



MEMORANDUM

Resolution 26-012, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Stating the City's 2026 Legislative Priorities and Positions

Item Type: Backup Memorandum

Prepared For: Mayor Lord and City Council

Date: January 21, 2026

From: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator

Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

This resolution states Council priorities and positions ahead of our trip to Juneau to attend the Alaska Municipal League meeting and meet with State legislators the week of February 16.

My office worked with Councilmember Aderhold to develop this "omnibus" resolution. It includes a variety of issues without a lot of detail. There may be items we've overlooked, so Councilmembers are encouraged to bring amendment proposals to the meeting.

The resolution is organized into sections for our capital requests, general positions, and positions on bills currently introduced.

Capital Requests: The State remains in a challenging fiscal situation and there will likely be only a very minimal capital budget. However, it is an election year so some capital funding may become available for district requests. With this in consideration, staff worked with J&H Consulting to develop a strategic capital request list, which includes one larger request, two medium requests and one small.

All are from the Capital Improvement Plan. Two relate to the Homer Harbor Expansion Study. The first, titled Homer Harbor Infrastructure, requests \$700,000 local sponsor match funds for the Project Engineering and Design (PED) phase. Although the General Investigation has not yet been completed, we are requesting these match funds now as a strategic measure. If the project is recommended to advance to PED next year, state capital funding is projected to be significantly more constrained than it is currently. Securing these funds now positions the project to move forward, upon receiving favorable recommendation and upon Council's decision to advance the project.

Moreover, the project title is sufficiently broad that should Homer Harbor Expansion not advance to PED, these funds would be redirected toward Homer Harbor critical float system replacement, ensuring the investment addresses pressing harbor needs regardless of the study's outcome.

The second proposed request related to the Harbor Expansion Study is for \$306,426 to fund contractual services to assist with the design of Local Service Facilities (float systems, ramps, fuel dock, etc.) and financial planning. These critical local planning efforts will ensure our design work keeps pace with the federal General Investigation process while informing the city about cost estimates and implementation feasibility necessary for sound decision-making.

The remaining two projects are smaller requests, are contained in the CIP and were also unfunded capital requests in the City's FY26/27 Capital budget. They include \$130,000 for replacing the fire panel and air handling system at Homer Airport Terminal (components of the Homer Airport Terminal Improvement project) and \$333,272 for Homer Harbor Security Camera acquisition and installation. The design and pole installation has been completed for this project; the requested funds would complete the project.

General Positions: The general positions are predominantly issues Council has taken a position on in past years. Community Assistance Recapitalization is an AML 2026 priority and was a 2025 City legislative priority, as is an increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for public schools.

Our positions also generally address legislative attempts to push fiscal responsibilities downstream. For instance, the PERS pension liability funding formula is being discussed, and we need to work with other municipalities and AML to stand firm on the 22% contributed by municipalities. Another example is continuing to advocate for equitable community jail funding.

Bills: Positions on legislative bills are based on reviews of pertinent bills by city staff with knowledge of the specific topics. There are a number of new bills not addressed in this resolution as we feel there is insufficient information for the City to take a position at this time. The City may want to track these as they move through the legislature. These bills include: SB200, municipal assessments on farm and agricultural lands, SB205, occupational disability for peace officers and firefighters, HB254, property assessments and HB259, large energy use facilities.

If you know of additional bills that were missed that should be included in the resolution, please be prepared to propose an amendment during discussion of the resolution. I look forward to your discussion as we prepare to visit Juneau and meet with state legislators.

Recommendation:

Discuss the resolution, propose amendments, and vote.