

Session 21-06, a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Steve Zimmerman at 6:05 p.m. on June 23, 2021 in the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall located at 491 E Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska via Zoom Webinar. Commissioner Ian Pitzman was appointed June 14, 2021 to fill the seat vacated by Commissioner Michael Stockburger.

**PRESENT:** COMMISSIONERS ZIMMERMAN, ZEISET, ULMER, SIEKANIEC

**ABSENT:** COMMISSIONERS PITZMAN, ERICKSON, MATTHEWS (all excused)

**STAFF:** PORT DIRECTOR/HARBORMASTER HAWKINS  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY

#### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Zimmerman asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

ULMER/ZEISET MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN.

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

#### **RECONSIDERATION**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. May 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chair Zimmerman asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

ULMER/ZEISET MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

#### **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Port & Harbor Staff Report for June 2021

Port Director Hawkins spoke to his written staff report, noting the following items:

- Preparation for Facility security Plan annual audit
- Upcoming meeting with US Anchorage Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and discussion of USACE budget
- Notable events including vessel incidents on the grids, extreme low tides and its impact on vessels not tied up properly, and a grounding on the Load and Launch Ramp
- Over 900 vessels recorded in the harbor; interest in knowing the number of vessels in the harbor by the number of linear foot

B. Homer Marine Trades Association Report

Commissioner Zeiset provided a verbal report. HMTA members met with Governor Dunleavy's staff; the association is a non-political group but it gave them an opportunity to promote the harbor expansion project and marine trade educational opportunities. He noted there's not much else to report since meetings are small this time of year given most members are out working/fishing.

Port Director Hawkins commented that harbor staff also met with Governor Dunleavy, and the topic of the harbor expansion project was discussed as well.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

- A. PHC Bylaw Amendments
- i. DRAFT PHC Bylaws

Chair Zimmerman introduced the item by reading the title and opened the floor for discussion or a motion.

Commissioner Ulmer voiced her support for approving the bylaws since they have already discussed the changes at other meetings and are ready to send them on to City Council for approval.

ULMER/SIEKANIEC MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION BYLAWS AND RECOMMEND ADOPTION TO CITY COUNCIL.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Harbor Facility Grant Application Support for Cathodic Protection Project
  - i. Draft Resolution for DOT&PF Harbor Facility Grant Application
  - ii. 2021-2026 CIP – Homer Harbor Cathodic Protection

Chair Zimmerman introduced the item by reading the title and opened the floor for discussion.

ULMER/ZEISET MOVED TO SUPPORT THE COMPLETION OF HARBOR-WIDE CATHODIC PROTECTION AND ENDORSE THE CITY'S APPLICATION TO THE HARBOR FACILITIES TIER II GRANT PROGRAM FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AND RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE APPLICATION FOR FUNDING.

Commissioners Ulmer and Siekaniec voiced their support for approving the grant since this is a project the PHC has already endorsed before, and would like to see it get done.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. Proposed Invitation to Bid in fall 2021 for FY22 Cold Storage Lockers
  - i. Cold Storage Unit Agreement
  - ii. Short-Term Bait Storage Agreement
  - iii. Bait/Cold Storage Units Diagram

Chair Zimmerman introduced the item by reading the title and deferred to Port Director Hawkins to speak to the proposal.

Mr. Hawkins explained how the cold storage is a byproduct of making ice during the season, and that once they shut the ice-making down the cold storage gets cleared out. Unfortunately, there are not many other cold storage options in the area. In the last couple years the harbor has experienced increasing demand for use of cold storage lockers, which has led to many requests from individuals and businesses to arrange for reserved or pre-booked use of the available lockers up to a year in advance for the following season. Businesses have also cited that they pre-order bait in advance and need assurances that they'll have a cold storage place to put it when the next season starts as part of their business model. In order to keep the rental and use of cold storage lockers transparent and equally available for all, staff is considering offering out the cold storage lockers through the Invitation to Bid (ITB) process.

Port Director Hawkins facilitated discussion and answered questions from the commission.

SIEKANIEK/ZEISET MOVED TO SUPPORT COLD STORAGE LOCKERS BEING OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE INVITATION TO BID PROCESS FOR FY22.

Chair Zimmerman voiced his support for it going out to ITB.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Ian Pitzman PHC Appointment Information
- B. Port & Harbor Monthly Statistical Report for May 2021
- C. Water/Sewer Bills Report for May 2021
- D. Crane & Ice Report
- E. Dock Activity Reports
- F. PHC 2021 Meeting Calendar

Chair Zimmerman opened the floor for discussion on the informational materials. Discussion ensued on the appointment of new commissioner Ian Pitzman, having the harbor expansion project information in a centralized webpage on the Port and Harbor's website, and the radio advertisement advocating for the large vessel harbor expansion that's currently running.

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Port Director Hawkins spoke to the City's downgrade in mask requirements to optional for City facilities, and inquired if the commission would be interested in meeting in-person at the Port and Harbor Office conference room. Commissioners voiced their interest in meeting in person. He and Deputy City Clerk Tussey briefly discussed the allowance of meeting outside of the Council Chambers by the City Manager and City Clerk. Mr. Hawkins also commented on an agenda topic for the July meeting regarding float damages and repairs.

Deputy City Clerk Tussey thanked the commission for coming to the meeting prepared and making it expeditious.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCILMEMBER**

### **COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Zimmerman commented it was a quick and painless meeting, and thanked the commission.

### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Siekaniec thanked Deputy City Clerk Tussey for the working notes to help move the meeting along.

Commissioner Zeiset commented on how he looks forward to meeting in person again.

Commissioner Ulmer noted it was a good meeting and thanked Deputy City Clerk Tussey for all the work she puts into their packets, and to Port Director Hawkins for his work out in the harbor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

  
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RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: July 28, 2021