



MEMORANDUM

Resolution 25-014, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Stating The City's 2025 Legislative Priorities and Positions.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and City Council
Date: November 12, 2024
From: Renee Krause, MMC, City Clerk
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

During our January 27, 2025, meeting, Mayor Lord tasked me with crafting a resolution stating council priorities and positions ahead of our trip to Juneau for the Alaska Municipal League meeting the week of February 17. Resolution 25-014 is my response to the request. In the past, we have most often prepared resolutions for individual positions. This “omnibus” resolution includes a variety of issues and does not provide much detail. I keep thinking of things I’ve forgotten to include, so I appreciate other councilmembers coming to the meeting with amendment proposals.

The State is in a dire fiscal situation now and may not have funding to meet their statutory requirements, so asking for capital funding for the upcoming fiscal year will probably not result in a positive response. However, sharing our capital priorities while understanding the situation the legislature is in remains a good idea, so senators and representatives understand our specific municipal needs. In addition, we need to recognize that the legislature often wants to push down fiscal responsibilities where they can. For instance, the PERS pension liability funding formula is being discussed in the hallways, and we need to work with other municipalities and AML to stand firm on the 22% contributed by municipalities. Another topic that is being floated is some boroughs (e.g., Mat-Su) being required to take on police powers to reduce the number of state troopers needed; while borough police powers does not affect us, community jail funding could also come up. Another topic likely to come up is community assistance (formerly revenue sharing).

I’ve organized the resolution into sections for our capital priorities, general positions, and bills currently introduced during the legislative session. The capital priorities are repeated from our Capital Improvement Plan and the memo we shared with Representative Vance and Senator Stevens.

The general positions are predominantly issues council has taken a position on in past years, though some of the positions are from previous councils. The new items include support for the

critical infrastructure needs identified by the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association and support for natural gas solutions in Cook Inlet.

The positions on bills introduced in the legislature are based on my perusal of bills and reviews of pertinent bills by city staff with knowledge of the specific topics. If you know of additional bills that I missed that should be included in the list, please be prepared to propose an amendment during discussion of the resolution.

I look forward to our discussion as we prepare to visit Juneau and meet with state legislators.

Recommendation:

Discuss the resolution, propose amendments, and vote.