



Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

City of Homer Agenda

City Council Committee of the Whole

Monday, August 08, 2022 at 5:00 PM

In Person at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers and by Zoom Webinar

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us/j/953097829?pwd=RVVmSlc1YnpUUExhbFE0b0NwSCtqUT09>

Or Dial: (669) 900 6833 or (253) 215 8782 or Toll Free (888) 788 0099 or (877) 853 5247

Webinar ID: 953 097 829 Passcode: 234969

CALL TO ORDER, 5:00 P.M.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DISCUSSION TOPIC(S)

- [a.](#) Council Chambers Video System

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 5:50 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting is Monday, August 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

City Council Chambers

AUDIOVISUAL SYSTEM UPDATE AUGUST 8, 2022

Kodiak City Council

May 26, 2022:

<https://cityofkodiak.civicweb.net/document/20544/>

Seward City Council

July 25, 2022:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVSxV5avitc>

KPB Assembly

July 5, 2022 (Start from 45:00)

<https://kpb.granicus.com/videos/1254/player?autoplay=1>

How the borough's system works

1. Activating a microphone sends a signal to the switcher
2. The switcher directs a camera to focus on that spot
3. The camera sends video to the controller
4. The controller drops all the other views and leaves that camera as the single output of the system
5. The controller sends the video to Zoom

How Homer's system works

Microphones are independent of the video system.

1. The video tracking unit listens for speech and facial movements and chooses a camera to focus on that spot
2. The camera sends video to the tracking unit
3. The tracking unit sends video to Zoom

Challenges: camera tracking

1. Video tracking is confused by masks, background noise and heavily-boosted mic output
2. The current cameras can't accept external control, so we can't hardwire them to the mics as the borough has done
3. Zoom can only accept a single video feed, so displaying the same meeting from multiple angles simultaneously is not an option

Options available now

1. Static view
2. Human-controlled tracking
3. Automatic tracking

Permanent fix: Relatively cheap

Imitate the borough system. Replace the existing cameras and their steering system with a switcher, new cameras and a controller.

Pros:

- Ties cameras to microphones, allowing more accurate tracking

Cons:

- Controllers are currently backordered for two years
- Cameras can't track at all without activating the microphone
- Costs estimated at \$20-30k in total (\$10k for cameras, \$10k for controller, costs for switcher depend on various factors)

Permanent fixes: Expensive

1. Get full broadcast-grade equipment (perhaps \$75,000 or more)
2. Hire a consultant (costs unknown, but much more than that)

Challenge: multiple Zoom views

Zoom only allows one control interface per participant, so there can only be one host view within the chambers.

Multiple Zoom views: Attempted fixes

1. Zoom display on an iPad at the dais. This allows attendee view only, with no control over the participant view. It can also cause interference with the Zoom broadcast.
2. Zoom display and controls (as a co-host) on a City-owned laptop. Having two control stations for a single Zoom site sets up a conflict within the system and will cause Zoom to crash.
3. A second built-in control panel, identical with the clerks' station. At the moment, Zoom Rooms doesn't support this feature. Zoom has promised it at some point in the future, but there is no release date, and there seems to be no urgency on their end.

IT's recommendation

1. Make do with the current system for now, but plan on replacing the existing cameras with a switcher—camera—controller system once supply chains settle down.
2. Changes to control interfaces or multi-camera views will depend on Zoom overhauling their software.