



MEMORANDUM

Resolution 23-058, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Expressing Support for and Adopting the Homer Harbor Expansion Charter. City Manager.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: June 5, 2023
From: Amy Woodruff, Staff Liaison to the PHC
Through: Bryan Hawkins, Port Director & Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Manager

On April 28, 2023, HDR facilitated a joint work session with the Harbor staff, Homer City Council and Port & Harbor Advisory Commission to draft a Charter Document. The Charter Document, currently in a draft form, defines a shared vision, mission, collective goals and objectives, and success factors for the City's role in the Homer Harbor Expansion. Harbor staff Bryan Hawkins and Amy Woodruff reviewed the draft document that HDR produced after the work session, and provided additional comment.

The Homer Port & Harbor Advisory Commission reviewed the draft Charter document at their May 24, 2023 Regular Meeting and commented on the Goals & Objectives and Success Factors that were refined from the joint work session. Topics of discussion included the importance of centering the Environment in the Charter document, the importance of Port as well as Harbor functions and the maritime definition of a "Harbor", and the US Coast Guard and where their interests should be included in the Charter.

Upon concluding their revisions and review of the document, The Commission unanimously passed a motion to City Council expressing their support for the charter document as amended, as seen in the following minutes excerpt:

10. D. Draft Homer Harbor Expansion Charter

Chair Matthews introduced the item and deferred to Mr. McPherson.

Ronny McPherson provided a summary of the document on page 17 of the Supplemental Packet and requested the Commission to provide amendments or additions to the document that they would like to see contained therein.

Commissioners, Staff and Consulting Members offered the following:

- *Under Goals and Objectives*
 - o *8th Bullet point, amend first secondary bullet “Performs necessary harbor **and port** functions”*
- *There is no Educational Component or the outlet for increased educational opportunities*
 - o *Review Success Factors – Bullet points 1 – 5 address educational and transparency concerns*
- *Recommended amending the title to reflect Homer **Port and** Harbor Expansion*
 - o *Currently the project is already branded as Homer Harbor Expansion Project*
 - *Lot of work to re-brand the project locally up through the Federal levels*
 - o *Harbor is an all-encompassing term*
 - *Ports are within Harbors*
 - *term is within the maritime dictionary*
- *Recommended Mission Statement should be rewritten*
 - o *It is too clunky and does not read well*
 - o *“Environmental integrity” is just tacked onto the end; it was pervasive throughout the document and did not reflect what the Commission heard from the community.*
- *Should provide equal weight for environmental issues under Success Factors and Goals and Objectives*
 - o *There is one bullet point under Goals & Objectives regarding maintaining environmental integrity and quality of life*
 - o *having an improved port and harbor will give the City the ability to be more environmentally responsible in the activities, particularly with the drydock, shipyard, grid for example – better engineered and properly constructed facilities just allows persons to be a more responsible steward.*
 - *Suggested under Goals and Objectives, bullet point number two, be amended to read “Improve Safety, Efficiency and Environmental Responsibility within the Harbor.”*
- *Suggested that the next to last bullet point under Goals and Objectives regarding flexibility could be amended to add, “with blue economy and concept” at the end of the existing line and performing an internet search on NOAA and blue economy will provide additional information.*

Mr. McPherson provided the following in response:

- *Under Success Factors there are bullet points that address environmental factors*
- *Can reduce the Mission Statement to one or two sentences but this is the result adopted by City Council from the Joint Worksession after in-depth discussion and wordsmithing on all sides*
- *The Port & Harbor Mission Statement is relevant and contains a lot of important, critical information and by incorporating the one statement would be inclusive of the content.*
- *During the Charrette a lot of the wants and desires expressed and the city just does not have the land or funds to perform*

Mayor Castner expressed his opinion on inclusion of the word “port” in the document, stating that would be why you have a charter and if you do not collect money through port services then this is not going to succeed.

Chair Matthews requested that they can change the seagull for another bird that was more favored.

Ms. Woodruff suggested the rock sandpiper due to they stay year round and that is the goal to provide year round employment and use of the harbor.

Port Director Hawkins recommended inclusion of the statement regarding Support of the Coast Guard's Mission.

Mayor Castner added that the Coast Guard has an uplands mission which supports marine design and inspection, noting that he spoke with the Admiral today regarding the Coast Guard mission as they have a profound effect on the ability to build boats in Homer and get the plans approved without going to Washington, D.C.

Chair Matthews noted that placement of Coast Guard information could be inserted as a secondary bullet point under the eighth primary bullet point regarding balanced harbor design under the Goals and Objectives section.

Port Director Hawkins and Mayor Castner supported that addition of the Coast Guard.

PITZMAN/SIEKANIEC MOVED TO SUPPORT THE CHARTER DOCUMENT AS AMENDED AND FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL.

There was further comments regarding editing the document before being submitted to Council; that there were many changes to the content, this was the result and it was a goal to keep the document to one page; concerns expressed on providing more balance with the environmental issues throughout the document; acknowledging that would reflect environmental concerns region wide as well as reflect two councilmembers concerns; food security.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Recommendation

Adopt Resolution 23-058