

Session 25-08 a Regular Meeting of the City Council of Homer, Alaska was called to order on Monday, March 10, 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. City Council held a Worksession at 4:00 p.m. with the Mayor and Council of Kachemak City on Challenges and General Issues facing each City. The Committee of the Whole was conducted at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS ERICKSON, HANSEN, ADERHOLD, VENUTI, PARSONS

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER DAVIS (EXCUSED)

STAFF: CITY MANAGER JACOBSEN
CITY CLERK KRAUSE
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER JIRSA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER ENGBRETSSEN
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KORT
SPECIAL PROJECTS AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CARROLL
HR DIRECTOR BROWNING
CITY PLANNER FOSTER
RECREATION MANAGER ILLG
CITY ATTORNEY GATTI
POLICE CHIEF ROBL
LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY

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 and noted Councilmember Davis has requested excusal and timely notice was provided.

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 **ORDINANCES** Item a. Ordinance 25-27, Amending Homer City Code 21.10.030 to Amend the Homer City Zoning Map to Rezone a Portion of the Rural Residential (RR) Zoning District to East End Mixed Use (EEMU) Zoning District. Public Comment Received and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE 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

Mayor Lord invited the public to comment on any item on the agenda with the exception of the following:

- Ordinance 25-17, Appropriating a FY24 Transportation Program Grant for \$1,100,000
- Ordinance 25-18, Appropriating \$17,000 to Purchase One Membrane Filter Module for the Water Treatment Plant
- Ordinance 25-19, Amend HCC 5.16 Public Nuisance Abatement, to Direct Appeals to the Office of Administrative Hearings
- Ordinance 25-20, Amend HCC 21.16 Residential Office District, 21.24 GC1, and 21.26 GC2 to add Studio as Permitted Use
- Ordinance 25-21, Appropriate \$300,000 from the Water CARMA Fund for the Replacement of the Water Main on Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue.
- Ordinance 25-22, Expend \$10,000 from the Sister City 40th Anniversary Fund to Create the Sister City Program of Homer Field of Interest Fund with the Homer Foundation
- Ordinance 25-23, Appropriate a Grant from the Homer Foundation Youth Advisory Committee in the Amount of \$3,500 for Community Recreation Activities
- Resolution 25-016, Petitioning the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to Issue Ten Additional Restaurant or Eating Place Licenses within the City of Homer.

Rika Mouw, city resident, commented in opposition to Ordinance 25-27 noting recent purchases of land for the peatland project, flooding issues, impacts to the neighboring properties, and wildlife.

Kirsten Styvaar, city resident, commented in opposition to Ordinance 25-27 citing impacts to the wetlands, erosion issues, claiming it was spot zoning and illegal and did not want to live next to a fish processing business.

Chris Long, city resident, commented on Ordinance 25-07 encouraging the City Council to support the recommendation proposed by the City Manager in Memorandum CC-25-088.

Kim McNett, city resident, commented in opposition of Ordinance 25-27 citing observations regarding stormwater runoff, wildlife impacts, green infrastructure, stating reports show that the peat is 15 feet of more in the proposed area that a fish processing business is being planned for and the permit for fill is not for the proposed project.

Ken Castner, city resident, commented in opposition of Ordinance 25-27 citing that the rezone was not allowable due to spot zoning and that it should have never been approved by Commission or presented by the staff.

Penelope Haas, commenting as President of Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, in opposition of Ordinance 25-27 citing peat depth, impacts to altering the retention of water and potential for damage and who would bear that cost.

Annette Koth, city resident, commented in opposition of Ordinance 25-27 citing industrial operations in residential neighborhoods, impacts to the road and increased traffic, safety hazards to a Tsunami Route and impacts to wildlife.

Heather Kallevig, resident, commented in opposition of Ordinance 25-27 supporting all the other comments and encouraged Council to deny the rezone.

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 of February 24, 2025. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. Memorandum CC-25-076 from City Clerk re: Liquor License Renewals for Alice's Champagne Palace and Swell Taco. Recommend approval.
- c. Ordinance 25-24, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the Official Road Maintenance Map of the City of Homer by Adding 2871 Lineal feet (.54 Miles) of Urban Road on Eric Lane, Linstrang Way, Beauregard Court and Edson Circle. City Manager/Public Works Director.

Memorandum CC-25-078 from Public Works Inspector as backup.

- d. Ordinance 25-25, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$71,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Roads Fund, to Fund Design of the Highland Drive Culvert Replacement Project. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction March 10, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading March 24, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-079 from Public Works Director as backup.

- e. Ordinance 25-26, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Affirming the Ground Lease and Security Agreement between the City and Tackle Shack Co., LLC., for a Portion of Lot 5, as shown on the Subdivision Plat entitled HOMER SPIT, filed as Amendment Plat Number 89-34, Homer Recording District, State of Alaska, also known as Kenai Peninsula Borough Tax Parcel No. 181-03-105 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Termination of Lease Documents for Previously Superseded Leases. City Manager/Port Director. Introduction March 10, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading March 24, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-081 from Port Property Associate as backup.

- f. Resolution 25-020, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting Project #34708 Sterling Highway Erosion Mitigation Study in the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2024-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment 2. City Manager/Community Development Director. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-080 from Special Proj. & Comms. Coordinator as backup.

Mayor Lord requested the Clerk to read the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Krause read the Consent Agenda into the record.

ADDERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

VISITORS

- a. J & H Consulting Legislative Update

Christine Hess and Reggie joule with J & H Consulting introduced newest member Mile Baker providing details of his extensive background and expertise that he brings to the Company.

Ms. Hess and Mr. Baker then provided a short presentation on Legislative update that included Operating and Capital Budgets, Revenue Proposals, Education Funding, work that has been accomplished so far between the City and J & H Consulting.

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

- a. Special Meeting and Worksession Report

City Manager Jacobsen reported that Council met in Executive Session to discuss lease matters and provided direction to the City Attorney. They held a joint worksession with the Mayor and Council for Kachemak City with discussion on challenges each group was addressing for this legislative session. Kachemak City provided information on their work to obtain a grant for energy efficiency and secondary water source for their residents.

- b. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Aderhold reported that Council discussed the following:

- Ordinance 25-26 received clarification on the intent was to clear up staff process oversight.
- Ordinance 25-07 Additional Memorandum provided by the City Manager with alternative to solve issues regarding reimbursement to property owner(s) within the Charles Way Special Assessment District.
- Ordinance 25-27 Rezoning one parcel from Rural Residential to East End Mixed Use concerns on project that the city is involved in and non-support from the community
- Reviewed priorities shared at the January 18, 2025 Strategic Planning Worksession, Council was to prioritize items and submit to the City Manager for review at a future meeting.

- c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Lord provided a report on the following topics:

- State issuing early burn permits
 - Requested the City Manager to report back on how the Homer Volunteer Fire Department, Borough office of Emergency Management and State Forestry are working together on these heightened risks
- Feedback on the Draft 2035 Comprehensive Plan
 - Joint Meeting with Planning Commission, Comp Plan Steering Committee and Council on April 28th
- Comment period open on the State of Alaska Transportation Improvement Plan
- Comment period for the Alaska Marine Highway Long Range Plan is open on March 19 – 30th

- Public Meeting on the Homer Harbor Expansion Project Update on Saturday, March 15th 10-Noon at the Kachemak Bay Campus
- State House discussing the funding for schools
- Presentation and budget talks with the School District, School Board members and parents attended the meeting who commented that they moved to Homer specifically for the schools.
 - This is going to impact the austerity funding across the country with regards to schools.
- Bringing back the Citizens Academy possibly in the Fall to have residents learn about Public Service and scheduling visits to various facilities
- Meeting with Bikky and Joe from BDO, city auditors regarding the 2024 Audit and tentative walk through of the audit at the next meeting with the first meeting in April for presentation of the draft audit.

d. Borough Report

There was no report for this meeting.

e. Planning Commission Report

There was no report for this meeting.

f. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Report

William Roth, commissioner, reported on appointment and attendance by new members, Grant receipt from Denali Commission, Fish Grinder and equipment will be ready for April, discussed construction of a 4 story parking garage, larger diversity of marine trades, scholarships available for marine trades from the Harbormasters Association.

g. AML Winter Conference & Lobbying Report

i. Memorandum CC-25-083 from Councilmember Aderhold

Mayor Lord noted the written report was included in the packet.

Councilmember Aderhold noted the organization and website that will offer Public Meeting Notices but that the State would still be required to amend the statutes.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 25-17, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating an FY24 Transportation Program Grant in the Amount of \$1,100,000 from the Denali Commission for the Purpose of Completing Design and Permitting for Homer Harbor Critical Float System Replacement Project. City Manager/Port Director. Introduction February 24, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading March 10, 2025.

Ordinance 25-17(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating an FY24 Transportation Program Grant in the Amount of \$1,100,000 from the Denali Commission for the Purpose of Completing Design and Permitting for Homer Harbor Critical Float System Replacement Project **with a Local Match of \$1,105,000 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents.**

Memorandum CC-25-086 from City Manager as backup.

Memorandum CC-25-063 from Port Director as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the public hearing for Ordinance 25-17.

There was no public testimony.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-17 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Mayor Lord inquired if there was a motion to substitute.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 25-17(S) FOR ORDINANCE 25-17 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mayor Lord asked for discussion on the substituted ordinance.

Council discussed the following concerns:

- Design and permitting costs
- Increased size in the match requirement
- Intent is to have 100% design to enable higher probability of award for federal funding
- Will replace floats and ramps to bring to industry standards and covered ramps
 - This project has not changed since originally presented
- Total Grant amount for PIDP was \$48 Million that included environmental permitting, water and sewer, total project costs are \$60 million
- Documentation of how the \$2.2 million is being spent
 - 5% of the budget
 - Peltola had included \$285,000
- If the City does not accept this grant we are responsible for entire costs of the project
- The ramps and floats are beyond their life span approximately 30-50 years old
- Clarification provided that having 100% design and permitting would provide better guidance on actual cost estimates.
 - Each year everything goes up in costs

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE 25-127(S) TO THE MARCH 24, 2025 MEETING AND REQUEST STAFF TO PROVIDE BREAKDOWN OF THE COSTS ESTIMATE AND ENGINEERING.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 25-18, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating an Additional \$17,000 from the Water Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund to Purchase One Membrane Filter Module for the Water Treatment Plant. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction February 24, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading March 10, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-064 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the public hearing for Ordinance 25-18. There was no public testimony.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-18 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 25-19, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code Chapter 5.16 Public Nuisance Abatement, to Direct Appeals to the Office of Administrative Hearings or a Hearing Officer Appointed by the City Manager. City Manager. Introduction February 24, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading March 10, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-065 from Community Development Director as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the public hearing for Ordinance 25-19. There was no public testimony.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-19 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was a brief discussion on amending the content regarding the City Manager appointing a hearing officer in order to be consistent with previous actions Council took on Ordinances 25-11 and 25-12.

Mayor Lord called for a five-minute recess at 7:22 p.m. to allow Council and Staff review the ordinance for amendments. The meeting was called back to order at 7:27 p.m.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO AMEND ORDINANCE 25-19 LINES 9 AND 10 IN THE TITLE AND LINE 14 IN THE FIRST WHEREAS CLAUSE TO REMOVE THE WORDS OR A HEARING OFFICER APPOINTED BY THE CITY MANAGER.

There was a brief discussion to note that the amendment is to make this action consistent with Ordinance 25-11 and Ordinance 25-12 adopted at the February 24, 2025 regular meeting. There is language within this ordinance but it is strictly referring to the Office of Administrative Hearings and administrative law judge.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was a brief clarification requested on page 120 of the packet, line 214 regarding time period for appeals and it was explained that the section was related to Notices of Assessment regarding Nuisances and payment or appealing the payment of fines.

VOTE.(Main as amended) NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- d. Ordinance 25-20, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code 21.16 Residential Office District, 21.24 General Commercial 1 District, and 21.26 General Commercial 2 District, Adding Studio as a Permitted Use in Each District. Planning Commission.

Memorandum CC-25-066 from City Planner as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the public hearing for Ordinance 25-20.

Breezy Berryman, city resident, commented in support of the ordinance to add studio to the districts citing her troubles in trying to find the right location in order to open her business. She provided information refuting claims of excessive noise and impacts of traffic over what other uses that are already allowed.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-20 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- e. Ordinance 25-21, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$300,000 from the Water Capital Asset Repair Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund for the Replacement of the Water Main on Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction February 24, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading March 10, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-067 from Public Works Director as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the public hearing for Ordinance 25-21. There was no public testimony.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

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

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- f. Ordinance 25-22, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Authorizing an Expenditure of \$10,000 from the Sister City 40th Anniversary Fund to Create the Sister City Program of Homer Field of Interest Fund with the Homer Foundation. Venuti. Introduction February 24, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading March 10, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-068 from Sister City Coordinator as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the public hearing for Ordinance 25-22. There was no public testimony.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

VENUTI/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-22 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- g. Ordinance 25-23, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a Grant from the Homer Foundation Youth Advisory Committee in the Amount of \$3,500 for Community Recreation Activities. City Manager/Recreation Manager. Introduction February 24, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading March 10, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-069 from Recreation Manager as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the public hearing for Ordinance 25-23. There was no public testimony.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-23 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- h. Resolution 25-016, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Petitioning the Alaska State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to Issue Ten Additional Restaurant or Eating Place Licenses within the City of Homer as Authorized by Alaska Statute 04.11405. Davis/Venuti. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum CC-25-070 from Community Development Director as backup.

Mayor Lord opened the public hearing for Resolution 25-016 noting that they typically do not have resolutions for public hearing explaining that they were following the advice from the State Licensing Board to obtain additional public input.

Jim Anderson, city resident commented in support of Resolution 25-016 citing the benefits to business owners wanting to provide the services for the visitors and local community.

Lisa Nolan, owner of Fat Olives, commented in support of the additional licenses and what that would mean to the economy of the City and local businesses.

JD Nolan, born and raised and moving his family back to Homer commented in support of the additional licenses.

Mayor Lord closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

VENUTI/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-016 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmembers expressed appreciation for the public commenting on the topic and will be requesting this to be forwarded to their legislative representatives for support.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ORDINANCE(S)

- a. Ordinance 25-27, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code 21.10.030 to Amend the Homer City Zoning Map to Rezone a Portion of the Rural Residential (RR) Zoning District to East End Mixed Use (EEMU) Zoning District. Planning Commission. Introduction March 10, 2025 Public Hearing and Second Reading March 24, 2025.

Memorandum CC-25-082 from City Planner as backup.

Refer to Supplemental Packet for Additional Public Comment Received.

Mayor Lord introduced the topic by reading of the title and requested a motion and second to introduce Ordinance 25-27.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 25-27 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmembers expressed non-support of Ordinance 25-27 for the following:

- Parcel may back up to the East End Mixed Use District but the parcels immediately behind it were involved in the Kachemak Sponge/Peatland Green Infrastructure project that the city was working on
- Parcel in question was at the lowest level in regards to drainage over Kachemak Drive
- There were no comments from the public in support of the rezone.
- There were no comments in support of the proposed project and rezone from the neighboring property owners.

- In the middle of the Draft Comprehensive Plan
- The Planning Commission was not in full support of the action.

Mayor Lord called for a roll call vote.

VOTE. NO. HANSEN, PARSONS, ERICKSON, VENUTI, ADERHOLD.

Motion failed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Jacobsen reviewed her report and facilitated brief discussions on the following:

- Naushon decommissioning
- Diamond Creek Recreation Trail Study and next steps to secure easements
 - State is working on a design
 - No guarantee of buy in from all property owners involved
 - Right of Way Acquisition
 - Consultant to negotiate and facilitate discussions with property owners
 - Imminent Domain or Extra Territorial
 - Previous Trail Easement Actions
- Water Supply and quantity for Homer noting other community problems with their water
 - Homer issues in 2018 but none since that time

PENDING BUSINESS

- a. Ordinance 25-07, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$67,480.81 from the Homer Accelerated Water and Sewer Program (HAWSP) for the Purpose of Reimbursing Seven Property Owners in the Bunnell Ave/Charles Way Special Assessment District for the Cost of E-One Lift Stations.

Memorandum CC-25-086 from City Manager as backup.

Memorandum CC-25-059 from City Manager as backup.

Mayor Lord introduced the item by reading of the title and noted that this item was introduced on January 27, 2025 and a Public Hearing was held on February 10, 2025. It was postponed to allow staff to provide additional options for Council to consider. There is a motion on the table from the February meeting to adopt Ordinance 25-07.

Motion on the table from February 10th:

ERICKSON/DAVIS MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 25-07 BY READING OF THE TITLE ONLY.

Discussion was facilitated by City Manager Jacobsen and Mayor Lord with input from Public Works Director on how best to remedy the issue before Council in a fair and equitable manner. Points were made on how to determine the additional property owners could receive a refund if they were to hook up to the system and what length of time would be appropriate.

ERICKSON/VENUTI MOVED TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE 25-07 TO THE MARCH 24, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.

A brief discussion on working with the City Manager and Staff to determine the best direction forward for all parties and bring that back to the next meeting.

VOTE.(Postponement) NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Memorandum CC-25-077 from Mayor re: Appointment of Councilmembers Aderhold and Davis to Serve on the Federal Lobbyist Services Request for Proposals (RFP) Selection Review Committee.

Mayor Lord introduced the item by reading of the title and request a motion to confirm appointment.

ADERHOLD/VENUTI MOVED TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS ADERHOLD AND DAVIS TO THE FEDERAL LOBBYIST SERVICES RFP SELECTION COMMITTEE.

Mayor Lord provided a brief explanation for her choices for appointment to the Selection Committee.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Lisa Nolan expressed her appreciation and former concerns expressed on bringing more licenses to Homer and would be happy to meet or speak to anyone regarding the benefits that additional licenses would provide and that AMCO is not familiar with the Visitor and tourism industry in Homer.

William Roth, non-resident, expressed comments on the Denali grant breakdown and the importance to knowing the details of the project, then announced the Blessing of the Fleet event on May 21st and the event last year was super fun and they had approximately 300 people at the Seafarers Memorial, it would be nice to have that event publicized to bring people to Homer. He expressed support for the additional liquor licenses.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Gatti commented it was nice to be in person and see everyone tonight.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Krause commented it was a great meeting and announced the vacancies on the ADA Advisory Board and Economic Development Advisory Commission along with the opportunity for a Student Commissioner on the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Jacobsen commented it was a good meeting and she will have a packet put together to include the signed resolution, minutes and what is submitted to AMCO for the Legislators.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Lord reminded everyone about the opportunities to provide comments on various topics, information and links can be found in her newsletter in the Mayor's webpage on the City website. She then commented on the recent local event, Snow Rony at Chapman School in Anchor Point and the Chess tournament that was attended by 70 people, the event was promoted by Andy Haas and Franco Venuti donated a chess set that he made out of clay 50 years ago.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Venuti commented that the young man who won the chess set came by their house to express his appreciation for the set on Saturday. She noted that this was a good meeting and expressed appreciation for the public participation and believes it really is a force in their little hamlet by the sea. Ms. Venuti then announced the Peony Celebration and encouraged everyone to save the date starting July 1st through August 17th, Amber Baldus was recognized by Anchor Point as leading Citizen and expressed her thanks for the City Manager providing homemade soup tonight, it was delicious.

Councilmember Parsons expressed his appreciation for the Clerk keeping them on track and rolling, the City Manager for providing all the information seems there is something new each meeting and expressed a special thank you to everyone who came or attended the meeting and submitted comments noting it was very helpful and powerful in a positive way.

Councilmember Aderhold expressed comments on why they are here as they represent the residents of the Community and the more input from the public the better decisions the Council can make, if there are issues that is what council is here for. She then provided clarification on the permitting process for environmental permits noting that they can range from three to five years for an environmental impact statement process and one she was familiar with even took 40 years but the project is moving forward right now in Cooper Landing, sometimes the projects are really complicated and replacing our floats in the Harbor is not that complicated but still requires us to make sure there is no harm done to the waters to pollute them, add invasive species, etc. Ms. Aderhold noted that with Federal monies involved there are more checklists so there is a lot to go through for the project and thanked the people who commented in person and via Zoom or submitted letters.

Councilmember Erickson commented on Cathy Stingley being selected as Woman of Distinction and added how much fun it was to play music with her and Dr. Bell being a family doctor and his dedication to softball providing such great leadership and skills he taught those girls seeing him first hand was wonderful. It is wonderful to have two people like them volunteer in our community. She announced the Snomads Fun Run will be with ATV this weekend due to the low snow winter and the Fundraiser for the Watermelon trail easement noting the public can find more information on their website.

Councilmember Hansen commented that Dr. Bell reminded her to announce the extra softball practices during spring break and reported that he was an amazing employer and she could not do this service on the Council without his encouragement and allowing her to have the time off to also spend time with her kids doing sports events and the like. She then provided input that her first visit to Juneau for AML and Lobbying was really interesting and recounted attending her first meetings in Anchorage were very helpful. Ms. Hansen appreciated having the City Attorney in person at the meetings and putting a face to the voice.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lord adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m. stating the next Regular Meeting is Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. A worksession is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. A Special Meeting at 3:00 p.m. A Worksession is scheduled for Monday, March 17, 2025 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.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

APPROVED: _____