

Session 21-02 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on January 25, 2021 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: COUNCILMEMBER ADERHOLD, EVENSEN, HANSEN-CAVASOS, LORD, SMITH, VENUTI

STAFF: CITY MANAGER DUMOUCHEL
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CARROLL
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON
CITY ATTORNEY GATTI
PORT DIRECTOR/HARBORMASTER HAWKINS

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

The following change was made: Memorandum from Mayor Castner Re: Veto of Budget Line Items for Administrative Charges to the HART and HAWSP Funds- Corrected spreadsheet for HART and HAWSP Proposed Admin Fees 2021.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Larry Slone commented regarding the recent COVID vaccination clinic, he was impressed with the events organization, commitment of the participating groups and individuals, and the seniors who participated. He also commented regarding the Mayor's veto and that it's unfortunate he felt the need to take such a drastic action. He feels there are flaws in the meshing of the gears of government and encouraged that they to work to communicate and cooperate.

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 Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2021. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. Memorandum 21-014 from Mayor Castner Re: Appointment of Crisi Matthews and Casey Siekaniec to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum 21-015 from Mayor Castner Re: Re-appointment of Carla Stanley to the Cook Inlet Regional Council. Recommend approval.
- d. Memorandum 21-016 from City Clerk Re: Vacation of Drainage Easements within Lillian Walli Estate Plat HM 88-16 and within Section 24, Township 6 South, Range 14 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-119V1. Recommend approval.
- e. Ordinance 21-04, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY21 Capital Budget and Authorizing the Expenditure of an Additional \$19,700 for the Airport and Library Security Camera Replacement Project. City Manager. Recommended dates Introduction January 25, 2021, Public Hearing and Second Reading February 8, 2021

Memorandum 21-017 from Library Director as backup

- f. Ordinance 21-05, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY21 Capital Budget and Authorizing an Expenditure in an Amount up to \$79,000 for Payment of the Water and Sewer Assessments for Lot 4, Hodnik Subdivision KPB Parcel No. 17936032 when Property Ownership Transfers to Kachemak Bay Moose Habitat, Inc and a Deed Restriction has been Recorded Regarding Conservation and Public Access on the Property. City Manager. Recommended dates Introduction January 25, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading February 8, 2021
- g. Resolution 21-010, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving an Updated Memorandum of Understanding with University of Alaska Anchorage and Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 21-018 from Port Director/Harbormaster as backup

- h. Resolution 21-011, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Directing the City Manager to Halt Collection Fees for Park Pavilion Rentals until May 27, 2021. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 21-019 from City Manager as backup

- i. Resolution 21-012, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing the City Manager to Review and Release Approved Capital Projects put on hold by Resolution 20-050 on a Case-by-Case Basis. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 21-020 from City Manager as backup

Memorandum 21-021 from Finance Director as backup

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda with it recommendations.

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

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

- a. Unified Command Report (20 minutes)

Homer Fire Chief Mark Kirko, South Peninsula Hospital PIO Derotha Ferraro, and City of Homer PIO Jenny Carroll reported regarding the success of the first COVID vaccination clinic for citizens 65 and over. Christian Community Church provided the space for the clinic, the City managed the planning and logistics side of the event and the hospital managed the clinical side, along with assistance from other partners and volunteers. The system they had set up worked well and they were able to vaccinate 714 people, 10 people per 15 minute, 40 per hour, and are confident they could do 10 people every 10 minutes or 60 per hour. They will continue to do the mass vaccination clinics as long as they are able because it's the best way to get it out to the most people in a short amount of time. They are waiting to find out how many doses will be received in February and will open appointments again when that information is available. Testing continues but has slowed down, we're under 1.5% positivity rate here. Visitation at the hospital has been relaxed but long term care remains closed at this time. The 714 individuals managed the vaccine well and no adverse reactions had been reported to date. They recognized the community members for doing their part in helping keep our numbers down, with no big surges following the holidays, and encouraged the community to follow the mandates to continue the downward trend.

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

- a. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Lord reported Council discussed Resolution 21-011 and park pavilion fees, Resolution 21-013 updating the MOU with UAA and KBNERR, Memorandums 21-014 and 21-015 appointments to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission and the Cook Inlet Regional Advisory Council, also Resolution 21-012 regarding capital projects, Memorandum 21-016 and vacating drainage easements in Lillian Walli Estates, and the Memorandum regarding the Mayor's veto.

b. Mayor's Report

- i. Memorandum from Mayor Castner Re: Veto of Budget Line Items for Administrative Charges to the HART and HAWSP Fund

Mayor Castner commented this veto is more of an administrative action because for council to make a correction at this point would require an ordinance and two readings. It's not intended to be adversarial. He also shared that at their next meeting there will be an executive session regarding Baycrest litigation and to provide direction to the City Attorney.

Mayor Castner reported on a meeting with Governor Dunleavy and City of Kenai Mayor Gabriel where they discussed impacts of the North Pacific Fisheries Council closure of lower Cook Inlet to commercial fishing, and he brought up the closing of Homer DMV, Tutka, and the Ferry System. The Governor didn't have much to say, he has an aggressive agenda for expanding natural resource extraction, but has sympathy for expansion of our port. Kenai Mayor Gabriel addressed the management plan that puts about \$3 million worth of excess salmon up the Kenai River without being harvested. The four peninsula Mayors have agreed to sign a joint letter to the Secretary of Commerce asking him to take his time in approving the Council's closure.

b. Borough Report

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly member Lane Chesley reported regarding the January 19th meeting where the Assembly adopted Resolution 2021-008 asking the US Secretary of Commerce to declare a commercial fishery resource disaster due to the 2020 failure of the Upper Cook Inlet Sockeye fishery; 2021-007 approving the tourism and economic development program objectives for FY22. They confirmed the appointment of Melanie Ashelmen as Borough Planning Director, were given notice of contract award to Building Specialties for a new roof on the Homer Medical Center, and addressed ordinance 2020-45 amending Borough Code under subdivisions and appeals to clarify language and procedures.

d. Planning Commission

- i. Planning Commission Report

Planning Commission Chair Scott Smith reviewed the written report included in the Council packet. Noting at their last worksession the Commission discussed procedure for appeal

hearings. At their regular meeting they welcomed Brad Conley to the Commission, look forward to reports from Commissioner Barnwell on the Public Works Campus Task Force work, and had discussion regarding towers in the medical district area.

e. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Economic Development Advisory Commission Chair Karin Marks reported on the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) Economic Development Annual Outlook Forum that was held by Zoom, and the topic was the Regional Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). At the Commission's last meeting they heard reports from Public Works and Planning on subjects they are working on and the Commission appreciates that collaboration. Commissioners reported on their outreach from an informal survey regarding COVID impacts to businesses, many of the respondents had participated in the CARES Grant programs and appreciated the assistance. They approved the draft RPF for the Wayfinding and Streetscape Plan and that will be coming to Council on February 22nd, and they'll be working on their report for the Regional CEDS at their February meeting.

f. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commissioner Ingrid Harrald reported Homer Foundation Executive Director Mike Miller attended their last meeting to talk with the Commission about developing an Endowment Fund and different ways to fund projects for parks and trails. Parks Superintendent Matt Steffy reported on parks and trails sanding plans, trail counters to help in prioritizing trail work, new fire rings, the successful New Year's Eve fireworks event and planning for next year, and the temporary fix of the sink hole at Bishops Beach that will have a long term repair after the ground thaws. Mr. Steffy also addressed work with the library trails, work with the COVID vaccine event, and a new disc golf course in the Diamond Creek Recreation area. Recreation Manager Mike Illg reported on the Winter Recreation Guide that's going out in the upcoming water and sewer mailing and is on the City website, also on the Community Recreation Equipment Rental Program, and online program registration software and shared the HERC is closed to indoor recreation, and the high school gym is unusable due to major roof leakage. The Commission started and will continue to address Beach Policy and personal watercraft.

g. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

Councilmember Aderhold welcomed Deputy Clerk Krause to the group as the new ADA Coordinator for the City. They had a planning discussion with Public Works Director Keiser on one of the next steps for the group which is a self-evaluation and transition plan for parks and trails and the field work will take place this summer. They received an update on the status of the facilities transition plan and considered different perspectives in prioritizing projects where Public Works prioritizes more along the lines of what they're able to accomplish and the ADA prioritizes access as number 1. They're addressing work needed in the airport and working

through responsibility between the state and city, and signage throughout the facilities. She reported the ramp for the KHLT trail on City property is in the City's possession and will be installed when the ground thaws. The committee is also looking at website accessibility and working with one of the members who has a visual impairment on that project. Public Works is taking ownership of the facilities transition plan and updating with additional background information. It's going to be beneficial to the City moving forward to have them fully onboard with ADA compliance.

Mayor Castner raised question regarding the ownership of the airport building and recent work the City had done on the roof. City Manager Dumouchel said he would look into ownership and responsibility of the building and report back.

h. Sister City Report

Deputy Clerk Rachel Tussey provided a brief overview of recent Sister City activity that was provided in her written report, highlighting that the City was invited by the Consular of Japan to participate in the Consulate's Japan Alaska Sister City Forum and discuss projects they are planning, and that Homer currently doesn't have a Sister City Exchange Program. She hopes this new activity will spark interest in establishing that program.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 21-01, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the 2021 Capital Budget and Authorizing Expenditure of \$19,573 from the Sewer CARMA Fund to Perform Preliminary Engineering for the Rehabilitation of the Beluga Lift Station. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction January 11, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 25, 2021

Memorandum 21-003 from Public Works Director as backup

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

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 21-01 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmember Smith shared some history his dad expressed to him that back when they were designing this system there was lobbying against a submersed system for the very reason they're exploring re-engineering and replacement of the system now. Some people wonder why he often questions these types of things and this is why he doesn't always accept things outright.

Councilmember Aderhold appreciates the comments and thinks that's the purpose for having a contract like this to help ensure they're doing the right thing.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 21-02, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Chapter 18.08 City Property Leases, Sections 18.08.010 Definitions and 18.08.140 Sublease. City Manager. Introduction January 11, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 25, 2021

Memorandum 21-004 from City Manager as backup

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

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 21-02 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmember Lord shared her enthusiasm about this change in that it's a good example of identifying something that doesn't serve the community and isn't in the City's best interest as a service provider. Its business friendly and makes administrative sense.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 21-03, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the 2021 Capital Budget and Authorizing Expenditure of \$35,000 Equally Split between the Water CARMA Fund and the Sewer CARMA Fund for Utility Financial Management Services. City Manager/Public Works Director. January 11, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 25, 2021

Memorandum 20-010 from Public Works Director as backup.

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

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 21-03 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmember Aderhold noted for the record that she worked for HDR over four years ago and has no financial interest.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dumouchel commented regarding items in his written report including ongoing budget meetings between him, department heads, and the Finance Director. He plans to have a budget process schedule at the first meeting in February. He also shared his pride in the City staff working with the Unified Command on the recent vaccination event. He and other staff continue to assess the internal risk level and feel it's getting close to a point to shift from red level to orange and begin limited re-openings for City buildings. There is an Assistant to the City Manager position open, folks who are interested can apply online until February 8th.

Councilmember Evensen commented briefly regarding personal watercraft in considering higher user group fees for funds to put toward additional needs related to that use. City Manager Dumouchel noted Commissions are discussing personal watercraft but he has not received any information back. He will report to Council as information comes forward. Councilmember Evensen also shared concerns about the sinkhole at Bishops Beach and how tidal movement and beach use related to the Beach Policy.

In response to question from the Mayor, City Manager Dumouchel commented the Council Chambers remodel is ongoing. The furniture is completed we have a few issues with supply chain that are being worked on, including considering adjustments in equipment selections if needed. Staff will be doing test meetings to ensure everything is working properly before starting hybrid meetings.

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 21-013, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Promoting Civility. Smith/Lord.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-013 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Lord thanked Councilmember Smith for providing the majority of the language and inviting her to co-sponsor this. She's had concerns over the division of the community and the nation, and she feels like the relationship she and Councilmember Smith have is the way forward. They often disagree with each other's positions but they have a mutual respect for each other. She believes his ultimate motivation is what he feels is best for the community, and his respect for her comes from that shared feeling. She loves this

resolution and believes this is the building block of making things work as best we can as a community, and as local government all the way to the national level.

Councilmember Smith shared he has friends and relations who are liberal and others who are conservative and he's found that its far better to collaborate your way through life and not have to look at it as compromising any specific ideal one might have. There will always be different viewpoints and the idea we can exchange views without it becoming an emotional meltdown is a much greater value.

Councilmembers shared their support and appreciation of the resolution, and of Councilmembers Smith and Lord for bringing this forward.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Gatti had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen announced an opening on the Library Advisory Board and an opening for Student Representative on the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dumouchel had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner commented Council's been talking a lot about budget, working through the truncated budget process, and addressing policy issues that need to be taken up. The Commissions have opportunities to discuss the budget as it relates to their charges and he's hopeful to hear their input as Council works through the budget.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Evensen had no comment.

Councilmember Smith thanked the Christian Community Church for their collaboration in the vaccination clinic. There are reports of unsuccessful attempts to accomplish what Homer was able to, and even though we're a small community, it was still a tremendous task to pull off and he's heard nothing but good things about it.

Councilmember Venuti shared her appreciation for community members who apply to serve on the City boards and commissions, and she appreciates their willingness to get involved. She shared a quote from Benjamin Franklin, “*Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember involve me and I learn*”. She was happy to hear the Sister City report and encouraged reaching out to Deputy Clerk Tussey for more information. Lastly she thanked everyone for their efforts at the vaccine clinic.

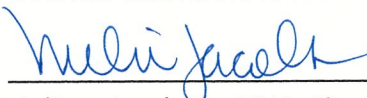
Councilmember Aderhold shared about attending a Municipal Climate Community of Practice gathering. It’s a group that started meeting in November after AML in 2019. They had two presentations, one was by Scott Waterman about the Borough’s Resilience and Security Commission that is just getting started. He shared about what they’re doing, where they think they’re headed, and options that may be available. It was exciting as representatives from other communities asked questions and shared interest in developing similar framework. The other was by the Anchorage Director of Solid Waste Services, Mark Spafford, who talked about electrifying his fleet and having one of the first electric garbage trucks, and shared about a new transfer station in midtown and about recycling. Someone had commented that it’s too bad it’s too expensive to recycle in Alaska, and Mr. Spafford countered that land is such a premium and it’s always better to keep things out of the landfill.

Councilmember Lord thanked the EOC and the community for their work at the vaccination clinic. It was really warm recently and she was able to walk around the neighborhood. She reminded listeners to clean up after their dogs, it smells bad in the spring and we can help with some of that. The first session of our legislature started on Tuesday, it’s a good seasonal past time to listen in at #akleg.

Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos shared that January 23rd was her oldest niece’s birthday, and also her 20 year anniversary at Homer Medical. She appreciates Kathy Hill and Pat Boone for seeing something in her and getting her hired on. She’s very grateful for the support and being able to work from home during this time.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, February 8, 2021 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 8, 2021