



City of Homer

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Office of the City Manager

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager
DATE: March 17, 2020
SUBJECT: City Manager Report

COVID-19 Response

With the rapidly changing nature of COVID-19 response and preparedness, I do not have a written briefing for you but am trying to send you daily email briefings and will have a verbal update to report under the City Manager's report at the meeting on Monday. As you are aware, the City of Homer stood up the Emergency Operations Center on Monday March 16th, and Mayor Castner issued a disaster declaration on Wednesday, March 18th. I have attached the latest press release from the City for updated information of closures of public facilities.

Postponements Due to COVID-19 Response Activates

Due to COVID-19 response activities, the following administrative activities have been postponed:

- Way Finding and Street Scape request for proposals is still in first draft form
- Request for Proposal for a Lobbyist is in draft form
- Preparations for Seawall worksession scheduled for March 31 have been suspended (will likely be cancelled)
- Procuring owners representative for Large Vessel Harbor project

Homer's Raw Water Transmission Main Replacement Funding Request

We are happy to announce that the State Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee (SHMAC) has ranked Homer's Raw Water Transmission Main Replacement project fifth among 51 complete and eligible projects totaling over \$54 million dollars under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Federal disaster recovery funds were made available for hazard mitigation projects after the 2018 Cook Inlet Alaska Earthquake. While our selection does not authorize funding to begin construction, it is a big step forward in the long FEMA/State funding process and a step closer to protecting our raw water supply infrastructure from seismic damage. The grant award amount is \$2,000,000, requires no local match and would replace the cast iron water main that delivers water from the water treatment plant into town, which is currently vulnerable to failure.

Summer Programing for Youth

Community Recreation is hopeful that by this summer services will be able to return as usual. When it does, there will be a great demand for social activities for kids. Community Recreation Manager Illg will be working to offer additional programs and opportunities for local youth during the summer months. He

believes within the existing budget Community Recreation can cover the hourly costs of a temporary youth recreation programmer for 20 hours a week for ten weeks (June, July and two weeks in August) Monday through Thursday, 10am-3pm. The total cost for this employee \$3,448, and Community Recreation expects revenue to exceed \$4,000. The program would offer indoor/outdoor sports related opportunities such as basketball, pickleball, soccer, youth fitness, etc. for youth participants. Community Recreation would be utilizing the Homer High School facilities and sports equipment. The initial age groups for new program would be 12-17 with the potential to expand for younger age children depending upon interest and space availability.

City Manager Transition

I will be working with City Staff and the Interim manager to transfer all duties and responsibilities of City Manager and Incident Command by Friday, April 3rd. As you recall, the original schedule detailed called for an April 3rd end date under the interim hire scenario. The changing nature of how we provide City services, including suspending some public services, has changed significantly the priorities for transitioning. I will be prioritizing ensuring the safety of employees and the ability to continue essential City services with the Interim Manager. Incident Command duties will shift to Chief Kirko, who has experience in this regard and has been serving as Emergency Management Director and Operations Section Chief during this response.

Refinancing Harbor Revenue Bonds

I have been notified by the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank the City has a decent taxable advance refinancing prospect in the 2013 harbor revenue bonds. There is the ability to restructure \$1.9 million and generate savings of \$188K. I have directed the Finance Director to work with Bond Counsel on exploring this possible savings for the Enterprise.

Enc:

March 18, 2018 Press Release

DR-4413 HMGP SHMAC Homer Raw Water Transmission Replacement Project

Hillcorp Terrasond Site Survey Study