

Session 25-21 a Regular Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on Monday, August 25, 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.

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

**STAFF:** CITY MANAGER JACOBSEN  
CITY CLERK KRAUSE  
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS  
HR DIRECTOR BROWNING  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KORT  
FINANCE DIRECTOR FISCHER  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA  
SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CARROLL  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ENGBRETSEN  
POLIC CHIEF ROBL

### **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, a full Council was in attendance.

**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 as follows: Under the **CONSENT AGENDA** Item b. Memorandum CC-25-210 Liquor License Renewals Memorandums of Non-Objection from the Homer Police Department. **Provided as laydowns: Under REPORTS** Item e. Comprehensive Plan and Title 21 Update – Written report by City Planner item i. Planning Commission Report – Written Report provided by Commissioner S. Smith **Under City Manager's** Report Multipurpose Community Recreation Facility Next Steps Memorandum from Mayor and Informational item on Port Infrastructure Underpins Innovation from the Mayor.

ADERHOLD/PARSONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

- a. Mayoral Proclamation Acknowledging Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection and Encouraging City of Homer Residents to Participate in September for National Recovery Month.

Mayor Lord read the proclamation into the record and presented to a representative of the Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection and stood for pictures.

- b. Mayoral Proclamation Supporting National Patriotism Week September 8-14, 2025

Mayor Lord read the proclamation into the record and presented to a group of representatives of the Homer Elks and stood for pictures.

### **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:

- a. Ordinance 25-53, Appropriating an Additional \$16,000 from the Port Reserves Fund for the Deep Water Dock Fender Repair Project.
- b. Ordinance 25-56, Appropriating \$1,200,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Road Fund to the Highland Drive Culvert Replacement Project.

Pat Case, city resident, expressed his appreciation for the Proclamation for National Recovery Month relating his personal experience.

### **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 for August 11, 2025. City Clerk. Recommend approval.
- b. Memorandum CC-25-210 from City Clerk re: Liquor License Renewals for Patels, Patels #2, Homer Liquor & Wine Company and Latitude 59. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum CC-25-211 from Mayor re: Re-appointment of Christine Thorsrud to the ADA Advisory Board. Recommend approval.
- d. Ordinance 25-58, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$20,000 from the Fishing Hole Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund for the Purpose of Installing a Drywell in Tract 2 of the Fishing Hole Subdivision. City Manager/Port Director.

Memorandum CC-25-212 from Port Director as backup.

- e. Ordinance 25-59, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a State of Alaska Public Library Assistance Grant for FY26 in the Amount of \$7,000 for Books and Library Materials. City Manager/Library Director. Introduction August 25, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading September 8, 2025

Memorandum CC-25-213 from the Library Director as backup.

- f. Resolution 25-075, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving a Services Agreement between the City of Homer and the City of Kachemak for Emergency Fire, Rescue, Haz-Mat, and Emergency Medical Services and Authorizes the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Agreement. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-214 from City Manager as backup.

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

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

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **VISITORS**

- a. Annual Burning Basket Event, Mavis Muller
  - i. Recognition of Mavis Muller and the Burning Basket Project from September 24, 2018

Mayor Lord read the Recognition from September 2018 into the record and invited Mavis Muller to speak to the Council.

Ms. Muller provided a history of the event, how the process of building the basket was done, what the event has come to symbolize and the intent of bringing the community together.

- a. Southern Kenai Peninsula Resilience Coalition - Updates on Youth Initiatives, Hannah Gustafson & Anna Meredith

Mayor Lord introduced the item and invited Hannah Gustafson and Anna Meredith to speak to the Council.

Ms. Gustafson and Ms. Meredith presented to Council on the achievement of the organization and the focus on youth and services provided to the community and upcoming event.

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

- a. Worksession Report

City Manager Jacobsen reported on the Strategic Planning that Council started in January, providing some revisions and updating the prioritization. A further worksession will be scheduled to complete the planning stage at a future meeting.

- b. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Aderhold reported on the Council discussion regarding the HART program Funds 155 and 160 and how they are used the City Manager's Attendance at the grand opening for the Soldotna Fieldhouse and continued work on the Strategic Planning.

- c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lord reported on the start of the school year and Port Director Hawkins meeting with Legislative staff for Begich and giving them a tour of the Harbor, provided a memorandum in the laydown packet as an outline for the Strategic Planning and attendance at the Planning Commission's Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing and that the Commission will submit their recommendation at their September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting the

Comprehensive Plan will be introduced at the Council meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and hold a public Hearing on October 13<sup>th</sup> which will then be forwarded to the Borough..

d. Borough Report

There was no report for this meeting.

e. Comprehensive Plan and Title 21 Status Update

Ryan Foster, City Planner provided a written report as a laydown and spoke to his report.

f. Economic Development Advisory Commission

There was no Commissioner present to report.

g. Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Board

Pat Case, Board member reported on the Board meeting for August 14<sup>th</sup> the Board welcomed their new Student Representative Allison Engebretsen and they now know it's cool what the Board does. He then related that they reviewed and recommended the top three projects for the CIP and spoke at length on recommendations received from the Request for Information that was issued so will have a new project to submit for Council consideration.

h. Library Advisory Board

Kathy Carssow, Boardmember reported that she was newly elected chair and Micheal McKinney was re-elected as vice chair, the Board as other bodies selected their top three recommendations for Council to consider, reached the goal of \$100,000 for the Endowment Fund in 5 years and 4 months, they are working on standardizing donations and will have a worksession at the September meeting to discuss celebrations for the Library's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026.

i. Planning Commission

Scott Smith, Commissioner provided a written report as a laydown.

j. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Dave Lewis, Commissioner reported that the Commission had two presentations one from the Friends of the Skate Park advocating for the support of a proposed new Skate Park using the grounds of the HERC facility and Jenny Carroll on the Capital Improvement Plan process and use. Later in the meeting the Commission selected and recommended three projects, they received reports from Public Works on the new Karen Hornaday Trail and supported engineered plans for the trail versus using animal paths, trail work that has been completed and damage to the new portable restroom at Jack Gist Park and creating a Task Force to address ways that funding could be done for the Pool and Theater at Homer High School.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

- a. Ordinance 25-53, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating an Additional \$16,000 from the Port Reserves Fund for the Deep Water Dock Fender Repair Project. City Manager/Port Director. Introduction August 11, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading August 25, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-200 from Port Director as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced the item by reading of the title and opened the public hearing.

There was no public testimony.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD /PARSON MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-53 BY READING OF THE TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Council briefly discussed concerns linked to funding source and not included in the budget, providing additional information as to the projects that are funded on the bottom of the financial supplement with each ordinance and transfers into the accounts with the wrap up of the FY25 budget.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 25-56, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$1,200,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Road Fund to the Highland Drive Culvert Replacement Project. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction August 11, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading August 25, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-203 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced the item by reading of the title and opened the public hearing.

There was no public testimony.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/PARSONS MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-56 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Public Works Director Kort provided information on costs and development of the project at the request of Council.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Councilmember Venuti lost connection at 7:05 p.m. She was unable to reconnect due to technological issues.

#### **ORDINANCE(S)**

- a. Ordinance 25-57, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$40,000 from the General Fund Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund for the Purchase of Global Positioning System (GPS) Survey Equipment. Public Works Director/City Manager. Introduction August 25, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading September 8, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-209 from Public Works Director as backup.

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

ADERHOLD/PARSONS MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 25-57 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Mayor Lord facilitated discussion on the ordinance noting the following:

- Basis for having it on the regular agenda versus the consent agenda
- Historical information on funding actions
- Concerns on expending funds at this time
- Preparation for things that break
- Addressing deferred maintenance
- Receiving an overall financial picture for the next meeting

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

- a. City Manager's Report
- b. FY25 Year End Report – Preliminary

Mayor Lord introduced the topic and deferred to City Manager.

City Manager Jacobsen reviewed the report in the packet and provided brief comments on the following:

- Provided additional details on the Soldotna Fieldhouse project
  - Funding Strategies
  - Offices
  - 54,000 sf
  - Elevated walking running track
  - Three courts
- HEA was interested in speaking with the City but would not be able to donate the property, possible trade of land with comparable value.
- Homer Foundation Field of Interest Fund for the Community Rec Center, requires Council input on possible alternative uses if this facility is not constructed
  - Programming
  - Staff
  - Equipment
  - Fields, Parks, and Recreation assets
- Water and Wastewater plans update
- Homer Spit Project concerning fill permit at Mud Bay
  - Private Property not a city project until they apply for Zoning Permit in the hands of the Corp of Engineers at this time.
  - Councilmember Aderhold provided information on how the public can provide comments on the project.
- Provided status update on Fire Chief search

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Robert Archibald, city resident, expressed concern and dismay on the removal of vegetation and the closeness of the structures for the project being constructed at 955 Sterling Highway.

Elisa Garvey, City resident, expressed comments on Ordinance 25-53, damage to pilings, additional expenditures and financial impacts regarding the use of funds by spending to the cap, and leaning away from a bad deal regarding the HEA property.

Pat Case, city resident, expressed comments regarding affordable housing and business start ups for young people, Homer's aging residents, and suggested allowing smaller lots to encourage home ownership with starter homes.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Gatti had no comments.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Krause commented on the student representative vacancy available and noted that an application was received for the Library Advisory Board.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Jacobsen had no comments.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Lord expressed comments on the start of school being successful and reminding everyone to register or update their registration to vote by September 7<sup>th</sup> and to make a plan to vote on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor Lord confirmed with the Clerk that Councilmember Venuti was not on the meeting. It was noted that she had some connections issues.

Councilmember Parsons expressed his appreciation for the service of the Clerk's Office staff, reporting from the City Manager on the Soldotna Fieldhouse and the overall number of reports and people at the meeting tonight. It showed how passionate, committed and informed people are and well I am just bursting with pride sitting here, so "way to go Homer."

Councilmember Davis expressed comments on the wonderful summer and glad it is winding down, exhausting but beautiful between the beekeeping and the rest of it. He then expressed comments on the Gateway District issue and noted that it currently is not very beautiful and wondered if the borough would take a different approach.

Councilmember Erickson expressed comments on the wonderful summer but being ready to wind down some and look forward to our winter lives by getting ready for harvesting and hunting, reminding everyone to be safe, and acknowledged the many bunnies in the city.

Councilmember Hansen expressed comments on dodging the rabbits while driving, volunteering for the football games, not being ready for summer to end yet as there are still so many things she wanted to do. She expressed her appreciation for Mr. Case providing his experiences and commented on the housing availability that is affordable noting that she just bought her house, and it took a while and it's even harder for their children.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Lord adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. 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:\_\_\_\_\_