



## MEMORANDUM

CC 26-034

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### **Ordinance 26-07, an Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Adopting the revised Port of Homer Terminal Tariff No. 1.**

**Item Type:** Backup Memorandum

**Prepared For:** Mayor Lord and Homer City Council

**Date:** January 21, 2026

**From:** Amy Woodruff, City Clerk

**Through:** Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

Councilmembers requested additional detail on the public comments provided at the December Port and Harbor Advisory Commission meeting. The full draft minutes of the meeting are attached for your review.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Draft minutes of the December 10, 2025 Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.**

Session 25-09, a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Casey Siekaniec at 5:30 p.m. on December 10, 2025, in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ROTH, SIEKANIEC, VELSKO, BRADSHAW, FRIEND, PITZMAN

ABSENT: ATWOOD

STAFF: PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS, DEPUTY HARBORMASTER GLIDDEN

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Siekaniec requested a motion and second to approve the agenda as amended.

ROTH/BRADSHAW MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

Mary Griswold, City Resident, spoke against extending the exemption from moorage fees for seine and work skiffs.

Richard Roth spoke about the seine skiff exemption, asking the Harbor to explore more alternatives or compromises.

Christopher Clucas spoke about the seine skiff exemption, recommending that there be a short time period where moorage is free in the spring.

Matthew Davidson provided feedback that it would be good to have a week free moorage for seine skiffs at the start and the end of the season.

Garrity Fabich spoke in favor of the work skiff exemption, recommending a week free at the start and end of the season.

Brooks Perot, spoke in favor of an exemption, saying that it is hard to fit in the harbor in the spring, and load up while crossing over four boats, and then paying for moorage on top of it would be hard.

Daniel Rowdy spoke in favor of an exemption, saying that it's an additional expense that he'd rather not have to pay.

Commissioner Pitzman joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

## **RECONSIDERATION**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Unapproved Minutes November 12th, 2025

ROTH/VELSKO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **VISITORS / PRESENTATIONS**

## **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT / COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Port & Harbor Staff Report - December 2025

Commissioner Siekaniec introduced the topic and deferred to Port Director Hawkins.

Port Director Hawkins noted that the large vessel haul out has been very busy, although several vessels noted in the report hauled out at another location. He advocated for shore power, lighting, and cameras in that area to improve the haul out's functionality. He shared notes from travel to the Pacific Marine Expo and described some of the economic development that happens there. He then deferred to Deputy Harbormaster Glidden to discuss the dive program.

Deputy Harbormaster Glidden described the team of 3 divers and support staff who are geared up to do relatively simple infrastructure maintenance including installation of supplementary flotation and inspection and repair of the harbor's fresh waterlines. Fittings and connections wear out and can cause costly leaks. The dive program allows staff to address problems as soon as they are discovered instead of waiting for a diver to become available. They also plan to begin an inspection program to identify fittings that need replacement before they fail.

When asked whether the dive team could be used to replace zincks for cathodic protection of the harbor, Deputy Harbormaster Glidden said that the dive team isn't tooled up to work with heavy zincks or at the kind of depths that project would require. Commissioners discussed support for a compensation incentive that recognizes the additional effort expended by the staff members who are a part of the dive program. It was clarified that this team is not for hire to the public, and does not refloat sunken vessels or dig line out of props.

Port Director Hawkins shared an update on the Harbor Expansion, which has been on pause waiting for the results of the geotechnical work. Results are expected before Christmas, then the Corps will go forward with design. There is not a timeline for when the team will get to a Tentatively Selected Plan.

Port Director Hawkins described the status of the System 4 float replacement project, noting that a contract will be awarded in January by City Council.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### A. Memorandum from Port Director Regarding Tariff Rule 28.03 Work Skiff Exemption

Chair Siekaniec introduced the item by reading of title.

Discussion topics included:

- Off-season work is really important to Homer's economy, and seiners spend a lot of money in Homer because of the complexity of their systems.
- There are over 100 small businesses parked at Northern Enterprises that are seiners, and the exemption helps keep those people doing business in Homer.
- Kodiak has a work skiff exemption, and it is a shorter season.
- The exemption has existed since the 1970s, and it would be good to find a compromise because this will affect the new and young small businesses
- The bill of sale from when the City purchased the harbor from the State includes language regarding the public purpose of the harbor. "on conveyance of the state's interest, the municipality shall operate and maintain the harbor facilities for the benefit of the public on a fair and equitable basis." Providing an exemption to moorage could be challenged on those grounds.
- Confusion as to why this is being revisited now, as it was thought to be a settled matter after the last year's edits.
- Carve-outs for special groups is not a good way to manage the harbor, and this probably should never have been an exemption. No one wants to pay more for moorage, but this is not how the harbor moves forward.

Port Director Hawkins clarified that he wanted to have a discussion of these matters on the record prior to the expiration of the work skiff exemption at the end of the year. Discussion ensued as to whether a motion is necessary to support the expiration of the exemption or whether it is only necessary to have a motion to extend the exemption.

ROTH MOVED THAT THE CITY EXTEND THE SEINE SKIFF EXEMPTION FOR ANOTHER YEAR

The motion failed for the lack of a second.

## **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

### A. December 2025 Port Operations Report

Chair Siekaniec introduced the item by reading of title and deferred to the Port Director. He noted that the Ice Plant is shut down for winter maintenance, and that the new staff at the ice plant will

be doing training. Outgoing Port Maintenance Supervisor Del Masterhan will be with the crew through the start-up period in mid-March.

B. November City Managers Report to Council

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

No members of the public wished to speak.

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Port Director Hawkins thanked the commissioners for a good discussion on the work skiff exemption. The Admin Supervisor position has closed and there are good candidates to evaluate. There is a plan to fill the Port Maintenance position from within the ranks of the Port staff. He recommended a new marine weather app provided by the Marine Exchange of Alaska.

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Student representative Shavelson said that the discussion about the work skiffs was interesting.

Commissioner Velsko noted that nobody wants to pay more for moorage, but it's a matter of equity with respect to the time it takes to manage those vessels. There's no one user group that needs to be taken care of differently than other user groups. It's a pricy harbor, we don't have subsidies, and we all have to pay for it, and pay our fair share. It's the right thing to do.

Commissioner Bradshaw said that his vessels have some of the weather monitoring devices on them, it should be neat to have that weather data from all over the state. The in-house diving is a smart move, and keeping it in house saves money. He noted that the work skiff exemption is challenging, that he has friends who fish commercially and 7 work skiffs as a part of his own business. Special gifts towards certain groups will hinder the future of the harbor. He works in one demographic but also needs to consider other demographics as well. He feels that the commission made the right choice, and he thanked the members of the public for coming out and giving their opinions.

Commissioner Roth thanked Deputy City Clerk Lynn for his work, and Deputy Harbormaster Glidden for providing information on the dive program. He said he is excited about the dive program, and thanked everyone for coming in to provide public comment. He wished that there would be more public comment on a consistent basis.

Commissioner Friend said that he felt there was a good discussion, and that it went the right way. He appreciated taking the fishermen into consideration, and acknowledged that they contribute a tremendous amount to our economy. However, many different user types have small boats and not all are exempted. Our harbor is too crowded, and until an expansion can take place, every space must be considered valuable space to be occupied and paid for. It's the only way to be able to expand the harbor and be fair to all users. He also thanked the public for coming out to share their comments.

Commissioner Pitzman noted that he joined the meeting originally as a member of the public, so he did hear the public comments that were shared prior to him joining as a panelist. He stated that public comments on both sides of an issue are helpful, and that he likes to hear different perspectives. He thanked the harbor staff for their quick response to his vessel the Tempest which took on water when a partially frozen valve turned out to be open and the vessel took on water.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Siekaniec adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Next Regular Meeting is **Wednesday, January 28, at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

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Amy Woodruff, City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_