

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

Failed
4/27/20

Lord

RESOLUTION 20-039

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
ESTABLISHING POLICY REGARDING THE CLEARING OF
VEGETATION WITHIN STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY BY THE PUBLIC
WORKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, The City has received complaints over the years about vegetation removal activities, including debris, noise, and scope of clearing in the rights of way; and

WHEREAS, The City Council approved Resolution 19-073(S) establishing an evaluation team (consisting of two City Council members, the City Manager and appropriate staff) to discuss and evaluate alternative right-of-way maintenance policy and address the following issues of concern:

1. Drainage, snow storage and plowing, sight distances, utility operations and maintenance, and equipment and emergency vehicle response
2. Steep slopes, traffic volumes, zoning districts, and property covenants
3. Debris cleanup and aesthetics, including landmark trees
4. Adjacent landowner concerns including timing and noise
5. Landowner maintenance options and opportunities
6. Legal rights and responsibilities of City and landowners, including enforcement
7. Cost of implementation; and

WHEREAS, Other issues to be evaluated by the team included, potential concerns in areas of steep slopes, traffic volume, zoning classification, property covenants, cost, and what is perceived as a current "one size fits all" approach; and

WHEREAS, The evaluation team examined opportunities to create a ROW maintenance policy that maintains city infrastructure, promotes visibility and safety, is cost effective, and appreciates adjacent landowner concerns (see Memorandum 20-048); and

WHEREAS, Retaining vegetation in the right-of-way that doesn't interfere with maintenance, visibility, and safety creates a more aesthetically pleasing community; and

WHEREAS, It is in the community's best interest to have a policy for rights-of-way clearing that is flexible and understandable; and

42 WHEREAS, On roads with subpar drainage and subsequent maintenance issues, HART
43 funds may be utilized by the neighborhood and the City for road improvements; and
44

45 WHEREAS, City residents should have the opportunity to maintain the rights-of-way in
46 front of their properties if that is of interest to them.
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48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Homer establishes the attached policy
49 titled "Policy-Vegetation Control in City Street Right-of-Way", for cutting, clearing, or removal
50 of vegetation located within public ROW by the Public Works Department.
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52 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, this ____ day of _____, 2020.
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54 CITY OF HOMER
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57 _____
58 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR
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60 ATTEST:

61 _____
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63 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK
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65 Fiscal Note: N/A