



Agenda

City Council Worksession

Monday, June 10, 2024 at 4:00 PM

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

Homer City Hall

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

Zoom Webinar ID: 965 8631 4135 Password: 792566

<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.

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

DISCUSSION TOPIC(S)

- a. Homer City Code Title 11, Vegetation in Public Rights of Way

Presentation by Public Works Director Kort Re: Committee to Revise HCC11.36 Vegetation in Public Rights of Way

- b. Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustments

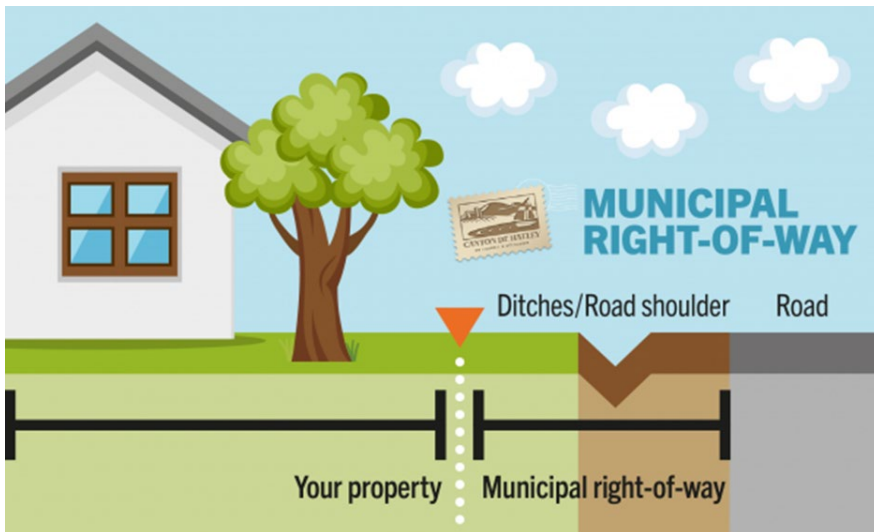
COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minutes)

ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 4:50 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting is Monday, June 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. A Special Meeting is scheduled on Monday, June 17, 2024 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.

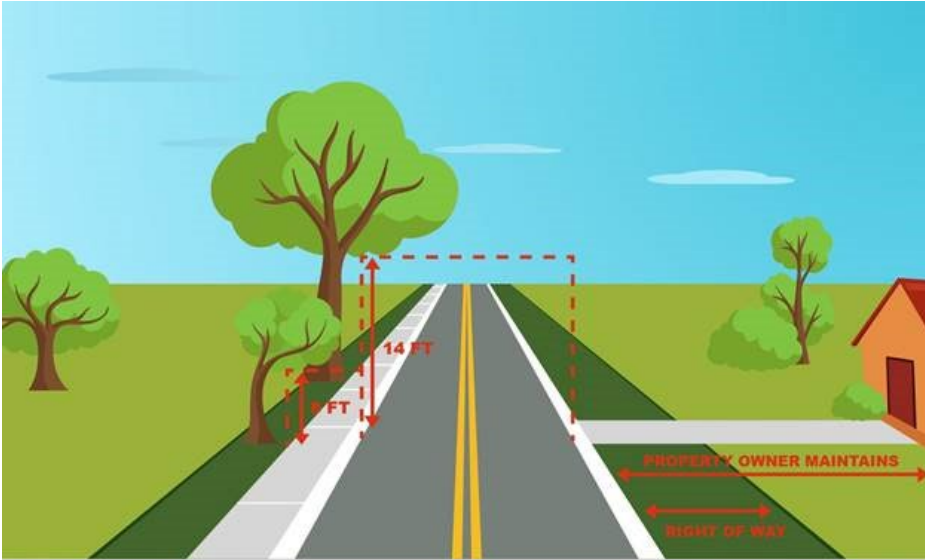
Committee to Revise HCC 11.36 Vegetation in Public Rights-of-Way

View of Public Rights-of-Way



- ▶ Common misconception: The Public Right of Way (ROW) ends at the roadway edge.
- ▶ Public Utilities lie within the ROW and commonly outside of the Road Shoulder or Ditch

Right-of-Way Clearances



- ▶ 14-ft typical to accommodate large traffic and maintenance equipment
- ▶ Walkways can be 8-ft clearance or taller to accommodate maintenance equipment
- ▶ Note: In winter, branches droop or can be damaged and seasonally droop into clearance zone

How Current Code is Limiting PW

- ▶ HCC 11.36.010 Vegetation in rights-of-way: Introductory section
 - ▶ Provides PWD some ability to conduct vegetation removal, however is vague and seems to limit PWD ability to manage needs.



How Current Code is Limiting PW

- ▶ HCC 11.36.030 Annual Road Maintenance Plan: Section requires PWD to develop plan and submit to Council
 - ▶ This should be a stand alone section such as placing it as a new section 11.02 because it does not relate to Vegetation Clearing in ROW



How Current Code is Limiting PW

- ▶ HCC 11.36.040 Public Notice: Section requires Public notification before work to be completed (30-day notice and 7-day notice)
 - ▶ 30-day Notice: 30 days are not always possible before work needs to commence
 - ▶ 7-day notice: Defines additional (duplicative) notification for mature tree's - this is vague and left for interpretation to what is a "mature tree"
 - ▶ Notification process leaves no ability for PW to conduct required work when a member of the public protests work



How Current Code is Limiting PW

- ▶ Use of term Adjacent versus Abutting
 - ▶ Adjacent is used in Code in the context of the definition of Abutting and this provides the ability for someone to object to clearing of a tree across the street from their property.

Examples of situations



- ▶ Example of vegetation that gets weighted with wet snow and leans over roadway into plowing equipment windows
- ▶ Also visible in next photo is 3-ft deep ditch for stormwater culvert hidden by growth.

Examples of Situations



- ▶ Looking down into ditch from previous photo
- ▶ Note: Water valve box (blue) on right side
- ▶ Note: green utility pedestal above storm pipe
- ▶ Note: Alder protruding out of back slope of ditch

Examples of Situations



- ▶ Tree is obstructing sight line for larger trucks and equipment
- ▶ Keep in mind, a grader's operator station is approximately 14-ft behind the front wheels

Example of Situations



- ▶ Note: alder and tree's growing in stormwater ditch obstructing flow path
- ▶ Note: alder are leaning into roadway
- ▶ Note: If this was a road intersection, impairment in sight lines

Examples of Situations



- ▶ Large spruce tree at City Hall is preventing the replacement of a failed fire hydrant that requires replacement (not functional and not repairable)