

Session 21-30 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on November 8, 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:** COUNCILMEMBERS ADERHOLD, DAVIS, ERICKSON, HANSEN-CAVASOS, LORD, VENUTI

**STAFF:** CITY MANAGER DUMOUCHEL  
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN  
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON  
PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER  
CITY ATTORNEY GATTI

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

Mayor Castner announced supplemental items to the packet as follows- **CONSENT AGENDA**  
**Resolution 21-078**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Confirming the Assessment Roll, Establishing Dates for Payment of Special Assessments and Establishing Delinquency, Penalty, and Interest Provisions for the Seawall Improvement Special Assessment District for Armor Rock Toe Improvements. City Clerk. Memorandum 21-203 from Public Works Director as backup;  
**Resolution 21-079**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing the City Manager to Apply and Accept a Loan from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Drinking Water Fund, in an Amount not to Exceed \$86,250 to Finance Costs of the Public Works Department's Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS). City Manager/Public Works Director. Amended Memorandum 21-197(A) from Public Works Director as backup;  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS** Planning Commission Written Report  
**RESOLUTIONS** Resolution 21-082, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Acknowledging the Results of the Invitation to Bid for City Owned Cold Storage Seasonal Rental Units. City Clerk. Resolution 21-082(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Acknowledging the Results of the Invitation to Bid for City Owned Cold Storage Seasonal Rental Units. City Clerk. Memorandum 21-198 from Port Director as backup.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

**MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

- a. Recognition of Heath Smith's service as City Council Member for the City of Homer

Mayor Castner read the Recognition of Heath Smith's service as City Council Member for the City of Homer and presented it to Mr. Smith.

- b. Recognition of South Peninsula Hospital Health Care Workers

Mayor Castner read the Recognition of South Peninsula Hospital Health Care Workers and presented it to South Peninsula Hospital representatives Ryan Smith, CEO, Dr. Christina Tuomi, DO, Infection Prevention Medical Director, and Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital Director of Public Relations & Marketing.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

Heath Smith, city resident, commented regarding the selection of Mayor Pro Tempore. During his time on Council five different people served in that capacity and he thinks it's something that should be provided to others to have the experience. He encouraged the Council to approach it with a common regard and respect among all and to give the opportunities to many not few.

#### **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 Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2021. City Clerk. Recommend Adoption.
- b. Memorandum 21-194 from Mayor Castner Re: Appointment of Luke Gamble to the Economic Development Advisory Commission. Recommend approval.
- c. Memorandum 21-195 Re: Liquor License Renewal for Grog Shop East End. Recommend approval.
- d. Ordinance 21-67, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Accepting and Appropriating Grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in the Amount of \$25,091 for Purchase and Installation of Little Libraries and WI-Fi Upgrades at the Library. City Manager/Library Director. Recommended dates Introduction November 8, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading December 13, 2021.

Memorandum 21-196 from Library Director as backup

- e. Resolution 21-078, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Confirming the Assessment Roll, Establishing Dates for Payment of Special Assessments and Establishing

Delinquency, Penalty, and Interest Provisions for the Seawall Improvement Special Assessment District for Armor Rock Toe Improvements. City Clerk. Recommend adoption. ○

Memorandum 21-203 from Public Works Director as backup  
Memorandum 21-192 from Public Works Director as backup  
Memorandum 21-189 from Public Works Director as backup

- f. Resolution 21-079, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing the City Manager to Apply and Accept a Loan from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Drinking Water Fund, in an Amount not to Exceed \$86,250 to Finance Costs of the Public Works Department's Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS). City Manager/Public Works Director. Recommend Adoption.

Memorandum 21-197(A) from Public Works Director as backup

- g. Resolution 21-080, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Bylaws Regarding Teleconferencing, Attendance, Vacancies, City Staff Roles, and Rules of Order for Boards and Commissions by amending articles titled Membership, Meetings, Bylaw Amendments; adding articles titled City Staff Roles and General Operating Procedures; and removing the article titled Teleconferencing. City Clerk. Recommend adoption. ○

Memorandum 21-198 from Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

- h. Resolution 21-081, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Establishing a Regular Quarterly Report from the Southern Kenai Peninsula Opioid Task Force/All Things Addiction on the Southern Kenai Peninsula to the Homer City Council for 2022. Aderhold. Recommend adoption.

City Clerk Jacobsen read the consent agenda and its recommendations.

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

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

### **VISITORS**

- a. South Peninsula Hospital Annual Report to Council - Ryan Smith, CEO (10 minutes)

Ryan Smith, South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) Chief Executive Officer, thanked Mayor Castner for the recognition and highlighted the 500 employees who have done an outstanding job throughout the ○

pandemic. Mr. Smith reviewed the SPH 10 year finances, noting changes in net position, cash and equivalents versus long term bonds, leases and notes payable, and SPH service area and plant replacement cash held at the Kenai Peninsula Borough. He addressed capital projects, introduced those new to the leadership team, the 2021 Board of Directors, and 2021 Medical Staff Officers and Medical Staff Committee members, and new providers and expanded programs. He also touched on Master Facility Planning, recognized employees with 20 years of service and higher, and thanked volunteers with the Rotary Health Fair.

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

Lorne Carroll, Public Health Nurse, provided a brief situational report by reviewing the COVID-19 Statewide Dashboard and addressing state trends, statewide case counts and vaccination rates, and hospital capacity, as well as numbers in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and on the Southern Kenai Peninsula. Mr. Carroll also reviewed dashboard information on what to do if a person contracts COVID.

Coleman Cutchins, Clinical Pharmacist and COVID Testing Coordinator for the Department of Health and Social Services addressed treatment guidelines, monoclonal antibody treatment, inpatient treatments, and research regarding the risk of infection of those previously infected and those who have been vaccinated. He explained the VAERS system that reports observational data to look for associations and clinical evaluations, and discussed the minimal contraindications to the vaccine.

Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) Director of Public Relations & Marketing, commented regarding the effectiveness of the monoclonal antibody infusions and a Homer Communication's conversation on Facebook of people who have had successful treatments. She reported on the statistics at the hospital of testing, vaccinations, treatments, and admissions. She also reported on clinics for pediatric vaccinations for 5 to 11 year olds. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid released an interim rule for healthcare vaccine mandate and SPH is taking those requirements and applying them locally. By December 5<sup>th</sup> all healthcare workers should have received their first or single dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. As an employer they are required to have a process for medical and religious exemptions that will be available by then as well. Ms. Ferraro thanked the Mayor for the recognition tonight and shared that it's been an honor to represent her fellow employees at SPH for the past two years.

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

- a. Committee of the Whole Report

Councilmember Lord reported Council discussed the library grant in Ordinance 21-67 that was introduced on the consent agenda, and spent most of their time discussing Ordinance 21-63 regarding the Natural Gas Special Assessment District Sinking Fund. Also, Public Works Director

Keiser reported an overview of the water/sewer rate work that's ongoing with staff and considerations are being pulled together to make recommendations.

b. Mayor's Report

Mayor Castner appreciates that this is the first November meeting since he's lived in Homer that we haven't been discussing the budget. He's attending the Alaska Conference of Mayors next week with 50 to 60 other Mayors from around the State.

c. Borough Report

d. Library Advisory Board

Library Advisory Board Member Marcia Kuzmaul reported at their last meeting the Board learned the Library has vinyl LPs along with record players and headphones, and about a collaborative project with the Pratt Museum for a series of upcoming public events to view and help annotate old maps of Homer. They designated a member to be a liaison for donations to the library and discussed ways to learn what the library means to local youth to better serve them.

e. Planning Commission

Mayor Castner noted the written report included in the supplemental packet.

f. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commissioner Ian Pitzman reported at their last meeting the Commission acted on changes to their bylaws. The report from the Port Director highlighted the importance of the timing of the harbor expansion project. With what's happening with at the federal level and the infrastructure bill, this is the time to communicate with our legislators and remind them how important that project is. The Commission doesn't meet in November as a lot of them will be participating at the Marine Expo in Seattle.

g. Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council Written Report

A written report was provided in the packet.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

- a. Ordinance 21-64, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Accepting and Appropriating an FY 2021 State Homeland Security Grant in the Amount of \$142,132 for a Bi-Directional Amplifier System for Homer Police Department and Microwave Links for Homer's Repeaters. City Manager. Introduction October 25, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 22, 2021.

Memorandum 21-179 from Police Chief as backup

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

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 21-64 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- b. Ordinance 21-65, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY22 Capital Budget and Appropriating an Additional \$45,000 from the General Fund Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund for a Total Expenditure of \$120,000 to Replace and Upgrade Departmental Servers across City Departments. City Manager/Library Director. Introduction October 25, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 22, 2021.

Memorandum 21-180 from Library Director as backup

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

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 21-65 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- c. Ordinance 21-66, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Extending the Time Limit to Upgrade and Replace the City's Microwave Wide-Area Network through December 31, 2023. City Manager/Library Director. Introduction October 25, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading November 22, 2021.

Memorandum 21-181 from Library Director as backup

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

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 21-66 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE(S)**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dumouchel provided an update of the demolition of the vessel North Pacific. He reported on the recent All Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting, and that microphone and audio upgrades are scheduled to begin in the Council Chambers.

There was brief discussion with Port Director Hawkins on the recent meeting with the Coast Guard. At the meeting there wasn't much discussion on new Coast Guard housing but there was some discussion about the general livability and ability to build if needed in the future. Most of the meeting centered on support for the Coast Guard and their existing vessels, a small boat station, construction of a new harbor and dry dock, and the need for more facilities to better serve their fleet.

**PENDING BUSINESS**

- a. Ordinance 21-63, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Settling the Current and Future Distributions of Income and Debt in the Natural Gas Distribution Special Assessment Bond Sinking Fund. Mayor. Introduction October 11, 2021 Public Hearing and Second Reading October 25, 2021.

Ordinance 21-63(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Settling the Current and Future Distributions of Income and Debt in the Natural Gas Distribution Special Assessment Bond Sinking Fund. Mayor/City Manager.

Memorandum 21-200 from City Manager as backup  
Memorandum 21-191 from City Manager as backup  
Memorandum 21-187 from Finance Director as backup

Mayor Castner noted the motion on the floor from the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting by Lord/Aderhold to adopt Ordinance 21-63 by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE 21-63(S) FOR 21-63.

Councilmember Lord supports the substitution, it helps provide a lot of clarity and answer some of the questions from the last meeting. She noted she'll be suggesting postponing for continued conversation on the matter.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

LORD/ADERHOLD MOVED TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE 21-63(S) TO THEIR DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING.

Councilmember Erickson requested the difference between the outstanding principal in the unaudited/unreconciled receivable, and clarify how much is principal and how much is interest. She would also like to see how much we've paid for the different conversions of the different buildings within the City, how many are cleared and how many we still owe on, and also on the \$1.27 unrestricted funds that went from restricted to unrestricted fund, she'd like to see what disbursements have come out since it's become unrestricted.

Councilmember Aderhold added including the future projected revenues that are coming into this fund.

Councilmember Venuti asked for the number of connections that we'll never collect on, such as state and federally owned properties, and if possible, the percentage of gas used by Borough facilities.

VOTE (postponement): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- b. Memorandum 21-183 from City Clerk Re: Selection/Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem 2021/2022.

LORD/DAVIS MOVED TO APPOINT DONNA ADERHOLD AS MAYOR PRO TEM.

Councilmember Lord noted having served as Mayor Pro Tem for the last two years it's an important role and required under Title 29, because if the Mayor is unable to serve for any reason, the meetings must go on. She thinks it's a role limited in scope, as it should be, and is a great role for someone with seniority on Council. Her experience in serving with Councilmember Aderhold, she's very attuned to where we are on an agenda. She's appreciated when meeting by Zoom, having the Mayor Pro Tem making the motions results in a smoother process to help move the meeting forward. Having been on Council when Councilmember Aderhold has run meetings as Mayor Pro Tem for our previous Mayor, she's a fair and process oriented person who's able to run an efficient and effective meeting.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.



Motion carried.

- c. Resolution 21-075, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Designating Signatories of City Accounts and Superseding any Previous Resolution so Designating. City Manager.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-075 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO AMEND RESOLUTION 21-075 TO ADD DONNA ADERHOLD AS MAYOR PRO TEM.

There was no discussion on the motion to amend.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion as amended.

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

Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

- a. Resolution 21-082, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Acknowledging the Results of the Invitation to Bid for City Owned Cold Storage Seasonal Rental Units. City Clerk.

Resolution 21-082(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Acknowledging the Results of the Invitation to Bid for City Owned Cold Storage Seasonal Rental Units. City Clerk.

Memorandum 21-199 from Port Director as backup

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-082 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 21-082(S) FOR 21-082.

There was no discussion on the motion to substitute.

VOTE (substitution): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion.

VOTE (main motion): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Larry Slone, city resident, commented in support of the appointment of Councilmember Aderhold as Mayor Pro Tem. He reiterated his comments from the earlier meeting at 4:00 p.m. regarding process regarding mootness for situations when a matter is under appeal and an applicant withdraws their application.

Huhnkie Lee, resident from Wasilla, introduced himself, explained he's running for US Senate as an Independent Alaskan, and commented briefly regarding support for working together with all parties and supporting environmentally sound development of Alaskan resources.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Gatti had no comments.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Jacobsen announced openings on the Library Advisory Board for a city resident and on the Economic Development Advisory Commission for a Student Representative.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Dumouchel reminded listeners that City offices will be closed on Veteran's Day and announced current job openings for the City.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Castner commented regarding the recent meeting with the current Student Representatives and Deputy City Clerk Tussey, he think it was fun meeting and they'll do a re-cap at the end of the school year.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilmember Lord thanked the hospital, public health, the city and everyone else who has been working hard for COVID response and mitigation. She shared about her first COVID close contact experience and its challenges. She thanked all the Veterans in the city and throughout the community.

Councilmember Erickson commented regarding several community members who have passed away recently. With the holidays coming she's been thinking how we need to be watching out for our community because we have a lot of people who are grieving because of things happening with

COVID, complications in life, and losing loved ones. She read through the five stages of grief because it's important to recognize them and be able to help out.

Councilmember Davis thanked the City Manager and his team for setting a really good series of introductory tours and visits with key city staff. He's appreciated seeing the Police Station the Port and Harbor, and the Sewage Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Plant.

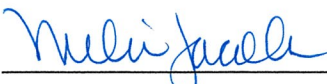
Councilmember Aderhold thanked Council for selecting her as Mayor Pro Tem for the next year, she looks forward to serving in that capacity, and reminded that they'll need to select seats when they're all back in Council chambers. She reported the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has a draft environmental impact statement for the lease sale in lower Cook Inlet is available for review, and said shared dates for three opportunities for public comments in November and comments are due December 13<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found at [www.boem.gov](http://www.boem.gov). She thanked Councilmember Erickson for her comments and took a moment to reflect on Linda Munns, a former member of the ADA Compliance Committee, who recently passed.

Councilmember Hansen-Cavasos thanked the Mayor for the recognitions tonight. She shared her love and condolences for all the families affected by the recent losses in the community.

Councilmember Venuti shared that Veteran's Day is important to her and encouraged everyone to pause on 11/11 at 11:00 and think about the meaning of Veterans Day, which was initially put forth as a day to celebrate world peace and the end of World War I. She congratulated Pedro Ochoa for being hired at Public Work and Luke Gamble for his appointment to the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. and a Worksession November 22, 2021. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

  
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Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: December 13, 2021