

Session 21-012 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on May 10, 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, HANSEN-CAVASOS, LORD, SMITH, VENUTI

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER EVENSEN (excused)

STAFF: CITY MANAGER DUMOUCHEL
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON
HARBORMASTER HAWKINS
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR BROWNING
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 announced Supplemental items including Memorandum 21-076 from the City Manager provided as backup to Ordinance 21-28 authorizing a transfer from the general fund fund balance to the general account within the CARMA Fund and Resolution 21-034 consolidating the CARMA and Reserve fund accounts, and Resolution 21-033(S) acknowledging the Surplus Equipment Bid Results for the Sale of Homer Harbor Surplus Equipment from the Derelict Vessel North Pacific.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND TO PULL RESOLUTION 21-034 FROM THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

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 Meeting Minutes for April 26, 2021. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

- b. Memorandum 21-072 from Deputy City Clerk Re: Liquor License Renewal for Wild Honey Bistro. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum 21-073 from City Clerk Re: Vacation of a Portion of Hough Road, a 60 foot right-of-way including adjoining utility easements, as dedicated on Stream Hill Park Unit 1 Plan HM 2006-54 and Christensen Tracts No. 3, Phat HM 2003-90. Recommend approval.
- d. Ordinance 21-28, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY21 Capital Budget Authorizing a Transfer of \$247,181 from General Fund Fund Balance to the "General" Account within the General Fund Capital Asset and Maintenance Allowance Fund. City Manager/Finance Director. Recommended dates Introduction May 10, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 24, 2021

Memorandum 21-076 from Finance Director as backup

Moved to Ordinances a. Aderhold.

- e. Resolution 21-030, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Initiating a Special Assessment District for the Charles Way/Bunnell Avenue Water and Sewer Improvements. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 21-070 from Public Works Director as backup

- f. Resolution 21-031, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding the Contract for Prisoner Meals at the Homer Jail to Homer Senior Citizens, Inc. of Homer, Alaska in the amount of \$8.50 for Breakfast, \$8.50 for Lunch, and \$8.50 for Dinner per day/per inmate, with a Delivery Fee of \$5 per Trip, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute and Negotiate the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 21-074 from Police Chief as backup

- g. Resolution 21-032, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Awarding the 2021 Septic Pumping Contract to the firm of Alaska Quality Septic, LLC, of Eagle River, Alaska in the amount of \$29,876 and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 21-075 from Public Works Inspector as backup

Item d. moved to Ordinances item a. Aderhold.

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda and its recommendations.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

a. Unified Command Report (20 minutes)

Public Health Nurse Lorne Carroll reported statewide rates are down a little bit as compared to last month. Alaska is close to about 600,000 dosed of vaccine administered, so were doing well, 48% of Alaskans have completed the vaccine series. Juneau is over 70% vaccinated, Kenai Peninsula Borough is at about 41% vaccinated. The positivity rate is 1.76% over the past few weeks, the goal is below 5% so we're doing well. There's an emergency use authorization for Pfizer vaccine for kids 12-15, the CDC will vote next week whether this is a good idea for the age range. He reviewed what is considered in making the determination. An implication of the authorization could be an overnight immediate demand for the vaccine, and it's about 4% of the peninsula. The Sleeves Up campaign is going great and Public Health Nurses are teaming up two South Peninsula Hospital Nurses to travel to Seldovia and give vaccinations to some of the residents who haven't been able to get to other venues.

South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) Public Information Officer (PIO) Derotha Ferraro reported the hospital testing site is at 1.8% positivity rate since May 1st. On the Southern Kenai Peninsula there's been 14 positive cases in the last 14 days. There have been no COVID hospitalizations since early March and Long Term Care Visitation has relaxed even more due to low rates on the peninsula. They've administered 6847 vaccine doses. She reviewed the most recent pop up event at the Harbor and upcoming events at the high school. She also reviewed vaccination opportunities available daily from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the SPH Vaccination and Testing Clinic, and testing from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. no appointment needed for either service. She shared that it's National Hospital week and gave a shout out to all of her co-workers and volunteers at the hospital. In addition to pandemic response these wonderful people have managed to assist with birthing babies, surgeries, PT visits, family care, sleep studies, and all kinds of things over the last year.

City of Homer PIO Jenny Carroll shared her appreciation for all the nurses and hospital staff who have gone above and beyond this year to be there for the community. The Sleeves Up campaign goal is to increase the number of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by 25% statewide by the end of May, and the idea is to put the pandemic behind us as far as we can so we can go into a strong active summer. Since the campaign began statewide the percentage of Alaskan's vaccinated has increased to 52%, a 13% progress toward the state's goal. We don't have numbers specific to the Southern Kenai Peninsula or Homer, but the peninsula as a whole has progressed 11% toward the goal. She thanked the state for their support in increasing local outreach, and reviewed what that will entail.

- b. Alaska Redistricting Process and Status - Peter Torkelson, Executive Director, Alaska Redistricting Board (15 minutes)

Peter Torkelson, Executive Director of the Alaska Redistricting Board, provided a brief overview of the 1998 ballot initiative that changed the Constitutional and the way lines are drawn for voting districts. The Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, and Chief Justice each appoint one member to an independent board and anyone who serves on the board and draws new lines, cannot run for legislative office in the following election. Board members are Melanie Bahnke, John Binkley, Nicole Borromeo, Bethany Marcum, and Budd Simpson. Mr. Torkelson reviewed the reason for redistricting, the process by which it's done, public noticing, and the challenges they're facing with the delays in receiving the data from the Census. More information is available at www.akredistrict.org

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

- a. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Lord reported Council discussed Ordinance 21-28 and Resolution 21-034 both regarding the city's CARMA funds and different paths forward for dealing negative balances within the fund. They also discussed the draft operating budget that was provided in the supplemental packet.

- b. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner shared about his help in dealing with an issue at the Second Star that received a cease and desist notice from the Fire Marshall after being incorrectly classified as a hotel. They had to send cancellations out to parties who had booked weddings and family reunions. People started calling the Governor, who referred them to him, as the Mayor. He was able to work with an architect to get appropriate information to the Fire Marshall and Second Star was able to re-open.

- c. Borough Report

Assembly member Lane Chesley reported on progress being made between Mayor Pierce and the School District on getting the funding issues surrounding the new Kachemak Silo School resolved. Mayor Pierce and administration are working on a coordinated response to address Spruce Bark Beetle problems on the Kenai Peninsula, they've reached out to Congressman Young and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan about a \$35 billion request to help address mitigation efforts. The Assembly's budget process is underway and they considered the school board funding floor that's starting at \$45 million, and they'll be working toward \$48 million through the budget process. He reviewed their budget process and noted he's still looking for guidance from the Council regarding funding requests for assistance with the cost of

dumpsters around the harbor. There was brief discussion with the City Manager and Councilmembers and no direct was given.

d. Library Advisory Board

Library Advisory Board Chair Marcia Kuszmaul reported on the Library's updated hours and recognized Claudia Haines for her work as the Children's Librarian. The new security cameras are installed and the Friends of the Homer Library have been awarded a grant to assist with planning trail upgrades on the western lot. Registration for the summer reading program opens May 15th. The Fish Wall outside the Library will be reactivated to recognize donors, she thanked Moose Run Metal Smiths for producing more fish. They updated their 2021 goals and are focusing on the planned giving program, advocating for the library budget locally and through the state for the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) program, and to work with Director Berry to improve services to remote parts of our library service area. They welcomed new member Mike McKinney and Student Representative Frida Renner has completed her term.

e. Planning Commission

i. Report for the Worksession & Regular Meeting on May 5, 2021

f. Port & Harbor Advisory Commission

A written report in the supplemental packet.

g. Public Works Campus Task Force

i. Memorandum Re: Risk Catalogue and Evaluation

Councilmember Venuti reported the Task Force reviewed the draft memorandum to the council and discussed the risk evaluation and mitigation table that are in tonight's council packet. There was great discussion about the struggle to relay the cost of mitigation and how best to present it. It was explained the urgent issue if there was a tsunami would be the destruction of the equipment and what's needed to repair the equipment. At their next meeting they'll be presented with information about criteria necessary for a suitable public works campus. It was approved for Public Works Director Keiser to seek assistance to determine the variables for a Public Works Campus.

Council addressed concerns that were raised about spending being done at the request of the task force without council approval. It was explained that the funds being used for determining variables are existing funds in the Public Works professional services account.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 21-24, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Accepting Grant Funds from the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services for Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines, as well as other COVID-19 Related Recovery and Prevention Strategies and Approving a Memorandum of Agreement. City Manager. Introduction April 26, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 10, 2021

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

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 21-24 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

In response to questions, Special Projects and Communications Director Carroll explained the funding will be used to support personnel, supplies, and equipment for the point of dispensing vaccination events. It's also being used for a contract for assistance for PIO assistance regarding vaccine opportunities. It's available for expenses from March 15, 2021 through March 30, 2022.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 21-25, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY21 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating the FY21 State of Alaska Community Assistance Program Payment in the Amount of \$76,842.94 to the Fire Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund and Authorizing the Expenditure of up to \$260,000 from the Fire CARMA fund to Replace the Fire Department's Self Contained Breathing Apparatus System. Introduction April 26, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 10, 2021

Memorandum 21-069 from Fire Chief as backup

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

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 21-25 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was discussion confirming the expenditure is additional funds to what's been appropriated. The funding is for SCBA 34 units, one for every riding position on a fire truck.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 21-27, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Title 14.08.040 to create a Process for Waiving the Requirement that Property be connected to City Sewer as a Condition Precedent to be connected to City Water. City Manager. Introduction April 26, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 10, 2021

Memorandum 21-071 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 21-27 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There were comments in support of this amendment to code. It's a well thought out approach to doing things like this.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Mayor Castner called for a break at 7:33 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 7:43 p.m.

ORDINANCE(S)

- a. Ordinance 21-28, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY21 Capital Budget Authorizing a Transfer of \$247,181 from General Fund Fund Balance to the "General" Account within the General Fund Capital Asset and Maintenance Allowance Fund. City Manager/Finance Director. Recommended dates Introduction May 10, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading May 24, 2021

Memorandum 21-076 from Finance Director as backup

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 21-28 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Lord noted Council discussed this at Committee of the Whole and expressed support for introducing tonight and having further discussion on option 1 in the manager's Memorandum 21-076.

Councilmember Smith doesn't support taking the funds out of the general account and would prefer seeing transfers made within the CARMA account to get rid of the negative number instead.

Councilmember Aderhold shared her preference toward alternative 3 in the memorandum as it takes a slower approach to looking at overall CARMA policy and making changes that way. She's struggling with a path forward and if it's introduced tonight she requests another memorandum that outlines what that path might look like for alternative 3. She doesn't support the ordinance as written but does see it as a pathway to where they want to go.

Mayor Castner doesn't think this ordinance can be easily amended and is willing to introduce an ordinance that would ask for pro-rata deductions from the exiting accounts to bring it into balance and remove the negative number. By reducing each of them a commensurate amount, depending on their balance, we can eliminate the negative number and still leave all the little accounts in place. It accomplishes the CARMA funds pay for the CARMA deficit and we don't take it out of the general fund.

Council continued discussion of the ordinance, needs in dealing with the CARMA account, and the alternatives proposed in Memorandum 21-076.

VOTE: NO: VENUTI, SMITH, ADERHOLD, LORD, HANSEN-CAVASOS

Motion failed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dumouchel welcomed new Assistant to the City Manager Christine Drais to the team and thanked Deputy Clerk Tussey for picking up some of the duties in the interim. He noted the draft Technology Plan and efforts toward promoting five year planning and institutionalize the transparency of thought throughout all departments.

Councilmember Lord shared she's been receiving a lot comments about the Skate Park and encouraged continued work on an MOU for improvements. She also noted Karen Hornaday Park Road is in really bad shape and it's a concern that's also been expressed to her. City Manager Dumouchel responded he's also heard about the road and it's on Public Work's radar. Regarding the Skate Park, the Parks Superintendent has done some outreach and he thinks they're getting close.

Councilmember Venuti asked if there's a phone number for people to call since several of the roads aren't city roads. City Manager Dumouchel said he'd check into that.

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 21-033, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Acknowledging the Surplus Equipment Bid Results for the Sale of Homer Harbor Surplus Equipment from the Derelict Vessel North Pacific. City Clerk.

Resolution 21-033(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Acknowledging the Surplus Equipment Bid Results for the Sale of Homer Harbor Surplus Equipment from the Derelict Vessel North Pacific. City Clerk.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-033 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 21-033(S) FOR 21-033.

There was no discussion on the motion to substitute.

VOTE (substitution): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

There was no discussion on Resolution 21-033(S)

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

Motion carried.

- b. Resolution 21-034, A Resolution of the City Council of Home, Alaska Consolidating the Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance/Reserve Fund Accounts. Mayor.

Pulled under agenda approval.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Gatti commented the Department of Transportation has a pothole reporting number on its website that he sent to the City Manager and Public Works Director.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen had no comment.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dumouchel had no comment.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner had no comment.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Venuti commented she won the CSA box in the Homer Council on the Arts (HCOA) raffle and she'll be sharing it with friends. She shared that HCOA also has plans for Mary Epperson Week in June, and congratulated Kenai Peninsula College Graduates and Homer High Class of 2021 at their graduation next week. She encouraged Homer to continue to mask up and get vaccinated. Anyone who has a private question about vaccinations can call the Public Health Nurses at 2352-8857 or 235-0235 to talk to a nurse at the hospital.

Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos agreed it's a short window of time at the Skate Park and it's sorely in need of help and updates. She's on board with whatever it takes to support it.

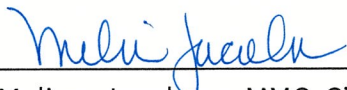
Councilmember Lord commented that next time we meet, along with both graduations being done, all the kids will be out of school for the summer. Great job to students, parents, teachers, and staff everywhere, it's been a heck of a year. She said a huge personal thank you to Claudia Haines as the Children's library, she's been amazing with children's programs, and a treasure at the library.

Councilmember Aderhold reminded listeners if they're interested in getting involved with how the city works, being on a commission, committee, or task force is a great way to do that. There's a vacancy on the ADA Compliance Committee, it's a fun committee to work on because we're starting to affect change related to ADA compliance within the city. There's also a vacancy on the Public Works Building Task Force.

Councilmember Smith wished everyone a great evening.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, May 24, 2021, 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.



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: May 24, 2021