



# MEMORANDUM

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## Selection and Appointment of a Councilmember to Fill Vacancy

**Item Type:** Action Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor Lord and City Council  
**Date:** October 30, 2024  
**From:** Renee Krause, MMC, City Clerk

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### Purpose

A City Council vacancy was created with the election of Rachel Lord as Mayor. Pursuant to Homer City Code 2.08.050(a) the Council has 30 days to fill the vacancy. An application period ran from October 28<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> and following persons have applied for the vacant Council seat:

- Jonathan Young
- Bradley Parsons
- Brandy McGee
- Janette Keiser

### Next Steps

At the November 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, Applicants will be invited to introduce themselves and make a brief presentation (10 minutes). Councilmembers may prepare one question which they will ask each applicant. Councilmembers are to submit their questions to the City Clerk by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

After the interviews are complete, the Mayor will call for a round of "Exploratory Round Robin" discussion. If the Council agrees, then no one will make a motion until every Council member has had the opportunity to share their thoughts. After everyone has had an opportunity to speak, discussion may continue and the floor will be open to nominations by motion. The Council may agree to another round of Exploratory Round Robin.

At all times, the discussion will remain germane to the information provided from the applicants on their applications and in the interviews. Nomination of an applicant for appointment will be made by the motion "I move to appoint\_\_\_\_\_ to serve until the next regular election certification."

Four affirmative votes are required for passage of the motion. If the motion fails, new motions will be necessary until four affirmative votes are received.

The person appointed will be sworn in immediately.

Homer City Code 2.08.050 (c) should be interpreted to coincide with subsection (b) to conform to AS 29.20.180 and four votes are required to appoint a Councilmember to fill the vacancy.

**Recommendation:** Select one person to fill the vacant Council seat.

**Attachments:**

Jonathan Young Applicant Information  
Bradley Parsons Applicant Information  
Brandy McGee Applicant Information  
Janette Keiser Applicant Information



# Applicant Information for City Council Vacancy

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

Phone: (907) 235-3130

Fax: (907) 235-3143

[clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

The information provided on this form will provide the basic information to the Mayor and City Council regarding your appointment application. It is considered public and will be included in the City Council meeting packet for the meeting in which the interview(s) will take place.

**Return all required forms and Letter of Intent (to be provided on a separate sheet of paper, preferably typed) to the City Clerk's Office, in original form, no later than Tuesday, August 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.**

## Applicant Information

Full Name: Jonathon Young  
Physical Address Where you Claim Residency: 3857 Main St Homer AK 99603  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: Homer State: AK Zip: 99603  
Phone Number(s): 907 299 8899  
Email: mrjyoung02@gmail.com  
Are you a City Resident? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, how long have you been a City resident? 7 years  
How long have you been a resident of the South Peninsula Area? 7 years

## Political & Government Experience

Elected and/or appointed positions held and the dates of service – List no more than three

- Economic Development Advisory Commission - 5 months
- 
- 

## Business & Professional Experience

List no more than three

- Office Manager - Kachemak Medical Group
- Owner - Homer Stays LLC
- 

## Organizational Memberships

List no more than three

- PTO & OCLDC Fireweed Academy
- 
-

City of Homer Council  
491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I would like to begin by thanking each of you for setting a high standard as civic-minded leaders in our community. Your dedication has inspired me to apply for the open city council seat, as I hope to bring my own skills and commitment to serve Homer.

Through my role on the Economic Development Advisory Commission, I've gained insight into some of the critical issues facing Homer today. This past year, we've discussed the future of the port and harbor, debated the role of cruise ships, tourism and researched business licensing. Additionally, I've closely followed other pressing issues, from short-term rental regulations and bed taxes to setting a balanced mill rate that benefits our community without imposing unnecessary financial burdens. I am particularly passionate about the comprehensive plan, as it will guide Homer's progress for the next decade. These issues- and many more- are areas I am eager to engage with as a council member.

Most of my professional experience has been in healthcare administration, where I wore many hats: human resources, finance, revenue forecasting, compliance, marketing, IT, and business management. I often describe myself as a "Swiss Army knife"—someone whose purpose is to solve problems, whether for staff, patients, or systems. My work required me to identify core issues, understand underlying causes, devise solutions, and implement change. I believe this skill set is valuable in a council role, where data-driven decision-making and problem-solving are essential.

Currently, I volunteer on the Economic Development Committee and also assist Fireweed Academy through fundraising and supporting its vision for a unified campus. These roles have deepened my understanding of local civic engagement. I've enjoyed participating in City Council and Kenai Peninsula Assembly meetings. I can confidently say I've been "bitten by the civic duty bug" and am eager to contribute.

Seven years ago, my family and I moved to Homer, initially planning to stay just a few years. However, Homer quickly became home—a place where we felt embraced by kind neighbors, a safe environment for our children, and the remarkable beauty of Kachemak Bay. Homer is special, and it's am grateful to live, work, and raise a family here. My love for Homer fuels my desire to serve. I'm not one to simply air frustrations on social media. Instead, I am committed to preserving what makes Homer unique while fostering thoughtful growth. I want to support Homer as a community that allows for economic growth, strengthens healthcare resources, and remains a wonderful place for education.

In closing, I recognize that I may lack extensive experience in municipal government. However, I am a person who looks at data, listens to others, and votes with thoughtful consideration. I

approach issues with an open mind, ready to hear arguments and make decisions based on what is best for the people of Homer. I am honored to be considered for this role and am eager to contribute to our city's future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jonathon Young





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## Applicant Information

Full Name: Bradley John Parsons  
Physical Address Where you Claim Residency: 136 W Fairview Ave Homer, AK  
Mailing Address: 136 W Fairview  
City: Homer State: AK Zip: 99603  
Phone Number(s): (907) 435-7217  
Email: bradleyjohnparsons@gmail.com  
Are you a City Resident? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, how long have you been a City resident? 3 years  
How long have you been a resident of the South Peninsula Area? 3 years

## Political & Government Experience

Elected and/or appointed positions held and the dates of service – List no more than three

1. City of Homer ADA Advisory Board (2022-2024)
2. City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission (2017-2021)
- 3.

## Business & Professional Experience

List no more than three

1. Independent Living Center (2022-Current)
2. PEAC: Everyone Can Ride (2016-2021)
- 3.

## Organizational Memberships

List no more than three

1. Southern Kenai Peninsula Transit Coalition (2022-2024)
2. Homer Boardman (2022-2023)
3. Board Member: Walk/Bike Wash Tenaw & Common Cycle (2016-2021)

Bradley Parsons  
136 W Fairview Ave  
(907) 435-7217 :: [bradleyjohnparsons@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyjohnparsons@gmail.com)

October 28, 2024

Dear Homer City Council,

I am submitting my name for your consideration to fill a recently vacated City Council seat created during our last election. I seek to be appointed to Council so I can continue to serve and represent members of our community in a yet more impactful way. As some of you already know, I have had the honor and the privilege to serve on the Homer ADA Advisory Board the last two years and have developed a deep connection to the people and place of Homer.

In the summer of 2012, family brought us to Homer to celebrate our son's first birthday. Surrounded by our Homer family, the natural beauty of Kachemak Bay, and the instant camaraderie felt with the people of Homer, I felt drawn to this place. At one point during that first visit I turned to my spouse and said she could drop out of graduate school and we should just figure out how to make it work. It took us many more years, but we're here now, and we're all in.

On regular Homer visits over the years, I spent hours at the old K-Bay Coffee watching the patterns of traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian. I got to know Homer long before we officially moved here; both the opportunities and the challenges. I've read all the plans and followed all the controversial topics. I feel connected to Homer in ways most 3-year residents might not. I feel I've been a part of this community for far longer.

My background is in public safety, public education, and in the nonprofit sector working with individuals with disabilities. It's an odd mix, I admit, but an odd mix that developed skills that I find profoundly useful in our Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea. I rely on those skills everyday in my work at the Independent Living Center. I've also spent the last two decades volunteering. I've served on multiple non-profit boards in both Iowa and Michigan. I had the privilege to serve a year with AmeriCorps. I served four years on the Ann Arbor Transportation Commission prior to moving to Homer. It has been an easy transition to join Homer's ADA Advisory Board, particularly with how welcoming and passionate the board members and City staff have been.

Joining Homer's City Council feels like a calling at this point. I have never sought public office, but now feels like the time. I am committed to this community, inspired by my Homer community members, and I feel that joining Council is the next step in supporting Homer to become the City it aspires to be. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

 10/28/24  
Bradley Parsons





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### Applicant Information

Full Name: Brandy McBeal

Physical Address Where you Claim Residency: 4258 Shirley Ct

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3635

City: Homer State: AK Zip: 99603

Phone Number(s): 907-399-4662

Email: brandy4662@gmail.com

Are you a City Resident? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, how long have you been a City resident? 12 years

How long have you been a resident of the South Peninsula Area? 43 years

### Political & Government Experience

Elected and/or appointed positions held and the dates of service – List no more than three

1. Fireweed Academy - Academic Policy Committee 2014-2020
2. Homer Middle School Site Council 2020-2022
- 3.

### Business & Professional Experience

List no more than three

1. Kenai Peninsula Housing Initiatives Inc - Executive Director 14.5 years
- 2.
- 3.

### Organizational Memberships

List no more than three

1. Homer Hockey Association - Diva Finance Committee
2. 100 Women Who Care
3. Homer Little League - volunteer coach



Brandy McGee  
P.O. Box 3635  
Homer, AK 99603

October 29, 2024

Members of the Homer City Council  
491 E Pioneer Ave  
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Members of the Council,

Thank you, members of the council, for all the work you have done and are doing. I'm a lifelong member of the Homer community. I had the privilege of growing up in this amazing community, and I have been supported my whole life by this community. I feel it is essential to give back. In my last almost 15 years serving a nonprofit, I deeply recognize the need for service in our community. I have the capacity to serve on the city council. My experience with board meetings dates back over a decade to my membership with the Academic Policy Committee for Fireweed Academy, a public charter school.

I would like to see Homer citizens flourish and feel supported in their endeavors. I appreciate the involvement of the arts, recreation, and the nonprofit sector in providing many dearly needed services to our community while also enriching lives. When reflecting on the most important aspect of our City, I think it's the people. I understand the role of the City Council is to represent all members of the community, and feel I would be a good option to do so.

I have no particular agenda I'm hoping to push forward by joining the City Council. I just felt it my responsibility to put my name in the hat in case there was a lack of other applicants.

I will be traveling on November 12<sup>th</sup>, but do have a lay-over from 5pm-8pm Alaska time, and would be happy to participate in any meetings or interviews during that time.

Sincerely



Brandy McGee



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## Applicant Information

Full Name: Janette Keisen

Physical Address Where you Claim Residency: 759 Soundview Ave; Homer, AK

Mailing Address: 759 Soundview Ave.

City: Homer State: AK Zip: 99603

Phone Number(s): 206-714-8955

Email: jan@keisengroup.com

Are you a City Resident? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, how long have you been a City resident? 4 yrs 7 months +  
How long have you been a resident of the South Peninsula Area? 3 years before 1985  
8 years before 1985

## Political & Government Experience

Elected and/or appointed positions held and the dates of service – List no more than three

- Homer Parks, Arts, Recreation, + Culture Advisory Committee - since Feb 2024
- 
- 

## Business & Professional Experience

List no more than three

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>Public Works Director / City Engineer</u>   | <u>City of Homer; AK</u> |
| 2. <u>Public Works Director / County Engineer</u> | <u>Skagit County; WA</u> |
| 3. <u>J. Keisen + Associates LLC</u>              | <u>Bremerton, WA</u>     |

## Organizational Memberships

List no more than three

- Homer Soil + Water Conservation District
- Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Prent Museum

Office of the City Clerk  
491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

October 29, 2024

RE: Letter of Intent Regarding City Council Position

Dear Madam Mayor and City Council of the City of Homer,

I am applying for the open seat on the City Council. I never had, and still do not have, political aspirations. However, the City is facing some critical issues in 2025. First, we are re-writing our Comprehensive Plan and its accompanying chapters of the Homer City Code. This work will affect developments in the City limits for years to come, which will undoubtedly influence our neighbors in surrounding areas outside the City limits. Plus, we have received reports that the City's sales taxes have declined in 2024. We have been advised we will need to "tighten our budget belts". Yet, we face deferred maintenance, understaffing, and a long wish list of capital projects in many departments. These are just two of the challenges facing the City. To successfully navigate these challenges, Homer, as a community, its Mayor and City Council will need to engage in soul searching, meaningful dialogue, and thoughtful decision-making. I'm applying because I think I can help.

I think in straight lines when facing a complicated mission. This is a product of my combined engineering and legal training, which taught me to rely on facts and measure consequences when making decisions. I am really good at researching information, connecting cause/affect relationships, and identifying sensible courses of action or policy. I love this work! It is fun, challenging, and rewarding! This is especially true when this work is done in the context of contributing to the greater good. That is why I have become, since I retired from full-time City employment early this year, an even more active community volunteer. It would be an honor and privilege to help you address the challenges and opportunities facing you.

I have been part of the PARCAC for just under a year, my first role as an appointed official. Before, I have always been part of staff; that is, on the side of the first line doers, not on the side of the policy makers. As you know, these are two very different roles. At first, it was challenging for me to navigate the transition. I have learned a lot from Staff, the City Clerk's office, and the veteran-PARCAC members about how to do this. I have also learned that no matter how strongly I might feel about an issue, I need the support of my PARCAC teammates to make meaningful progress. This experience has helped me be a more effective policy maker and advocate for PARCAC's mission. I will bring this experience to the City Council. I look forward to talking with you about how I can contribute to your team.

Respectfully,



Janette ("Jan") Keiser

## **OATH OF OFFICE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, having been duly elected to the Office of Councilmember for the City of Homer, Alaska, for a term of office to expire October 2025, in compliance with Title 29 of the Alaska Statutes, and Homer City Code do hereby solemnly affirm to defend and support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Alaska, and the Ordinances of the City of Homer, and do pledge to honestly, faithfully, and impartially perform all duties of the office which I am about to enter, according to law, and therein do equal right and justice to all, so help me God.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand this 12th day of November, 2024.

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Attest:

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RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK