 8:32:08 AM
Attachments: [Iceland knows how to stop teen substance abuse but the rest of the world isn't listening Mosaic.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Members of Homer City Council:

I understand you did not receive any responses to the recent RFP in which you solicited bids for the management, lease, and renovation of HERC1 and you are now back to discussing the future of HERC1 as the site for community recreation. I again am voicing my support for using HERC1 as a community recreation center - either the existing building or a new one, but on the existing land as I feel the land was a gift to our community and it sits at the gateway to our town.

There are improvements you can do to the building which over time will help its lifespan and decrease the costs but will take an upfront investment from you which again loops back to the discussion/decision of whether the HERC and the surrounding property is worth it.

I realize the building doesn't pay it's own way in the form of fees generated by users. I would offer that many pickleball players have discussed an increase in user fees as a way to help out but I know that increase won't fill the gap, and some families of youth basketball or karate might not be able to afford it. You've heard from Mike Illg, Bunnell and other community groups who came with ideas for additional uses of the HERC. They've offered some great ideas which could increase the use of the building as well as the revenues. Last Sunday there were twenty-eight pickleball players vying for time on our three courts - six were visitors and probably eight were snowbirds. At our recent tournament held at the high school, there were sixty-six total players, fifteen were from out of state. And as a sport, pickleball will only continue to grow.

Some of you may still feel the SPARC provides for the community recreation needs in our town. Please know it does not and can not be the answer to community recreation in Homer. It was originally built for indoor soccer and, as you've heard before, the flooring is an issue - for basketball and pickleball. Additionally, the SPARC is not conducive to multiple programs running at the same time. It's a wonderful facility, just not a replacement for HERC.

My greatest fear is that you will make a decision to demolish the HERC and promise to build a multi-use community recreation center in its place but then don't and our community will be left with no recreational options. And perhaps the state budget cuts will put more pressure on local communities to find additional ways to raise revenue and you might be persuaded to sell the property . . . which I think would be devastating for a lot of reasons you've heard before.

A community center - a gathering space for recreation and other uses - is rarely an economic engine for a community but it represents an investment by community leaders FOR the

community. You've all received the Icelandic Study (*attached*) in which communities/local government invested in natural high alternatives for teenagers who might otherwise turn to drugs and crime. They did this by offering community programs such as music, arts, clubs, and sports.

Homer and the Kenai Peninsula have a substance abuse problem and an accompanying crime issue. These represent very real costs in the form of increased public safety and health care so even though a recreation/community center may not turn a profit, it certainly is not simply a cost center. A community center is not the end-all/be-all but it can offer alternatives to our youth, especially in these times when school programs are being cut. It also responds to the needs of our seniors . . . which is a growing segment in our community.

In the email included in this meeting packet, Council member Erickson suggested a survey of Homer residents to find out what people really think. Residents have voiced their support for community recreation both through the 2015 PARCAC needs assessment and through the recent work of the HERC Task Force and through the participation and testimony given by Homer residents. Council member Erickson then outlines four options - 1) revisit the HERC in 5 years, 2) repair/upgrade the facility and be willing to pay increased sales tax to deal with the building upgrade, 3) sell the property, or 4) tear it down and let it be a nice grassy field.

What other funding options have you looked at besides an increase in sales taxes? Are there pieces of city-held land which are no longer needed and can be sold? I don't know, I'm only curious. Pitting a raise in sales tax against a community recreation center seems like it's setting up the project to fail when there might be other options you can explore.

I would implore you to look at this building, land, and project not simply as a cost center which doesn't pay for itself but rather understand what it offers this community even in its current form. Look at the children and adults in the karate class, come some Sunday and look at our community hitting the ball around, visit youth basketball and Zumba. Think of what more could be if the use of this building were to be expanded.

In closing, HERC1 and its surrounding land are an important part of our community. Reports and Task Forces have reiterated the importance of community recreation. HERC1 and the surrounding land meet the current need but are in need of an investment by the City to ensure its continued viability.

Let me reiterate . . . this will not strictly be an economic decision for you. It will be a decision to make the health and well-being of our community a priority through the investment in something - either HERC1 or a community/recreation center. It will represent an investment in the future of our community.

I don't have easy answers but I continue to be willing to sit at the table (or in the audience) to help move this process forward.

Janie Leask
Homer resident

From: [Jim Lavrakas](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#)
Subject: HERC future
Date: Sunday, July 21, 2019 7:31:41 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

MELISSA, FOR MONDAY'S WORK SESSION...JIM

Dear City Council Members,

I understand that you did not receive any RFP's for conversion of the HERC, and now you consider your next steps with this valuable piece of property.

Since our arrival in Homer 10 years ago, my wife and I have used the HERC every year for some sort of physical activity that has helped keep us fit as we traverse our 60's. From basketball, to pickleball, and ZUMBA (yes, I've tried it), without the HERC I would have ended up like my grandfathers: fat little Greek men with cardiovascular disease.

Ruth and I have a membership at SPARC, but the HERC gives us other options for exercise and something else: a wider social community that enriches our daily lives by introducing us to our fellow residents with a wide range of ages and interests. The HERC social scene is more of a microcosm of Homer in that young, middle age, and seniors come together on a more or less equal athletic footing and I think that aspect of HERC activity improves the quality of life Ruth & I experience in Homer more than any other social group we've joined.

I urge you to continue to look for ways to keep and improve the HERC.

Thanks, Jim & Ruth Lavrakas



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Letter of Appreciation

Chief Robert Purcell

Dear Chief Purcell:

On behalf of the citizen's and their elected officials, I thank you for suspending your retirement and stepping in as our interim fire chief. You truly embraced the opportunity to advance the causes of the Department and have left a solid platform that will ease the transition for our next chief.

As you return to a quieter life, I'd remind you how much we honor the wisdom and institutional knowledge you carry and hope you will not mind our tapping into that expertise from time to time.

With warm wishes:

Ken Castner
Mayor, City of Homer, Alaska

WARNING: This document is very flammable and should be kept away from open flames.

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA
IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION**

Joy Steward

*Upon Your Retirement from The Homer
Foundation*

Mayoral Recognitions are usually filled with **WHEREASES** and what-nots. This is not that. This is more of a *billet-doux*...

Having the 171,476 words in English at my disposal, which is a lot, I admit, I still have trouble finding the right combination and sequence to express the emotional gratitude of what you have accomplished in your Stewardship (pun intended) of the Homer Foundation.

You have been surrounded by the Alpha personalities of apex achievers that have served as Trustees and maintained equanimity.

Your subtle leadership was from the heart... always from the heart.

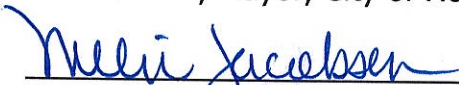
No office task was beneath you, and in my role as your landlord, for that I am grateful.

Homer is known for many things, and it will always be that it is here that the first community foundation in Alaska was established, and that you were its first employee.

Cher Joy: Thank you.



Ken Castner, Mayor, City of Homer



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk



Quarterly General Fund
Expenditure Report
For Quarter Ended March 31, 2019

	Adopted FY19 Budget	Actual As of 3/31/19	Budget Remaining	% Budget Used
<u>Revenues</u>				
Property Taxes	\$ 3,406,952	\$ 25,242	\$ (3,381,710)	0.74%
Sales and Use Taxes	5,408,322	1,277,968	(4,130,354)	23.63%
Permits and Licenses	34,963	10,873	(24,090)	31.10%
Fines and Forfeitures	24,865	2,475	(22,390)	9.95%
Use of Money	34,346	69,286	34,940	201.73%
Intergovernmental	569,700	128,017	(441,684)	22.47%
Charges for Services	610,305	67,623	(542,682)	11.08%
Other Revenues	-	9,375	9,375	100%
Airport	148,732	48,279	(100,453)	32.46%
Operating Transfers	2,012,178	1,406,585	(605,593)	69.90%
Total Revenues	\$ 12,250,363	\$ 3,045,721	\$ (9,204,641)	24.86%
<u>Expenditures & Transfers</u>				
Administration	\$ 1,099,661	\$ 289,111	\$ 810,550	26.29%
Clerks	751,823	136,136	615,687	18.11%
Planning	374,333	84,163	290,170	22.48%
Library	932,402	200,759	731,643	21.53%
Finance	697,254	149,381	547,873	21.42%
Fire	1,059,435	233,467	825,968	22.04%
Police	3,259,226	750,018	2,509,207	23.01%
Public Works	2,719,148	506,432	2,212,716	18.62%
Airport	219,842	70,874	148,969	32.24%
City Hall, HERC	185,584	50,578	135,006	27.25%
Non-Departmental	94,000	69,000	25,000	73.40%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 11,392,709	\$ 2,539,918	\$ 8,852,789	22.29%
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 85,232	\$ 85,232	\$ (0)	100%
Debt Repayment	-	-	-	-
Energy	10,703	10,703	-	100%
Adjusting Entries	-	-	-	0%
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 95,935	\$ 95,935	\$ (0)	100%
Total Transfer to Reserves	\$ 761,720	\$ 761,720	\$ (0)	100%
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 12,250,363	\$ 3,397,573	\$ 8,852,789	27.73%
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ (351,852)		

Quarterly Water and Sewer Fund
Expenditure Report
For Quarter Ended March 31, 2019

	Adopted FY19 Budget	Actual As of 3/31/19	Budget Remaining	% Budget Used
Revenues				
Water Fund	\$ 2,116,651	\$ 578,635	\$ (1,538,016)	27.34%
Sewer Fund	1,722,014	369,413	(1,352,601)	21.45%
Total Revenues	\$ 3,838,665	\$ 948,048	\$ (2,890,617)	24.70%
Expenditures & Transfers				
<u>Water</u>				
Administration	\$ 186,554	\$ 39,697	\$ 146,857	21.28%
Treatment Plant	634,642	139,379	495,264	21.96%
System Testing	27,400	2,716	24,684	9.91%
Pump Stations	97,019	23,214	73,804	23.93%
Distribution System	303,476	79,473	224,003	26.19%
Reservoir	29,047	2,063	26,983	7.10%
Meters	204,973	39,088	165,885	19.07%
Hydrants	189,233	38,016	151,217	20.09%
<u>Sewer</u>				
Administration	\$ 170,836	\$ 35,608	\$ 135,228	20.84%
Plant Operations	673,035	179,291	493,744	26.64%
System Testing	14,500	1,678	12,822	11.57%
Lift Stations	199,213	37,433	161,780	18.79%
Collection System	242,448	44,033	198,415	18.16%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 2,972,375	\$ 661,690	\$ 2,310,686	22.26%
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 14,859	\$ 19,960	\$ -	134%
GF Admin Fees	517,046	484,120	-	94%
Debt Repayment	-	177	(177)	100%
Other	59,969	59,969	-	100.00%
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 591,874	\$ 564,226	\$ (177)	95.33%
Transfers to Reserves				
Water	\$ 119,252	\$ 30,829	\$ -	26%
Sewer	155,164	84,228	-	54%
Total Transfer to Reserves	\$ 274,416	\$ 115,057	\$ -	42%
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 3,838,665	\$ 1,340,973	\$ 2,310,508	34.93%
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ (0)	\$ (392,925)		

Quarterly Port and Harbor Fund
Expenditure Report
For Quarter Ended March 31, 2019

	Adopted FY19 Budget	Actual As of 3/31/19	Budget Remaining	% Budget Used
Revenues				
Administration	\$ 471,040	\$ 139,873	\$ (331,167)	29.69%
Harbor	2,958,349	293,003	(2,665,346)	9.90%
Pioneer Dock	363,326	58,503	(304,823)	16.10%
Fish Dock	553,500	61,668	(491,832)	11.14%
Deep Water Dock	262,500	4,792	(257,708)	1.83%
Outfall Line	4,800	4,800	-	100.00%
Fish Grinder	12,000	-	(12,000)	0.00%
Load and Launch Ramp	125,000	4,460	(120,540)	3.57%
Total Revenues	\$ 4,750,515	\$ 567,100	\$ (4,183,415)	11.94%
Expenditures & Transfers				
Administration	\$ 642,204	\$ 143,937	\$ 498,266	22.41%
Harbor	1,328,754	281,261	1,047,494	21.17%
Pioneer Dock	72,980	17,276	55,704	23.67%
Fish Dock	622,087	107,906	514,181	17.35%
Deep Water Dock	104,600	16,098	88,502	15.39%
Outfall Line	6,500	2,475	4,025	38.08%
Fish Grinder	25,475	20	25,455	0.08%
Harbor Maintenance	416,161	85,179	330,982	20.47%
Main Dock Maintenance	41,000	7,568	33,432	18.46%
Deep Water Dock Maintenance	51,500	7,686	43,814	14.92%
Load and Launch Ramp	86,699	12,586	74,113	14.52%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 3,397,959	\$ 681,991	\$ 2,715,969	20.07%
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 29,241	\$ 29,241	\$ -	100%
Debt Service	-	-	-	0%
GF Admin Fees	592,576	592,576	-	100%
Other	420,454	420,454	-	100%
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 1,042,271	\$ 1,042,271	\$ -	100.00%
Transfers to Reserves				
Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Harbor	-	-	-	-
Pioneer Dock	271,984	-	-	0%
Fish Dock	-	-	-	0%
Deep Water Dock	-	-	-	-
Outfall Line	-	-	-	-
Fish Grinder	-	-	-	-
Load and Launch Ramp	38,301	-	-	0%
Total Transfer to Reserves	\$ 310,285	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 4,750,515	\$ 1,724,262	\$ 2,715,969	36.30%
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ (1,157,161)		

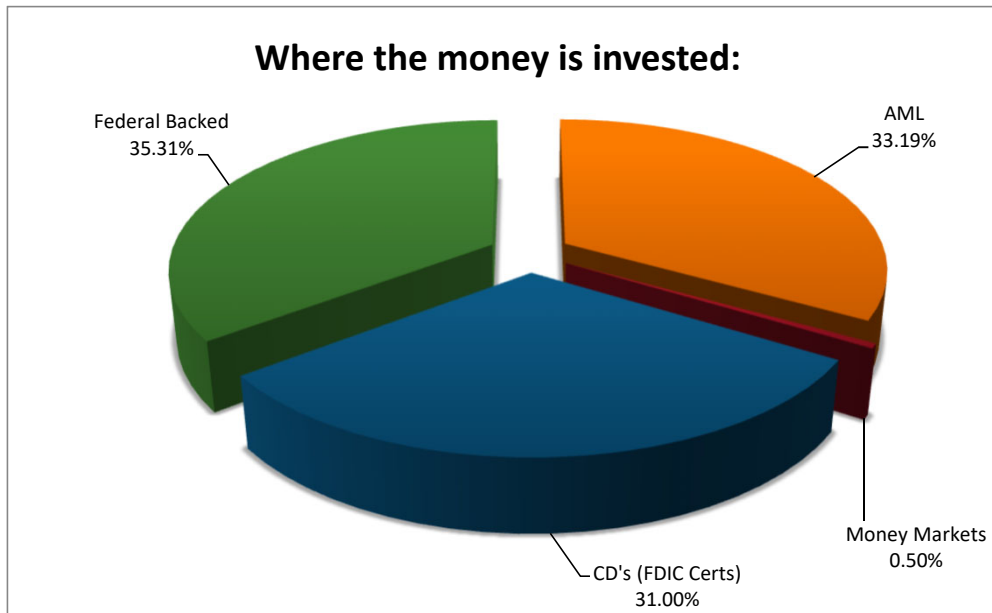
CITY OF HOMER Treasurer's Report

As of:

March 31, 2019

INVESTMENT BY INSTITUTION:	\$ Invested	% Of \$ Invested
Alaska Municipal League	\$ 8,058,650	33%
Pro-Equities	\$ 16,219,160	67%
Total Cash and Investments	\$ 24,277,809	100%

MATURITY OF INVESTMENTS:	AMOUNT	% Of Investment by Maturity Date
1 to 30 Days	4/30/2019 \$ 8,179,161	35%
30 to 120 Days	7/29/2019 \$ 134,883	25%
120 to 180 Days	9/27/2019 \$ 246,617	7%
180 to 365 Days	3/30/2020 \$ 1,797,185	3%
Over 1 Year	\$ 13,919,964	29%
TOTAL	\$ 24,277,809	100%



These investments are made in accordance with the City of Homer's investment policy pursuant to Ordinance 93-14, Chapter 3.10. The balances reported are unaudited.



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Homer City Council

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July 22, 2019

Honorable Governor Dunleavy
Senator Stevens
Representative Vance
Alaska State Legislature, State Capitol
120 4th St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Effects of Line Item Vetoes on the Homer Community

Honorable Governor Dunleavy, Senator Stevens, Representative Vance, and Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

We appreciate the Governor and State Legislature's commitment to sustainable spending but want to draw attention to the unsustainable impact the Governor's line item vetoes will have on residents of Homer, encourage the Legislature and Governor to restore vetoed funding to the FY20 budget, and reiterate our support for considering revenue solutions.

IMPACT OF LINE ITEM VETOES ON THE HOMER COMMUNITY

The City of Homer is responsible for municipal governance in our community of 5,313 residents and is the economic hub of the surrounding southern Kenai Peninsula. Property and sales tax revenue comprises 72% of our total General Fund budget, and any line item vetoes that impact the Alaska's economy weakens the City's ability to sustainably serve our community. Local job losses related to the vetoes that force Homer residents to move away will impact property and sales tax revenues. The Homer Chamber of Commerce has documented that 60-65% of Homer's tourism is from fellow Alaskans, and economic impacts around that state that reduce in-state travel and tourism will impact Homer's sales tax revenues. Homer is home to many locally-owned small businesses, and local job losses and reduced tourism will negatively impact these drivers of our local economy.

Some of the line item vetoes that could negatively impact the economy of the Homer community include cuts to the university and school bond debt reimbursement.

- The more than \$130 million veto funding to the University of Alaska impacts Homer in multiple ways:
 - The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Kachemak Bay Campus (KBC) of the Kenai Peninsula College is part of the fabric of Homer and its continued operation is threatened by the deep cuts to university funding. KBC educates students across the southern Kenai Peninsula through diverse programming. KBC allows students to earn degrees while working and staying close to home, receive General Education Development degrees, learn English as a second language, and learn relevant local skills related to fishing and boat building, among other things. It attracts people from across the state and the country to attend programs such as Semester by the Bay (marine biology) and the Kachemak Bay Writers' Conference. The campus employs 56 full and part-time professionals.

- The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the UAA Alaska Center for Conservation Science. KBNERR cannot exist without a state partner, and the depth of cuts to the university system threatens UAA's ability to maintain the partnership. Along with its ten professional employees, KBNERR brings significant federal and other matching dollars to Homer for valuable research, education, and coastal training related to Kachemak Bay and the surrounding watersheds. Among the important services provided by KBNERR are the Harmful Species Program that monitors for invasive marine species and harmful algal blooms that affect human health; research on sea level rise that has aided Homer in climate related decisions, bluff erosion which is used by Homer city staff to understand threats to our community, and salmon use of headwater streams and estuaries resulting in improved sustainability of this important economic and subsistence resource; environmental education that teaches residents and visitors of all ages about the valuable resources of Kachemak Bay; and a series of trainings on climate resilience and sustainability that Homer's planning commission is putting into action.
- The Kasitsna Bay Laboratory on the south side of Kachemak Bay is a 50-50 partnership between NOAA and the University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. Researchers come from across the country to study at the lab and recent studies have mapped the bathymetry of the bay; examined benthic habitats; and evaluated changes in the intertidal environment, the prevalence of paralytic shellfish poisoning in Kachemak Bay shellfish, and the effects of the recent Pacific marine heatwave. The loss of the university partner at the lab could significantly hamper the ability to maintain this important facility.
- The veto of almost \$49 million in school bond debt reimbursement statewide will require the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to evaluate school consolidation and closures and reduce the number of teachers and support staff in order to redirect local funds to debt reimbursement. If schools are closed and consolidated, students will spend more time traveling to and from school (e.g., Anchor Point students traveling to Homer) and more students will be crammed into classrooms, reducing the effectiveness of teachers' ability to meet the varying needs of students. Good schools attract young families, contributing to a vibrant community; loss of teachers and schools will have the opposite effect.

Vetoes to health and social programs previously funded by the state (e.g., Medicaid, early childhood education, mental health grants, homeless assistance grants, and the senior benefits program) will negatively impact the Homer area economically, socially, and in ways not yet measurable.

- The veto of state Medicaid funding directly impacts numerous Homer organizations. Individuals who lose Medicaid benefits tend to ignore health concerns and avoid doctor visits to save money, often resulting in higher cost medical procedures that could have been avoided through prevention or early detection. Just two of the Homer organizations impacted by the Medicaid veto include Seldovia Village Tribe (SVT) and South Peninsula Hospital (SPH).
 - Some 300 adults who receive dental care through SVT Health Center each year will lose access to those services due to loss of the state's Medicaid adult dental benefit.
 - SPH will lose hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue from the veto of Medicaid funding and previous reductions in funding by the legislature. SPH's Long Term Care Unit may need to reduce staff. The cuts will divert patients to the emergency room where care is more expensive and the hospital must cover the costs without reimbursement.

- The veto of early childhood education directly impacts Homer’s Head Start and other important early development programs for young children. Homer’s Head Start serves twenty children aged 3 to 5. Elimination of the Best Beginnings program could cut enrollment in half for the local Homer Imagination Library program.
- The veto of state mental health grants means that state-required services not covered by insurance (such as emergencies at the hospital or police station) are unfunded. The loss of state grants cuts up to \$250,000 to the South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services (SPBHS) budget. SPBHS just celebrated its 40th anniversary of operations in Homer.
- South Peninsula Haven House (SPHH) partners with Homer’s police department on issues related to domestic violence. The veto of the state’s homeless assistance grant program means SPHH will need to cut \$60,000 and its local homeless assistance program. Without assistance to avoid or recover from homelessness, the police department’s workload will likely increase.
- The veto of the state’s needs-based senior benefits program impacts one of our state’s most vulnerable populations. Monthly grants of \$76 to \$250 were used by seniors for food rent, and medicine. Approximately 1,200 seniors residing on the Kenai Peninsula received these benefits.

Homer will also be impacted by vetoes of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Online with Libraries, and other line items.

The City of Homer was hit hard in 2015 when the State reduced the contract with communities for shared prisoner space by 45% and we removed Community Assistance from our operating budget due to the uncertain future of the fund. Also during this time, the City Council cut the budget, which included staff reductions, and, with voter approval, restructured sales tax to cover municipal operations. Recognizing the need to pay our own way, voters approved a 0.35% sales tax increase in 2018 to fund a long overdue police station. The City of Homer and its residents have stepped up to the plate. There is no room in our budget or tax base for further cost shifting by the State.

REVENUE SOLUTIONS

The Homer City Council encourages the legislature and the governor to ~~sincerely seek new revenues for the State of Alaska. This includes:~~ **look for a combination of revenue sources that will address the needs of a healthy society. Those sources include:**

- Examining the oil tax credit structure to ensure oil and gas exploration is not being subsidized by citizens
- Exploring an income tax
- ~~Using our largest asset, the Permanent Fund, to fund essential government services by capping the Permanent Fund Dividend~~ **Following revenue enhancements from the two sources listed above, revisit the formula that supports the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Program.**

The Homer City Council asks State Legislators to restore state funding that was vetoed and asks Governor Dunleavy to maintain the restored funding. **We further ask State Legislators and the Governor to seek revenue solutions for long-term fiscal sustainability of state government that do not shift costs to local municipalities.**

Sincerely,

Homer City Council

Mayor Ken Castner

Donna Aderhold

Heath Smith

Tom Stroozas

Shelly Erickson

Caroline Venuti

Rachel Lord