

Session 25-16 a Regular Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on Monday, June 9, 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.

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

**STAFF:** CITY MANAGER JACOBSEN  
CITY CLERK KRAUSE  
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS  
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KORT  
HR DIRECTOR BROWNING  
CITY PLANNER FOSTER  
FINANCE DIRECTOR FISCHER

### **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: **MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS** item a. Recognition of Wastewater System Award Recognition document. **CONSENT AGENDA** Item b. Memorandum CC-25-156 from City Clerk re: Liquor Licenses. Corrected Memo from HPD Non-Objection to Liquor License Transfer Item d. Ordinance 25-44 Appropriating \$250,000 for Trail Segment and Trailhead at Greene Timbers. DCRA Underpass Conceptual Trail and Diamond Creek Recreation Trail Map **VISITORS** Item a. South Peninsula Hospital Presentation – SPH Report by Ryan Smith CEO **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** item a. Memorandum from Public Works Director re: HERC Environmental Survey and Memorandum from City Manager re: Fire Department Follow-up and requested a motion.

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:

- a. Recognition of Wastewater System Award and City of Homer Wastewater Management Team
- b. Recognition of Roberta Highland

## **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:

- Ordinance 25-38(S), 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(S), 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.
- Ordinance 25-40, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating the FY25 Community Assistance Program Payment in the Amount of \$143,428.05 for Various Capital Projects.
- Ordinance 25-41, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating a 2024 Commercial Passenger Vessel Tax Program Grant from the State and the Borough in the Amount of \$4,612.50 Each to Replace Several Benches Along the Harbor Walking Path.
- Ordinance 25-42, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$7,000 from Port Reserves for Engineering Support for the 2025 Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant Application.
- Ordinance 25-43, Amending the City of Homer Water and Sewer Rates and Updating the City Fee Schedule Accordingly.

Kate Finn, city resident, provided comments on the memorandum in the supplemental packet referring to the Homer Volunteer Fire Department stating it was very comprehensive but there was a lack of inclusion for local input on the Request for Proposal document and advocated for up to two experienced fire department associated people from the community included in the evaluation process..

## **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 27, 2025 and Special Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2025. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. Memorandum CC-25-156 from City Clerk re: Liquor Licenses/Marijuana Licenses. Recommend Non-Objection.
- c. Memorandum CC-25-157 from City Clerk re: Travel Authorization for Mayor Lord and Councilmembers to Attend AML Summer Conference in Utqiagvik, Alaska August 12-14, 2025. Recommend approval.
- d. Ordinance 25-44, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating up to \$250,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund for the Development of a Trailhead and Trail Segment on the North Side of the Sterling Highway at Green Timbers in Accordance with the Diamond Creek Recreation Area Trails Plan. Aderhold. Introduction June 9, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading June 23, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-162 from Public Works Director as backup.

Pulled by Councilmembers Erickson/Davis and moved to Ordinances item a.

- e. Resolution 25-055, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Acknowledging the Insufficiency of the Petition for the East End Road Meadow Drive Water and Sewer Improvements Special Assessment District. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-158 from City Clerk as backup.

- f. Resolution 25-056, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving a Sublease between Happy Face, LLC and Spittoon, LLC Occupying a Section of the Parking Area Identified as FT #1 (designated as a Food Truck Pedestal/Area approximately 200 Sq. Ft.) Located on the Property Entitled T7S R13W SEC 1 Seward Meridian HM 0890034 Homer Spit Amended Lot 32, and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Port Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-159 from Port Property Associate as backup.

- g. Resolution 25-057, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving a Sublease between Happy Face LLC, and Cove Collective, LLC dba Cove & Co. Occupying Unit #2 (consisting of 1,250 Sq. Ft.) in the Building Located on the Property Entitled T7S R13W SEC 1 Seward Meridian HM 0890034 Homer Spit Amended Lot 32, and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Port Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-160 from Port Property Associate as backup.

- h. Resolution 25-058, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving a Sublease between Happy Face, LLC and Jürgen Jensen dba The Law Office of Jürgen Jensen Occupying the Northwest Corner Office of the Upper Level of Main Building (consisting of 383 Sq. Ft.) on the Property Entitled T7S R13W SEC 1 Seward Meridian HM 0890034 Homer Spit Amended Lot 32, and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Port Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-161 from Port Property Associate as backup.

- i. Resolution 25-059, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Authorizing Task Order 3 to Alaska Harbor Consulting, LLC for Engineering Support for the 2025 Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant Application. City Manager/Port Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-163 from Port Director as backup.

- j. Resolution 25-060, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Authorizing the Negotiation and Execution and Delivery of a Loan Agreement Required by the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Under its Clean Water Revolving Loan Program in Connection with a Not to Exceed \$1,235,999 Loan (of which \$500,000 is Eligible for Forgiveness) to Assist in Financing the Beluga Sewer Lift Station Improvement Project. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-164 from Public Works Director as backup.

Councilmember Erickson requested Ordinance 25-44 be pulled from the Consent Agenda. It was moved to the Regular Agenda under Ordinances Item a.

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

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

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **VISITORS**

- a. South Peninsula Hospital Presentation - Ryan Smith, CEO

Mayor Lord introduced the topic by reading of the title and invited Ryan Smith, South Peninsula Hospital Chief Executive Officer to speak to Council.

Ryan Smith provided a summary review of the presentation provided in the Supplemental Packet. He noted that their Chief Operations/Operating Officer will be leaving and moving to Soldotna and will be taking on the position of Chief Financial Officer for Central Peninsula Hospital, stating that she has been a vital part of South Peninsula Hospital's team for 5.5 years and will be greatly missed. After providing the presentation on the accomplishments, goals and projects of the hospital Mr. Smith facilitated discussion with Council on the following:

- Availability of childcare services for the general public
  - This will be for employees and will open up availability at other childcare facilities within the area.
    - It was noted that there was a need of approximately 250 spots within the community
      - Church on the Rock creating a childcare facility as well
- Announcements from Derotha Ferraro on the radio each day provides a positive feeling for the community.
- Plans for a permanent home for the Behavioral Health unit

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

- a. Worksession Report

City Manager Jacobsen reported that Council discussed the following:

- Ordinance 25-38(S)(A) Operating Budget
  - Employee COLAs
- Resolution 25-030 Amendments to the Shift Differential Pay percentage, Graveyard Pay Percentage and On Call Hourly pay increase
- Available Unassigned Fund Balance
  - Information regarding Reserve Fund balances

- b. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Aderhold reported that Council discussed:

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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.deskofthehomer mayor.substack.com>. She then reported on:

d. Borough Report

e. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Report

Casey Siekanic, Port and Harbor Advisory Commissioner reported that the commission has been working on amendments to Homer City Code 18.08 City Leases and the Lease Policy and Procedures.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

- a. 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. Introduction May 12, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 27, 2025.

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

Mayor Lord introduced Ordinance 25-38(S) and opened the Public Hearing. There was no public testimony provided.

Mayor Lord closed the Public Hearing, and noted previous actions to amend the ordinance taken by the Council at the May 27, 2025 meeting and that the following motion was before the Council.

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

Mayor Lord facilitated additional discussion on the following:

- Funding concerns for the 2.2% COLA
  - Provided the increased Health Insurance
  - Uncertainty in revenue and future
  - Splitting that COLA in half across the two year budget
  - Reassessing a COLA for Exempt employees during a mid-biennium budget amendment
- Exempt Employees receipt of an 11% increase in 2024
  - Clarification on increased to bring to industry standard and many times the department heads second in command would make more per hour than the department head
- Recommendation to vote down this amendment and make amendment for another amount
- Several Councilmembers stated support for the amendment as presented.

VOTE. NO. ERICKSON, VENUTI.

VOTE. YES. PARSONS, HANSEN, ADERHOLD, DAVIS.

Motion carried.

Mayor Lord noted Ordinance 25-38(S) was adopted as amended.

- b. 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. Introduction May 12, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 27, 2025.

FY26/FY27 Budget Amendments

Mayor Lord introduced Ordinance 25-39(S) and opened the Public Hearing. There was no public testimony provided.

Mayor Lord closed the Public Hearing, and noted that the ordinance was further postponed to this meeting. She opened the floor to Council for a motion to amend or discuss.

ERICKSON/PARSONS MOVED TO AMEND THE FY26/FY27 CAPITAL BUDGET \$25K FOR BAY AVENUE EASEMENT ACQUISITION.

Mayor Lord facilitated discussion on the following points:

- Being proactive to developing the trail proposal and obtaining easements
- This trail connection was discussed during the developing the Transportation Plan
- Advocated that it be referred to Parks Commission for review and inclusion in their trail priority listing
- Concerns expressed regarding the support of including in the capital budget as it is similar to Ordinance 25-44
- Do not see cruise ship passengers using this proposed trail
- Doyon Hotel guests would probably use it
- Cyclists should be riding with traffic but they could use
- Requires definition, criteria or guidance
- Supports including in the capital budget to provides public works a basis to work on the project
  - the city supports the idea
  - walkers and runners would benefit

Mayor Lord called for a roll call vote.

VOTE. NO. ADERHOLD.

VOTE. YES. HANSEN, PARSONS, VENUTI, ERICKSON, DAVIS

Motion carried.

City Manager Jacobsen brought forward the question regarding funding for the sidewalk/trail maintenance equipment and splitting the costs between HART roads and HART trails.

Discussion ensued on the following points:

- impacts to the HART funds and requested information from staff
  - \$1.7 million in HART Roads
  - \$1.5 million in HART Trails
- Impacts to the Budget if adopted
  - Postponing to allow staff to provide that information

ADERHOLD/DAVIS MOVED TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE 25-39(S) TO THE JUNE 23, 2025 MEETING.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- c. 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 Resolution 25-030 by reading of the title and opened the public hearing.

Patrick Houlihan, city employee, expressed comments on updating the on call pay and noted that while he appreciates the concern for the tight budget the amount that an employee is compensated in return for the loss of time does not compare. He reported that when an employee is on call they do not travel more than 30 minute distance, they must leave at any hour of the day or night and be prepared at all times. He further noted that there had not been increases in the rate of pay for over 20 years and advocated that the rate be comparable to what other municipalities pay.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing seeing no one else coming forward to speak. She noted for the record the actions on made by Council and the motion before them as follows:

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

Mayor Lord opened the floor to discussion or an amendment.

Discussion ensued on the following points:

- Expressed appreciation for the Employee Committee bringing this forward and providing the due diligence research to assist in the decision making process.
- Clarification on the effects to the budget by approving the resolution.
- The On Call for IT would impact their budget since it is currently not budgeted for or considered at this time but a mid-biennium budget amendment would be appropriate.
- Consideration for line item in the next budget.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- 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.

Memorandum CC-25-168 from City Clerk as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced Ordinance 25-40 by reading of the title and opened the public hearing. There was no public testimony and the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Lord requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-40 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- 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.

Mayor Lord introduced Ordinance 25-40 by reading of the title and opened the public hearing. There was no public testimony and the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Lord requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-41 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Mayor Lord inquired if there were any discussion or amendments.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADD LANGUAGE ON LINE 13 TO ADD "CLOSE OUT THE RAMP TWO RESTROOM PROJECT"

There was brief clarification provided by the City Manager that the funds applied would not be enough to close out the project. She further explained that Port & Harbor Enterprise Fund funded the Ramp Two Restroom Project and it was agreed that the Passenger Vessel Tax would be used to reimburse the funds.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT TO REMOVE THE WORDS "CLOSE OUT"

There was no further discussion.

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

Motion carried.

Further discussion included the benefits of using future funds to implement wayfinding signage to assist the Cruise Ship Passengers get around town and the costs of the benches.



Port Director Hawkins was unable to provide the bench pricing but would provide that at a separate meeting.

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

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion or amendments.

VOTE. (Main as Amended). NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- 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 & Comms. Director as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced Ordinance 25-42 by reading of the title and opened the public hearing. There was no public testimony and the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Lord requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-42 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- g. 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 Ordinance 25-43 by reading of the title and opened the public hearing. There was no public testimony and the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Lord requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-43 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Discussion was facilitated on the following points:

- Noting the Council held several worksessions on the Water & Sewer Rates
- Implementing a user fee to address those customers that are in residence for the summer months

- Starting earlier to make sure there is adequate time for discussion.
- Clear communication between Staff and Administration and Council so all information is provided as requested.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE(S)**

- a. Ordinance 25-44, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating up to \$250,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund for the Development of a Trailhead and Trail Segment on the North Side of the Sterling Highway at Green Timbers in Accordance with the Diamond Creek Recreation Area Trails Plan. Aderhold. Introduction June 9, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading June 23, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-162 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor introduced Ordinance 25-44 by reading of title and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 25-44 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

DAVIS/ERICKSON MOVED TO AMEND LINE 61 TO CHANGE THE WORD “CONSTRUCTS” WITH THE WORD “APPROVES” .

Further discussion noted that the Homer Trails Alliance wanted to be able to proceed with the next step in the project once the ADOT&PF approved the pedestrian underpass. The funding provided by Council would then be relevant.

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

Motion carried.

ERICKSON/DAVIS MOVED TO AMEND ORDINANCE 25-44 TO ADD A BULLET POINT AT LINE 74, THAT READS IF THE STATE POSTPONES THE PROJECT INDEFINITELY THE FUNDING MOVES BACK INTO THE HART TRAILS FUND.

There was a brief discussion on the following:

- The need for the additional bullet point as it was similar to the previous bullet point
- Council could appropriate the funds at any time by ordinance for another project
- Clarification was made that due to the economic climate there was concern that the State could decide that they are not going to do the project for years
- Council could determine that the funds could be better used on another immediate project.

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lord inquired if there were any further amendments or discussion.

City Manager Jacobsen brought forward concerns on the use of the word “May” in Line 69 stating that it was ambiguous and would recommend restating the bullet point.

There were a few suggested words by Council.

Mayor Lord called for a recess at 7:50 p.m. to allow the City Manager and Councilmember Aderhold work on the amendment language. The meeting was called back to order at 7:55 p.m.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO AMEND LINE 69 TO READ, “IF THE FIRST TWO CRITERIA ARE MET THESE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO HTA TO USE AS A MATCH WHEN APPLYING FOR GRANTS TO COMPLETE THE FULL TRAIL CONNECTING DCRA TO DCSRS.

There was no discussion.

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

Motion carried.

Councilmember Erickson expressed appreciation for Councilmember Aderhold putting the amendments in order.

There was no further discussion or amendments.

VOTE. (Main motion as Amended) NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mayor Lord noted Ordinance 25-44(A) would be scheduled for Public Hearing at the next meeting.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **a. City Manager's Report**

Mayor Lord introduced the next topic and deferred to City Manager Jacobsen.

City Manager Jacobsen noted her report in the packet and spoke to the memorandums provided in the supplemental packet. She facilitated discussion on the following:

- Request for Proposals (RFP) for Fire Department Operational Audit was under final review
- Will advertise the RFP in the Homer News per the Procurement Policy and Homer City Code
- Anyone in the Community can submit a response
- List of agencies that perform this type of work throughout the United States
  - Notice will be sent to these agencies
- Completion of the audit is three months
- In contact with Workshield that provides services similar to Ombudsman that can assist with an independent reporting system for city employees and volunteers.
- If a proposal from a company located outside Alaska will have their own team of subject matter experts
  - They would perform interviews with locals and do assessments in person presumably

- A Selection Committee will be formed to include Councilmembers, Fire Department Captain or Staff person, volunteer and member of the public
- Council expressed concerns on the content and requested review of the RFP before distribution and publication.
- Interviews of staff and volunteers current and past would be under cultural assessments
- Concern that the three months would be enough time to perform a thorough assessment.
- Not seeing Leadership or volunteers within the bullet points to make sure the volunteer program is as strong as it should be
  - Addressing the real concerns on what has been reported to Council
    - The management of the department and volunteers
- The Cultural Assessment portion will address the concerns of staff, leadership and volunteers along with discipline, records management, tracking data such as training, responses to calls, recruiting and hiring practices and employee retention programs
  - Compared to an Assessment from the City and Borough of Haines which resulted in a very successful response and very inclusive report.
  - Requested the City Manager to send that information to Council for review
  - Concern expressed that that the city has lost volunteers from all walks of life, and is in a vulnerable position, how to build that base back up.
- Suggestions from Councilmembers and the Community such as a volunteer auxiliary program
- Opposition to operational review of budget included in the RFP
- Addressing the cultural issue of volunteerism and how the existing program works or if they do not have one how do they implement one
- Council to submit review and recommendations to the City Manager prior to the next meeting.
- Pedestrian Crosswalks on Heath Street
- Licensed Inspector requirement for Title 21 suggestion
- Stripping and double yellow lines on roadways
- Lead Paint in the HERC and closure of the activities room
- Special Meeting for Executive Session on Monday, June 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- Council and the Mayor to be informed of visits and meetings with visiting elected government representatives such as Commissioners, Senators, Representatives, etc.

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Memorandum CC-25-166 from Councilmembers Davis and Erickson re: Consideration of a Proposal to Establish a Low Cost Walking Trail Loop above Karen Hornaday Park and Refer to the Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission.

Memorandum CC-25-167 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Councilmember Davis.

Councilmember Davis reviewed the proposed walking trail on the newly acquired property above Karen Hornaday Park and the intent to keep it low maintenance and use at own risk. He noted walking the trail with the City Manager. It was noted that the city was negotiating with the neighboring property owner on a possible easement, the steep ravines, no intent to bring in volunteers to perform any clearing as that was done prior to the transfer of ownership to the city. He supported referring it to the Parks Commission to get their recommendations.

**DAVIS/ERICKSON MOVED TO FORWARD TO PARCAC FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Discussion ensued on how many residents or people use this trail, and the status of the easements and property owners input.

VOTE. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Kathy Stingley, expressed comments on the proposed RFP for the Fire Department providing further recommendations to include the word volunteer, referred to a document that was submitted from the National Fire Council on recruiting and retaining volunteers, referred to the list that was provided of local people willing to participate at no cost in a review of the fire department, there was only one reference to EMS calls and the bullet point should call out fire and rescue calls; and recommendation on the evaluation team makeup.

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, expressed kudos to Council on the budget, safety and walkability recounted personal experience on Heath Street, stripping and marking on the roads, loss of residents and the recent passing of Chip Duggan and wishing Happy Birthday to Tom Klinker.

Dan Kort, Public Works Director provided comments on the stripping discussion noting the city follows the Federal Highway Administrations guidance and the issue of bike lanes. He was willing to meet with Council to discuss further.

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

**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 Jacobsen had no additional comments.

**COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Lord expressed loving summer and looking forward to the weather forecast for the week.

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilmember Venuti provided comments on the recognition for Roberta Highland and her remembrances of Mary Epperson, expressed her appreciation for the work that Public Works does noting seeing employees always doing something at City Hall even on the weekends and addressing signage on Kachemak Way and that July was Peony Month.

Councilmember Parsons provided kudos to Melissa's 21 year anniversary with the City and Mike Illg's 19 years and expressed his appreciation for the Clerk's Office and the City Manager.

Councilmember Aderhold expressed comments on the information provided on the Bridgecreek Reservoir and the presentation during the Committee of the Whole.

Councilmember Davis commented on the Homer Harbor Fest and The Taste of Homer events appearing to be very successful even though the weather was not the best with wind and rain and he was looking forward to days of 60 degrees which will be loved by the bees.

Councilmember Erickson commented on a recent experience watching a robin attacking a shrew in the morning and then in the afternoon a family of cranes and used that as comparison to things going on in the world and all the angry people but believed there was a lot of love too, so focus on the Sandhill cranes.

Councilmember Hansen commented on a the difficulties in budgeting and that it is not always an easy bite to chew when dedicating money but believed that and happy city or employer meant happy employees and believed the Council did right by the employees tonight though the COLA and the shift differential and on call pay increases. She noted that she attended a craft night hosted by Kachemak By Recovery and SVT and signing up for ceramics at HCOA and then expressed comments on additional losses to the community of Robbie Larson and Ian Russell expressing condolences to the families.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Lord adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Next Regular Meeting is Monday, June 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. A Worksession at 4:00 p.m. 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.

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RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

APPROVED:\_\_\_\_\_