



**Homer City Hall**  
491 E. Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## City of Homer Agenda

**Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM**

**City Hall Cowles Council Chambers via Zoom**

**Webinar ID: 990 0366 1092 Password: 725933**

**Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833; (Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247**

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, 6:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 Minute Time Limit)**

**RECONSIDERATION**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

**STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS (5 Minute Time Limit)**

- A. Special Projects & Communications Coordinator Staff Report **Page 3**
- B. Chamber Director Report
- C. Homer Marine Trades Association Report
- D. Pioneer Avenue Task Force Report
- E. Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District Report

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

- A. EDC Strategic Plan/Goals Update **Page 5**
  - i. Worksession Notes from Commissioner Arevalo **Page 6**
  - ii. EDC Strategic Plan/Goals, Revised August 2019 **Page 10**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) **Page 13**

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

<a href="#">A.</a>	Resolution 20-086 Amending EDC Bylaws	<b>Page 14</b>
<a href="#">B.</a>	UCIDA Resolution 2020-010 Economic Disaster Declaration	<b>Page 15</b>
<a href="#">C.</a>	City Manager's Report for September 14, 2020	<b>Page 20</b>
<a href="#">D.</a>	City Manager's Report for September 28, 2020	<b>Page 24</b>
<a href="#">E.</a>	EDC 2020 Meeting Calendar	<b>Page 27</b>
<a href="#">F.</a>	Commissioner Attendance at 2020 City Council Meetings	<b>Page 28</b>

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** (3 Minute Time Limit)

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCILMEMBER** (if present)

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular Meeting is **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held via Zoom Webinar in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.



# City of Homer

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## Administration

491 East Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

## Memorandum

TO: City of Homer Economic Development Advisory Commission  
FROM: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects & Communications Coordinator  
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager  
DATE: October 8, 2020  
SUBJECT: Staff Report

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### City of Homer 2021-2026 CIP

At their September 28<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, City Council approved the 2021-2026 CIP with the following changes:

#### Legislative Priority Project Selections:

1. Port of Homer: New Large Vessel Harbor
2. Storm Water Master Plan
3. Main Street Sidewalk North
4. Multi-Use Community Center, Phase 1
5. Homer Barge Mooring & Large Vessel Haul Out Repair Facility.

One new project was added: Sidewalks on Ben Walters Avenue.

### City of Homer COVID-19 Economic Relief Grant Programs

The application period for the first round of the City of Homer's Small Business Economic Relief Grant (SBERG) closed on September 25<sup>th</sup>. To date, 355 applications were approved for a total of \$1,065,000 in economic relief funds going to Homer's businesses. Two applications are still pending.

At their September 28<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, City Council approved a round two for the SBERG program. SBERG2 allocates up to \$2,000,000 in the following ways:

#### Option 1: Award based on percentage loss.

SBERG2 grant award is based on eligible expenses and percentage of loss when comparing gross income reported on KPB sales tax reports for 2019 and the first three quarters of 2020. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 will be averaged to populate a total gross income for 2020. Award is capped at an amount not to exceed 2019 earnings, or \$50,000 whichever is less. Businesses who are tax exempt will provide IRS filings for 2019 and current profit/loss statement for 2020.

Grant award will not allow business to exceed earnings of 2019 and must be itemized with eligible expenses. (Example – if reported gross earnings for 2019 totals \$100,000 and estimated income for 2020 is \$80,000, grant award would not exceed \$20,000.)

Option 2: Standard SBERG award.

First time SBERG applicants who choose not to submit annual income reports can request up to \$4,500 based on eligible expenses; SBERG1 award recipients who choose not to submit annual income reports can request an additional \$1,500 through the SBERG2 program based on eligible expenses.

Businesses started in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2020:

SBERG2 grants up to \$4,500 will be available for new businesses who opened during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2020 based on eligible expenses.

The application period for the Nonprofit, Social Services and Childcare Business Economic Relief grant programs closed on October 2.

NERG distributed \$ 322,972.50 to 35 recipients. 1 application was denied. SoSERG distributed \$148,034.00 to 9 recipients with no denied applications. CBERG distributed \$75,000.00 to 4 recipients with no denied applications.

Household Economic Relief Grants are in process now, with many applications rolling in.

**EDC Staffing Change**

City Manager Dumouchel is mixing up the staffing a bit for City Commissions. Staffing for the EDC will go to Julie Engebretsen in the Planning Department. Planning is a great fit for the EDC as many of the EDC's goals have a strong nexus to the Planning Department and particular skills Julie brings to your Commission. I will work with Julie to insure a smooth transition. It has been my pleasure working with the EDC over the years. I am sure, as particular projects come along, I may be asked to work with you and Julie on some.

**Smart Growth Resources**

At the September 8, 2020 worksession, Commissioners expressed an interest to learn about Smart Growth concepts and principles. City Manager Dumouchel shared the following links to kick start your exploration.

<https://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/smartgrowth.htm>

<https://smartgrowth.org/smart-growth-principles/>

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-04/documents/this-is-smart-growth.pdf>

<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/our-vision/what-is-smart-growth/>



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## Memorandum

TO: Economic Development Advisory Commission  
FROM: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects & Communications Coordinator  
DATE: October 8, 2020  
SUBJECT: EDC 2020-21 Strategic Plan and Goals

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On September 8, 2020, the EDC held a worksession to discuss their 2020-2021 Strategic Plan and Goals. Commissioners had developed a matrix of short, medium and long-term goals to facilitate discussion at the worksession and during the regular October EDC business meeting.

Not every Commissioner was able to attend the worksession, so Commissioner Arevalo provided the attached matrix that shows the Economic Development Advisory Commission's 2019 strategic goals along with the changes Commissioner Arevalo proposed for EDC review. The table includes notes Commissioner Arevalo took reflecting feedback from the group at the September 8, 2020 worksession.




**Staff Recommendations:** Review the proposed Strategic Plan and goals provided in your packet. By motion propose, amend and adopt a final 2020-2021 Strategic Plan and Goals.

Nicole Arevalo’s input for revising EDC’s 2019 Strategic Plan/Goals- annual update

PLUS feedback from EDC Worksession held 9/8/20

(2019 plan/goals are in black, changes or new goals are in orange, worksession feedback is in red)

EDC’s 2019 Strategic Plan/Goals			
Ongoing Goals	Short Term Goals <small>&lt;6 months or by end of 2019</small>	Midterm Goals <small>1-3 Years (2019 – 2022)</small>	Long Term Goals <small>5 Years or More (2024+)</small>
Follow Wayfinding- Streetscape planning effort; keep focus on opportunities for implementation	Research any zoning recommendations to forward to Planning Commission	Assess job training needs of Homer businesses & communicate to Kenai Peninsula College	Collaborate with Chamber of Commerce on Recruit & Retain Remote Workforce Project
Familiarize with Smart Growth principles and best practices	Review CEDS	Multipurpose community center in CBD	
	Evaluate how to move downtown vitalization forward		
	Form “Recruit & Retain Remote Workforce group to collaborate with Chamber of Commerce		
<b>Nicole’s Proposed Changes for FY 2021 and Discussion at EDC Worksession</b>			
New Ongoing	New Short Term <small>Change to 6 months or less</small>	New Midterm <small>Change to 6 months to 2 yrs</small>	Long Term Goals <small>5 Years or More (2024+)—Change to 2 years or more (FY 2023+)</small>
<del>Follow Wayfinding- Streetscape planning effort; keep focus on opportunities for implementation</del> Moved to Midterm		<del>Multipurpose community center in CBD</del> Move to Long Term (FY 2023+) »»»	Collaborate with Chamber of Commerce on Recruit & Retain Remote Workforce Project Is the Chamber still pursuing this? Brad- hasn’t seen it on the radar
<del>Familiarize with Smart Growth principles and best</del>	Familiarize with Smart Growth principles and best practices →	Assess job training needs of Homer businesses & communicate to Kenai	Multipurpose community center in Central Business District

<p>practices Move to Short Term &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt; </p>	<p>Add Green Infrastructure too. New Public Works Dept head has been examining Homer’s infrastructure with an eye to natural resources. Also, any downtown vitalization, city trail building, stormwater infrastructure and more can all be implemented using green infrastructure principles. City of Homer partnered with KBNERR and others to do a Green infrastructure training a couple of years ago. New commissioners would not have had the chance to attend that. Maybe City staff could forward us useful materials that came from that training. <u>Jeff-</u> get more specific about this. <u>Karin-</u> maybe have a couple of presentations? Are there local folks who could guide us on these? <u>Nicole before October homework</u> is to find good resources to share. Collaborate with Jenny. Group can discuss at a <u>meeting in November.</u></p>	<p>Peninsula College There were multi-group meetings about this already this spring. I didn’t make it to those, but could gather their findings. We could call KPC about the findings thus far. Maybe we would want to do a little local survey. Job center isn’t currently open, right? (Bill had offered to ask questions to them). If this is something to pursue this year, then move to short-term. Tied to Homer’s Comprehensive Plan Ch. 7. <u>Jeff-</u> talk with Brad about meeting we had that spurred remote workforce development pursuit that his predecessor started. Also talk with KPC staff (Jill) about her ideas. <u>Jenny-</u> clearly define our concepts</p>	
	<p>Research any zoning recommendations to forward to Planning Commission </p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Any others on the Radar?</li> <li>2) Should we see if we are able to reach out directly to BR&amp;E businesses who mentioned sign code as an issue and let them know what’s been done? See if their concerns have been addressed or resolved? Only possible if they filled the optional contact info section.</li> </ol>	<p>Help spearhead biannual summit idea <u>Karin-</u> ties in with CEDS public hearing process. CEDS only every 5 yrs. Have meetings in-between. <u>Jenny-</u> more clearly define the concept of a summit. What are the goals?</p>	
	<p>Review CEDS </p>	<p>From bylaws bulletpoint: “identifying specific</p>	

	<p>Cross-compare Homer’s old CEDS with the Homer material in KPEDD’s most recent one. What gaps between the two can we identify? Do those gaps seem to require attention? Are there ways for us to find out whether items that were on Homer’s CEDS but are not on KPEDD’s CEDS are just fine being left out (obsolete or outdated) or if they are still important to our local economy? Homework for September to bring to group in October. Each commissioner provides their own takes on the gaps. Group discusses.</p> <p><u>Karin-</u> KPEDD says regional CEDS will have consultant to help develop. Finished product due June 30, 2021. Two gatherings in each major KPB location. Since Homer has an EDC (unlike other communities) we have a good position to be a bridge between public input and KPEDD. Do some public outreach?? Collaborate with Chamber? <b>Early January?</b></p> <p><u>Jenny-</u> recommends looking at Comp plan economic development chapter more than old CEDS. Look at current CEDS (KPEDD) too.... Of course. Look at its structure, then at Ch. 7- economic vitality, then look at city’s CIP. Get a sense of how things would fit into the new CEDS. Some feedback from the public would be good too. Get that foundation Jenny mentioned first. <b>October homework</b>. KPEDD consultant could help add to the framework- how does Homer fit into larger CEDS picture. Maybe good to have public input meeting/webinar after the consultant comes.</p>	<p>alternatives or projects to accomplish the city’s objectives and recommend priorities.” PLUS Comprehensive Plan Ch . 7, items 1-6. For this goal we actually do an analysis of city objectives, develop recommended priorities and identify specific alternatives if possible. This could take several monhs if we decided gaining more public input was warranted.</p>	
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	Evaluate how to move downtown vitalization forward Karin- will develop naturally....after CEDS	Wayfinding Streetscape: Jenny- bringing groups together for public comment is tricky now. Putting off a year is prob good. EDC could offer input to RFP, but it's mostly in staff hands. Maybe offer some other input.	
	Form "Recruit & Retain Remote Workforce group to collaborate with Chamber of Commerce → Is the Chamber still pursuing this? Brad- hasn't seen it on the radar		
	More Homework	More Homework	

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION  
2019 STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS**

Annually, the EDC prioritizes a list of short, medium and long-term goals to aid the commission in charting a general course for the year and keeping on-task.

**2019 EDC GOALS**

<b>Ongoing Goals</b>	<b>Short Term Goals</b> < 6 Months or by end of 2019	<b>Midterm Goals</b> 1 - 3 Years (2019 – 2022)	<b>Long Term Goals</b> 5 Years or More (2024+)
Follow Wayfinding- Streetscape planning effort; keep focus on opportunities for implementation	Research any zoning recommendations to forward to Planning Commission	Assess job training needs of Homer businesses; communicate to Kenai Peninsula College	Collaborate with Chamber of Commerce on Recruit & Retain Remote Workforce Project
Familiarize with Smart Growth principles and best practices	Review CEDS	Multipurpose community center in CBD	
	Evaluate how to move downtown vitalization forward		
	Form ‘Recruit & Retain Remote Workforce” work group to collaborate with Chamber of Commerce		

**Overall EDC Duties and Responsibilities**

The outline below summarizes the EDC’s overall duties and responsibilities as prescribed in the EDC’s Bylaws, under Homer City Code 2.76.040 at [www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer/](http://www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer/) and in official City planning documents including the Homer Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and the 2017 Business Retention and Expansion Survey Report (BR&E).

**EDC Bylaws/HCC**

- Act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the overall economic development planning for the City of Homer.
- Oversee responsibility of the City of Homer Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (adopted by City Council April 26, 1993; formerly known as the Overall Economic Development Plan):
  - a. Revisions, amendments and extensions of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which may be adopted by the City Council after consideration and report by the Commission.
  - b. Provide continued review and evaluation of the CEDS.
  - c. Supervise and monitor the implementation of the CEDS.
- Collect and analyze data relevant to economic development to evaluate existing community resources.
- Formulate and develop the overall long-range economic development goals of the residents of the City of Homer through public hearing process.

- Identify specific alternatives or projects to accomplish the City's objectives and recommend priorities.
- Review recommendations of the Homer Advisory Planning Commission to encourage a business-friendly environment in Homer.
- Promote public interest in overall economic development.
- Make inquiries regarding matters related to economic development.
- Collaborate with other City of Homer advisory bodies, the Homer Chamber of Commerce, Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, and Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council in activities of mutual interest.

**Document 1: 2018 Homer Comprehensive Plan: Chapter 7 Economic Vitality** – The Comp Plan has six summarized goals, each with implementation strategies and additional objectives. The table at the end of the chapter breaks down these projects by a timeframe and whose primary duty it is to take action on them. The following goals have been marked as the EDC's responsibility:

1. Goal 1 – Encourage Economic Development
  - 1-5. Review the Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan (*Mid Term*)
  - 1-6. Create an action plan from the CEDS plan (*Near Term*)
  - 1-7. Stay abreast of the requirements of information (*Ongoing*)
2. Goal 2 – Encourage Year-round Jobs
  - 2-A3. Identify business needs through business retention program participation (*Ongoing*)
  - 2-A4. Stay abreast of the needs of technology-based business and review the ability of the city to support (*Ongoing*)
  - 2-A5. Partner with KPEDD to identify options for incentives to encourage local business growth (*Near Term & Ongoing*)
  - 2-A6. Work with KPEDD to identify regional successes (*Near Term & Ongoing*)
  - 2-C4. Connect sources of information that contribute to identifying local job training needs (*Ongoing*)

**Document 2: 2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Implementation Plan** – The strategies listed in the CEDS are implemented collaboratively by local government and community organizations/businesses. The goal listed that EDC should focus on is:

THREE BROAD SECTORS: CONSTRUCTION & MANUFACTURING, RETAIL, SERVICES

Goal: Increase the contribution these sectors make to Homer's overall economic health

- A. Encourage enterprises that will provide jobs and other economic benefits without serious negative side effects; and
- B. Encourage value-added manufacturing to maximize local resources and provide products for export.

Although this item is marked EDC's responsibility, the continued review/evaluation of the CEDS and supervising/monitoring its implementation **in its entirety** is the duty of the EDC per the commission's bylaws and HCC 2.76.040

**Document 3: Business Retention & Expansion Survey Report: EDC Proposed Action Items** – The EDC conducted a BR&E survey in 2017. Survey responses helped the EDC formulate 2017-2018 goals. Some of these goals have been accomplished, while others may need to be prioritized into a more specific timeline.

1. Local business concerns the EDC proposes to work on in short-term:
  - Clarify specific City regulatory barriers in the areas of zoning options and the permit process, sign ordinance (particularly in regard to several businesses co-located in one building) and lease policy and procedure -- while keeping safety, town appearance and quality of life elements in the balance;
  - Explore public-private partnership to create a master plan for a more vibrant, connected central commercial district with attention to appearance, trail connections, way-finding, arts, wi-fi zone, etc.
  - Support efforts to develop large vessel haul-out;
  - Share survey results with other organizations/government units engaged more directly in the issues as a catalyst for solutions;
  - Educate ourselves and others about the actual scope of City government reach in the various challenges brought out by the survey and connect individual business owners with information about the organizations and resources available for to address concerns and for business assistance.
2. Longer-term issues that cut across many businesses and require various stakeholder involvement in both strategy development and implementation:
  - Explore City participation in coordinated public-private initiatives to recruit workforce;
  - Support large vessel harbor development with attention to competitive rates and multi-use Spit management.

## **DUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF**

### Commissioners

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend work sessions and training opportunities.
- Come prepared to make a motion for action at meetings, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on EDC-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

### Staff (Jenny Carroll)

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda
- Compile packet material from commissioners, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk
- Provide information on items the commission needs to review annually.
- Inform the Commission of City Council actions and discussion of economic development related issues.

### Clerk's Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the Commission.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- Tracking yearly items such as reappointments and elections.
- Help the Commission learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the Commission's ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).



# City of Homer

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Office of the City Clerk

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Homer, Alaska 99603

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(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

## Memorandum

TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

FROM: CHAIR KARIN MARKS

THRU: RACHEL TUSSEY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2020

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs)

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Chair Marks requested that the City of Homer's CEDs be on the agenda as a discussion topic. It will allow information to be given from the KPEDD meeting she attended while also giving an opportunity to hold preliminary discussion.

### RECOMMENDATION

For discussion; any action taken by the commission must be done by motions.

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Clerk

**RESOLUTION 20-086**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,  
AMENDING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY  
COMMISSION BYLAWS TO UPDATE ARTICLE I – NAME AND  
AUTHORIZATION BY REMOVING REDUNDANT INFORMATION AND  
RENAMING ARTICLE II – OBJECT AND REMOVING UNNECESSARY  
INFORMATION.

WHEREAS, In review of the Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDC) bylaws  
it was determined that Article I – Name and Authorization contained information that was  
redundant and should be deleted; and

WHEREAS, Further analysis of the EDC bylaws, Article II was renamed Object and  
modified to remove information that was not required in a bylaws document; and

WHEREAS, The EDC introduced the amendments at their August 11, 2020 regular  
meeting and approved their amendments at a second meeting on September 8, 2020, in  
accordance with their bylaws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council hereby amends the  
Economic Development Advisory Commission Bylaws to Update Article I – Name and  
Authorization by removing information that was redundant and renaming Article II – Object  
and removing unnecessary information not required in a bylaws document.

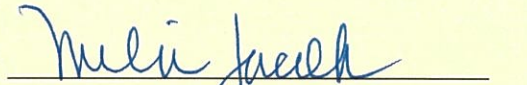
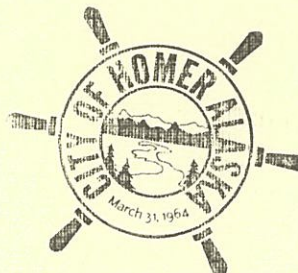
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 28th day of September, 2020.

CITY OF HOMER



KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK





## United Cook Inlet Drift Association

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43961 K-Beach Road, Suite E • Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 260-9436 • fax (907) 260-9438  
• [info@ucida.org](mailto:info@ucida.org) •

Date: September 30, 2020

Addressee: Mike Dunleavy, Governor  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: 2020 Economic Disaster Declaration

The United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA), as per the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), brings forward Resolution 2020-010 and statement of findings declaring an economic disaster for the Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) drift gillnet salmon fishery. UCIDA also requests the Secretary of Commerce declare an economic disaster for the UCI drift gillnet salmon fishery and provide a supporting recovery plan.

In 2020, the Upper Cook Inlet drift gillnet sockeye salmon harvests of 283,772 directly resulted in an economic disaster. Sockeye salmon harvested in Cook Inlet were few in number and small in size with a run timing of up to four to six weeks later in the year. The State's management of the UCI salmon fishery limited harvest opportunities by both time and area. Historically, harvest opportunities in the Cook Inlet commercial fishery closed on December 31. However, now, under the current management regime, our fishery closes by August 15 while many salmon stocks are continuing to enter into the Cook Inlet salmon fishery area.

The salmon harvest data from 1985-2020 is attached for reference. The 2020 harvest of 283,772 sockeye was the smallest since 1960. Average weight per fish has also dropped alarmingly. In 2020, the sockeye salmon had the smallest weight at age since 1970. As a result, ex-vessel and first wholesale values dropped and the net production of meals from the fishery was reduced.

UCIDA requests directly from you, Governor Dunleavy, an economic disaster declaration for the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon season.

UCIDA is prepared to discuss and answer questions concerning this disaster request and looks forward to achieving the economic disaster declaration from your office and we will cooperate with you and your officials, the Alaska Legislature, the Department of Commerce and Congress to obtain adequate appropriations.

**United Cook Inlet Drift Association  
Resolution 2020-010**

**WHEREAS,** UCIDA is a duly registered, fishing community association recognized by the State of Alaska and the Federal Government; and

**WHEREAS,** UCIDA is a professional commercial salmon trade association; the Board of Directors are elected by participants of the fishery; and

**WHEREAS,** UCIDA provides for the wholesale or retail marketing, sale, delivery, distribution, or processing of drift gill net salmon and its by-products, caught in all waters of and adjacent to the Pacific Ocean north of a line extending east from Cape Douglas to the longitude of Cape Fairfield; including the negotiation of wholesale and/or retail prices, contracts, sale's agreements, distribution, processing, marketing, custom processing, agency, brokerage, and shipping agreements and contracts for its members; and

**WHEREAS,** UCIDA does research, obtains grants, and makes studies for the enhancement, rehabilitation and marketing of commercial drift gillnet caught salmon and makes proposals and lobbies for legislation and regulations to promote and better the commercial salmon industry; and

**WHEREAS,** UCIDA participates in legal actions determined by the Board of Directors to be in the best interest of the commercial fishing community and the fishery resource; and

**WHEREAS,** UCIDA engage in and exercise such other powers as are now set out in the Alaska Cooperative Corporation Act, and any other lawful activities, except banking or insurance or the furnishing of electrical or telephone service; and

**WHEREAS,** UCIDA members own several hundred vessels that are directly used in the harvesting of salmon and other fish stocks, and members primarily reside in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest; and



**WHEREAS,** UCIDA members have invested many millions of dollars in vessels, limited access fishing privileges, homes, docks, vehicles, nets, gear and equipment; and

**WHEREAS,** as of September 1, 2020, the UCI commercial sockeye salmon harvest by the drift gillnet fleet was approximately 283,772 individual fish, which is the lowest harvest of commercial salmon since 1960 and approximately 81% less than the recent 10-year average of 1,510,944; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2020 individual sockeye salmon weight at age was, on average, one pound less than 10 years ago, and the 283,772 fish harvested in UCI were worth approximately 86% less than the previous 10-year average ex-vessel value; and

**WHEREAS,** sockeye salmon are the most valuable of the five species of Pacific Salmon present in UCI, and in 2020, the commercial sockeye harvest was 283,773 individual fish; these numbers are 82.7% less than the previous 10-year annual average harvest of 1,649,779, harvest in 2018 was excluded, as it was also a disaster; and

**WHEREAS,** during 2020, the majority of the Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon returned during the month of August; and

**WHEREAS,** the drift gillnet fishermen were, by regulation, prevented from harvesting sockeye salmon during the historical time of year and from traditional areas as they migrate into UCI; and

**WHEREAS,** State regulators have abandoned abundance-based management practices in favor of highly prescriptive-based management practices causing insufficient fishing opportunity and resulting in economic disasters, reduced food supply and economies; and

**WHEREAS,** Alaska Statute AS 44.33.285 authorizes the Governor, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Commerce or the Economic Development District, to designate a proclamation for an area impacted by an economic disaster; and

**WHEREAS,** this extremely low harvest was below the level necessary to cover the cost of operating and maintaining the commercial drift gillnet fisher, processing and marketing businesses in the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

**WHEREAS,** an economic disaster declaration by the Governor would allow the legislature to appropriate funds for assistance grants and the governor may recommend in the governor’s budget that capital projects planned for the area be accelerated and other steps may be taken as provided in AS 44.33.285 – AS 44.33.310 to accelerate the recovery from this disaster; and

**WHEREAS,** UCIDA has letters from the Cook Inlet Fisherman’s Fund, Copper River Seafoods, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, and the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District who have all urged the UCIDA and others to request the Governor of Alaska to declare an economic disaster for the Upper Cook Inlet sockeye salmon commercial fisheries due to the failure of the 2020 season.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UCIDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**SECTION 1.** That UCIDA declares an economic disaster exists among the commercial drift gillnet fishing community as a result of the 2020 UCI sockeye salmon fishery.

**SECTION 2.** That the UCIDA Board of Directors respectfully request the State of Alaska declare an economic disaster for the 2020 UCI commercial drift gillnet sockeye salmon fishery.

**SECTION 3.** That the State of Alaska declare an economic disaster, as described in AS 44.33.285, to exist in the UCI drift gillnet fishery and that the State of Alaska implement a recovery plan that provides private and public assistance and takes actions that benefit commercial drift gillnet fishery participants and others that rely on this important fishery resource.

**SECTION 4.** UCIDA respectfully requests the State of Alaska declares an economic disaster, as provided for in the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, and implement a recovery plan that provides private and public assistance and takes other actions to benefit the commercial drift gillnet fishery participants and others that rely on this important fishery resource.

**SECTION 5.** UCIDA requests that copies of each economic disaster resolution be provided to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and Mayor, the Alaska Legislature and the Secretary of Commerce as well as other affected parties.

**SECTION 6.** That this resolution becomes effective immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE UCIDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS THIS 29TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020.**

Sincerely,

*Original Signed Document*

David Martin, President  
United Cook Inlet Drift Association

cc: State Director USDA Rural Development Jerry Ward  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Charlie Pierce  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly  
Kenai City Mayor Brian Gabriel  
Homer City Mayor Ken Castner  
Soldotna City Mayor Peter Sprague  
Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District  
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association  
Cook Inlet Processors:  
Pacific Star Seafoods  
Copper River Seafoods  
OBI Seafoods, Inc.



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Office of the City Manager

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[citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

### Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager  
DATE: September 9, 2020  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for September 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

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#### Settling In...

Since our last meeting I have been quite active meeting with staff, visiting City facilities, and getting to know some of our local stakeholders. I completed site visits and tours of the water and sewer systems, the fire station, both police stations, the library, the HERC, recreation facilities at Homer High School, parks facilities, various public restroom facilities, the road system, the airport, the port and harbor, the Public Works campus, and much more. These site visits were a great opportunity to get to know our departments and divisions on a much more personal scale. At every turn I was extremely impressed by the skills and depth of knowledge we have throughout the organization. I've also been making an effort to observe meetings of all of our various committees, commissions, and boards. I've been to one meeting of every group except for the Library Advisory Board which I hope to join for their October meeting. It's encouraging to see so many members of the public participating in their local government. In the coming weeks I will be looking to meet with more external stakeholder groups.

#### Resolution 20-050

The City's 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter taxable sales report was provided to Council in last meeting's supplemental packet; the report showed a -18.06% change from the prior period. When comparing 2020 to 2019 for the 2Q, out of the 29 business types there were at least 12 sectors that had a significant ( $\geq 50\%$ ) decrease in sales tax revenue with 3 exceeding what was booked last year. This report is an excellent guide in demonstrating the economic distress of the community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 3Q report will be just as telling. Resolution 20-050 outlines that City Council will reassess guidance on capital and operating spending after the first and second fiscal quarters' revenue is booked. Staff is aiming to provide Council with an up-to-date 2020 City of Homer quarterly report in comparison to 2019 to guide this discussion at the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting or a future work session.

#### Plastic Bag Ban

There have been questions from vendors concerning the status of the plastic bag ban. Ordinance 20-18 lifted the ban until either September 15<sup>th</sup> or the City ceases to be under an emergency declaration for COVID-19, whichever is later. Resolution 20-069 extended the emergency order until October 27<sup>th</sup> and staff have updated the website to make this clear to the public that plastic bags are still allowed and that the ban will resume October 28<sup>th</sup> unless Council extends the declaration further.

### **Deferred Lease Payments, Assessment Penalties**

Resolution 20-041 provided the opportunity for tenants leasing from the City to request permission to submit partial lease payments for up to 5 months. The tenants' request must be submitted beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Port & Harbor and Homer Airport Terminal tenants received written and email notifications regarding this opportunity. Currently, there is one tenant that has exercised this option. The under-utilization of deferred lease payments thus far implies an extension of the partial lease payment program is currently not needed, however, if staff begins to receive new requests from tenants to reinstate this opportunity, I will bring this topic back before Council. Similarly, no customers have requested deferred utility payments with the City as permitted under Resolution 20-037. Since April, the Finance Department has not been charging late fees on utility payments for all customers and staff is seeking direction from Council if late fees should continue to be waived or reinstated.

### **Homer Airport Terminal**

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, my office received notice from Attorney Sleeper that the debtor maintaining RAVN's current sublease with the City for space at the Homer Airport Terminal was intending to reject the sublease. This rejection is required so that the City may enter into a new sublease arrangement with a potential tenant for the space RAVN was occupying. My office has yet to receive confirmation that the current sublease has been officially rejected, however, FLOAT, the company that assumed ownership and is still going under the name RAVN, is very interested in resuming operations to get our community up and running with air service. The legislation before you would allow the City to enter into a new, noncompetitive sublease arrangement with this tenant contingent upon the debtor rejecting the current sublease and the State of Alaska's approval; as property owner, the State must grant approval to all subleases at the Homer Airport Terminal. My office has had discussions with FLOAT's Chief Commercial Officer Dan Kitchens and is ready to move quickly once we have Council approval to negotiate a lease. Attorney Sleeper is assisting the City in pursuing the pre-petition (\$11,319.90) and post-petition rent (\$8,656.23) that went unpaid by the "old" RAVN.

### **New Police Sergeant – Jessica Poling**

I would like to offer congratulations to Jessica Poling who has been promoted to Sergeant at the Homer Police Department. Sergeant Poling has been with the Homer Police Department for three years, and has an additional 12 years of law enforcement experience having served with the Navajo County Sheriff's Office in Arizona. Sergeant Poling serves as a Field Training Officer (FTO), is the department's only certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), and holds a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in criminal justice.

### **Horizon Court Update**

During the September 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting it was asked whether only a portion of the road would need repairs or essentially the whole road would need to be repaired/replaced. At this time, staff cannot make a determination as to how extensive the fix must be, but it appears our efforts can be localized to the area of the landslide and around the adjacent ravine. This issue will get further attention from Public Works, and likely a geotechnical engineer. There is a related follow up ordinance introduced at this meeting to complement the emergency ordinance passed at your last meeting.

### **Sunset View Estates, LLC Land Donation**

In June, Council approved Resolution 20-059, accepting a donation of land on Soundview Avenue, for the purpose of storm water management. Per HCC 18.06.020 (c), a copy of the title report and Kenai Peninsula Borough tax assessment value are provided here. Staff consulted the City Attorney, who advised that a Warranty Deed would be the preferred transfer document. The land owner has provided and recorded a Warranty Deed as of 8/27/20, which completes the transfer of land to the City.

### **HAWSP and Water & Sewer Depreciation Reserve Funds**

City staff has taken the lead on gathering and developing materials related to the HAWSP and Water & Sewer Depreciation Reserve Funds update which was postponed by Council until October. Staff is endeavoring to have materials available by the second meeting in September for the Council to use during a work session if they choose to do so.

### **Travel**

In March 2020 the City halted all travel by employees due to COVID-19. While I intend to continue to limit travel, there are many reasons to allow travel on a case by case basis. I discussed this topic with the leadership team and we are developing new guidance for City travel. On a case by case basis, the City Manager may approve travel which is required for the acquisition or maintenance of professional certifications, transportation of materials, or other needs which provide clear value to the City.

### **Public Hearing Noticing**

Some concerns have been raised related to nationwide delays in delivery times by the US Postal Service and how that connects to the City's public hearing noticing. I held a discussion with Planning staff about current procedures and any alternatives that may ensure we are providing adequate notice to the public in a timely fashion. I'm satisfied by the timelines in place within the Planning Department, but in our discussion we did identify some opportunities where we could do more to get the word out. We have begun to design a pilot program to place a public hearing notice sign at the location of planning projects which require a discretionary action be taken by the City.

### **Update on Camping at Hornaday Park**

Camping at Hornaday Park has been different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Travel patterns were disrupted and Council approved a program which allowed for individuals impacted by COVID to camp for free at the park. While there were positive impacts to individuals from this program, there was also an increase in the number of incidents reported by the Police Department at this location. HPD has recorded a 64% increase in service calls. Notable activities include a three times increase in the number of disturbance calls, four arrests, and two assaults. HPD has had to trespass a number of campers off the property due to inappropriate use and criminal behavior. I asked Parks and HPD to provide this information (see supporting documents in the enclosures) so that Council has realistic picture of the challenges for which we will need to be prepared if this program is repeated or an off-season program is to be developed (Hornaday Park closes to camping October 31<sup>st</sup>).

### **Homer Public Library Now Offers Outdoor Wi-Fi**

The Homer Public Library now offers 24/7 wi-fi access outside the library building. The signal should be accessible in the plaza and the parking lot to the west of the building. The log-in process is the same as for in-building access. If you need help with connecting, please call 907-235-3180.

### **Tsunami Upgrading System**

During the July 21 tsunami warning, staff were unable to activate the sirens from the City's tsunami station because the server was down. In the last Manager's Report I shared the tsunami warning system on the Kenai Peninsula is old and may be past due for an upgrade. Dan Nelson with the Office of Emergency Management contacted the City to report that the Borough is pursuing an upgrade and plans to be in Homer in October or November to conduct the necessary field work. Enclosed please find the email from Emergency Manager Nelson detailing the work to be performed to ensure an upgrade to the electronic controllers for the siren system.

## **COVID: Masks, ERG Programs, Status of 1<sup>st</sup> Disbursement**

The City and Public Health Nurses have received and are distributing 2,500 masks throughout the community. I would like to thank both the State for providing this resource and all-star volunteer Elaine Grabowski for helping manage the distribution of the masks. Elaine has been visiting businesses around town and providing masks wherever there is need. She is an excellent example of how community members can step up to help ensure public safety. Elaine is not alone in this endeavor and there have been many Community Champions working to keep COVID-19 out of Homer. On Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup>, Program Manager Perman in consultation with Special Projects & Communications Coordinator Carroll published the Nonprofit, Social Service and Childcare Business Economic Relief Grant Programs to the City's website. The public can now apply online or submit paper applications and the deadline for applications to be received is October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please help spread the word of these opportunities throughout the community. As of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the direct costs recorded to the City's COVID account is roughly \$1.4 million. Finance Director Walton is still adding up regular hours for inclusion in this figure, but her initial estimations aren't more than a couple hundred thousand. In order for the City to receive the second disbursement, a total of \$3,094,207.03 (80%) must be spent. I will work with staff to balance how the expenses associated with the newly released ERG programs will be applied to both the CARES Act funds the City received directly from the state and the grant funds received from the Borough.

### Enclosures:

1. Sergeant Promotion Memorandum from Chief Robl
2. Sunset View Estates, LLC documents
3. Hornaday Park Camping documents
4. August 26, 2020 Email from Emergency Manager Nelson
5. September 8, 2020 SBERG Update



# City of Homer

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

DATE: September 24, 2020

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for September 28<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

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### **RAVN Update**

Immediately after Council approved an emergency ordinance allowing the City Manager's office to pursue a lease agreement with the "new" RAVN, we began to move that process forward. Rachel Friedlander has been working diligently with the future tenant to get a lease drafted and required paperwork in order. The lease is contingent upon the approval of the State of Alaska and the official rejection of the lease held by the "old" RAVN. At the time of this report, a draft lease has been sent to the State of Alaska for approval and bankruptcy attorney, Gary Sleeper from JDO, has also been assisting our efforts as they relate to the lease held by the "old" RAVN. I expect we will be able to complete this process in very short order.

### **Flying Whale Update**

Flying Whale lease was terminated at the special meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff is coordinating with the tenants to vacate their space at the airport. We anticipate that they will complete their exit by the end of September. Staff will begin to consider options to remarket that space shortly thereafter.

### **CARES Act Funds Dashboard**

With help from Finance Director Walton, we have been creating some basic data visualizations of the City's CARES Act funding. We're still dialing in the format and the types of graphs involved. The goal is to have information available in a format that allows Councilmembers and the public to see at a glance what funds have been granted to the city, what appropriations have been made, and how much has actually been spent. We are also collaborating with Engineering/GIS Technician Aaron Yeaton to see if we can develop useful visualization tools using ArcGIS StoryMaps. I will provide updates as this experiment continues. If we find a format that really works for the Council and the public we will attempt to replicate the effort with other funds.

### **HERG Program**

The Household Economic Relief Grant (HERG) program is important to helping Homer residents who are experiencing economic hardship due to lost wages and extra expenses from COVID-19. It will help pay for essentials goods and services to stabilize families in their homes. We anticipate this program will launch September 28<sup>th</sup> with an application deadline of Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. This opportunity will be widely advertised through radio PSA, press releases, Facebook, and newspaper ads. Applications can be submitted online with paper copies available at the City Clerk's office.



## **Food for Kids and Teens**

The Food for Kids and Teens program at the Library will continue through the winter. Free bags of food are available Monday through Friday, 10am-6pm. Anyone in need is welcome to collect a bag from the plastic tote outside the library, near the book drop. Thank you to the Homer Food Pantry for their generous support of the community!

## **Vehicles in the Right-of-Way**

With winter almost upon us, staff is ramping up efforts to discourage parking vehicles and storing personal property in the City's rights of way. This will be particularly important when snow begins to fall and our plows hit the streets. Staff from my office, Public Works, and Homer Police Department have been discussing ways to increase public awareness of this issue, how we can change behaviors, and how to enforce regulations when all other avenues have failed.

## **Water Level Sensor at the Harbor**

Earlier in the summer, the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys Coastal Hazards program installed a water level sensor in the Harbor. The sensor measures how high the water is every hours and sends the data to a website for public viewing: <https://stilltek.com/stlwtr/iGage7/>. Some of the benefits of this program include: knowing the height and timing of the tide within one hour of the time it is checked; identifying whether the predicted high and low tides of the day are correct or not; measuring the height of storm surges and other high water events; updating models of tides, surges, and other water levels to improve predictions. More information about the Alaska Water Level Watch program can be found here: <https://aoot.org/alaska-water-level-watch/>.

## **Halloween**

Halloween is fast approaching and COVID-19 is still here. This is uncharted territory for everybody. In past years we have received special permit applications for Halloween events from the community. I don't know if we will this year or not. Prior event organizers have reached out to staff to ask questions while they consider their options. Staff has also received general questions from the public regarding the holiday and trick or treating. We're watching what innovations are being proposed in other communities and reaching out to local partners to see if any of them are working on COVID-safe events.

## **Homer Recreation Manager to be President of Alaska Recreation and Parks Association**

Mike Illg, Recreation Manager, is president-elect to the [Alaska Recreation and Parks Association \(ARPA\)](#). ARPA's mission is to provide a forum for interchange of ideas and information among parks, recreation and wildland professionals and supporters; promote the personal, environmental, social and economic benefits of parks, recreation and wildlands; coordinate, organize and promote quality educational opportunities; and prepare and provide educational information relating to parks, recreation and wildlands. Mike's term as president begins in October.

## **Analysis of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Sales Tax**

In a previous manager's report it was stated that staff would bring forth an analysis of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter sales tax for discussion with Council. I would like to make this the topic of an October 12<sup>th</sup> work session if the Council is amenable to that suggestion.

## **Plastic Bag Ban Update**

At the previous Council meeting there was discussion revolving around the suspension of the plastic bag ban which was tied to the COVID disaster declaration. At the meeting I reached out to Public Health and have

done some research into the use of plastic bags in the context of the current pandemic. I expect that staff will be able to prepare materials in order to discuss this issue in October.

Enclosures:

1. Food for Kids & Teens Program Instagram Flyer

## Economic Development Advisory Commission 2020 Meeting Calendar

MEETING	AGENDA DEADLINE	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
<b>JANUARY</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 14	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 7	
<b>FEBRUARY</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 11	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 4	
<b>MARCH</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 10	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 3	Appointment Renewals Due
<b>APRIL</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 14	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 7	Terms Expire April 1 <sup>st</sup> Election of Chair & Vice Chair Review of Strategic Plan/Goals
<b>MAY</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 5	
<b>JUNE</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 9	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 2	City Budget Review/Develop Requests
<b>JULY</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 14	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 7	
<b>AUGUST</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 11	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 4	Capital Improvement Plan Review
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 8	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 1	
<b>OCTOBER</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 13	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 6	
<b>NOVEMBER</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 10	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 3	
<b>DECEMBER</b> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 8	5:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 1	Upcoming Year Schedule Review Land Allocation Plan Review

**2020 HOMER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS  
ADVISORY COMMISSION/ BOARD ATTENDANCE**

Commissions are invited to report to the City Council at the Council’s regular meetings under Item 8 – Announcements/Presentations/Borough Report/Commission Reports. This is the Commission’s opportunity to give Council a brief update on their work. Generally the Commissioner who will be reporting will attend one of the two meetings for the month they are scheduled to attend.

The 2020 meeting dates for City Council is as follows:

January 13, 27	_____
February 10, 24	_____
March 9, 23*	_____
April 13, 27	_____
May 11, 26*	_____
June 8, 22	_____
July 27**	_____
August 10, 24	_____
September 14, 28	_____
October 12, 26	_____
November 23**	_____
December 14, 21****	_____

City Council’s Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting at 5:00 pm to no later than 5:50 pm prior to every Regular Meeting which are held the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.

\*Tuesday meeting due to Memorial Day/Seward’s Day.

\*\* There will be no first regular meeting in July or November.

\*\*\*Council traditionally reschedules regular meetings that fall on holidays or high school graduation days, for the following Tuesday.

\*\*\*\*Council traditionally cancels the last regular meeting in December and holds the first regular meeting and one to two special meetings as needed. Generally the second special meeting the third week of December will not be held.