

**1. CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.**

Session 23-11, a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Crisi Matthews at 5:31 p.m. on December 13, 2023 in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS MATTHEWS, PITZMAN, SIEKANIEC, SHAVELSON, VELSKO, ZEISET

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER FRIEND (EXCUSED)

CONSULTING: MAYOR CASTNER, PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS, PORT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR WOODRUFF

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

ZEISET/SIEKANIEC MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)**

Mike Jones, city resident, voiced that the conversation pertaining to harbor expansion needs to reinforce the ideas of green energy and fish passage. He added that the Port and Harbor needs to create an environment where they aren't taking on additional risks in regards to the expansion project. Lastly, he made himself available at the Commission's will in hopes of being invited back for a speaker's presentation in the near future.

**4. RECONSIDERATION**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.A. Unapproved November 8, 2023 PHC Minutes

SIEKANIEC/VELSKO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

**7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 7.A. Port Finance/Budget Report – FYTD Report for December 2023
- 7.B. Port & Harbor Staff Report – December 2023

Commissioners volunteered themselves for the 2024 City Council Meetings through the end of March as follows:

- January 8<sup>th</sup> – Commissioner Velsko
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Commissioner Shavelson
- February 12<sup>th</sup> – Commissioner Siekaniéc
- February 26<sup>th</sup> – Commissioner Pitzman
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Commissioner Shavelson
- March 26<sup>th</sup> – Commissioner Shavelson

- 7.C. Homer Marine Trades Association (HTMA) Report

Commissioner Zeiset briefed the Commission on the Homer Marine Trades Association Report. He outlined courses available at the college in addition to scholarships that are available.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**9. PENDING BUSINESS**

- 9.A. Terminal Tariff

The Commission with the help of its consulting members reviewed the proposed tariff changes.

SHAVELSON/SIEKANIEC MOVED THAT THE PORT AND HARBOR COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO PORT TARIFF NUMBER 1 AS THOSE ARE ENUMERATED IN THE OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 MEMORANDUM FROM PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS TO THE PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION, INCLUDING:

1. INSUFFICIENT FUNDS CHECK FEE
2. ELECTRIC METERED CONNECTION FEE
3. TOW AND HARBOR FEE
4. SKIFF RATE FEE
5. HAZARDOUS/OIL DISPOSAL FEE TO INCLUDE \$50 PER BARREL FOR OIL, \$8 PER GALLON FOR ANTIFREEZE AND \$6 PER GALLON (IN DRUMS) FOR OILY WATER AND BILGE WATER
6. ANNUAL AND SEASONAL PARKING PASS FEES OF \$150
7. LAUNCH RAMP FEE TO INCLUDE \$25 PER LAUNCH WITH EXEMPTIONS FOR RESERVED STALL HOLDERS OR ANNUAL MOORAGE HOLDERS AND A \$250 ANNUAL PASS FOR RECREATIONAL USERS
8. INCREASED WOOD AND STEEL GRID FEES
9. REMOVAL OF THE WORK SKIFF EXEMPTION RULE
10. ADDITIONAL RULES FOR MARINE HAUL OUT FACILITIES

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

SIEKANIEC/SHAVELSON MOVED THAT THE PORT AND HARBOR COMMISSION SUPPORTS STANDARDIZED ICE RATES WITH A 5% INCREASE.

Chair Matthews noted that it's been 15 years since the last ice increase, and reasoned that inflation is much more than 5% since then.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

9.B. Review of Moorage Agreement

Chair Matthews stated that there haven't been any additional changes made to the code of conduct, and the Commission agreed to postpone this item to the January meeting.

9.C. Property Leasing

Commissioner Shavelson informed the Commission that there are still some amendments he needs to make to the document. He added that he will be bringing a revised version back to the Commission's January meeting after the appropriate changes have been made in the language.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

10.A. Advancement of Lighting, Camera, and Energy Grid for the Large Vessel Haul Out Facility

Commissioner Pitzman introduced his memorandum to the Commission. He stated that the point of his memo was to hopefully start working on a smaller project at the Large Vessel Haul Out Facility (one separate from the current project on the Capital Improvement Plan) that focuses on the most important elements that include, but are not limited to:

1. Connecting to the electrical grid for the vessels in a manner similar to the Harbor where you can plug in;
2. Install lighting;
3. Installing cameras;

Discussion ensued regarding the Commission's support for the project, funding for the project, return on investment, and potential benefits that this project would bring to the community.

**11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- 11.A. Port Operations Report
- 11.B. December City Newsletter
- 11.C. November City Manager's Report to Council

**12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)**

Mike Jones, city resident, stated that there may be some value in the discussion about short power versus generator power from a cost saving perspective to the users, but also from an emissions perspective. He warned the Commission to double check themselves on the unintended consequences of eliminating the annual pass for non-recreational users of the Harbor. Lastly, he suggested the Commission communicate the CPI change associated with a mooring rate increase, adding that this would also set up the conversations for the ice rates.

**13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Deputy City Clerk Pettit apologized to the Commission for the last-minute cancellation of the schedule work session. He thanked the Commission for a good meeting.

Port Director Hawkins spoke briefly to the Large Vessel Haul Out Facility project, noting that breaking out the electrical cost as a separate project would make it a nice package. He added that the Alaska Association of Harbormasters is going to be offering \$15,000 worth of scholarships, and that the scholarships will be advertised before Christmas break.

Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff thanked the Commission for a great meeting. She said that there are ongoing conversations about partnering with the Guiding Homer's Growth Group to bring a documentary about the cruise ship industry in Sitka to Homer sometime in the first quarter of 2024.

**14. COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Castner noted the difference between extending utilities like water, sewer and power to the City downtown versus down to the Harbor. He thanked Chair Matthews for dinner and thanked the Commission for its attention to detail. His closing thought was that he is serious about starting a City business license to collect the taxes that should be collected.

**15. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Zeiset thanked the Commission for a good meeting and thanked Mike Jones for his public comments.

Commissioner Siekaniec spoke briefly on a potential fuel surcharge increase for the Pioneer Dock. He added that it sounds like the City needs an oil-water separator. Lastly, he suggested a CPI increase across the tariff,

noting that the City doesn't increase rates according to inflation besides moorage. He thanked the Commission for a good meeting.

Commissioner Pitzman thanked the Commission for a good meeting. He noted that the memo the Commission reviewed from him today was the first memo that he has brought forth to the Commission. He added that he is uncomfortable being the champion of the proposed project at the Large Vessel Haul Out Facility himself given that his business is an obvious beneficiary of the project.

Commissioner Shavelson thanked Mike Jones for his public comments. He added that there will be a Celebration of the Critical Habitat Area in Homer's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Kannery on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Matthews said that she is working with the principal at the high school in an attempt to get seniors into the work trades and urged other Commissioners to do the same. She thanked the Commission for a good meeting.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Matthews adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

  
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Zach Pettit, Deputy City Clerk

Approved: January 24, 2024