

Session 21-01 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on January 11, 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

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER EVENSEN (excused)

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 changes were made: **CONSENT AGENDA** Memorandum 21-005 backup for Resolutions 21-004 and 21-005 to is changed to Memorandum 21-012 to correct duplicated Memorandum number. **VISITORS** Lobbyist Update – Session Update Reports **PUBLIC HEARINGS** Ordinance 20-93, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the 2021 Operating Budget to Provide for Necessary Mid-Biennium and 2021 Truncated Budget Adjustments. City Manager. Memorandum 21-013 from Finance Director as backup and written public comment.

PENDING BUSINESS Resolution 20-133(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Expressing Intent to Participate in the Payment of the Water and Sewer Assessments for Kenai Peninsula Borough Parcel Number 17936032, T06S R13W SEC 22 Seward Meridian HM 2017050 Hodnik Subdivision Lot 4, by Kachemak Bay Moose Habitat, Inc. when the Property Ownership Transfers to Kachemak Bay Moose Habitat, Inc, and a Deed Restriction for Conservation and Public Use are Recorded. City Manager. Written public comment

LORD/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

Roberta Highland, commented on Resolution 21-008 regarding Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park asking for Council support in continuing the prohibition of personal watercraft in the park due to many compatibility issues. She’s shared concern about so much hatchery

information in the resolution and the legality of allowing the continued take in the state parks. She encouraged getting more information regarding what the newest information is on hatcheries.

Lynn Whitmore commented in support of Resolution 20-133(S) and the benefits of the Beluga Wetlands complex it the moose population during heavy snow years.

Rika Mouw commented in support of Resolution 20-133(S) and the importance of land conservation in times of increasing developmental pressures in Homer's and quality of life far into the future.

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 December 14, 2020. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- b. Memorandum 20-001 from Mayor Castner re: Appointment to the Planning Commission and Multiple Appointments to the Public Works Campus Task Force. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum 21-002 from Deputy City Clerk Re: Transfer of Ownership Marijuana Cultivation Facility License for Alaska Loven It, LLC. Recommend approval.
- d. Memorandum 21-008 from Councilmember Aderhold Re: Clarifying Public Purpose Regarding Resolution 20-135 and a Reduced Lease Rate for the Salmon Sisters Holding, LLC. Recommend approval.
- e. 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. Recommended dates Introduction January 11, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 25, 2021

Memorandum 21-003 from Public Works Director as backup

- f. 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. Recommended dates Introduction January 11, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 25, 2021

Memorandum 21-004 from City Manager as backup

- g. 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. Recommended dates Introduction January 11, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 25, 2021

Memorandum 20-010 from Public Works Director as backup.

- h. Resolution 21-001, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Confirming the City Manager's Appointment of Melissa Jacobsen as Acting City Manager for Calendar Year 2021. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 21-005 from City Manager as backup

- i. Resolution 21-002, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Confirming the Appointment of Elizabeth Walton as Treasurer and Jenna DeLumeau as Deputy Treasurer for Calendar Year 2021. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

- j. Resolution 21-003 A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Designating Signatories on City Accounts and Superseding any Previous Resolutions so Designating. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

- k. Resolution 21-004, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving a Mutual Aid Agreement and Operational Plan between the Western Emergency Service Area and the City of Homer Volunteer Fire Department and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend Adoption.

Memorandum 21-012 from Fire Chief as backup.

- l. Resolution 21-005, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving an Automatic Aid Agreement and Operational Plan between the Western Emergency Service Area and the City of Homer Volunteer Fire Department for Fire Response Services and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager. Recommend Adoption.

Memorandum 21-012 from Fire Chief as backup.

- m. Resolution 21-006, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Opposing the Closure of the Homer Department of Motor Vehicle Office on June 30, 2021 Included in the 2021 Budget per Governor Dunleavy. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 21-006 from City Manager as backup

- n. Resolution 21-007, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Adopting an Alternative Allocation Method for the FY 2021 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program and Certifying that this Allocation Method Fairly Represents the Distribution of Significant Effects of Fisheries Business Activity in the Cook Inlet Fisheries Management Area. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 21-007 from Harbormaster as backup

- o. Resolution 21-009, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving the City of Homer 2021 Land Allocation Plan. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 21-009 from Deputy City Planner as backup

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda.

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

VISITORS

- a. Lobbyist Update - Christine Hess and Reggie Joule (15 minutes)

Christine Hess and Reggie Joule reviewed their report included in the packet that addressed the political landscape for 2021, the State Budget and the declining savings balance, and current House and Senate make up. They also touched on the Federal scene and the need to be shovel ready in anticipation of receiving federal funds in upcoming years.

- b. Unified Command Report (20 minutes)

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief, Leslie Felts and Lorne Carroll, Public Health Nurses, Derotha Ferraro South Peninsula Hospital PIO, and Jenny Carroll City of Homer PIO, reported about planning efforts for the upcoming COVID Vaccination Point of Dispensing (POD) event to distribute approximately 700 vaccinations to citizens 65 and older on January 16th and 17th.

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

- a. Worksession Report

There was no worksession scheduled.

- b. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Lord reported Council discussed the Land Allocation Plan, Main Street Sidewalk 35% design, and ordinances regarding the Beluga Lift Station and the 2021 truncated budget.

c. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner acknowledged former Councilmember Sylvia Cassidy, who recently passed away. He recalled her involvement in the controversial issue of whether to cap the existing dump at that time to make ball fields, which is what ended up happening.

He reported the Kenai Peninsula Mayors had a discussion with Governor Dunleavy about a number of things including the future in what we're looking at for economic possibilities and COVID. During their discussion he had mentioned being interested in making sure the economy we have today is one that continues, and Governor Dunleavy requested a meeting with him that was canceled and will happen later. He'll report after they meet.

d. Borough Report

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly member Lane Chesley reported the assembly had their first in person meeting since the pandemic began, it went well, was lightly attended by the public, and there's follow on work occurring to the audio and video levels to make the remote platform more effective. At their meeting they had a presentation from Dr. Kristen Mitchell from Central Peninsula Hospital regarding vaccination distribution in the State. They also heard a lot of public testimony regarding an ordinance updating the KPB schedule of rates, charges, and fees for agricultural and grazing leases.

e. Library Advisory Board

Kate Finn, Library Advisory Board member, commented there have been a lot of inquiries about when the library will re-open, and shared that services are still available at the library through curbside pickup. She noted the Endowment Fund matching challenge raised \$18,100, other donations for book purchases, and story time is ongoing on KBBI.

f. Planning Commission

Roberta Highland, Planning Commissioner, reported they had a special meeting regarding an appeal on City Planning staff issuance of Zoning Permit 1020-782 at 541 Bonanza Avenue and the Commission took action to continue the hearing. At their regular meeting they had a presentation on the Main Street Sidewalk 35% design and discussed the project, and passed a CUP on Lakeshore Drive. The Commissions also discussed a letter regarding coal burning and they're interested in what the Council views and interest in pursuing the subject.

g. Economic Development Advisory Commission

h. Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Robert Archibald, Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission, reported they will have a presentation on the Main Street Sidewalk project at their upcoming meeting along with starting discussion on the Beach Policy.

i. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

Steve Zimmerman, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Chair, commented at their last meeting they didn't get a chance to address Ordinance 20-93 and they weren't aware of the truncated budget and shift to a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. He expressed concern about the amount of money that will disappear from the Port and Harbor enterprise fund from this change, suggested forgiving the \$311,000 admin fee in the 2021 budget, and questioned whether this could be put off until they have time to discuss it.

j. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

Councilmember Aderhold reported the Committee will be meeting January 14th at 4:00 p.m.

k. Economic Relief Grant Report

Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Carroll reviewed her final report that was included in the packet. Since her report the Mortgage and Rent Relief Grant (MARRG) closed with a total of 91 households approved, \$521,058 dispersed, and a balance of \$242,142 will be returned to the City. There are still 101 people in the que and AHFC representatives have been reaching out to all applicants to verify information and while there are no longer city funds available, AHFC will be working with those 101 applicants who returned calls or emails, using alternative funding sources.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- a. Ordinance 20-92, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the 2020 Capital Budget and Authorizing Expenditure of \$18,696 from the Sewer Reserve Fund and \$16,546 from the Water Reserve Fund to Retrofit High Energy Light Fixtures at the Sewer Treatment Campus and at the Water Treatment Plant. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction December 14, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 11, 2021.

Memorandum 20-199 from Public Works Director as backup
Memorandum 20-200 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 20-92 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 20-93, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the 2021 Operating Budget to Provide for Necessary Mid-Biennium and 2021 Truncated Budget Adjustments. City Manager. Introduction December 14, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 11, 2021

Memorandum 20-206 and 21-013 from Finance Director as backup

Mayor Castner opened the public hearing.

Daniel Donich, Port and Harbor Advisory Commissioner, commented that the Commission hasn't had an opportunity to discuss. He understands there are benefits to truncating the budget, but they need to look at pros and cons of the process. He sees more cons with rolling 20% of our savings to finance the first six months of the year. The Harbor enterprise doesn't get a majority of its funds until October. He feels this has been rushed through and would like the opportunity to discuss it with the other commissioners.

Steve Zimmerman, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Chair, added to his earlier comments that this change may also affect the bond rating of the Harbor Enterprise fund. They'd like the time to plan for it and he questioned what the benefits are and how much it will cost the City as a whole, in taxpayer money, to make this transition. He requested postponement until people have had time to analyze this and comment correctly.

There were no further comments and the hearing was closed.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-93 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmember Lord commented it's taken a couple of weeks for her to wrap her head around the financial implications of a truncated budget from an accounting perspective. This ends up reducing our general fund balances by \$3.5 million. She thinks there are legitimate reasons for changing the fiscal year, but doesn't think they're urgent and she regrets the path were on. Regarding the enterprise, she agrees with the Commissioners that spoke in that there wasn't time for them to review. Municipalities do this sort of thing, but typically you'd plan for it and understand what the implications are and look ahead at how to address them. She agrees it's responsible of Council to take unassigned fund balance from the general fund and make sure they cover the enterprise hole that this truncated budget creates. She sees a way to get halfway there at this point, and by the end of the truncated fiscal year she'd like to make sure they get to the other half.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVE TO AMEND THE FY21 PROPOSED TRUNCATED BUDGET BY REMOVING THE GENERAL FUND ADMIN FEES ON ACCOUNT NUMBER 5241 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$311,223.

Councilmember Smith expressed his support for the amendment and acknowledged Commissioners Donich and Zimmerman make good points in the sense that it shouldn't be the enterprise's burden to bear. He feels they fully understood there would be some financial implications with the change and it's only right to do our part to ensure the enterprise is fully compensated. This is the first step in making that happen.

Councilmembers Aderhold and Venuti concurred that the enterprise fund should be compensated.

There was brief discussion clarifying the result of this is a reduction in revenue to the general fund.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Councilmember Aderhold shared that it also took her some time to understand the implications of the truncated budget. She shared the frustration that it would have been nice for them to have had the time to spend with the possibility of changing the budget and assess what the fiscal implications would be, time for feedback from the Commissions, and this was a busy time for the public. She hopes as Council moves forward they'll evaluate all the reserve funds and develop our policies to rebuild the reserves in a systematic way, based on future needs for equipment replacement, road rebuilds, and so forth.

Councilmember Lord appreciates the work of staff in developing this truncated budget. The unassigned fund balance can cover the cash to make this happen, but she would prefer to use the money for something else. As we look at making big financial decisions or other complex or complicated decisions to remember there are very few things where there's a fire under them to have to move this quickly. COVID and CARES Act Funding was something that had to happen immediately, but they didn't have to move this fast with this change.

Councilmember Smith doesn't see this as a loss of revenue or that it creates a hole, it spends revenue we've collected to pay to operate the cost of doing business. We can argue the merits of having \$9.5 million in the general fund and the utility of what it serves versus what we're doing now, which is paying for running the government. He expects we can still achieve projects that we feel are priorities, we're still going to be in a good position in doing this. He knows the timing isn't perfect, but questions if there would ever be perfect timing or that we'd be in the financial situation to make this change. These things have aligned and he's in favor of it.

At the request of the Mayor, City Manager Dumouchel read the recommendation from Memorandum 21-013, “City Administration strongly recommends Council provide support to the Enterprise Fund to balance out the impacts of the fiscal year change.”

Councilmember Lord appreciates Councilmember Smith’s thoughts on this. A question from Memorandum 20-206 about what we’re going to do about capital projects. City Manager Dumouchel responded he plans to bring forward an action item or report at the next meeting focused on capital projects and addressing a path forward.

Councilmember Aderhold appreciates the comments from the Port and Harbor Commissioners. If this passes this evening they won’t have the opportunity to have weighed in on this, but thinks it will be great to get feedback from them on methods to use at the end of the year to make sure they address this change. She thanked staff for their work on the budget, for the upcoming work of getting through this truncated year, and ready for our upcoming new fiscal year.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 20-94, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY2021 Operating Budget by Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$78,579 in order to fund Emergency Temporary Hires at the Homer Volunteer Fire Department for an Additional 6-Months, Associated with COVID-19 Response. City Manager. Introduction December 14, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 11, 2021

Memorandum 20-201 from Fire Chief as backup

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

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-94 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Councilmember Aderhold supports the ordinance and questioned if this might qualify for FEMA reimbursement sometime in the future.

City Manager Dumouchel responded that it may qualify and staff continues to track COVID issues. We continue to track data and see what comes out of the new administration at a federal level to see what might be the best route to consider.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mayor Castner called for a break at 8:03 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

ORDINANCE(S)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dumouchel addressed the letters in the packet from the City of Seldovia, they're interested in ways we might be able to work together with them to communicate with the State Ferry. Councilmember Aderhold expressed her willingness to participate and champion legislation.

He highlighted items in the City Manager's written report in the packet including new welcoming the new finance staff member, the Homer Police Station award from the Alaska Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for creative use of materials, and organizationally the City remains in Code Red status related to COVID with ongoing consideration of the situation. He also addressed work being done in sketching out a budget process for FY22/23 to bring Council and others in the conversation earlier.

There was brief discussion regarding personal watercraft and how Council would like to proceed given the City's limited window of jurisdiction. Comments from Council included a desire for Council to have a worksession that includes what current code is and possible directions we could go. There has been some past discussion that the City has no near shore rescue capabilities. It would be valuable to discuss what it looks like with these watercraft coming in, along with other users like kayakers, surfers, kite boarders, paddle boarders, and other near shore users. It was noted that PARCAC will be taking up the Beach Policy and they should be sure to look at how to take this into account.

In response to questions City Manager Dumouchel provided an update on the Council Chambers remodel, noting the completion date is still pending, and the pot hole near Bishops Beach is being addressed by Public Works and should be repaired soon.

PENDING BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 20-133, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Expressing Intent to Participate in the Purchase of Kenai Peninsula Borough Parcel Number 17936032, T06S R13W SEC 22 Seward Meridian HM 2017050 Hodnik Subdivision Lot 4, by Kachemak Bay Moose Habitat, Inc. and Directing the City Manager to Negotiate the City's Financial Contribution and Assure the Binding Public Purpose Conditions are met. Mayor.

Resolution 20-133(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Expressing Intent to Participate in the Payment of the Water and Sewer Assessments for Kenai Peninsula Borough Parcel Number 17936032, T06S R13W SEC 22 Seward Meridian HM 2017050 Hodnik Subdivision Lot 4, by Kachemak Bay Moose Habitat, Inc. when the Property Ownership Transfers to Kachemak Bay Moose Habitat, Inc, and a Deed Restriction for Conservation and Public Use are Recorded. City Manager.

Memorandum 21-011 from City Manager as backup

Mayor Castner announced there's a motion on the floor to adopt Resolution 20-133 that was postponed from the December 14th meeting. He opened the floor for discussion or a motion to substitute.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 20-133(S) FOR 20-133.

Councilmember Aderhold commented she's had discussion with different people including the City Manager and Deputy City Planner Engebretsen. One thing that has come up is at the closing of the sale of the property, these assessments are dealt with at that time and she wonders if they have the latitude to work with the title company at closing to address this.

City Manager Dumouchel responded in passing a resolution to do this, an ordinance will need to come forward to allocate funds so staff will work with the parties involved to help ensure a smooth closing.

VOTE (substitution): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Councilmember Smith is in favor of this because the merits prove out, but going forward we need to have a larger discussion about long term planning on how we do this. There's been 9 properties that have gone through this same process and about \$400,000 of SAD money that was obligated to the land owners to pay as part of the agreement through the formation of the SAD. The City has transferred the obligation from the land owners to the tax payers. When talking about this percentage of a project, it then goes back into the tax payer obligation, he has a problem with that. They'll have to have a larger conversation to look at what point has the City done its part when it comes to moose habitat and land conservation. It's important, but we're a relatively small city and how much can we dedicate.

Councilmember Aderhold appreciates the points raised by Councilmember Smith and offered to work with Councilmember Smith on updated code language to address this. Regarding the property being discussed she added that the area is very high value wetlands and when filling wetlands other problems are created. She expressed that these conservation properties have value to the taxpayers, even though they aren't tax bearing properties.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 21-008, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Providing Comments to the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation on Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park Management Plan Intent to Adopt, dated November 2020. Aderhold/Evensen.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-008 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

There was brief comment suggesting it's appropriate for the City provide some input on the plan. The park as a whole is very beneficial to Homer and the comments in the resolution are somewhat consistent with comment they've provided in the past.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Gatti commented regarding Councilmembers Smith and Aderhold's earlier comments on distribution of public money to various entities, suggesting a lot of these transactions are really in the form of a grant or something like that. He thinks it's prudent to have a more global examination of those issues to develop process and a more official distribution of those revenues.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK

City Clerk Jacobsen announced openings for the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission and for the Economic Development Advisory Commission Student Representative.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Dumouchel had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Castner had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Venuti wished everyone Happy New Year. This past week has been really difficult, what happened at America's capital by extremists have left many friends and neighbors with a feeling of sadness and disappointment. She thinks it's important that we try to stay positive for our own good mental health, and shared a quote from Emerson, "*The purpose of life is not to be happy, but it is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, and to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.*"

Councilmember Smith shared at his house they have a sign that reads "*Happiness is Homemade*". If we relegate other people to make us happy, we'll probably be disappointed more often than not. Finding our place in the world and being a light that shows we can be happy regardless of circumstances is something that's important. He recommended reading the book by Leo Tolstoy "*The Kingdom of God is within Us*" that was recommended to him by a pilot who served in Viet Nam and that flew here during the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. When thinking about even the title, it talks about what is within us makes all the difference and how we interact with the external forces around us.

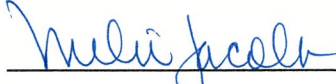
Councilmember Lord welcomed everyone to the New Year. She's had a lot of thoughts and reflection on what we're doing within our local, state, and federal government. She believes strongly in local government and that we're all neighbors and a group of people sitting at this table, doing the best we can with all of our own challenges. She shared how her family works through challenging situations with patience, kindness, and empathy. She thanked teachers and administrators for their work in getting some of the kids back in school today. She's incredibly proud of the work City staff and Council on CARES Act, it was a huge undertaking and they moved a lot of money into the community.

Councilmember Aderhold commented that January 6th was a very horrible day in American history. She's personally devastated by the storming of the US Capital and the attempt to disrupt the peaceful transfer of Presidential power. It's been difficult for her as we learn more about what happened and she processes what occurred last week. The images of people who call themselves patriots attacking the foundation of our democracy are devastating. As those responsible for the destruction of our US Capital are held accountable we must also find a way forward as a nation, as a community, and as individuals. Her hope is that we examine our responsibilities as citizens. We love our Constitution and often invoke the Bill of Rights, but less frequently reflect on responsibilities we have to each other and our communities. We have the privilege of disagreeing with each other through debate and discussion. Council makes decisions at this table based on public comment and debate, amend legislation to compromise and improve. We can do that in our personal lives by listening to other people's perspectives and be curious about them. She encouraged people to watch to the video by Arnold Schwarzenegger's following the attack on the US Capital.

Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos shared her appreciation for the hard work of the medical staff in our community in their efforts for planning for the vaccinations. She wished the kids good luck in heading back to school.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, January 25, 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: January 25, 2021