

Session 25-14 a Regular Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 by Mayor Rachel Lord at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Council conducted a Worksession at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the FY26/FY27 Proposed Budget, HART Trails Fund & Capital Projects.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS HANSEN, ADERHOLD, VENUTI, PARSONS, DAVIS AND ERICKSON

STAFF: CITY MANAGER JACOBSEN
CITY CLERK KRAUSE
CITY ATTORNEY GATTI
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KORT
HR DIRECTOR BROWNING
POLICE CHIEF ROBL
CITY PLANNER FOSTER
FINANCE DIRECTOR FISCHER
SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMM. COORDINATOR CARROLL

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lord called the meeting to order and invited everyone present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Krause called attendance and a full Council was present.

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

Mayor Lord read the Supplemental Items into the Record: **CONSENT AGENDA** *Item b.* Memorandum CC-25-144 from City Clerk re: Liquor License Renewals Memorandum of Non-Objection from Homer Police Chief as backup *Item H.* Resolution 25-052 Acknowledging the Cancellation of the FEMA BRIC Grant to Adopt and Implement the 2021 International Building Code Memorandum CC-25-154 from Councilmember Davis *Item j.* Resolution 25-054 2025 ODL Service District Mil Tax Rate Memorandum CC-25-148 Corrected memo number. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** *item c.* Ordinance 25-38, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 for the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Port/Harbor Fund and Internal Service Funds. Ordinance 25-38 (S) of the same title *item d.* Ordinance 25-39, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Capital Budget. Ordinance 25-39(S) Substitute ordinance of the same title.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Lord proceeded to read the following into the record and stood for pictures:

- Proclamation for June as Pride Month
- Proclamation for June 19, 2025 as Juneteenth
- Recognition of Ash-Lee Waddell

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Lord invited the public to comment on any item on the agenda with the exception of the following:

Mayor: Invite the public to comment on any item on the agenda with the exception of the following:

- Ordinance 25-36, Amending the Homer City Zoning Map to Rezone a Portion of the Rural Residential (RR) Zoning District to General Commercial 1 (GC1) Zoning District at 3145 Lampert Lane.
- Ordinance 25-37, Amending the Homer City Zoning Map to Rezone a Portion of the Rural Residential (RR) Zoning District to Residential Office (RO) Zoning District at 4410 East Hill Road and 1374 East End Road.
- Ordinance 25-38, Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 for the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Port/Harbor Fund and Internal Service Funds.
- Ordinance 25-39, Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Capital Budget.
- Resolution 25-030, Amending the City of Homer Personnel Regulations, Chapter 5, Section 5.8.1 Swing Shift, Section 5.8.2 Graveyard Shift, and Section 5.14 On-Call Pay.

Jessica Tenhoff, commented in support of having someone to provide guidance to businesses in Homer and what her business received assistance on with loans and financing a yurt as a residence.

Sadie Millard, spoke in support of having the SBDC person available to small business owners in Homer.

Click Illg (name not clear) stated he supported the funding of the SBDC position.

Larry Slone, city resident, expressed comments on having building code and the effects on available housing and believed it would be prohibitive.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA (Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If a separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda at the request of a Councilmember.)

- a. Homer City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2025. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. Memorandum CC-25-144 from City Clerk re: Liquor License Renewal Applications for The Kannery and Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum CC-25-145 from Special Projects & Communications Coordinator re: 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Plan and FY27 Legislative Requests Development Schedule.
- d. Ordinance 25-40, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating the FY25 State of Alaska Community Assistance Program

Payment in the Amount of \$143,428.05 for Various Capital Projects. City Manager. Introduction May 27, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading June 9, 2025.

- e. Ordinance 25-41, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a 2024 Commercial Passenger Vessel Tax Program Grant from the State of Alaska for \$4,612.50 and a Commercial Passenger Vessel Tax Program 2024 Pass Through Grant from the Kenai Peninsula Borough in the Amount of \$4,612.50 to Replace Several Benches Along the Harbor Walking Path. City Manager/Port Director. Introduction May 27, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading June 9, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-146 from Port Director as backup.

- f. Ordinance 25-42, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$7,000 from Port Reserves for Engineering Support for the 2025 Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant Application. City Manager/Port Director. Introduction May 27, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading June 9, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-147 from Special Projects & Communications Director as backup.

- g. Resolution 25-051, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving New One Year Contracts with Moda Health, VSP, and Prudential with a Renewal Date of July 1, 2025. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-142 from City Manager as backup.

Memorandum CC-25-137 from Employee Committee as backup.

Memorandum CC-25-136 from HR Director as backup.

- h. Resolution 25-052, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Acknowledging the Cancellation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant to Adopt and Implement the 2021 Edition of the International Building Code. City Manager/City Planner. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-149 from City Planner as backup.

- i. Resolution 25-053, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Establishing the City of Homer Property Tax Mil Levy Rate at 4.5 Mills for 2025. City Manager. Recommend adoption.
- j. Resolution 25-054, A Resolution of the City of Homer, Alaska, Establishing a 2025 Mil Rate of 1 Mil for the Ocean Drive Loop Special Service District. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-148 from City Clerk as backup. *(Refer to corrected Memo in supplemental packet)*

City Clerk Krause read the Consent Agenda as presented into the record.

ADDERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

- a. City Grants Report from the Homer Foundation - Stacey Schultz, Executive Director

Stacey Schultz, Executive Director, Homer Foundation provided a brief background of her experience and then reported to the Council how the selection committee selects the recipients for the grants, the number of grants distributed, amount of the grant, funding used and the benefits that providing these grants does for the city overall.

Ms. Schultz facilitated a brief discussion on increasing the amount of the annual funding which she believed has not increased in over 20 years.

- b. Legislative Update - Representative Vance

Representative Sarah Vance provided Council with a report on legislative actions that she initiated or was a co-sponsor on and the status of any legislation that did not make it through this legislative period. She noted that the legislature Alaska's Commercial Fishing Industry, pooling of insurance for fisherman for flexibility, expansion of fisheries product tax credit to allow for all species and this added for expansion to include mariculture, provided a fix for Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank to provide more loans for agriculture. She did note that they did approve a smaller capital budget, reductions of 48%, but it did include projects in or beneficial to Homer, Kachemak Drive, Sterling Highway Milepost 157 to 169, Homer Airport Improvements on the runways and Beluga Slough Trail Enhancements, Homer Harbors Float System repairs and Homer Pedestrian walkway.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS (5 Minute limit per report)

- a. Worksession Report

City Manager Jacobsen reported that Council facilitated discussion on:

- Capital Budget FY26/FY27
 - Diamond Creek Recreation Area Trail and proposed underpass

- b. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Aderhold reported that Council discussed:

- Resolution 25-052 acknowledging the cancellation of the BRIC grant
 - Still interested in developing building code and code enforcement
 - What next steps would be without the grant
- Ordinance 25-40 Accepting Community Assistance Funds
 - Inclusion of missing information in whereas clause for the next meeting
- Ordinance 25-42 Appropriating funds for engineering support
 - Clarification on the need for this funding, scope of work and who will be doing the work
- Discussion Topic of the FY26/FY27 Budget funding
 - Funding of proposed amendments: COLA, Rate change for shift differential, etc.
 - Asset Management
 - Specific Port & Harbor Budget Requests

c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lord noted to those present and listening that they can read her newsletter on the city website through the following link, <http://www.deskofthehomermayor.substack.com>. She then reported on:

- Letter written for recognition of National Maritime Day for Chamber of Commerce and Marine Trades Association
- Letter with translation to the Mayor of Teshio (provided as a laydown)
- Recounted recent experiences on
 - Listening to Strong Towns regarding planning and municipal budgeting
 - Reading an opt-ed about Anchorage taking up in June a resolution regarding a four point economic strategy
 - These topics brought forward her concerns of how they budget for things in the future on the City level
- Appreciation for the hard work that the City Manager and Staff has done to bring the budget to Council
 - Be flexible in thinking and about the budget and prioritization moving forward

d. Borough Report

Assembly member Cooper reported the Borough Assembly is :

- Working through their budget process
 - Education funding and encouraging the governor not to line item veto
 - Please contact the Borough representative if he does line item veto so it doesn't leave the school district hanging until January.
- Added Public Hearings on the Budget
 - June 3rd and June 17th
- 2.5% inflationary budget goal
 - Reduction in property tax mil rates for all areas with the exception of Seldovia
- Implementation of the Safe Streets Safety action plan
- Upcoming land sale August 2025
 - Five parcels identified for participation in the program for development related to affordable housing
 - 25% discount to the successful bidder
 - Financing through the Borough

e. Planning Commission Report

There was no report provided.

f. Economic Development Advisory Commission Report

Karin Marks, Chair, reported on the following:

- Training provided by the City Clerk
- Attendance by the Mayor for discussion on Commission priorities and Council priorities
- Looking at plans that the city has and how to activate them
- Discussion on the site selection of Town Center for Community Recreation Center
 - Postponed to the June 10th meeting for additional discussion

- Conducted elections – she was re-elected as chair and Jonathan Young as vice chair
 - Open seat on the commission for resident or non-resident
 - May 29th KPEDD meeting at the college on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
 - Expressed appreciation and thanks for the Public Works Department and businesses on Pioneer for making the downtown look especially inviting
 - Wayfinding features of banners and benches
- g. Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Report

Robert Archibald, Commissioner, reported on the following:

- Worksession visiting the Homer Council on the Arts and Bunnell Avenue Art Center
 - Reports from Staff on amenities provided for a camp host at Karen Hornaday Park
 - Restrooms in place at Karen Hornaday and Jack Gist Parks
 - Discussed Special Events and Fees
 - Requested any new proposal to come before the Commission
 - Supported the purchase of the equipment to clear sidewalks and trails but splitting between roads and trails funds
 - Discussed the proposed location of the community recreation center
 - Drew names out of a hat for new silhouettes on the Nomar Wall Mural
 - Staff will be contacting those persons to confirm consent to be on the wall.
- h. Library Advisory Board

Bea McDonough, Student Representative Boardmember, reported

- Partnership with Porcupine Theater to offer a few free movie passes to library card holders
- E-Rate funding will be continued
- Reviewed a report from Library Director Berry on the history of funding for the library
 - Supports current funding arrangements
 - Small areas of potential improvements
 - Growing the endowment fund
 - Volunteer appreciation
- Film Screening of Free for All: The Public Library
 - Thursday, May 29th at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

a. Ordinance 25-36, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code 21.10.030 to Amend the Homer City Zoning Map to Rezone a Portion of the Rural Residential (RR) Zoning District to General Commercial 1 (GC1) Zoning District at 3145 Lampert Lane. Planning Commission. Introduction May 12, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 27, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-128 from City Planner as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced Ordinance 25-36 by reading of the title and opened the public hearing.

Katie Kirsis, Seabright Surveying stated that she was available for questions.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-36 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

b. Ordinance 25-37, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code 21.10.030 to Amend the Homer City Zoning Map to Rezone a Portion of the Rural Residential (RR) Zoning District to Residential Office (RO) Zoning District at 4410 East Hill Road and 1374 East End Road. Planning Commission. Introduction May 12, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 27, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-129 from City Planner as backup.

Drawing provided by property owner showing egress provided in supplemental packet

Mayor Lord introduced Ordinance 25-37 by reading of the title and opened the public hearing.

Larry Slone, city resident and property owner, provided comments on the access in relation to the drawing he submitted and included in the supplemental packet and commented on public comment regarding spot zoning stating he has followed all the rules and regulations, approved by the City Planner and the Planning Commission and believed it to be a legal action.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-37 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

c. Ordinance 25-38, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 for the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Port/Harbor Fund and Internal Service Funds. City Manager. Introduction May 12, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 27, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-143 from Employee Committee as backup.

Ordinance 25-38(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Port/Harbor Fund and Internal Service Funds. City Manager.

Mayor Lord introduced Ordinance 25-38 by reading of the title and opened the public hearing.

Larry Slone, city resident, commented on Memorandum CC-25-143 noting that employees are generally helpful, courteous and competent in their efforts to serve him but as a taxpayer he is paying their salaries and in essence so are others who live and reside in the city and area. The question that Council should be asking is how are those residents doing? He noted that inflation hits them too. He then stated that employees are probably leaving for more reasons than not getting a COLA.

Karin Marks, city resident, commented in support of the amendment to fund the SBDC position noting that the EDC supports this amendment also. She further stated that small businesses provide increased services and in turn offered more employment opportunities in Homer.

Robert Green, SBDC, expressed comments in support of the funding noting the number of hours, number of new businesses, the increased services and revenue generated.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-38 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mayor Lord inquired if there was a motion to substitute.

ADERHOLD VENUTI MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 25-38 WITH ORDINANCE 25-38(S) BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

There was a brief discussion on the difference between the ordinances noting that language in this ordinance was relevant to the Capital Budget and should be reflected in Ordinance 25-39 not this one.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried

VENUTI/PARSONS MOVED TO AMEND THE FY26/FY27 BUDGET TO INCLUDE \$20,000 FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR POSITION.

Discussion ensued with Councilmember Venuti clarifying her intent to include this in the budget.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mayor Lord asked if there were any additional amendments or discussion.

Discussion ensued on the amendment for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) and previous actions by Council to not provide one which then set the stage for Homer being behind by comparison to other communities. Further points made and discussed were:

- Increases in insurance will be matched with a 2.2% COLA
- Breaking the COLA in half 1.1% for each year
 - Making a small adjustment so that they do not get far behind as previously done in the past
- Recommend non-exempt employees receiving the COLA since the exempt employees received 11% at the beginning of 2024
 - It was noted that this was to catch them up
- Expressed support 2.2% for FY26 but not FY27 as it was unknown what revenues would be like
 - Can address a mid-biennium budget amendment for FY27 COLAs

- Would like to see the cost in numbers for the non-exempt only

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO AMEND THE BUDGET TO INCLUDE A 2.2% COLA FOR FY26 FOR NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEES ONLY.

Mayor Lord facilitated discussion with Councilmembers on the following:

- Funding a COLA would be reducing the unassigned fund balance
- Providing a COLA for non-exempt employees only
 - Exempt Employees received a large increase in early 2024
 - Noted that this was due to being under par in comparison to the other communities and not receiving COLAs in previous years
 - The exempt employees are not as impacted if they do not receive the COLA
 - A COLA impacts the budget each and every year not just a one-time expense such as a capital expenditure
- Impact of increased costs for the health insurance to the unassigned fund balance
- COLA not in the budget due to revenue constraints and that decision rested with the Council
 - Noted vacant positions not being filled to present a cost savings
 - Any positions vacated after July 1 will be reviewed prior to filling
 - Pared down capital budget
- The Wage Scale is an ongoing expense
 - What is the level of service
 - What is the level of staffing required to provide that service
- Prioritization of Non-Departmental Expenses
- Additional staff coverage preferred over COLAs
 - Employees serve as a morale survey
 - Consideration of the Employee Committee recommendations for Council decisions
- Status of the Unassigned Fund Balance
 - Consistent Over Budgeting and Underspending provides for a surplus
 - As budget gets larger it eats into that surplus
- Reviewed the historical information Finance Director Fischer provided.
- No HART Fund transfers were included which would impact the unassigned fund balance
- Requested the previous five years from the Budgets as the picture appears significantly different
- Requested information from 2014-2015 to reflect austerity measures that were implemented
- Impact in numbers on providing COLA for 1% up to 2.2%
- Impacts in numbers to the unassigned fund balance passing the Health Insurance and Shift differentials referred to page 163 of the packet Memorandum CC-25-108

ADERHOLD/ERICKSON MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE JUNE 9, 2025 MEETING.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. (Amendment COLA). NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mayor Lord inquired if there were any additional amendments, hearing none she requested a motion to postpone.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO POSTPONE ORD 25-38(S) TO THE JUNE 9, 2025 MEETING

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

d. Ordinance 25-39, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Capital Budget. City Manager. Introduction May 12, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 27, 2025.

FY26/FY27 Budget Amendments

Ordinance 25-39(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Capital Budget. City Manager.

Mayor Lord introduced the ordinance by reading of the title and opened the public hearing. Having and seeing no interest from the public to provide testimony she closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-39 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Mayor Lord inquired if there was any discussion and hearing none she requested a motion to substitute.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 25-39 WITH ORDINANCE 25-39(S) BY READING OF TITLE.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mayor Lord facilitated discussion on the following:

- Proposed amendment of \$250,000 for the Green Timbers trailhead parking and connector trails Diamond Creek Recreation Area
 - Preference for a separate ordinance to come forward rather than a budget amendment
- Equipment for sidewalk and trails maintenance to be split between HART Roads and HART Trails
 - Purchase additional attachments i.e. flail mower, mulcher
 - Could be purchased one included in the budget is for the larger equipment
 - Accurate usage on sidewalks versus trails for splitting cost
 - Staff can bring back cost of attachments and projected percentage of usage for accurate split
 - Already in the proposed Capital Budget
- Expressed appreciation for the Public Works work on the parks
- Capital Budget adoption requirements
- Couple of items could be impacted by postponing adoption as late as September

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE 25-39(S) TO THE JUNE 9 2025.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

e. Resolution 25-030, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the City of Homer Personnel Regulations, Chapter 5, Section 5.8.1 Swing Shift, Section 5.8.2 Graveyard Shift, and Section 5.14 On-Call Pay. City Manager/Personnel Director.

Memorandum CC-25-108 from HR Director as backup.

Memorandum CC-25-109 from Employee Committee as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced the resolution by reading of the title and opened the public hearing. Having and seeing no interest from the public to provide testimony she closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-030 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Mayor Lord noted that the resolution would be postponed to follow Ordinance 25-38(S).

City Council entertained a brief discussion on the following:

- Clarification on the costs for the On Call increase that is proposed
- Clarification on the basis that there would not be enough funding for a 2.2% COLA for everyone
 - This proposed amendment was offered by the Employee Committee before the COLA
 - It would bring the rates current and comparable to other communities
- Passing of Resolution 25-030 addresses the personnel regulations but does not impact the budget as it is covered by the line item of salaries
 - Shift differential, Call Out Pay not specifically called out as a line item in the budget
 - Has not been addressed differently in over 20 plus years
 - Line items 5101, 5105 typically have been sufficient in covering the expense
 - New employees filling position cost less than departing so provides a cost savings
 - There are limited positions that incur the Shift differential pay and On Call pay
 - Possible consideration of changes in the future
 - Concerns expressed on possible overage
 - Amounts of projected impact to the payroll are reflected in Memorandum CC-25-108

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE JUNE 9, 2025 MEETING

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

- a. Ordinance 25-43, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the City of Homer Water and Sewer Rates and Updating the City Fee Schedule Accordingly. City Manager/Finance Director. Introduction May 27, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading June 9, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-151 from Finance Director as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced the item by reading of the title and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 25-43 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

A brief discussion was entertained that Council discussed this at the previous meetings in depth and requested staff to bring an ordinance forward reflecting the discussion. It was believed that while this ordinance lowered the water rates and increased the sewer it was time to implement a \$20-\$25 service fee on those users who were summer residents and advocated that they start earlier in the process next time.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Jacobsen noted her report was in the packet and would be happy to answer questions.

She provided corrections to the meeting dates of the Economic Development and Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commissions for June.

Councilmember Aderhold commented on the information received during the Brownfield Report on the HERC and what was required for abatement of those buildings, noting that there would be costs to the city.

b. Monthly FY25 YTD Report

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, expressed comments on Resolution 21-029 where Council supported efforts on safe passing law between vehicles and cyclists and questioned if there has been any response from the State. He then noted the ability outlined in State Administrative Code for multi-step planning decisions and that it did not take the legislature to do that to recognize e-bikes since they are not recognized in Alaska law. Alaska is one of only 2-3 states that does not recognize e-bikes, they are motorized cycles and technically should have all the safety and licensing requirements of motorcycles. But our governor did not support that regulation citing regulating recreation. Mr. Aderhold then related an experience of two visitors trying to find a way to get to the Library without having to walk along Pioneer due to the traffic and noise.

Mark Edens, city resident and pastor at local church, provided comments on issuing proclamations on Pride Month and other divisive topics and while the intent was good, there was a huge constituency that was against the idea, noting the phrase "Go Woke, Go Broke" and expressed concerns on what impacts that expressing DEI support would do for the city and businesses to receive federal funding and grants.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Gatti had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Krause provided the vacancies that were available for Student Representatives, Boardmembers and Commissioners.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager reported that the HART Policy update is in the hands of staff and should be before Council in June after running through Champions review, expressed appreciation for Council's patience as they work through the budget, she is learning a lot and their questions help her learn.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Lord expressed loving summer but hating the traffic that arrives with summer as it can be frustrating but sincerely appreciates the visitors that do come to Homer to spend their time and walk away with a sense of appreciation. She expressed appreciation for the incredible community and residents.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Hansen commented that it was a great meeting and the sun is still shining and they get to go home. She noted spending time at Karen Hornaday Park watching people coming and taking a look at the portable toilets and seemed to be really happy they were there.

Councilmember Erickson express condolences to the family whose Toy Hauler RV went into the Anchor River and hopes everyone is okay. She then commented on the wonderful sun filled busy weekend with all the visitors coming to Homer noting that the majority were Alaskan travelers, the Girls Softball team took off on the ferry to play a tournament in Kodiak, finally expressing a warning to those traveling with the increased traffic and many baby moose arriving daily.

Councilmember Davis announced the Taste of Homer starts on Saturday and runs through the week culminating in the Homer Harbor Fest on June 7th, lots of restaurants and drink establishments running specials incorporating local ingredients. He then extended his personal heartfelt and sincere appreciation to Mayor Lord for her courage in issuing the Pride Month Proclamation and noted that his Pastor, Lisa Talbot of the Regent Life Methodist Church submitted a letter as she could not attend the meeting tonight and he read an excerpt, *"Shaped by the liberating love of Christ, I affirm the Mayor's Proclamations naming June as both Pride Month and a time to commemorate Juneteenth. These are not simply symbolic gestures, they are theological affirmation of God's justice, equity and beloved community. In celebrating Pride, we affirm the sacred worth of LGBTQ+ people and reject theologies and systems that have denied their humanity. These proclamations call us, not just to remember, but to act, to live the gospel, call, to proclaim release, to the captives, and to let the oppressed go free. The Church must not stand at a distance from this work, it must stand in it, guided by faith that demands justice and a Saviour who consistently centered the marginalized. To affirm Juneteenth and Pride together is to recognize the interconnectedness of liberation. These proclamations are a sign of that transformation, at work in Homer and by God's grace, they are not the end, they are the beginning."*

Councilmember Aderhold expressed appreciation for people attending the meeting and taking part in the public process and hoped the trend will continue. She then reported on the recent Writer's Conference and

looking forward to the next one with keynote speaker poet Jane Hirshfield which she was pretty excited about. Ms. Aderhold expressed her appreciation for working through the budget process and the discussions that Council is having in being very thoughtful on working through the issues and understanding their fiscal responsibilities.

Councilmember Parsons expressed that his family was one of the nerds at Karen Hornaday Park looking at the new restrooms and they are really impressive, visiting the spit over the weekend and taking Ben Walters back he saw someone riding a mower along the street and it ws Parks Maintenance personnel, Chad Felice out mowing city properties on Saturday, so city staff are just wonderful. He expressed his appreciation for Melissa keeping the Council informed and guiding them through the process, Renee and the Clerk's Office for all that they do and providing the paper this month it was a lot, so thanks.

Councilmember Venuti expressed birthday wishes to Councilmember Davis, complimented the Public Works Staff and Volunteers on how wonderful the Cemetery looks, recent moose births in her neighborhood and appreciation to the City Manager and Mayor for their assistance during the budget process and the City Clerk for her help and advice earlier before the meeting with her motion, and she echoed the sentiments on having the public attendance at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lord adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Next Regular Meeting is Monday, June 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. A Worksession at 4:00 p.m. A Special Meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. and a Joint Worksession with Planning Commission on Wednesday June 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. on the Comprehensive Plan. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

APPROVED:_____