



MEMORANDUM

Ordinance 23-49(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Title 2, Chapters 2.32 Departments and Board, 2.44 Department of Administration, 2.48 Public Library, and Enacting Chapters 2.46 Department of Information Technology and 2.57 Department of Community Development. City Manager.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: December 20, 2023
From: Council Members Erickson and Davis

The City Manager's proposed re-organization plan and the ordinance implementing it has been repeatedly deferred, seemingly because there have not been enough votes at council to pass it in its current form.

The major sticking point has seemed to be the proposal to combine Parks (currently located in Public Works) and Recreation (currently reporting directly to the City Manager), and to put them in a new Department of Community Development that would also include the Planning Department and future zoning staff.

This proposal has been a concern to many in the community, who desire to see a Department of Parks and Recreation that would more closely reflect the importance our community attaches to this aspect of city governance.

There are some fairly compelling arguments against creating a Department of Parks and Recreation now, including the small size of current staff and budget.

This substitute ordinance would address both concerns by adopting most aspects of the proposed reorganization, with the exception of Parks and Recreation, which would be kept in their current status for the interim (until staff size and budget are sufficient to justify a new department).

Recommendation: Substitute and adopt Ordinance 23-49(S)