Session 22-03 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on January 24, 2022 by Mayor Ken Castner 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, DAVIS, ERICKSON, HANSEN-CAVASOS, LORD, VENUTI

STAFF: CITY MANAGER DUMOUCHEL
       CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
       FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON
       PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER
       CITY ATTORNEY GATTI

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

Mayor Castner read changes and supplemental items to the packet- VISITORS All Things Addiction presentation slides PUBLIC HEARING correcting item d. to read Ordinance 22-04(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY 2022 Capital Budget by Appropriating $350,000 $400,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Road Fund for the Purchase of a new Grader. City Manager/Public Works Director with Memorandum 22-022 from Public Works Director as backup. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There were no comments.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Chris Logan, non-resident, commented in support of Resolution 21-057(S-2) and options of moving forward with the Charles Way/Bunnell Avenue Special Assessment District.

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.)


b. Memorandum 22-017 from Mayor Castner re: Appointment of Bob Shavelson and re-appointment of Mark Zeiset to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission. Recommend approval.

c. Ordinance 22-07, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY22 Capital Budget by Appropriating $15,000 from the Homer Accelerated Road and Trail Program Road Fund and $5,000 from both the Water and the Sewer Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Funds for a total of $25,000, to Update the City of Homer’s Design Criteria Manual, Standard Construction Specifications, Standard Construction Details, and Reconcile Designated Elements of the Development Standards in Homer City Code. City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommended dates Introduction January 24, 2022, Public Hearing and Second Reading February 14, 2022.

Memorandum 22-018 from Public Works Director as backup.

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda with recommendations.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

a. All Things Addiction (ATA) on the Southern Kenai Peninsula Quarterly Report (10 minutes)

Jaclyn Rainwater, ATA Facilitator, introduced herself. She’s the new facilitator as of October 2021. She reported on the Community Conversation held November 9, 2021 to collect community input to be used to create a strategic planning session. Strategic Planning Sessions occurred December 7 and 8, 2021. Data was collected to interpret the needs of the community and four workgroups were created in response to the data regarding;
1. Creating a recovery ready community
2. Lived experience, peer support & volunteers
3. Navigating the systems
4. Family and youth support.

Ms. Rainwater provided an update on Megan’s Place, the Exchange, and the work being done to provide necessary services to the community for Harm Reduction.

b. COVID-19 Agency Update Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital Director of Public Relations & Marketing and Lorne Carroll, State of Alaska Public Health Nurse III (10 minutes)

Lorne Carroll, State of Alaska Public Health Nurse III, shared information regarding COVID-19 cases in the US, Alaska, and the Southern Kenai Peninsula and provided an update on hospitalizations and capacity statewide. He addressed when Alaskans should seek testing, if a person has symptoms, 5 days after being exposed to a positive case, after travel, before indoor gathering where you’ll be unmasked, at work or school related screening programs. He also addressed the Federal At-Home Testing Program and how to order test kits.

Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) Director of Public Relations & Marketing, reviewed SPH weekly COVID-19 statistics and the Delta transition to Omicron, mid-October to mid-January. She reported on the status of the CMS Vaccine Mandate and steps being taken to comply, also on a recent brief outbreak at Long Term Care, and staffing challenges related to COVID-19. She provided information on monoclonal anti-body infusions and oral antiviral medications, COVID Test and Vaccine Clinic hours, and the Homer Homeless Project.

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

a. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Aderhold reported Council discussed Ordinance 22-07 and updating design standards for roads, drainage, and so forth, and use of term contracts for that work. They also discussed HART related to Ordinances 22-04(S) and 22-05.

b. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner commented regarding a presentation organized by the Alaska Municipal League to the House Ways and Means Committee, they have a 10 year plan on how they can meet the fiscal obligations they have with communities. He and Kodiak Mayor Branson will be talking to the committee about some of their local observations.

c. Borough Report
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Member Lane Chesley reported Harbormaster Hawkins presented to the Assembly on the Homer Port Expansion Project. A supporting Assembly Resolution has been drafted that's directed to the Army Corps of Engineers, and another one is being drafted directed to the State, supporting the request for the State's portion of the money for the General Investigation Study. He shared that he'd like to continue the discussion about the parcels of land near the boat yard off Kachemak Drive. The parcels were going to be included in the land disposal auction but were withheld so other work can be done with the City to address drainage issues in that area. He requested Public Works Director Keiser give her report on those drainage issues to the Assembly.

In response to a question about the Borough putting performance provisions on plat development, Mr. Chesley said he's not aware of anything but will help work on that.

d. Library Advisory Board

Library Advisory Board Chair Kate Finn reported regarding the successful Giving Tree event at the Library and gift certificates purchased through the Homer Bookstore, as a result, 53 book titles were added to the library collection. At their last meeting they heard a report from the Homer Foundation Director on the Library Endowment Fund, discussed their strategic plan, and made a recommendation to the Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission on an art donation. She touched on events happening at the library and shared there's an opening for a city resident on the Library Advisory Board.

e. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Economic Development Advisory Commissioner Nicole Arevalo reported at their last meeting they heard a presentation from the Pratt Museum Director on work they're doing to enhance their outdoor space and also an update from the Chamber Director. Their main focus at the meeting was reviewing and making final recommendations on the Wayfinding and Streetscape Plan. There was a diverse set of opinions from the Commission throughout the process and she thinks Council will be pleased with their work. Ms. Arevalo shared there will be a local food system assets mapping workshop tomorrow as part of an effort to develop a 10 year food security plan for Alaska.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

a. Ordinance 22-01, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY22 Capital Budget and Authorizing the Expenditure of $62,000 from the Land Fund to Acquire Two Parcels of Land and Drainage Easements Across Two Additional Parcels within the Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. Erickson/Aderhold. Introduction January 10, 2022, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 24, 2022.
Memorandum 22-005 from Deputy City Planner & Special Projects Coordinator as backup

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 22-01 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND SECTION 3 LINE 45 TO DELETE THE WORDS DRAINAGE EASEMENTS ON.

Councilmember Lord clarified that section 2 speaks to the drainage easement and section 3 addresses the purchase of lots 7 and 8.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Question was raised regarding how the city monitors drainage easements over time. Public Works Director Keiser shared that she's unsure, we haven't had a lot of them. One of the issues is to link up place where we have them and places we don't, and then find a way to monitor them. She'll have better information in a few months after work with the Green Infrastructure System planning.

VOTE (main motion as amended): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.


Memorandum 22-006 from City Planner as backup.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Heath Smith, city resident, commented in support of the ordinance, it makes perfect sense as it does that we increase the capacity of our businesses to have more parking spaces for their customers.
There were no further comments and the hearing was closed.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 22-02 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmember Lord noted the good work done by the Commission as seen in their minutes.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.


Memorandum 22-007 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 22-03 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

In response to questions raised about cost and sewer line in this area, Public Works Director Keiser explained the cost of supplies for this project might be less expensive, but as a public project we’d have to pay other types of costs that government projects entail that private projects don’t. She confirmed there is a sewer line there and this project will make a connection in the water line. If the development doesn’t happen, the City doesn’t plan to come back and fill the gap, but would wait for another developer to come in. Ms. Keiser confirmed this isn’t a special assessment district, it’s a piece of undeveloped property that’s being subdivided by a private developer.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.
Ordinance 22-04(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY 2022 Capital Budget by Appropriating $350,000 **$400,000** from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Road Fund for the Purchase of a new Grader. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction January 10, 2022, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 24, 2022.

Memorandum 22-008 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Public Works Director Keiser shared information she didn’t mention earlier, that the City doesn’t pay for the equipment until it arrives, which may be a year from now, and a deposit is not required, however funds need to be allocated to place the order.

Heath Smith, city resident, commented in support of purchasing a grader but does not support using HART funds. He encouraged appropriating from the general fund.

There were no further comments and the hearing was closed.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 22-04(S) BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND LINES 9 AND 10 BY STRIKING HOMER ACCELERATED ROADS AND TRAILS ROAD FUND AND INSERTING GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE, STRIKE LINES 21 THROUGH 25, AND LINES 33 AND 34 BY STRIKING HOMER ACCELERATED ROADS AND TRAILS ROAD FUND AND INSERTING GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE.

Councilmember Lord noted their discussion about HART at Committee of the Whole and shared that she doesn’t agree with using the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to cover expenses on a play by play bases, she prefers a better plan through CARMA planning. However, given where we are with our fleet needs and the questions regarding using HART as a policy and from an accounting standpoint she thinks this is a clean and justifiable move.

Councilmember Venuti commented in support of the amendment.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Erickson asked if there is a CARMA fund set aside for emergency replacements or is it something they need to look at. City Manager Dumouchel explained the changes made
to CARMA accounts in the last budget cycle and how certain things are booked into the regular budget of equipment maintenance. In instances like this, it will need to come to Council.

There was brief discussion about reserve planning and having funds set aside to be able to address the fleet replacement schedule and the need for Council to decide what they feel should be in the reserve accounts to cover both regular replacement needs and emergency situations when they happen.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

e. Ordinance 22-05, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY 2022 Capital Budget by Appropriating $60,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Road Fund for the Purchase of a new F550, 2-Ton 4x4 Truck. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction January 10, 2022, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 24, 2022.

Memorandum 22-009 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Heath Smith, city resident, commented in support of the equipment purchase but does not support using HART funds. He encouraged appropriating from the general fund.

There were no further comments and the hearing was closed.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 22-05 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO AMEND ORDINANCE 22-05 BY REPLACING ON LINE 9 HOMER ACCELERATED ROADS AND TRAILS (HART) WITH GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE, TO STRIKE LINES 34 THROUGH 39, AND REPLACE ON LINE 46 HOMER ACCELERATED ROADS AND TRAILS (HART) WITH GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE.

Mayor Castner confirmed with City Manager Dumouchel that there are adequate General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance funds available.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.
Councilmember Lord noted further in the agenda there is a memorandum from the City Manager regarding the unassigned fund balance and she feels comfortable with the appropriations in terms of the fiscal note.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

f. Ordinance 22-06, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY22 Capital Budget and Authorizing the Expenditure of an Additional $80,476.50 from the Homer Accelerated Water and Sewer Program Fund to Complete the Alder Lane Water Improvement Project. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction January 10, 2022, Public Hearing and Second Reading January 24, 2022.

Ordinance 22-06(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY22 Capital Budget and Authorizing the Expenditure of an Additional $80,476.50 from the Homer Accelerated Water and Sewer Program Fund to Complete the Alder Lane Water Improvement Project. City Manager/Public Works Director.

Memorandum 22-010 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 22-06 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 22-06(S) FOR 22-06.

There was no discussion on the motion to substitute.

VOTE (substitution): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Aderhold requested a revisor correction be made on line 19.

VOTE (main motion): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

Memorandum 22-019 from Public Works Director as backup.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 22-08 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

At the request of Council, Public Works Director Keiser shared these funding requests support the Green Stormwater Infrastructure projects which are four projects that will use existing wetlands, fens, and bogs to soak up water and use existing vegetation to treat the water of contaminants as well as release sediments. The projects will help us manage the volume of storm water and where it goes as well as help mitigate bluff erosion in parts of Kachemak Drive and Baycrest neighborhood. This ordinance will help with small steps to move us forward. The first step to hire an appraiser to ascertain the value of the property. The second is field work to ascertain the depth of the peatlands and bogs to calculate how much water the areas will absorb and design the works that will go with them.

In response to questions Ms. Keiser briefly reviewed the appraisal standards and process and confirmed she would present to the Assembly as requested by Assembly Member Chesley earlier in the meeting.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

b. Ordinance 22-09, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY22 Capital Budget by Authorizing at Total Transfer of $4,000,000 from the General Fund Fund Balance to Include $1,500,000 to General Fund Fleet Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund, $1,500,000 to General Fund CARMA, and $1,000,000 to Land Reserves Fund. City Manager/Mayor. Recommended dates Introduction January 24, 2022, Public Hearing and Second Reading February 14, 2022.

Memorandum 22-020 from City Manager as backup.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 22-09 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Lord shared her appreciation and support for this transfer to reserve accounts. She shared her concern of how we utilize a large CARMA fund wisely over time across
the city meet all of the needs, and not allowing it to become a slush fund for the most vocal department or council project.

City Manager Dumouchel responded as an organization the City is becoming more sophisticated in the way we plan and program funds. It’s been seen with Public Works and we’re trying to move that through other departments. He shared about departmental plans and bring them together with our capital plan and capital budgeting to make it clear where we’re going. Emergencies will happen, but we’re working to forecast those needs as best we can to have appropriate revenues and balances in CARMA or other accounts.

Mayor Castner commented a well-funded CARMA will always be subject to the appropriations of the Council and having administration come forward with their plans will be more beneficial.

Councilmember Aderhold agrees with Councilmember Lord and ensuring they and future Council’s ensure good planning to ensure departmental needs aren’t left out.

Councilmember Erickson addressed deferred maintenance and that it’s costly getting it caught up to where we need to be. When there hasn’t been a good plan in place, we’ve been living with deferred maintenance. We need to know what the critical things are that have not been taken care of, that need to be.

City Manager Dumouchel highlighted some departmental needs that he’ll be bringing forward to Council for consideration and noted efforts made in this budget cycle to address deferred maintenance.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

a. City Manager’s Report

City Manager Dumouchel highlighted the City’s receipt of the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 22/23 Budget, an update on Stantec’s work regarding HERC, and the Library Annual Report.

Councilmember Lord asked for information in response to the public comment at Committee of the Whole regarding where the Planning Commission is with drainage and subdivision.

Councilmember Aderhold asked about the status of the EDA Grant for the HERC. City Manager Dumouchel responded the grant has a rolling application date and we’d like to get it in sooner
than later. Depending on how the design comes out will determine if it meets the criteria for the grant, and it will come down to the uses are in the building and the capacities.

PENDING BUSINESS

a. Resolution 21-057(S-2), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Acknowledging the Sufficiency of the Bunnell Avenue/Charles Way Water and Sewer Improvement Special Assessment District and Approving the Improvement Plan, Estimated Cost of Improvement and Assessment Methodology. City Manager/Public Works Director.

Memorandum 22-021 from City Clerk as backup

Mayor Castner stated there’s a motion on the floor to adopt Resolution 21-057(S) by reading of title only that was postponed on December 17, 2021.

Council requested an update from Public Works Director Keiser who explained her most current proposal that will be sent to property owners that incorporates a hybrid methodology that combines benefitted area with equal shares, depending on the property, and that the City’s share will increase to offset the additional costs.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO POSTPONE TO MARCH 14, 2022.

VOTE (postponement): NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, thanked Council for their work and thanked staff for all their work with sanding, plowing, and trail maintenance. He believes if you make the City a good place to live, it will be a good place to do business. When he hears talk of running a municipality like a business, he cringes because there’s a big difference between a for-profit business and a municipality, and in the way a municipal government should run. He thinks we do a good job of it here.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Gatti had no comments.
COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen announced openings on the Library Advisory Board and ADA Compliance Committee.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dumouchel had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner commented the next Port & Harbor Advisory Commission meeting will be Steve Zimmerman’s last meeting. He’s had a long run on the Commission and he thanked him for his service. He expressed how the Mayor and Council gets a lot of attention, but the commissioner and board members do a lot of work and doesn’t want to miss an opportunity to recognize their work. He thanked Council for a good meeting and finding some common ground. He added that in his line of work in construction estimating, inflation is really terrible right now.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Venuti reminded listeners that the Winter Carnival Parade is coming up on February 12th. She thanked Public Works Director Keiser for listening and planning to present to the Borough as requested, that’s a great partnership. She thanked the City Police and State Troopers for their work as first responders, noting friends of hers were in a serious car accident. She encouraged buckling seatbelts, cleaning off headlights, and driving carefully. Next time we meet it will be Valentine’s Day, be sure to tell the people around you that you love them.

Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos wished everyone a great evening.

Councilmember Lord thanked Steve Zimmerman for his work on the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission. She appreciated being able to chat with him about some issues over time, and has appreciated his expertise on the Commission.

Councilmember Erickson thanked Steve Zimmerman. The weather’s going to turn and get colder so be safe on the roads. It will also be a great week to get outside and get fresh air, stay healthy, and get exercise.

Councilmember Davis noted the cold weather, that it will be getting below freezing, and that the school district has announced a 2 hour delay in the start of school.

Councilmember Aderhold commented regarding a new literary journal based in Homer for Alaskan writers, it’s called Volume. Email volumealaska@gmail.com to get information on submitting. She encouraged supporting this new literary journal effort in our community. She
also encouraged anyone interested in joining the ADA Compliance Committee to apply. It’s a neat group of people and they’re working on making big important changes in the City. Lastly she shared about an interesting Alaska Black Caucus panel discussion with several Anchorage Assembly Members. She noted two things that they spoke about, the importance of constituent input, which they saw tonight, and also the need for civility and finding common ground. She feels this body does a good job with that and she appreciates it.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further comments to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole 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: February 14, 2022