

Session 21-20 a Special Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on August 23, 2021 by Mayor Ken Castner at 3:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** COUNCILMEMBERS ADERHOLD, DAVIS, HANSEN-CAVASOS, LORD, SMITH, VENUTI

**STAFF:** CITY MANAGER DUMOUCHEL  
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN  
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER  
CITY ATTORNEY GATTI (arrived at 4:07 p.m.)

**AGENDA APPROVAL** (Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg. 6)

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** (3 minute time limit)

Larry Slone, city resident, highly recommended Francie Roberts, she's very knowledgeable, intelligent, and does her homework but is only willing to be here for a few months and not the long-term Council position. Unless Council feels the really need her based on her vast institutional knowledge, it might be a good idea to consider Jason Davis and give him the experience of serving and gain knowledge of process.

**PENDING BUSINESS**

- a. Memorandum 21-141 from City Clerk Re: Executive Session to Deliberate as Board of Adjustment the Appeal to the Board of Adjustment of the Planning Commission Decision on appeal of Zoning Permit 1020-782 issued for the property located at 541 Bonanza Avenue, Homer, Alaska. (*Reconvene no later than 3:55*)

Mayor Castner noted for the record Councilmember Venuti is excused from deliberating and she was moved into the Zoom waiting room.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AS BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT TO DELIBERATE THE APPEAL TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION DECISION ON APPEAL OF ZONING PERMIT 1020-782 ISSUED FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 541 BONANZA AVENUE, HOMER, ALASKA.

It was confirmed that Attorney Brandt-Erichsen is not in attendance.

VOTE: YES: SMITH, ADERHOLD, LORD, HANSEN-CAVASOS.

Motion carried.

Council recessed into executive session at 3:43 p.m. and reconvened at 3:53 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Lord reported the Board of Adjustment supports the draft decision with to typographical corrections and will work with the Clerk to get it distributed.

Mayor Castner noted for the record that Councilmember Venuti returned to the meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a. City Council Applicants- Introduction/Presentation  
*(Applicants are invited to introduce themselves and make a brief presentation, and Councilmembers may ask one question to be answered by each applicant.)*

- Francie Roberts
- Jason Davis

Councilmember Smith requested to be excused base on the fact that one of applicants is running on the ballot opposing him. With no objections voiced by Councilmembers, Mayor Castner excused Councilmember Smith from participating, and Councilmember Smith left the room.

Francie Roberts shared that she's been a city resident for about 40 years. She was a math teacher for 22 years at Homer High School, prior to that she worked almost 20 year for the National Weather Service, and homesteaded a sheep and cattle ranch on Ohlson Mountain. She served 3 terms on the City Council, was a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee, the Library Advisory Board, and many others. She's served on the State's Professional Teaching Practices Commission for a number of years, and is active with local groups like the Garden Club, Bridge Club, SPARC, and Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Reserve Committee. She applied because she feels she has a lot of knowledge about what's going on and understands the challenge of choosing an applicant so close to an election. She does not intend to serve past this appointment, but is here to help out if Council needs her.

In response to questions she commented she thinks the most important issue the Council will have before them this year is the Capital Improvement Plan list because it's an important thing to look at for long term planning. What she appreciates about Homer is its diversity and opportunity to explore who they are. What she finds frustrating, noting her time on Council, is trying to get people to come together and cooperate together. Sometimes we have a difficult time because of the very reason she likes Homer, they sort of go together in her mind. She

confirmed she's read tonight's packet and those for prior meetings as well, and is prepared to participate tonight if appointed.

Jason Davis shared that he's a small business owner and former member of the Homer Planning Commission. He moved to Homer with his family just over four years ago but he grew up on the Kenai Peninsula in Kasilof and Soldotna, where he graduated from high school. He managed to visit Homer almost every summer during the 30 years he served overseas with the US Diplomatic Service. Since coming back he often listens to Council meetings on KBBT and feels work done on the Planning Commission often comes to Council. He's been considering running for Council for a while now, and believes his background is relevant to the job because when running a small embassy, there is a lot of opportunity to participate in meetings about budgets, long term planning, and other types of issues the City Council deals with. He feels like his work at the Meadery brings him into contact with many people from different walks of life. When he heard about the appointment, he felt it would be a good opportunity to see if serving would be a good fit before committing to a full three year term. Since this appointment is only six weeks, he explained he also filed to run for the one year term.

In response to questions he commented the most important issue the Council will have before them this year will likely have to do with our COVID mitigation strategies as it's such an overwhelming part of what we do. He understands other towns of Kachemak Bay the kids are masking based on actions by their Councils on requiring masks. At the elementary schools here kids aren't wearing masks because it's just a suggestion. What he appreciates about Homer is the beautiful mix between people of different political factions. Having lived in other places, it's unsatisfying to live in a place where everyone you meet is of the same political persuasion and where there's very little thinking about how other people in other places might see things. A frustration he has is that our town could be more pedestrian friendly. He commented about Talkeetna and other towns and their pedestrian amenities. He confirmed he's reviewed the meeting packet and is prepared to participate tonight if appointed

- b. Memorandum 21-142 from City Clerk Re: Selection/Appointment of Councilmember to Fill Vacancy

There was discussion confirming that four yes votes are required to make the appointments.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPOINT JASON DAVIS TO SERVE AS COUNCILMEMBER UNTIL A SUCCESSOR QUALIFIES AFTER THE OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR ELECTION.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES: ADERHOLD, HANSEN-CAVASOS, LORD, VENUTI

Motion carried.

Councilmember Smith returned to the table.

City Clerk Jacobsen administered the oath of office to Councilmember Davis.

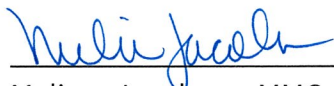
- c. Memorandum 21-149 from Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Re: 2022-2027 CIP Recommendations and Establishing FY23 Legislative Priorities (*if time allows*)

Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Carroll reviewed Memo 21-149 and the draft Capital Improvement Plan process. There was brief discussion regarding removal of the Storm Water Master Plan project from the CIP and that is expected to be replaced by a revised project to be provided by Public Works Director Keiser. City Manager Dumouchel noted the Public Works Director will be available at the Committee of the Whole to answer questions.

### COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., Worksession 4:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. a Special meeting August 30, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. a Worksession September 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: September 13, 2021