



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Public Works

3575 Heath Street
Homer, AK 99603

publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

Memorandum 20-071

TO: Marvin Yoder, City Manager
FROM: Jan Keiser, Director of Public Works
DATE: June 1, 2020
SUBJECT: ROW Clearing Ordinance

Issue: The City needs an ordinance that addresses road maintenance, including vegetation management, for city streets.

Background: In October 2019, the Homer City Council adopted Resolution 19-073(S) establishing a moratorium on the removal of vegetation located in public rights-of-way until it received recommendations to clarify policy involving the removal of vegetation in the public rights-of-way.

Proposed Solution: Amend the existing ordinance HCC 11.36 to clarify policy involving the removal of vegetation in the public rights-of-way.

Action Recommended: That the City Council review, take public comment on and ultimately pass amendments to HCC 11.36 to address the Council's concerns.

Discussion: We propose to amend the existing HCC 11.36 to address the following issues:

1. Acknowledge the value trees and vegetation bring to the environment and to the city's infrastructure, particularly in the context of combatting climate change.
2. Acknowledge there are times when trees/vegetation need to be cleared from city ROW.
3. Delegating authority to the city manager to cause the removal of such vegetation, under designated conditions.
4. Charging the public works director with the task of creating a Road Maintenance Plan, which would provide a systematic way of cataloguing the condition of city roads and identifying when and how maintenance needs to be conducted.
5. Specifying that public outreach would be conducted before maintenance activities specified in the Road Maintenance Plan are executed.

An edited version of HCC 11.36, as we propose to amend it, is attached. An example of the Road Maintenance Plan is also attached. The concept is that the Road Maintenance Plan would primarily be housed in the City's existing GIS program.