

Session 12-03, a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Improvement Committee was called to order by Chair Howard at 5:30 on March 8, 2012 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: Hartley, Howard, Howard, Lewis, Wythe

ABSENT: Hawkins

STAFF: City Manager Wrede
Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen
Deputy Harbormaster Clarke
Community and Economic Development Coordinator Koester

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved the agenda by consensus of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no public comments.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF SYNOPSIS

A. February 9, 2012 Regular Meeting Synopsis

The synopsis was approved by consensus of the Committee.

VISITOR/PRESENTATIONS

No visitors were scheduled.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS

PUBLIC HEARING

No public hearings were scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Review of comments from Port and Harbor Commissioners

Chair Howard briefed the Committee about the presentation to the Commission and commented that for the most part the Commissions feedback was positive.

B. Bond Application Process

City Manager Wrede explained that when applying for the bonds, all of the matching money has to be in place. The municipal harbor grant has the same requirement. He said staff has been talking to the director of the grant program to make sure they are taking the right steps to apply for the money. The deadline to apply for the municipal grant money is in July. It is a long process and won't know if we get the grant funds until July 2013. He suggested they move forward on phasing in the fees to show they are working to increase revenues for the bonding and matching funds and that may be adequate. Community and Economic Development Coordinator Koester reinforced that there are challenges, and agreed that the more measures they have in place the better. She will ensure that she has the required steps in writing as she moves forward with the grant application process.

The Committee discussed scheduling. Point was raised that if the fee increases start in June, the 2014 bond payments may be in place for to allow them to proceed with the application. They established the following timeline:

- If the sub committee is established, they need their recommendation to the Improvement Committee by the March 22 meeting.
- The Committee approves the recommendation for Port and Harbor Commission review on March 28 and possible public hearing and approval on April 25.
- Resolution to Council for the May 14 and 28th meetings.

City Manager Wrede expressed they will want to sell bonds and close as quickly after June 30th as possible and he will ask City Attorney Klinkner for a check list for timing of the bonding resolutions.

The Committee briefly presented options for public outreach and asked that it be an item on their next agenda.

C. Appoint Sub Committee to Evaluate Tariff Schedule, Rate Increase & Time Schedule

The Committee proposed the make up of the sub committee includes Harbormaster Hawkins, Mr. Howard, Mr. Hartley, and Finance Director Mauras or Accounting Supervisor Moore. The sub-committee will meet Wednesday, March 14 and 21 at 3 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF STAFF

City Manager Wrede commented that the outreach program is going to be very important, especially if they want to implement a rate increase right before the summer season.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. Wythe said she didn't miss any the winter, she actually enjoyed the fact it was happening while she was sunning in Hawaii. She said she will be happy to participate in the outreach projects to the extent that she is available.

Mr. Lewis commented that he stayed here and didn't miss winter either.

Mr. Hartley said he was in Georgia.

Mr. Howard thanked Public Works Director for sitting in on the meeting.

Deputy Harbormaster Hawkins said he recognizes a lot of momentum and interest from different user groups in casual conversation with harbor users. He thinks this is a great opportunity to get some much needed projects done and it is nice to be included here today. He will work with Harbormaster Hawkins on their interpretation of where to apply rate increases. They are familiar with the areas in which they are competitive, over, and where rates are attractive to work up the best models without driving customers away.

Chair Howard talked to Mrs. Koester's regarding her upcoming schedule.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on March 22, 2012 at 5:30 pm at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____