

Session 25-01 a Special Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 by Mayor Lord at 5:31 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 ERICKSON, HANSEN, DAVIS, ADERHOLD, VENUTI, PARSONS

**STAFF:** CITY MANAGER JACOBSEN  
CITY CLERK KRAUSE  
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS  
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA

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

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Pre-Legislative Session Discussion with Representative Sarah Vance

Memorandum CC-25-001 from Special Projects & Communications Coordinator as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced the item by reading of the title and provided an overview on the purpose of the meeting, which was a pre-legislative session discussion with Representative Sarah Vance and expressed her appreciation to Representative Vance for attending the first meeting of City Council for the new year, confirming that Representative Vance had received a copy of Memorandum CC-25-001. Ms. Lord stated that the memorandum was a compilation of existing legislative matters and the listing of capital improvement plan priority projects approved to date. Mayor Lord continued stating for the record that it provides an overview of municipal interest that Council has expressed so far that are of interest to the Legislature and invited Representative Vance to speak, providing an introduction if so desired and invited Councilmembers to present specific questions if any before Representative Vance proceeds to updates and what will be of use and interest to the City of Homer and City Council.

Representative Vance expressed her intent was to have an informal conversation on how City Council and she can work together on the priorities, ensuring that they are all on the same page as the legislative session starts. She provided an update on the following:

- being a member of the legislative seafood industry task force and will be meeting in Anchorage over the next couple of days;
- involved in discussion about the Municipal Harbor Grant Fund and increasing the fund to \$7.5 million and including it in the budget this year;

- what can the seafood task force do to assist coastal communities under the strain of decreasing revenues due to harvest numbers and the market;
- the development of the FY26 budget was going to be very tight with limited capital budget funding;
  - o The Governor's proposed budget is decreased by 15% with the operating budget decreased about 5% but is not a balanced budget
- Working through the next couple of years keeping the Harbor Expansion and Spit Erosion at the forefront
  - o Reminding everyone they connect with legislatively that they have this project and need since everyone loves coming to Homer and visiting the Homer Spit.
- New community/manage office staff hired who is very familiar with Homer, Felicia Weisser

Representative Vance responded to questions from Council on the following:

- Best times to visit Juneau during the legislative session
  - o Having a consistent voice throughout the municipalities that visit during the legislative session
  - o If City of Homer priorities are different from Alaska Municipal League (AML) then separate visits when convenient may be more productive.
- Library Funding
  - o Provided contacts for Ninilchik, Anchor Point and Seldovia for alternative funding source
- Spit Road Erosion
  - o Long term solutions required
  - o Support and involvement from multiple agencies
  - o Topic is scheduled for the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>
  - o Getting Representative Begich and his office involved

Mayor Lord, hearing no further questions from Council, stated that they will have a standing Legislative Report on the second meeting of each month which will allow Representative Vance and Senator Stevens to provide the City with an update. Council will have staff submit any new resolutions or statements of positions on situations happening at the State level that impact the city and request that Representative Vance and Senator Stevens reciprocate with any new developments from Juneau. Mayor Lord advised Representative Vance of a Request for Proposals that will be advertised very shortly for a Federal Lobbyist for the city.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Lord adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m. Next Regular Meeting is Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. A Worksession at 3:30 p.m. All meetings 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: \_\_\_\_\_