

Session 14-07 a Regular Meeting of the Vessel Haul-Out Task Force was called to order by Chair Howard at 3:35 p.m. on June 2, 2014 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: Carroll, Hawkins, Howard, Lewis, Pate, Pitzman, Stockburger

STAFF: Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve the agenda.

LEWIS/PATE SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

**RECONSIDERATION**

**APPROVAL OF SYNOPSIS**

A. May 16, 2014 Meeting Synopsis

Chair Howard called for a motion to approve the synopsis.

LEWIS/HAWKINS SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**VISITORS**

**STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

A. Wrangell Report

The task force reviewed and discussed the outline of the Northern Economics presentation on Ports and Harbors Creating Economic Opportunity, in relation to the report they will be preparing for council on the vessel haul-out and repair facility. Discussion points included:

- Establish the infrastructure and the cost to the city may include providing
  - Access for the user and provider
  - Electricity
  - Wash down pad
- Who will be responsible for permitting
  - Most likely the city
- Determine how to operate the facility
  - Providing cradles, travel lift, and airbags; or
  - Only providing a developed site that is ready for use
- Establish target users for phase one, and phase two.
  - The barges are immediate payback and more easily accommodated in phase one
  - Deep draft vessels will likely accommodated in a second phase of improvements
  - A third phase could include a big lift
- Develop a Yard Management Plan
  - Harbor staff currently schedules the grids, parking, assesses the fees, and other necessary coordination efforts
  - A version of Kodiak's plan could work well for Homer
  - A list of businesses certified to work in the yard

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Vessel Haul-Out and Repair Facility Maintenance and Budget

No discussion.

B. Discussion of Permitting – Environmental, ACOE, and ??

DEC will be the major player in the permitting. There will be oversight from local watch dog groups as well. If there is work below the tideline they will work with Army Corps of Engineers. There will also be applications to Fish and Game relating to the critical habitat area. The permitting process would probably be about 60 days with minimal cost. Engineering will be the costly part of it.

C. Group Discussion of Short and Long Term Goals for the Facility

Short term goal discussion points:

- Establish fees, a business plan, and cost benefit analysis for the project.
  - Specific tariff items when a facility is established.
  - Possibly reduce rates in January and February to try to even out the workflow and all the vessels don't show up in April.

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- General thought seems to have gone in the direction that the City would administrate the facility.
  - It would be beneficial to hear from a group like Foss, who stopped in at a previous meeting, to get an idea of what a privately run facility might look like.
  - The idea is to present options to Council with a recommendation from the Task Force.
- A designated wash down should be a phase one improvement
  - The city would be responsible for the wash down area
- Address environmental concerns

Long term goal discussion points:

- Acquisition of a cradle and/or travel lift.
- Power
- Road improvements from the haul out area to the concrete pad

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A. Resolution 14-015, Appointing the Vessel Haul-out Task Force to Review and Make Recommendations on a Large Vessel Haul-Out and Repair Facility at the Port
- B. Barge Mooring Facility Info from 2014-2019 CIP
- C. Aerial Picture of Tr. 1-A and the Fishing Lagoon
- D. Draft Business Performa
- F. Research on Haul-Out Yard Management Options
- E. Task Force Meeting Schedule

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Don Lane, city resident, appreciated the group's discussion. He encouraged them to be careful not to stifle what is happening out there now as they work toward accommodating the demand of other types of vessels that want to haul out in Homer. He is supportive of the private yard concept because he finds they run better because it's how they make their money. Public yards are more challenging because they are responsible for other projects that are going on, in addition to the yard.

### **COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF**

None

### **COMMENTS OF THE Task force**

Mr. Lewis recognized our thriving marine trades' community and we want to make sure they are part of this. He isn't sure a private yard would benefit them.

Mr. Stockburger agreed with Mr. Lewis. He appreciated the information from the various yards that was included in the packet.

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Mr. Hawkins said we need to encourage vocational education at the school. He hears over and over that the marine trades need skilled labor. Let people know there are jobs for skilled labor in the marine trades.

Mr. Carroll commented they need to nail down what they want to do. He thought their goal was to accommodate the deep draft boats and we aren't getting started without a cradle, or at least a plan.

Mr. Pitzman appreciated Mr. Lane's comments. He agrees that we need to keep going with what is happening and start pulling the other things in with it. He agrees we need to get to our goal of meeting needs of our local fleet. The momentum from the current activity is how they get there.

Mr. Pate agrees with many of the comments. He doesn't want them to lose sight of what is going on now and also the marine trades. At the same time, he thinks there is potential to see tremendous scope and opportunity to this endeavor. It would be interesting to talk to private enterprise from the premise that this is our project, it will be an open facility, and ask how they would utilize it.

Chair Howard commented they haven't fully gotten their arms around the purpose, the resolution outlines their job to review and make recommendations on a large vessel haul out and repair facility. She supports the idea of a marine vocational academy because we are seeing the shortage of help and its keeping people from getting their boats fixed and back out to work. The activity on the lot in the spring and the transition back to a park shows it can be a multi-use property and has been a positive movement with the community.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Task Force the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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