CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

City Manager/
Public Works Director

ORDINANCE 21-39

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY 2021 CAPITAL BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL $180,657 FROM HOMER ACCELERATED ROADS AND TRAILS (HART) FUND FOR THE DESIGN AND COMPLETION OF PHASE I OF THE MT. AUGUSTINE ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

WHEREAS, The City Council appropriated $97,000 from the HART Roads Fund for this project, via Ordinance 20-85, adopted November 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The City issued a contract to Nelson Engineering, a Kenai firm with extensive experience in road and drainage improvement design, including projects for the City of Homer, to design the project; and

WHEREAS, The City also issued a contract to Coble Geophysics to help investigate the impacts that groundwater may have been having on the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the original concept involved taking the drainage to a ravine to the east, but in the course of their work, the design team concluded the eastern solution was not a viable option after all for multiple reasons:

- The configuration of the existing eastern ravine is steep and deep near the Sterling Highway, but gradually morphs into a shallow, wider ditch/depression as the water winds its way to the bluff. This flow path is not always well-defined, sometimes deteriorating into sheet flow over the ground. Any additional water would likely overtop the flow path and flood adjacent property.

- As new water flows over the bluff, it will increase bluff erosion. There is already a pronounced problem with bluff erosion, caused by the shallow groundwater aquifer in that area. As the groundwater at the bluff freezes and thaws, the soil at the edge of the bluff "melts" away.

- The adjacent property downstream from the eastern ravine is privately owned and the owners are opposed to introducing more water on their property.

41   WHEREAS, The ravine to the west is well-defined; that is, steep and deep all the way to
42 the bluff, meaning any new water introduced into it would stay within the ravine; and
43

44   WHEREAS, Another advantage is that the drain line could be built as a "French drain",
45 which would increase the dewatering effect in the neighborhood; and
46

47   WHEREAS, The western option is more expensive, involving three more storm drain
48 manholes and over 700 more feet of 24" storm drain as well as a sluice directing water into the
49 ravine; and
50

51   WHEREAS, The other issue is that introducing additional flow into this ravine would
52 exacerbate erosion in the ravine unless protective measures were taken, such as installing a
53 "tight line" to convey the additional drainage flow all the way down to the bluff and protect
54 the discharge point, on the beach, with rock; and
55

56   WHEREAS, THE benefits of this project include reducing the possibility of soil instability
57 in the neighborhood by reducing the volume of water that seeps into the soil and enters the
58 shallow groundwater aquifer.
59

60   NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF HOMER ORDAINS:
61

62   <u>Section 1.</u> The Homer City Council hereby amends the FY 2021 Capital Budget by
63 appropriating an additional $180,657 from the Homer Accelerated Road and Trails Program for
64 the final design and construction of the Mt. Augustine Drainage Improvements.
65

66	<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
67	160-xxxx	Mt. Augustine Storm Drainage Improvements	$180,657

68

69   <u>Section 2.</u> This is a budget amendment ordinance only, is not permanent in nature, and
70 shall not be codified.
71

72   ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, this 26th day of July, 2021.
73

74   CITY OF HOMER
75
76
77   _____
78   KEN CASTNER, MAYOR
79
80

81 ATTEST:

82

83 _____

84 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

85

86

87 YES: 5

88 NO: 0

89 ABSTAIN: 0

90 ABSENT: 0

91

92

93 First Reading: 6.28.21

94 Public Reading: 07.26.21

95 Second Reading: 7.26.21

96 Effective Date: 7.27.21