



Agenda

ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 08, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Cowles Council Chambers City Hall In-Person & via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 998 6324 0301 Password: 404451

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

CALL TO ORDER, 4:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 Minute Time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

VISITORS

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- [A.](#) Unapproved Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2023

REPORT(S)

- [A. Memorandum](#) ADA 24-001 from ADA Coordinator re: February Update

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- [A.](#) Memorandum ADA 24-002 from Parks & Trails Planner re: Bayview Park Plan - ADA Review

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- [A.](#) City Manager's Reports

- i. CM Report for City Council Meeting on January 8, 2024
- ii. CM Report for City Council Meeting on January 22, 2024

- [B.](#) City of Homer Newsletters

January 2024

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 Minute Time Limit)

COMMENTS OF THE STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar

CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-08 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Donna Aderhold at 4:59 p.m. on October 12, 2023 from the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS ADERHOLD, GEISLER, LEPLEY, PARSONS, THORSRUD

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBER SAFRA

STAFF: ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE & DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT

AGENDA APPROVAL

LEPLEY/GEISLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 Minute Time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

- A. Board & Commission Annual Training – Melissa Jacobsen, City Clerk
Memorandum from City Clerk

City Clerk Jacobsen thanked the Board for having her. She started off her presentation by explaining to the Board that the City Clerk’s Office conducts annual training with all of the boards and commissions the meeting after appointments have been reviewed. This is done so that new people joining the board can get the training they need, and it also serves as a nice refresher for everyone else.

Ms. Jacobsen then went on to describe the history of the ADA Advisory Board and how it came to be what it is today. She outlined the duties and responsibilities of the Board, and she gave a dense summary of the Open Meetings Act and some common definitions associated with it. The presentation also covered appropriate behaviors in terms of communication among board members, what the Chair’s responsibilities are, and finally how to make motions and take care of business.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Unapproved Special Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2023

GEISLER/LEPLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT(S)/COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

A. Staff Report for October 2023
Memorandum ADA 23-025

ADA Coordinator Krause provided a verbal update to the Board. She outlined the following that she felt was relative to the Board:

- Ordinance 23-49, which deals with creating a department of information technology, a department of the library, and a community development department has been postponed until January 8th. Chair Aderhold added that Council has received some public comment with an interest in having recreation be its own standalone department rather than having it lumped in with community development.
- Ordinance 23-48, regarding regulations with animals, domesticated and wild, was adopted with substantial updates.
- Resolution 23-087, awarding a contract to East Road Services to upgrade the Story Book Trail that will bring the trail into ADA compliance. The trail is currently being worked on and they should have it complete before winter sets in.
- The design services contract for the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan have been awarded to Corvus Design. A status update will be provided at the PARCAC meeting on Thursday, October 19th.
- Resolution 23-090 has been adopted and Ms. Krause also informed the Board members that the design of the Svedlund Avenue sidewalk was in the supplemental packet.
- Resolution 23-093 for an ADA lift system at the harbor wasn't added to the mid-range section of the Capital Improvement Plan.
- The re-pave and re-grade project at the Homer Public Library parking lot wasn't re-added due to comments received from Public Works staff that they are going to wait and see how the mitigation measures already taken work out. Ms. Krause did note that it was included in the ADA transition plan for city facilities.
- Resolution 23-102, awarding \$110,000 to Beachy Construction for shoulder construction on the West Fairview shoulder for non-motorized transportation.
- Ms. Krause added that she is working on the trail site audits. She hasn't received the photos, which is a minor hold back, and she's having trouble find the time in her work schedule to fit in the trail audits. She is hopeful to have it submitted for Council review and approval in February.

- Ms. Krause lastly noted that there is ADA funding that's designated for spot improvements, repairs, etc. within the HART roads financial plan.

Board Member Thorsrud inquired about the recreation department being separate from the parks department. Chair Aderhold informed her that the City doesn't have a recreation or parks department at this time. She noted that for recreation there is one full-time worker and one part-time worker. She added that the City Manager is seeing a lot of synergies in placing the recreation employee in a new department that he is wanting to form called Community Development, which will also include the Economic Development Manager and the City Planner.

Boardmember Parsons was curious as to whether or not the City has an ADA inspector. ADA Coordinator Krause informed him that as of right now, the City doesn't have an ADA-certified inspector. Further, Mr. Parsons asked if that would be something that the Board as a body could recommend before a building code switch takes place. Chair Aderhold chimed in, noting that sidewalks are very different from building code. Ms. Krause followed up her comment by stating that sidewalks also usually fall within right-of-ways, and there are federal regulations and ADA requirements for pedestrian access within right-of-ways. Mr. Parsons also brought it to the Board's attention that the United States Access Board has finalized their new public right-of-way accessibility guidelines, and he fears that the new sidewalks being designed on Svedlund will be out of compliance once the new guidelines are enacted. Ms. Krause said that she will convey the concerns to the Public Works Director Jan Keiser.

Mr. Parsons also voiced his disappointment that the ADA lift system at ramp 7 didn't make it into the Capital Improvement Plan. Chair Aderhold noted that she was at the meeting where that decision had been made, and that it wasn't added due to the specifics of the design that won't work down at the harbor. She suggested that the Board invite someone from the harbor as a visitor to one of their meetings to try and hash out the details. She stressed to the Board the importance of working collaboratively with the Port and Harbor to achieve a solution. Board member Lepley added that his main motive for joining the Board was to see this project through at the harbor. He stated that the ramp is deemed ADA compliant, but that no one would want to go down that ramp in a wheelchair. Ms. Aderhold added that being technically compliant and being possible are sometimes two different things.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule
Memorandum from City Clerk

ADA Coordinator Krause directed the board members to the memo in the packet and reviewed the proposed dates with them. She inserted that the Board can add or remove meetings, or leave it as is.

GEISLER/THORSRUD MOVED TO AMEND THE MEETING START TIME TO 4:00 P.M. FOR THE 2024 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE.

Ms. Krause added that when the meeting times were changed to start at 5:00 p.m., the Board received an applicant right away. Discussions continued about the pros and cons of starting meetings earlier. Board member Geisler noted that they could always change the time back if it doesn't work out.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

LEPLEY/GEISLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Informational Flyer on Rapid Flashing Beacons for Heath Street Project
- B. Advisory Board Annual Calendar 2023
- C. City of Homer Monthly Newsletter – October 2023
- D. City Manager's Report for City Council October 9, 2023

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Pettit referred back to the ADA lift system at ramp 7, noting that he was at the meeting that the Port and Harbor decided to leave it off of their recommended projects. He added that it wasn't that the Port and Harbor didn't want to do the project, rather that the design the reviewed wouldn't work at the harbor given the drastic tide differences. He thanked the Board for a good meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Lepley thanked the Chair and the Clerk for the clarification on the lift system that Mr. Parsons brought up.

Boardmember Thorsrud thanked City Clerk Jacobsen and the Board for a good meeting. She added that she's hopeful to set a specific date to have someone from the harbor join the Board in regards to the ADA lift system discussion.

Boardmember Parsons thanked everyone for a good meeting. He noted that there's 15 pages on the Svedlund Sidewalk document that seem really important for this body to consider at this point. He requested that the item be on the next agenda since members didn't receive the supplemental packet until moments before their meeting.

Boardmember Geisler added that she thinks the group has some homework to do in order to dive into the detail of some of the items in the packet. She thanked the Board for a good meeting.

Chair Aderhold added that Pat Case was a visitor at the last Council meeting. He presented his walking plan and he is planning on getting the agenda for a future ADA meeting to present to this Board as well.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Geisler adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, 99603 and via Zoom webinar.

ZACH PETTIT, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

ADA COORDINATOR REGULAR REPORT FOR

Item Type: INFORMATIONAL
Prepared For: ADA ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Date: FEBRUARY 8, 2024
Staff Contact: RENEE KRAUSE, ADA COORDINATOR

Happy New Year! 2024 is already one month in and has started out with so many things happening it appears that we are in for a very busy year. So what has happened since we last met as a Board and what has been keeping the City busy the last few months you are wondering? Read on below:

Council Actions

City Council has adopted 18 Ordinances regarding the following:

- Engineering Services for Preliminary design of Non-motorized Trails and Trailhead connecting the City of Homer Diamond Creek Recreation Area to a proposed highway underpass;
- Matched reserves to meet the City's increased local match requirement for the Homer Harbor expansion general investigation;
- Purchased three mobile restrooms – two for Karen Hornaday Park and one for Jack Gist Park, these units will be connected to water and sewer and be ADA compliant;
- Design and Rebuild of a pressure reducing station for Ben Walters Sidewalk project;
- Replacement of the Fish Grinding Building and drainage improvements, this was not completed in the time allowed and was renewed;
- Additional Funding for Design Completion of Heath Street Pavement Restoration Project;
- Accepted a hazard mitigation grant award to reimburse the city for costs associated or managing or administering a grant; and two additional hazard mitigation grants for replacement of the City's Raw Water Transmission Mains and Costs associated with management and administration of the grants; a grant to upgrade HVFD Portable Radios and provide backup repeater for the City's Public Safety Communications System; State of Alaska Public Library Grant for Books and Library Materials; funds for reimbursement of the new jail transport van
- Additional Funding to purchase one membrane filter module for the Water Treatment Plant;
- Funds to repair a sink hole at the Deep Water Dock.

- Amended city code to allow acceptance of donations – Money or real Property for a public purpose;
- Amended the Official Road Maintenance Map to add .71 miles of road in west Homer east of West Hill Road;
- Amended Chapter 7 to add a new section related to reduced speed limits in cul de sacs and streets having only one outlet to 15 MPH.

City Council has introduced the following ordinances at the January 22, 2024 Council meeting and will be having the Public Hearing and Second Reading at the February 12, 2024 City Council meeting:

- Appropriating Funds for Events, Exhibits and Programs celebrating the 40 year Sister City relationship with Teshio, Japan;
- Provide for necessary adjustments connected to the creation of an exempt wage scale;
- Accepting Clean Water Fund Loan for the Tasmania Court Sewer Improvement Project.

City Council adopted 42 resolutions that addressed the following:

- Requested the State of Alaska make meaningful and timely increase to base student allocation for public schools;
- Supported Raising the maximum available annual award per municipality from \$5 million to \$7.5 million for State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; the State of Alaska continued partnership in the US Corp of Engineer Homer Harbor Expansion general Investigation and requested Local Sponsor Match Funding in FY25 consistent with the local match partnership established in 2023; for the continuation of the Homer Harbor general investigation and authorized the signing of the updated project management plan with the Corps of Engineers; creating a sister city donation account to support the 40th anniversary of Homer's Sister City Relationship with Teshio, Hokkaido, Japan; Full Funding for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY2025 State Capital Budget;
- Adopted an Alternative allocation method for the FY24 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program and certified that this allocation method fairly represented the distribution of significant effects of Fisheries Business activities in FMA 14: Cook Inlet Area;
- Authorized a Change Order to Kinney Engineering, LLC Task order #22-04 for Heath Street Pavement Restoration Project; the Application of EPA for Multi-purpose Brownfield Grant in support of revitalization of the HERC site; Pass Through funds from Doyon, Limited related to delivery of a Traffic Impact Analysis prepared by Kinney Engineering; Authorized the application of Clean Water Revolving loan from the State of Alaska for the Beluga Sewer Lift Station Improvements;
- Accepted a donation of a lighthouse sculpture to be placed in the gardens located at the Baycrest Hill Overlook and to be included in the Municipal Art Collection;

- Authorized a Task Orders to RESPEC Company, LLC to Design the Rebuild of the ben Walters Pressure Reducing Station and for Construction documents and engineering support for the Fish Grinding Building Replacement Project; to HDR Engineering for grant writing services for a FY24 Federal RAISE Planning Grant to support the Homer Non-Motorized Transportation Infrastructure; to Coble Geophysical Services, LLC to Design Storm Water Works for the Kachemak Green infrastructure Storm Water Management Project;
- Designated signers for 2024 on City Accounts, superseding previous resolutions so designated;
- Appointed Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer for 2024; Confirmed the appointment of the City Clerk as Acting City Manager for 2024
- Created a Steering Committee to aid in the development of the new Comprehensive Plan and Title 21 Zoning Code;
- Agreed to participate in a MOA for a joint exercise of Tourism Promotion between the KPB and Cities of Kachemak, Seldovia, Seward, Soldotna, Kenai and Homer.
- Approved the 2024 Regular Meeting Schedules for City Council, Planning Commission and Advisory Bodies;
- Provided Detail and Direction for working with staff to update financial reporting to the Council and developing a financial plan for the city; Directed City Administration to investigate potential locations and related costs for a future Multiuse Community Recreation Center for Council review;
- Approved a Lease Amendment for Copper River Seafoods;
- Approved contracts for assistance with acquisition of properties for the Kachemak Sponge Green Infrastructure Storm Water Management Project; Lobbyist; Agnew::Beck to re-write the Comprehensive Plan and Title 21 Zoning & Planning Code; operation & management of the Homer Animal Shelter; Purchase of Membrane Filter Trains for the Water Treatment Plant to Zenon Environmental Corporation; Appaloosa Integrated Construction & Consulting Services, LLC; three mobile restrooms for Karen Hornaday Park and Jack Gist Park; Issued a term contract to Alaska Harbors Consulting, LLC for Marine Engineering;

General Information

I am progressing on the Trails Transition Plan and will have that completed for review and possibly approval at the April meeting depending on the number of corrections or amendments made by the Board. I was hoping to have it completed for this meeting but due to work schedules it just was not possible.

We still have not received any applicants for the vacancy and would encourage board members to solicit during any organizations or events that they may attend. We may need to come up with a flyer of some type to encourage applicants for the Board.

Providing the report at the next City Council Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. on February 12th volunteers anyone?



MEMORANDUM

Staff Report for Bayview Park Plan

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: ADA Advisory Board
Date: January 31 , 2024
From: Matt Steffy, Parks and Trails Planner

The Bayview Park Plan that is being revised by Corvus Design is at 90% completion. In reviewing the plan, we have identified two priority scopes for implementation.

Priority 1: ADA parking, ADA pathway, playground installation, and overall landscaping with drainage.

Priority 2: Upper park elements and upper pathway.

There are a few specific elements that should be discussed at this stage.

- **Parking**
 - The ADA parking space is presented as paved and connected with the ADA pathway within the park. The existing parking remains essentially the same, with some releveling. Does this feel adequate for park usage?
- **The pathway**
 - The pathway is shown as paved along the eastern and southern edge of the park. This route will be ADA accessible. Does this meet the expectations of accessibility in the park?
 - The remainder of the path is shown as a wood mulch path. This should be discussed. There may be enough money in the budget to install a more sustainable path that is accessible. This should be included in Priority 2.
- **The playground**
 - The playground presently consists of a climber cave, and an accessible digger tool in an adjacent sandbox. These are the pieces donated by Rotary that are in storage awaiting installation. There are remaining funds and remaining space for an additional piece of playground equipment. What type of playground equipment would we like to see?
- **The play-space**
 - The upper half of the park is presented as a combination of no-mow grass, drainage improvements, and wooden play elements. Staff has concerns about the timber

platform structure’s safety and maintenance costs. There is also hesitation on the “no mow grass” area due to sanitation, beautification, and accessibility. What other options would do well here if considered for unused budget or later funding under Priority 2?

Please review these elements and provide comments to staff.

Next Steps: Staff will work with the consultant to incorporate your comments. Then staff will publish to the City website and conduct outreach. Interested citizens can comment on the plan via the website and at the next PARCAC meeting. PARCAC can then make a recommendation on the plan to Council. This aligns well with construction this year!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Provide comments on the plan.

Attachments:

Bayview Park Master Plan DRAFT 01.09.2024

Bayview Playground Elements 01.11.2024

Playground Elements for Bayview Park

Climbing Cave



ADA Scoop Digger





City of Homer

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: January 4, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for January 8, 2024 Council Meeting

AMMA/AML Conference

In December I attended the Alaska Municipal Management Association (AMMA) and Alaska Municipal League (AML) conferences in Anchorage.

As president of the AMMA, I was responsible for a large part of the conference's coordination and I also delivered two presentations to the group. I gave an interdisciplinary presentation on public engagement and conflict concepts/frameworks from fields such as political science, energy development, and fisheries management. I also co-hosted a session on generative artificial intelligence for local government with the Deputy City Manager of Juneau. I was re-elected president of the association and will continue my leadership role with the organization in 2024.

When the AML conference got underway, I was joined by the Mayor and Councilmembers Aderhold, Davis, Erickson, and Hansen. During the AML conference I attended sessions on topics such as asset management, social determinants of health, TIFIA funding, and cybersecurity. I also attended a meeting of the Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Commission, the Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool (AMLIP) annual meeting, the AML annual business meeting, and I participated in an Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association (AMLJIA) board meeting as a board trustee. I also made time for a meeting with the owner of a mariculture business that operates seasonally in Homer to discuss their operation and the mariculture scene in Alaska at large.

Audit Update

Finance staff had a discussion with our auditors at BDO laying out the tentative plan for wrapping up the audit. Final review is scheduled for the week of the 8th and the week after we should be able to publish and bring the audit to completion at the second meeting in January.

Meetings with State Legislators

Councilmembers Hansen and Lord, along with me, Port Director Bryan Hawkins, and Special Projects Coordinator Jenny Carroll met with Representative Sarah Vance and Senator Gary Stevens to provide updates on the Homer Harbor Expansion general investigation. Both indicated continued support for the general investigation and are looking forward to meeting with the City in Juneau in February.

Comprehensive Plan Kick Off

In late December, City staff from planning, economic development, and engineering met with Agnew::Beck's comprehensive plan project team for a kick off meeting. We had a discussion about the project timeline, Council goals and interests, ideas for public engagement and outreach, etc. We will be meeting with them weekly for operational discussions to keep the project moving towards timely completion. The intent is to plan for a significant number of interactions with elected and appointed officials while also using staff from all over the organization to assist with outreach and data collection efforts.

Fireworks Support

City staff have collaborated closely with organizers of the New Year's Eve fireworks at Mariner Park. As the event has become more popular, coordinating efforts between Police, Fire/EMS, Public Works and the Port & Harbor has become increasingly important to a safe and enjoyable event. This year's fireworks went well from the City perspective and we look forward to continuing to work with the organizers for the continued improvement of future events.

Homer High Government Class Visits City Hall

The Homer High School Government Class visited City Hall on Tuesday, December 12th for a guided tour, followed by a Q&A session in the Council Chambers with Mayor Castner and Council Members Aderhold, Lord, Venuti, and Erickson. The students had an hour to explore the inner workings of local government, gaining insights into the daily operations of City Hall. The Q&A session aimed to provide a firsthand understanding of the roles and responsibilities of local leaders, allowing students to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussions. The goal of this experience was designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical civic engagement. Mayor Ken Castner emphasized, "Homer High grads are disbursed throughout the City. You need to participate, and that begins with talking and communication." The teens were encouraged to care about the community and be aware of what is being discussed, as they are the future of Homer.





MEMORANDUM

Homer Harbor Expansion Study Monthly Written Update

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor and City Council
Date: December 26, 2023
From: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager and Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Purpose: This memorandum provides the Homer Harbor Expansion Study monthly written update to Homer City Council per Resolution 23-037.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Development Team (PDT)

Continuing study activities:

- The Vertical Team Alignment Memo is working its way from the Pacific Ocean Division in Hawaii up the chain to the Chief.
- Two-day Ecological Modeling Workshop for environmental specialists is being organized.
- Homer Small Boat Harbor Vessel Economic Survey being routed through the USACE for approval.
- Preparing permit applications to be ready to proceed with geotechnical investigations; discussed advantages of completing the geotechnical survey portion of the investigations in February 2024 so data can be used to inform the geotechnical core sampling plan and be ready to move forward when study activities resume in full.
- Developing plan for the ship simulation component of the study.

HDR – Owner Representative:

- Nearing completion of the Coastal Numerical Modeling (waves, tides/storm surge, sediment transport) of existing (baseline) conditions Report for USACE PDT review; completing the modeling will allow progress on the designs once the study fully starts up again and geotechnical data is gathered.
- Preparing HHE Quarterly Report to present to City Council at a January 22, 2024 in which HDR will provide an overview of the Coastal Numerical Modeling report they are completing.
- Assisting City staff to implement Communications Plan and to maintain and update [HHE website](#).

City of Homer staff:

- Attended monthly USACE Project Development Team meeting and weekly meeting with HDR.
- Distributed Homer City Council Resolution 23-130 to Governor Dunleavy's office, Jill Schaefer (Governor Dunleavy's Kenai Peninsula liaison), Representative Vance and Senator Stevens.
- Reported to Council that additional HHE match funding was not included in Governor Dunleavy's proposed FY25 budget.

- While being hosted in Juneau by the Marine Exchange of Alaska for their Board Meeting, Port Director Hawkins took the opportunity to meet with:
 - Shareen Crosby, Crosby, the Infrastructure Investment Coordinator for the Office of the Governor to brief her on the HHE study and share Resolution 23-130.
 - Coast Guard Commander Torba to discuss the USCG's interests and input in the Homer Harbor Expansion study and the proposal for a USCG Small Boat Station in Homer. More information about this meeting will be included in the January 8, 2024 City Manager's Report.
- Prepared informational materials for Council Champions in support of developing an Ordinance appropriating additional City match funds (for introduction at the January 8 City Council meeting) and for Resolution of Support requests to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the State of Alaska.
- At the request of Council Champions arranged meetings with Representative Vance (12/18) and Senator Stevens (12/20) to discuss status of the HHE study and City's request for additional State match funding in the FY25 State budget.
- Met with Council Champions to review HHE Communications Plan and to develop materials to communicate financial progress of the study.
- Met with J&H Consultants to begin planning for advocacy in Juneau during AML's 2024 Winter Legislative Conference, February 20-22, 2024.
- Ongoing Communications/outreach: Information and updates about the study are being disseminated through the Harbor Expansion website, the City's monthly newsletter and the City of Homer Facebook and Instagram pages.

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational Only.

General Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through December 2023
50% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24		FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED		ACTUAL	
	BUDGET		\$	%
Revenues				
Property Taxes	\$ 4,115,085	\$ 4,373,562	106%	
Sales and Use Taxes	8,939,282	5,374,976	60%	
Permits and Licenses	43,797	24,600	56%	
Fines and Forfeitures	10,303	1,274	12%	
Use of Money	0	76,227		
Intergovernmental	746,338	257,567	35%	
Charges for Services	396,890	230,537	58%	
Other Revenues	-	53,733		
Airport	198,448	114,241	58%	
Operating Transfers	1,728,989	-	0%	
Total Revenues	\$ 16,179,131	\$ 10,506,717	65%	
Expenditures & Transfers				
Administration	\$ 2,288,320	\$ 894,040	39%	
Clerks/Council	927,024	362,908	39%	
Planning	387,478	125,498	32%	
Library	1,079,132	501,143	46%	
Finance	898,578	352,525	39%	
Fire	1,881,175	798,044	42%	
Police	4,282,603	2,140,498	50%	
Public Works	3,512,438	1,521,719	43%	
Airport	229,618	82,297	36%	
City Hall, HERC	179,040	81,633	46%	
Non-Departmental	179,000	154,000	86%	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 15,844,405	\$ 7,014,306	44%	
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 221,360	\$ -	0%	
Other	103,366	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 324,725	\$ -	0%	
Transfer to CARMA				
General Fund Fleet CARMA	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
General Fund CARMA	-	-	0%	
Seawall CARMA	10,000	-	0%	
Total Transfer to CARMA Funds	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0%	
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 16,179,131	\$ 7,014,306	43%	
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 3,492,411		

These numbers are preliminary and are subject change

Water and Sewer Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through November 2023
50% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24		FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED		ACTUAL	
	BUDGET		\$	%
Revenues				
Water Fund	\$ 2,369,005	\$ 1,071,875	45%	
Sewer Fund	1,948,388	930,321	48%	
Total Revenues	\$ 4,317,393	\$ 2,002,196	46%	
Expenditures & Transfers				
<u>Water</u>				
Administration	\$ 309,507	\$ 157,687	51%	
Treatment Plant	684,568	308,630	45%	
System Testing	33,000	18,682	57%	
Pump Stations	115,707	43,957	38%	
Distribution System	372,744	187,632	50%	
Reservoir	19,025	7,857	41%	
Meters	285,597	27,770	10%	
Hydrants	214,533	100,525	47%	
<u>Sewer</u>				
Administration	\$ 303,612	\$ 152,926	50%	
Plant Operations	836,304	353,129	42%	
System Testing	18,000	5,953	33%	
Lift Stations	216,060	93,372	43%	
Collection System	306,884	120,353	39%	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 3,715,541	\$ 1,578,472	42%	
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 15,769	\$ -	0%	
GF Admin Fees	-	-	0%	
Other	22,945	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 38,714	\$ -	0%	
Transfers to CARMA				
Water	\$ 309,001	\$ -	0%	
Sewer	254,138	-	0%	
Total Transfer to CARMA Funds	\$ 563,138	\$ -	0%	
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 4,317,393	\$ 1,578,472	37%	
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 423,724		

Port and Harbor Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through November 2023
50% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24		FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED		ACTUAL	
	BUDGET		\$	%
Revenues				
Administration	\$ 614,164	\$ 394,100	64%	
Harbor	3,961,361	3,084,322	78%	
Pioneer Dock	307,804	161,961	53%	
Fish Dock	578,477	381,886	66%	
Deep Water Dock	182,426	54,578	30%	
Outfall Line	4,800	-	0%	
Fish Grinder	7,390	10,393	141%	
Load and Launch Ramp	130,000	62,829	48%	
Total Revenues	\$ 5,786,422	\$ 4,150,069	72%	
Expenditures & Transfers				
Administration	\$ 1,143,305	\$ 617,432	54%	
Harbor	1,609,487	704,925	44%	
Pioneer Dock	86,345	41,381	48%	
Fish Dock	747,966	316,442	42%	
Deep Water Dock	104,705	49,159	47%	
Outfall Line	13,500	4,015	30%	
Fish Grinder	27,682	23,831	86%	
Harbor Maintenance	533,783	239,622	45%	
Main Dock Maintenance	51,393	22,306	43%	
Deep Water Dock Maintenance	61,893	24,696	40%	
Load and Launch Ramp	138,815	58,161	42%	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 4,518,876	\$ 2,101,972	47%	
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 73,867	\$ -	0%	
GF Admin Fees	-	-	0%	
Debt Service	0	-	0%	
Other	375,092	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 448,959	\$ -	0%	
Transfers to Reserves				
Harbor	\$ 818,588	\$ -	0%	
Load and Launch Ramp	-	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Reserves	\$ 818,588	\$ -	0%	
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 5,786,422	\$ 2,101,972	36%	
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 2,048,097		

WORK SESSION

AGENDA CALENDAR 2024

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
Monday, January 8	
Monday, January 15 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, January 22	<i>Homer Harbor Expansion Baseline Conditions Report Overview – Ronny McPherson & KC Kent HDR</i>
Monday, February 12	
Monday, February 26	
Monday, March 11	
Monday, March 18 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board</i>
Tuesday, March 26	
Monday, April 8	
Monday, April 12 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Port & Harbor Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, April 22	
Monday, May 13	
Monday, May 20 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Planning Commission</i>
Tuesday, May 28	
Monday, June 10	
Monday, June 17 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Economic Development Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, June 24	
Monday, July 22	

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
<i>Monday, August 12</i>	
<i>Monday, August 26</i>	
<i>Monday, September 9</i>	
<i>Monday, September 16</i> <i>Off-cycle</i>	<i>Joint Session with Library Advisory Board</i>
<i>Monday, September 23</i>	
<i>Monday, October 14</i>	
<i>Monday, October 28</i>	
<i>Monday, November 12</i>	
<i>Monday, November 25</i>	



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

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: January 17, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for January 22, 2024 Council Meeting

STR Update

Public review of the short term rental (STR) ordinance continues to move forward in a productive way. The Economic Development Advisory Commission held a work session prior to their regular meeting on January 9th. The work session was well attended by short term rental owners who shared comments and concerns. They have also committed to sharing housing and short term rental data in the near future. Based on feedback received from the public and the EDC, staff has met with Council sponsors and plans to draft a substitute ordinance in time for the next EDC work session on February 13th. The Planning Commission has had a full schedule recently, but they are tentatively scheduled to consider the ordinance on February 21st. STR information for this project is available on the City website including the schedule of public participation opportunities and a public comment form: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/draft-short-term-rental-regulations>

Harbor Expansion Study Update

In support of Resolution 23-130 and Ordinance 24-05, staff and Council Champions are reaching out to communities linked to Homer Harbor to request either letters or resolutions of support. The City of Seldovia is planning to consider a resolution on January 22nd and we hope to see other communities follow suit. The Homer Port & Harbor is a locally operated but regionally significant facility which benefits numerous coastal communities. Sharing this support with legislators in Juneau will help staff and Council show the widespread interest in coastal Alaska for increased moorage and port and harbor related services.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Application in Partnership with AML

In collaboration with City staff, the Alaska Municipal League developed a Notice of Interest for a grant application on behalf of the City of Homer for the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs which distribute federal dollars to projects in Alaska. The proposed project is focused on Homer Spit climate resiliency. The project would develop data and design necessary to protect the 4.5 miles of state highway and critical evacuation route at the end of Alaska Route 1. The project will develop a climate-sensitive roadway repair and nature-based design solutions using beach renourishment based on a data driven understanding of short- and long-term climate impacts to the roadway facility. The project includes a beach sediment investigation and sediment management plan, analysis of preliminary design versus anticipated performance, cost estimation and development of a funding plan, public and agency involvement, and identifying phasing of projects for the

spit highway and beach renourishment. If awarded, the grant would bring upwards of \$1.8M. The non-federal cost share for the grant program is 25%, however, Alaska Department of Transportation has agreed to provide the match if awarded.

Master Plans for Hornaday Park and Bayview Park

Corvus Designs has provided staff with the initial drafts of the master plans for Hornaday Park and Bayview Park. PARCAC will be meeting to discuss the designs and work towards final versions that will come to Council at a future meeting.



Bayview Park concept to be reviewed by PARCAC

Finance Champions Update

Staff met with the Council's Finance Champions, Councilmembers Lord and Davis, to discuss follow up to Resolution 23-120 and high level finance questions/concepts. We had a productive meeting and a memo from the Champions will be part of the packet for this meeting.

Federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

The Environmental Protection Agency recently passed regulations known as the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). The purpose of the LCRR, which is part of the Safe Water Drinking Act, is to protect public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water nationwide. The LCRR requires that public water systems compile an inventory to identify the materials used for each water service line. The inventory must include all service lines connected to the distribution system, regardless of ownership status. The material of the entire service line must be included, from the main to where the line enters the building. The goal of this effort is to either ensure there are no lead materials in the water system, or to find out where lead may be located, so that it can then be removed and replaced. Water/Sewer Superintendent Todd Cook has been diligently working with the team at Public Works to prepare required reports for the parts of the system the City controls and maintains. We will likely be conducting public outreach and education later in the year to ask home and business owners to assist the City in gathering data on the rest of the system.



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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning, HR Director
DATE: January 22, 2024
SUBJECT: January Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Teresa Sundmark	Library	17	Years
Tomasz Sulczynski	IT	16	Years
Andrea Browning	Admin	12	Years
Brody Jones	Public Works	10	Years
Jona Focht	Dispatch	9	Years
Lynda Gilliland	Finance	6	Years
Amy Woodruff	Port	3	Years
Rose Riordan	Port	2	Years

WORK SESSION

AGENDA CALENDAR 2024

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
Monday, January 8	<i>Exempt Employee Wage Scale</i>
Monday, January 15 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, January 22	<i>Homer Harbor Expansion Baseline Conditions Report Overview – Ronny McPherson & KC Kent HDR</i>
Monday, February 12	
Monday, February 26	<i>Ord 23-61 Amending HCC Title 5 to add Chapter 5.48 Short Term Rentals</i>
Monday, March 11	
Monday, March 18 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board</i>
Tuesday, March 26	
Monday, April 8	
Monday, April 12 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Port & Harbor Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, April 22	
Monday, May 13	
Monday, May 20 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Library Advisory Board</i>
Tuesday, May 28	
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Monday, July 22	

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
<i>Monday, August 12</i>	
<i>Monday, August 26</i>	
<i>Monday, September 9</i>	
<i>Monday, September 16 Off-cycle</i>	<i>Joint Session with Planning Commission</i>
<i>Monday, September 23</i>	
<i>Monday, October 14</i>	
<i>Monday, October 28</i>	
<i>Monday, November 12</i>	
<i>Monday, November 25</i>	

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE V | JANUARY 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Happy New Year
From Homer City Hall

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

This year, the City of Homer celebrated the Holiday Season at the Elk's Lodge. We enjoyed the time together, relaxing and catching up over a delicious dinner catered by The Tickled Pear. Adding excitement to the evening, we had a prize drawing, with lucky winners leaving with smiles and surprises. Rob and Ralph showcased their stylish sneakers, adding an extra touch of flair to the holiday festivities. We are thankful for our team and look forward to what's to come in the New Year!



City Manager Rob Dumouchel and Ralph Skorski



Officer Tyler Jeffres and Erica Jeffres



Cheryl and Mike Illg



Sarah Baldus and Sara Cunningham

- Holiday Celebration
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Homer Public Library
- Community Recreation
- City Hall
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Hazard Mitigation – Risk Assessment
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](#)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](#)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](#)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](#)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](#)

Subscribe to the Monthly Newsletter

[Click Here to Subscribe](#)

LIBRARY EVENTS

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming.

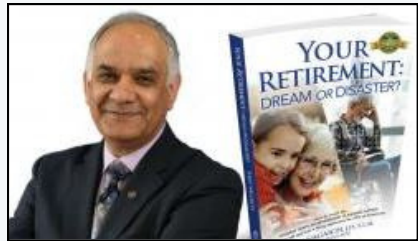
January 10 at 4 pm

Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Conversation with **Rebecca Serle**



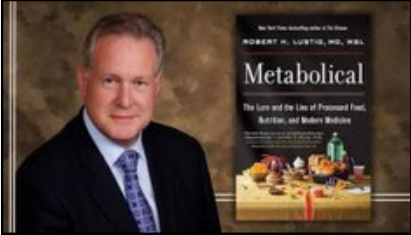
January 23 at 10 am

Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster? How to Avoid the Hidden Traps in Retirement Planning Advice
Rajiv Nagaich



January 30 at 10 am

The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, and Modern Medicine: An Author Talk with **Dr. Robert Lustig**



SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



Councilmember Conversations

Noon to 1 pm, the second Tuesday of each month, September - May, at the Homer Public Library.

January 9: Shelly Erickson

CHECK OUT MORE LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180
circ@ci.homer.ak.us
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer

Community Resource Connect

A one-day event with help for those facing financial instability, homelessness, or at risk of being houseless.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30 • 11AM-3PM

Community Resource Connect - Located at SPARC

Anyone in need of resources is invited to this **FREE** one-day event! All are welcome. FREE emergency gear, backpacks, comfort packs, food-to-go, sleeping bags, menstrual kits, winter gear, and more.

Get connected with over 20 local vendors offering resources related to food, employment info, health care and mental health, health screenings, and more.

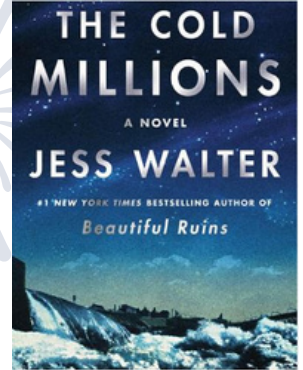
[Click Here for More Information](#)

The Big Read

Kick-Off Event for the NEA Big Read 2024!

Where: Alice's Champagne Palace
When: January 19th, 6pm

[Click here for more details!](#)



Community Recreation

Do you want to stay active and connect with others in the community during the winter months!? There are a lot of options available through our Community Recreation programs. Short on gear? The Homer Public Library has a sports gear lending program. Find more info [here!](#)

- Soccer
- Youth Tumbling Classes
- Pickleball
- Cuong Nhu and Karate Program
- Basketball
- Community Inlet Winds Band
- Volleyball
- Volunteer Opportunities

[Click here to explore all that Community Recreation has to offer!](#)

LIBRARY

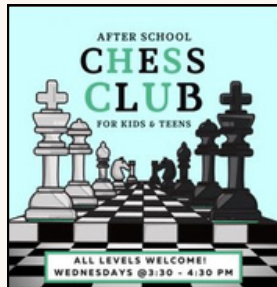
AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARY

Stop Motion Animation with Legos!

Searching for a creative after-school activity for your child? Join us weekly at the Homer Public Library for engaging and educational activities designed for elementary-aged kids every Thursday from 3:30 to 4:00 pm.

Next Event: Thursday, January 11, 3:30pm to 4:30pm

January/February: Intro to Stop Motion Animation! In this series, you'll create a scene, then animate it using Legos. Learn to use Stop Motion Studio on the library's iPads. Please email Cinda if you have any questions: cnofziger@ci.homer.ak.us



After School Chess Club for Kids & Teens

Meet your friends at the library to play chess! Improve your strategy, learn from mentors, and have fun. All skill levels welcome!

Ages 5 and up
Homer Public Library
Every Wednesday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Next Event: Wednesday, January 3, 3:30 - 4:30pm

COMMUNITY RECREATION

COMMUNITY INLET WINDS BAND 2024



The Inlet Winds Community Band is restarting this spring. Don't forget to **sign up by February 6th!**

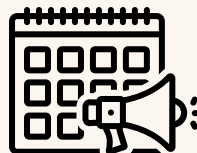
Who can be involved: Inlet Winds is geared for two groups of people.

- Adults with previous experience playing in band (to at least a high school level) who know how to read music. It's ok if you are a little rusty- We'll get into shape together!
- Advanced high school students by invitation or with director approval.

FOR MORE INFO

Sign up through the link below
by **February 6, 2023!**

[Community Inlet Winds Band 2024](#)



LOOKING AHEAD

Spring Concert
Saturday April 13 7:00 PM
Homer High School Mariner Theatre

CITY HALL

HOMER, THE BABY OPOSSUM, ARRIVES AT OREGON ZOO

Last month, a baby opossum named Homer arrived at the Portland Zoo in Oregon, safe and sound. Homer has been on quite the adventure in his short life!

Earlier this year, Homer's mom, an opossum known as Grubby, stowed away in a cargo container bound for Homer, AK. When the container was being unloaded, Grubby made a run for it and escaped the crew who tried to trap her. She was able to evade wildlife officials for a couple of months. During that time, she gave birth to at least 5 babies (joeys), whom residents affectionately referred to as 'grublets.'

Finally, in May, Grubby and her joeys were captured and re-homed to the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage. Homer and his siblings will be sent to different zoos, and Grubby will remain at the Alaska Zoo.

Homer is adjusting to his new home and the caring staff. As he acclimates, he will soon have the opportunity to meet visitors. This interaction aims to educate and connect children with an animal they may not encounter in their daily lives, creating a deeper appreciation for wildlife.



DID YOU KNOW?

Opossums are considered invasive in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest as they are a threat to native species.



Lori Pond delivering donations to Homer High



Zach Pettit delivering donations to Homer High



Renee Krause and Lori Pond wrap gifts



City Hall Christmas Tree

SHARE THE SPIRIT

City Hall spread some holiday cheer this year through the Share the Spirit Adopt-A-Family program! We were honored to make a family's wishes come true by providing them with food, warm clothing, toys, and essentials.

You can also bring joy to our community through similar programs and by supporting local charities, helping build a more compassionate and connected community not just during the festive season but throughout the upcoming year!



HOMER HIGH GOVERNMENT CLASS VISITS CITY HALL

The Homer High School Government Class visited City Hall on Tuesday, December 12th for a guided tour, followed by a Q&A session in the Council Chambers with Mayor Castner and Council Members Aderhold, Lord, Venuti, and Erickson. The students had an hour to explore the inner workings of local government, gaining insights into the daily operations of City Hall.



Ryan Foster, City Planner, speaks to students about the city planning process.

The Q&A session aimed to provide a firsthand understanding of the roles and responsibilities of local leaders, allowing students to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussions. The goal of this experience was designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical civic engagement. Mayor Ken Castner emphasized, “Homer High grads are dispersed throughout the City. You need to participate, and that begins with talking and communication.” The teens were encouraged to care about the community and be aware of what is being discussed, as they are the future of Homer.

The goal of this experience was designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical civic engagement. Mayor Ken Castner emphasized, “Homer High grads are dispersed throughout the City. You need to participate, and that begins with talking and communication.” The teens were encouraged to care about the community and be aware of what is being discussed, as they are the future of Homer.



Homer High students attend a Q&A session with Mayor Castner and Council Members Aderhold, Lord, Venuti, and Erickson.

2024 ELECTIONS

As we step into the new year, it's never too early to start preparing for the upcoming elections! Stay informed about key dates, such as voter registration deadlines and election days.




Register to vote or update your voter registration!

- Visit the Homer City Clerk’s Office at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue to fill out a registration form, or
- Conveniently register online at <https://voterregistration.alaska.gov>.

For additional details, contact the Clerk’s Office at (907) 235-3130.






In 2024, we gear up for THREE upcoming elections!

 Save the dates:

- Alaska State General Election : **November 5**
- 2024 Kenai Peninsula Borough Regular Election: **October 1**
- 2024 City of Homer Regular Election: **October 1**

Polls open at 7 am, close at 8 pm

Important Deadlines

-  Voter registration/update: September 1, 2024
-  Absentee In-Person Voting: Starts September 16, 2024
-  Absentee By-Mail App Deadline (City): September 27, 2024
-  Absentee App Deadline (Borough): September 24, 2024
-  Absentee by Electronic App Transmission Deadline: September 30, 2024

PORT & HARBOR

PACIFIC MARINE EXPO IN SEATTLE

Port Director Bryan Hawkins recently attended the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle, sharing a booth with Homer Marine Trades. The expo spotlighted Alaskan coastal communities. The Homer booth stands out because it represents our thriving marine commercial support industry.

During his visit, Bryan joined the Cordova Harbormaster for a day trip to Anacortes, touring the Transpac float manufacturing operation. Witnessing the floats during their various stages of construction, physically interacting with the materials, and acquiring knowledge about the intricate engineering involved in these harbor float systems was truly remarkable and helps us in our planning for future float replacement projects.



Bryan Hawkins and Jen Hakala of the Homer Marine Trades Association working Homer's Pacific Marine Expo booth.

Events like the Pacific Marine Expo highlight local industry strengths, foster community collaboration, and address crucial topics such as vessel maintenance and sustainability. Attending these expos is an important investment in the growth and success of the marine trade sector.

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING FOR THE MARINE EXCHANGE OF ALASKA



Bryan Hawkins, Port Director, attended the Marine Exchange of Alaska annual board meeting.

Port Director, Bryan Hawkins, serves as the President of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) and represented AAHPA on the Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) board this past month. Both organizations collaborate closely to support maritime transportation in Alaska.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) tracks commercial vessels in Alaskan waters. One of their primary functions is the exchange of vessel information, which serves as a critical resource for vessel owners, fleet managers, families, and state and federal authorities. The Exchange acts as a 24-hour vessel safety and security watch keeper, ensuring the timely availability of accurate and relevant information including vessel tracking, communication services, and weather and ice information.

Attending their annual board meeting offered valuable insights. The collaboration opportunities allowed for the exchange of information and the advancement of Homer's critical projects and priorities.



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION



STUDY UPDATE



**Join us Monday, January 22 at
City Council's 4 pm Worksession!**

Ronny McPherson and KC Kent of HDR will provide an overview of the Baseline Conditions Report they are completing. The report uses new and existing field data along with existing studies, to model the waves, tides, storm surge and analyze sediment transport in the study area.

Understanding the existing marine and coastal physical processes is one of the important first steps to get done before moving into alternatives development. This information, together with data from the geophysical investigation and environmental review, is instrumental in informing the design process; it allows the project development team to tailor designs to the specific conditions of the proposed site to best meet project objectives. The information also serves as a reference point to compare the relative effectiveness of the alternatives harbor design.

Homer City Council will also discuss the progress of the study and introduce an Ordinance to commit additional match funds at their Regular meeting on January 8, 2024, which begins at 6 pm.

Mark your calendar

6 pm Monday, January 8, 2024



4 pm Monday, January 22, 2024



Cowles Chamber, Homer City Hall
491 E. Pioneer Avenue in Homer



or via Zoom!

For more information go to: www.homerharborexansion.com



PORT & HARBOR BILLING ABBREVIATIONS

What does that stand for? Are you looking at your harbor bill or receipt and can't figure out what the description means? Here's a breakdown of those cryptic abbreviations that will make you a pro in no time. Click this link to see a list of abbreviations and what they mean. [Port & Harbor Billing/Charges Info](#)



FIRST RESPONDERS CLASS



Sammantha Cunningham leading the ETT training class.

During the final week of November, Port & Harbor staff from operations, maintenance, and the fish dock participated in a 40-hour Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) training and certification. The training was led by Homer EMS coordinator Samantha Cunningham and organized by Deputy Harbormaster Aaron Glidden.



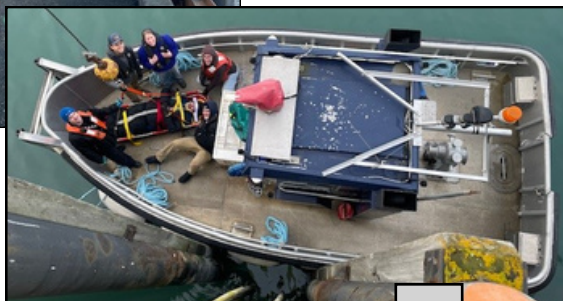
Isaiah Nevak, Kurt Read (as the 'patient'), and Rose Riordan

The ETT course is primarily for professionals requiring advanced medical skills beyond basic first aid and is specifically designed for those without immediate access to professional emergency services. This training equips individuals with essential skills for a rapid response in critical situations.

Successful completion of this training course is mandatory every two years. The training provides our Port & Harbor staff with essential skills to respond effectively to emergencies when necessary.



Del Masterhan and Thomas Gilbert participate in rescue training, which involves loading a stretcher onto a pulley and lowering it down into a boat.



RISK ASSESMENT

The City of Homer has thoroughly evaluated natural disaster risks and devised strategies to safeguard lives and property. A hazard impact risk assessment predicts how hazards may affect the community, aiding in prioritizing risk reduction actions.

The 2022 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) specifically assessed risks in Homer, focusing on land, the population center, and critical facilities like emergency services.

With a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved plan in place, the community is eligible for nonemergency disaster assistance, including funding for risk reduction projects outlined in the plan.

As a resident of Homer, we want you to be aware of the potential risks and inform you of the plan in place to ensure everyone's safety.

Risks Assesed
Climate Change
Earthquake
Erosion
Flood
Landslide
Severe Weather
Tsunami
Volcano
Wildfire



Find the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on the City's website: [City of Homer Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

POLICE DEPARTMENT

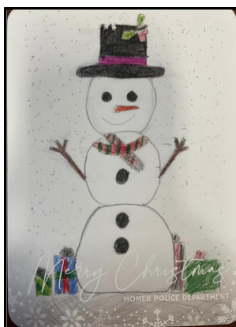


CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST 2023



Homer Police Department with Christmas Card Contest participants, Aubrey and Kyra.

The Homer Police Department (HPD) was thrilled to host a Christmas Card Contest again this year. Young Homer artists had the opportunity to submit vibrant Christmas card designs. The 2023 winner was Kyra (11), who drew a beautiful snowman! The runner up was Aubrey with a festive 'Crismis' scene showing a police officer with K-9 dog next to a Christmas tree. Great job girls!!



Snowman, by Kyra

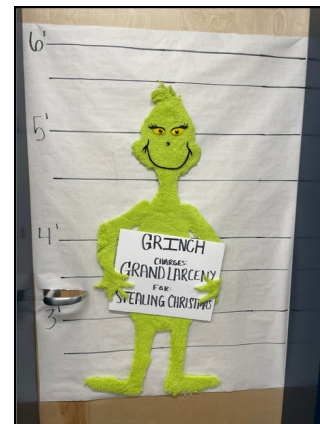


Crismis, by Aubrey

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

We saw a whole new side to our police officers and staff at HPD this year! They brought out their creative side with a door decorating contest. Winner gets bragging rights!

Our newest hire, Kaitlyn Dawson, won with the Grinch Door that leads into the jail.



The Grinch Door, by Kaitlyn Dawson



FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEW FIRE HOSES AT HVFD

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) recently acquired upgraded fire hoses. A total of 147 boxes, weighing 5,638 pounds, were unboxed by our awesome crew: Jaclyn Arndt, Paige Jones, Galina Orlova, and Barrett Moe!

This new supply replaced outdated hoses that no longer met National Fire Protection Association safety guidelines. The old hoses were made of extruded nitrile rubber, which would easily ice up in cold weather, making them slippery to handle and heavier. The new style of hoses performs better in cold weather and is easier for firefighters to maneuver. They have a rubber-lined polyester double jacket that does not freeze up and is two pounds lighter than the old hoses, enhancing grip, maneuverability, and reducing the risk of injury and fatigue for our firefighting crews. This significant improvement ensures that HVFD maintains a safer and more efficient fire response.



Barrett Moe and Paige Jones



Galina Orlova



In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

HEATING YOUR HOME SAFELY

The cold weather has arrived, and we all want to stay warm! Remember to take a few simple steps to keep yourself and your family safe while heating up your home. Using heating systems safely is crucial in preventing accidents, fires, and health hazards.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE!

Heating Systems



Keep the area around fireplaces, wood stoves, and space heaters clear, at least 3 feet around.



Schedule regular inspections and cleaning of heating unit and replace air filters regularly.



Ensure proper ventilation to prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide.



Never leave a heating unit unattended while in use.

LEARN MORE

[StaySafe.org](https://www.staysafe.org)

[Red Cross Home Heating Safety Tips](#)



Be Prepared



Educate family members, especially children, about fire safety.



Have an escape plan and practice the route.



Keep a working fire extinguisher in an accessible location, and make sure everyone knows how to use it.



Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home and test them monthly.



December Anniversaries

Thanks to the following staff members for your dedication, commitment and service to the City and to the taxpayers of Homer!

Mark Robl	Police	39 Years
Bryan Hawkins	Port	24 Years
Todd Cook	Public Works	14 Years
Sean Perry	Police	9 Years
Mike Zelinski	Public Works	9 Years
Josh Mershon	Port	4 Years
Regina Johanos	Library	3 Years
Jenna Luchaco	Public Works	2 Years
Del Masterhan	Port	2 Years
Matt Dominquez	IT	1 Year

WELCOME



Greg Trail

Welcome aboard, Greg Trail! Greg is a Maintenance Tech I at Public Works who began his journey with us in July. Hailing from Homer and the surrounding area, he brings valuable experience from his previous work in the fishing industry.



Wesley Breshears



Welcome to Wesley Breshears, our Heavy Mechanic at Public Works, who joined us in November. Having relocated to Homer about a year ago to be closer to family, we are thrilled to have him as part of our team.

EMPLOYEE HIGH FIVES!

WAY TO GO ANDREW!

Andrew Williamson just got his CDL license! He joined the Public Works crew as a seasonal employee for the operators from May to October 2022. He was rehired in 2023 as a full-time employee, starting out as an apprentice. With his newly acquired CDL license and on-the-job training, he has now become an Equipment Operator. Andrew is a valuable addition to the team, and we are glad to have him on board.



Andrew Williamson

KUDOS TO SNOW PLOW CREWS



Snow Removal- Lead Mike Gilbert and operator- Jenna Luchaco

Kudos to the City crews who have been working hard to keep Homer roads clear and safe this winter season! These dedicated teams work tirelessly to clear the snow and ice, ensuring our safe travels.

Be sure to give them your support and be patient while they work through the snow clearing process, especially during heavy snowfall. They are an essential part of our community, and we are very thankful for them!

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection



“Horses in a Winter Storm”
Watercolor by Diana Tillion
City Hall

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January

- | | | |
|----|---------|---|
| 3 | 5:30 pm | CANCELLED - Planning Commission Worksession |
| 3 | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Special Meeting |
| 9 | 6:00 pm | Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 16 | 5:30 pm | Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting |
| 17 | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession |
| 17 | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting |
| 18 | 5:30 pm | Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Special Meeting |
| 24 | 5:30 pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |



JOIN OUR TEAM

- Find current job listings for the City of Homer
- Sign up for Job Alerts
- Apply Online at: cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us.

City of Homer

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