

# Office of the City Clerk

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## MEMORANDUM – AGENDA CHANGES/SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

TO: MAYOR HORNADAY AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK   
DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2012  
SUBJECT: AGENDA CHANGES AND SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

#### **2013-2018 Capital Improvement Plan & FY 2014 Legislative Requests**

Written public comment Page 1

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Kenai Peninsula Borough Local Disaster Emergency Declaration by Mayor Navarre Page 5

### PENDING BUSINESS

**Mayor's Veto of Ordinance 12-36(A)**, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council, Enacting Homer City Code Chapter 5.42 Prohibiting Sellers from Providing Customers with Disposable Plastic Shopping Bags. Lewis/Burgess.

Written public comment Page 9

### RESOLUTIONS

**Resolution 12-082(S)**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Awarding the Contract for Snow Removal and Sanding Services 2012/13, 2013/14, and 2014/15 to the Firm of **Clark Plowing of Homer, Alaska**, in the Amount of **\$680.00 Total trip Bid and Pursuant to the Bid Schedule Submitted** and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Clerk/Public Works Director. Page 27

Memorandum 12-150 from Public Works Superintendent as backup. Page 29

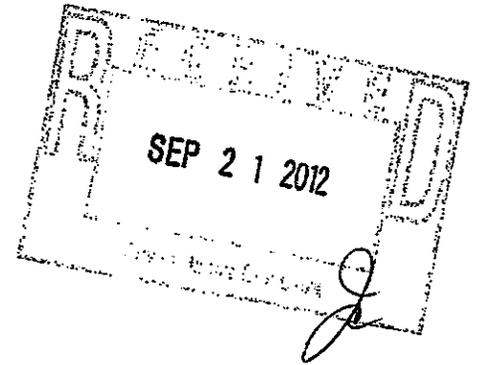
### RECOMMENDATION:

Voice consensus to changes under Agenda Approval.

Fiscal Note: N/A



September 21, 2012



re; Letter of Support for the Pratt Museum

Dear Mayor Hornaday and City Council Members,

I am writing to support placement of the Pratt Museum's building project high on the City of Homer's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) priority list during upcoming budget deliberations. Placement of the Museum project on the City's CIP is necessary for the project to be considered for State funding - an effort I wholeheartedly support.

As you know, the Pratt has long been an important resource for our community and fills a necessary role as keeper of our shared historical legacy. It supplements our educational system and is a crucible for discussion of important community issues.

The Pratt is also a vital component in our small economic engine. Financially important in its own right, the Pratt is also a key visitor / tourist destination. Equally, it is a lure to relocating families - most of whom aggressively compare communities on non-economic criteria - before deciding to move.

Simply put - the Pratt helps maintain Homer's reputation as a unique, shining example of what small Alaskan communities *could* be - but often are not.

However, the Pratt's ability to deliver first-class programming, maintain its collections and meet our community's needs is eroding. The existing facility served us well in the past, but cannot do so in the future. I strongly support Pratt reconstruction / redevelopment, high placement of the Pratt project on the City's CIP list, and hope you will as well.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Alderfer

cc: Michelle Miller, Pratt Museum

## Jo Johnson

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**From:** Miranda Weiss [mirandaweiss@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 21, 2012 8:33 AM  
**To:** Jo Johnson  
**Cc:** Michele Miller  
**Subject:** Letter to Mayor and Council Members for Monday's City Council mtg

Jo,

Can you please include the email below in the packets (or as a lay down) for the City Council meeting on Monday?

I'm sorry I missed the deadline to have it in hardcopy in the packets--I've been out of state and just returned home yesterday.

Thanks,  
Miranda Weiss

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council Members,

I'm writing to urge you to include the Pratt Museum capital project on the CIP shortlist.

Having just finished the playground project (or nearly so!), I find it hard to imagine how we ever managed without such a great playground and wonderful gathering space in our community. As you may have seen, the playground is packed with kids and families during all hours of the day, even when the weather isn't so great.

I believe that once the new museum building is complete, we will feel the same way: how did we manage without this wonderful facility in our community? The new museum building will be another important gathering and learning space for families and other community members. It will be high quality exhibit space for work by artists of local, statewide, and national renown. It will be a beautiful and inspiring place for events--the kind of space that doesn't exist yet in our community. It will include a space for museum education programs, which currently happen with all of their noise and mess within the galleries themselves. It will provide space where the Pratt's collections can be examined by scholars from the local community and afar. And it will be a place where we can have confidence that our community history and treasures are being stored and cared for scrupulously--no leaking roof, no humidity problems, etc. etc.

Like the new playground, the new museum building will feel like a necessity for local residents once it's complete. But of course, the impact of these kinds of projects are felt well beyond the bounds of our community. Have you seen the recent *Washington Post* article that lauds both the new playground and the Pratt? The article is about traveling to Alaska with kids. When we create these kinds of resources in our community, we make them more attractive to travelers as well.

[August 3 2012 Washington Post "Vacationing in Alaska with Toddlers in Tow"](#)

Thanks for the work you do in supporting the Pratt--and other community improvement projects. Your enthusiasm for the playground buoyed us along over this previous year! I hope you'll keep the momentum going for community improvement by including the Pratt's project on the CIP shortlist.

Thank you,

Miranda Weiss  
[mirandaweiss@gmail.com](mailto:mirandaweiss@gmail.com)

## Jo Johnson

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**From:** Nancy Levinson [kenaicats@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2012 1:10 PM  
**To:** Jo Johnson  
**Subject:** Pratt Museum CIP Placement

To Homer City Council Members,

I wish to add my voice to those supporting a high placement for the Pratt Museum on Homer's Capital Improvement Plan priority list in order for the Pratt to gain the necessary State support for its building project.

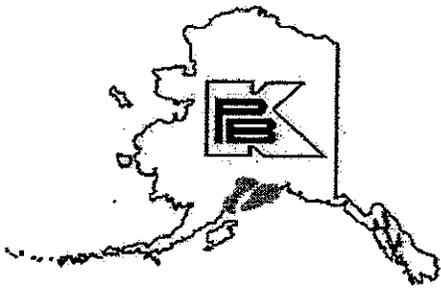
As a small community museum, the Pratt is well-known and respected within Alaska and Outside. As such, it is a great asset to Homer in attracting visitors and new residents as well as a valuable cultural, educational, and scientific resource for current citizens.

I have been a volunteer at the Pratt for over 20 years and have always been impressed by the time and energy (going far beyond paid hours) staff put into making the Pratt the best it can be in spite of severe limitations on space for work, storage, display and access. I myself have worked in everything from a storage closet to the lunch room (long gone), and the shop—none suitable for what I was doing.

The Pratt really does need a new building. Please help our Museum reach its goals.

Nancy Levinson





## **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

144 North Binkley Street • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520

Toll-free within the Borough: 1-800-478-4441

PHONE: (907) 262-4441 • FAX: (907) 262-1892

www.borough.kenai.ak.us

**MIKE NAVARRE  
BOROUGH MAYOR**

### **LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, beginning on Saturday, September 15, 2012 the eastern Kenai Peninsula Borough including the City of Seward, Moose Pass, and other areas experienced unseasonably heavy rainfall which resulted in flooding throughout these areas, threatening life and property; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at approximately 3:15 p.m. the Box Canyon water diversion structure was compromised due to the rainfall, which has resulted in significant flood damage to Old Exit Glacier Road and other roads in the vicinity; and

WHEREAS, three bridges in the Old Mill Subdivision, the Bruno Bridge crossing Kwechak Creek, and numerous other bridges have been damaged in an amount to be determined, causing the Old Mill Subdivision and numerous other homes to become inaccessible by road; and

WHEREAS, the approaches to the Bear Creek Fire Department were underwater and damaged on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 shortly after most fire department equipment was moved to a different location; and

WHEREAS, as of September 20, 2012 at 12:36 p.m. Nash Road was closed at mile 2 due to road erosion and a landslide, Seward Highway milepost 3.5 was limited to one way traffic and Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) crews were working on a possible breach to alleviate water on the highway, and Lowell Point Road, Exit Glacier Road and Dieckgraeff Road were all closed due to flooding; and

WHEREAS, as of 3:15 p.m. Thursday, September 20, 2012 the Upper Kwechak levee has an 80-foot breach about midway up the levee which is threatening subdivisions near Bear Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough opened Seward High School as an evacuation center; and

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2012 the Borough received a Declaration of Disaster Request from the City of Seward indicating that the damages caused by the flooding is difficult to establish because the storm is continuing and much of the damage is submerged, but that clearly the damage that is visible will exceed the recovery and financial capabilities of the city, and that

the city will be asking for the borough's support in requesting a state disaster declaration upon ratification by the city council; and

WHEREAS, in the central area and west side of the Kenai Peninsula heavy rain in the Kenai River Basin is causing the Kenai River to approach flood stage at Cooper Landing on September 20, 2012; and

WHEREAS, landslides are occurring on large slopes along the Kenai River due to the heavy rainfall and flooding; and

WHEREAS, Tall Tree bridge and Tall Tree Road near Anchor Point are both closed due to flood damage, leaving approximately 60 people inaccessible by road; and

WHEREAS, Stariski Creek, Slikok Creek, and Anchor River have overtopped their banks; and

WHEREAS, Kalifornsky Beach road at mile 11 has completely washed out and is closed; and

WHEREAS, water levels are rising from Cooper Landing to numerous areas throughout the western side of the Kenai Peninsula with reports received of flooding and bluff erosion on public and private property; and

WHEREAS, on the west side of Cook Inlet, Tyonek has been without electrical power since 10:30 a.m. September 20, 2012 and roads are eroding, outlying areas north of Beluga have lost power and phones, a flyover by a private pilot reports a foot or more of standing water near residences in the area north of Beluga; and

WHEREAS, flooding throughout the Kenai Peninsula Borough is threatening life and property in many areas; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has activated its emergency response plan throughout the borough to provide emergency assistance by establishing the Seward evacuation shelter, hiring heavy equipment contractors to minimize damage to public infrastructure, monitoring conditions, coordinating emergency responses as needed, disseminating public information, and providing other basic resources; and

WHEREAS, as a second-class borough the Borough does not have the authority to provide financial support to the cities or private parties, or to repair or replace their damaged facilities or infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Borough continues to provide resources as needed but the damages exceed the capabilities and authority of the Borough;

**NOW THEREFORE**, as Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough I hereby declare a Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in the Kenai Peninsula Borough in the following areas of the Borough: the cities of Kenai, Soldotna, Homer, Seward, and Kachemak City, and areas surrounding each city, the communities of Tyonek, Beluga, Nikiski, Salamatoff, Sterling, Cooper

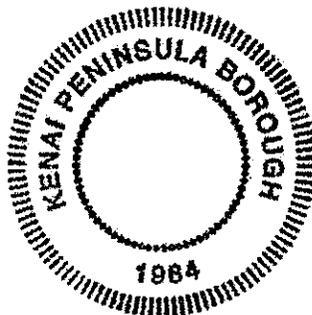
Landing, Bear Creek, Kasilof, Ninilchik, Nanwalek, Anchor Point, and other areas determined to have been damaged by the major rainstorms and flooding described above.

**FURTHERMORE**, it is hereby respectfully requested that the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, declare a disaster emergency to exist as described in AS 26.23.020 and provide disaster assistance to the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City of Seward, and to the other cities that have responded to this disaster. The Borough specifically requests public assistance for the emergency response measures along with temporary and permanent repairs to public facilities, technical assistance to evaluate damages to both public and individual homeowners, individual assistance for home and business owners as is applicable, and public health water quality testing and safe drinking kits for at least 3,000 residential structures.

Signed Mike Navarre Date 9/21/12  
Mike Navarre, Mayor

Attest

Johni Blankenship  
Johni Blankenship  
Borough Clerk





## Jo Johnson

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**From:** Michael Armstrong & Jenny Stroyeck [wordfolk@xyz.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 11:13 PM  
**To:** Barbara Howard; Department Clerk; Beauregard Burgess; Mary Wythe; Francie Roberts; Bryan Zak; Department Clerk; David Lewis  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ban

I am writing to urge you to override the mayor's veto of this ordinance. I do not live in the city limits, but I do 90% of my shopping in the city of Homer and own a retail business within the city limits. I was proud to hear that the council was taking a stand against the use of disposable plastic bags. Our reliance on disposable plastics is harmful to our environment and to our own health. Twelve million barrels of oil are consumed annually in the manufacture of plastic bags in the United States—does that seem like a wise use of a limited resource? Our waterways and oceans are polluted with tiny plastic particles, our landfills are choked with plastic, and our beaches are littered with plastic trash. Can't we give up a bit of convenience to be better stewards of our planet? It is not difficult to change your habits to re-usable bags as is evidenced by those of us who bring our cloth bags when shopping and juggle our handfuls of groceries when we do forget. Yes, it would be nice if everyone would voluntarily make the effort to reduce their plastics use without the government being involved, but if that were a realistic scenario disposable plastic bags would not be banned in Los Angeles, Portland, and Hawaii, with several other major U.S. cities currently considering such legislation.

I urge you to make the effort to be part of the solution- be leaders of a movement for positive change!

Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Jenny Stroyeck  
65240 Diamond Ridge Rd.  
Homer, AK 99603

## Jo Johnson

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**From:** Michael O'Meara [mikeo@horizonsatellite.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:30 PM  
**To:** Department Clerk  
**Subject:** Message for the Council

Please see that the following message is included in the Council packet.

Many thanks.

Mike

Dear Homer City Council Members,

It will not be possible for me to attend Monday night's City council meeting so I'm writing to urge that you override Mayor "Jim's" veto of Ordinance 12-36(A).

As you know, I'm don't live in the city but am a long-time resident of the Homer Area. For the last 40 plus years I've spent most of my money in Homer, worked for Homer businesses and non-profits, contributed to local charities, and encouraged people from all over to visit -- and spend money -- in our area.

Much of what you decide as policy affects me and others living near to but outside of town. I assume you are cognizant of this and hope it plays a meaningful role in your decision making.

Passage by the council of Ordinance 12-36(A), the thin plastic bag ban, seemed to be a rational and forward looking action. For years I've seen these things escape from people to end up on our road sides and beaches. Even when kept under control they form an increasing volume of trash taken to our bailing facility. That, of course, costs the KP Borough government and taxpayers money.

Throughout the nation a growing number of municipalities have banned or are moving to ban the free dispersal of these bags. It is clearly in the wider public interest to do so. Please vote to override the Mayor's veto of Ordinance 12-36(A).

Mike O'Meara  
PO Box 361  
Homer, AK 99603

**Jo Johnson**

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**From:** candy@xyz.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 9:19 AM  
**To:** Department Clerk  
**Subject:** bags

Be the wave of the future ban the plastic bags. Candy and Jim Van Oss

**Jo Johnson**

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**From:** Anne Wieland [agpacsu@xyz.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 8:31 AM  
**To:** Department Clerk  
**Subject:** plastic bag ban

To members of the City Council:

I am not in favor of the ban on plastic bags. I would favor all larger stores in Homer including Safeway which I believe already has a recycle bin ( I don't shop there), Ulmers, Kachemak Wholesale, Save-U-More, Redden Marine, and Fritz Creek General Store to install brightly colored plastic bag recycling bins near the entrance/exits and then publicize the availability of such bins. Also these stores could make available their own version of cloth or recycled material shopping bags for a nominal fee. In New York and Pennsylvania States and probably elsewhere Wegman's features a recycle center within the stores, so one can bring back bottles, cans, as well as plastic drink bottles in exchange for refund receipts that can be used at the cash registers as a discount on purchases. They have plastic shopping bag recycle bins there too.

Thank you,  
Anne Wieland

## Jo Johnson

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**From:** Jim Levine & Sue Post [jlevine@alaska.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 23, 2012 2:09 AM  
**To:** Barbara Howard; Department Clerk; Beauregard Burgess; Mary Wythe; Francie Roberts; Bryan Zak; Department Clerk; David Lewis  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ordinance

Hello, and thanks- to all of you-

I am sure you are all ready to move beyond this ordinance, one way or another. I would like to first thank those of you who brought this ordinance back and then would like to thank the 4 of you who voted for it. I was thrilled to see Homer moving onto the list of great cities nation-wide, and world-wide, who was moving forward on this issue. I was very disappointed when Mayor Hornaday vetoed it, but I understand there is some opposition to this. This is Homer- what issue don't we have some opposition to?

At our store, we have not purchased plastic bags for many years. We have purchased the biodegradable similar bag, and we do accept gently used plastic bags for reuse. Customers for years have thanked us for re-using bags, and for not automatically putting merchandise into bags. We ask before we bag books or other merchandise for customers, and most days, even on the rainy days, we have more people decline than not. But, unfortunately we Americans have gotten into many bad habits over the years (overspending, overeating, and using too many bags, just to name a few!) and habits are hard to break (just ask any smoker or drinker or compulsive shopper!)

I honestly feel using disposable bags falls into that bad habit that is hard to break. I think the people who say yes to wanting a bag often say that without thinking twice, just out of habit. I think if we can get people to re-think that habit, it will shift easily. But, I also feel that it has to be all or none. As a store owner, I really feel that unless all stores are on board, or unless there is an ordinance banning these bags, then it is going to be really hard to try to stand alone. I have heard all the excuses you have over the past month or two:  
I need those bags for garbage bags, or to clean out my kitty litter, or to pick up after my dog.  
It rains so much here in Homer that we have to use bags.  
No one will remember to bring in their bags.  
It is too hard to carry all my groceries without the bags with handles.  
etc, etc, etc.

Well, first off- there are plenty of plastic bags still out there to clean up after cats and dogs- think bread bags, frozen veggie bags, potato chip bags, produce bags, etc. etc. Time to think outside of the box (or the bag!) Lining a garbage can is a bit more of a challenge: in my case, I use the big bags I buy dog food in or find friends who have horses and have a lot of big feed bags. Or, I dig through the cupboards and find some of the hundred or so old plastic bags lurking in drawers and closets still. Or, if it comes to it, I can always buy a box of garbage bags in the handy 100 count!

It rains a lot in Seattle, Portland, Bellingham, Hawaii, and many of the other cities that have plastic bag bans in place, or about to be in place. And those places get a lot of tourists also! I just learned that in Hawaii, although they do not have a state-wide ban officially, every county in the state has passed a plastic bag ban, so they are a state that has entirely banned the ubiquitous plastic bag!!! The ban hasn't started in all counties, but it is in place. Massachusetts is also working on a state-wide ban. I have been in places where the bag is banned, and the stores just have a sign on the door saying "remember your bag" and if need be, they have some for sale there quite inexpensively. Again, if everyone follows the same rules, it is not hard to accept, but if just a few stores try to set these rules, there will be resistance.

I honestly think if our Chamber, or the Homer Foundation, or the City of Homer, or the Hockey Association, or \_\_\_\_\_(fill in the blank) came up with a neat Homer logo and ordered a large quantity of reusable bags, and then had those available for local businesses to re-sell at an affordable price, it would not be a big deal. I have probably 15 reusable bags, and have probably only bought 2 or 3 of those- the rest were free from HEA, or the Credit Union, or Cook Inlet Keeper, or some conference I attended. My understanding is if you purchase the inexpensive reusable bags in a large quantity, they are less than \$1 each to order. If someone bought these for \$1 and then sold them to businesses at \$1.50, it would be a fundraiser for them and businesses could either sell them for that same \$1.50, or mark it up to \$2 and make a profit as well. (In theory- I have not looked into the cost myself) I believe in Seattle, I heard the city gave away like 70,000 bags initially when they began this ban. What if the City of Homer gave away 1,000 initially? or maybe the Chamber did that? Perhaps the Chamber could add this as an incentive to their "shopping derby" Buy a shopping derby ticket and get a free reusable bag! And better yet- the Chamber could be the first place tourists could learn about our BYOB (bring your own bag) program and they could offer them for sale right there. Think about a great Earth Day kickoff! Possibilities are endless!

I also have many concerns down the road about the effects of plastic on our community. In a recent study in Los Angeles, 35% of the fish they sampled had ingested plastic fragments. When these fragments are ingested, they then emit chemicals into the fish. The chemicals used to make plastic then enter the food chain when the fish is eaten by other fish or animals, or humans. Also in the Netherlands, a study on seafood such as mussels and oysters showed they are being harmed by the "invisible plastic soup", the mini particles of plastic floating in the oceans world wide. Homer thrives on our fisheries- oyster farmers, halibut charters and salmon fisheries. How soon before this all changes? Let's set a good example now.

In my research I found that so many cities nationally and internationally are moving towards banning the single use plastic bag. In our own country- Los Angeles has banned- and world wide, New Delhi, India, with 17 million residents has said no to the plastic bag!!! I honestly think Homer, with 5,000 residents (or 10,000 in the wider sense) can cope. I feel this is the wave of the future and before long, the plastic bag will be banned in more places than not. I had friends from all over Alaska, and the US who congratulated me

when they heard Homer had joined that list. We are known for being a mover and a shaker community- what do we really have to lose here?

For those who do not think there is a problem with these bags blowing around and polluting- I encourage you to walk the Rogers Loop ski trail- heading toward the dump. I was appalled at the amount of plastic litter there when I walked there earlier this summer. It was GROSS!!! And I know birds and other wildlife are ingesting those.

I offered at the last meeting, and I will offer again- if you feel this needs more research and you wish for a task force, I would be happy to serve on that task force. In some of my research I found in countries where they placed a tax on the bags (Belgium, Italy and Ireland), once those taxes were added, plastic bag use dropped by 94% within weeks!!! I did read that in places where they charge for bags, all stores have to charge- otherwise it is not as effective. I have concerns with how the City of Homer will enforce the ordinance, but seriously hope that perhaps getting a fine applied once or twice is all it would take. I honestly feel if this was a city-wide ban and an educational campaign went out, it would not be a problem and after a few months no one would remember what it was like before reusable bags. I still remember when stores (Eagle mainly) started to use these and at that time people didn't want plastic- everyone wanted paper instead. Habits.... I think giving people (and businesses) a few months to get used to this idea, and allowing businesses to use up the plastic bags they have might soften the blow. In other cities, if a store was part of a chain- after a couple of months they had to send whatever plastic bags they had left to other stores in their system, ie: Safeway would have to eliminate the bags after x number of months and ship them to Anchorage to use up- they could not stock up on hundreds of cases now. I would like to see that be true here as well.

As for my business, we would be thrilled if this became an ordinance and the whole town stood behind it. As a citizen of this community, I would be very proud to be one of the first Alaskan communities to become bag free. This is just one small step to changing habits, and helping to clean up not only our community, but the ocean community world wide. Be bold. We can change. It really is not the end of the world, I promise.

Thanks again for all you do-  
Sue Post  
235-4190



## Jo Johnson

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**From:** Steve Hughes [taz@xyz.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 22, 2012 8:15 PM  
**To:** Department Clerk  
**Subject:** plastic bags

Please add my name to those in support of the plastic bag ban in Homer. i support the council's decision as our representatives to help lead Homer residents toward a more responsible way of life.  
Steve Hughes

**Jo Johnson**

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**From:** Nina Faust [fausbail@horizonsatellite.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 21, 2012 9:49 PM  
**To:** Beauregard Burgess; Bryan Zak; David Lewis; Barbara Howard; Francie Roberts; Mary Wythe  
**Cc:** Department Clerk; Department Clerk  
**Subject:** Plastic Bag Ordinance

P.O. Box 2994  
Homer, AK 99603

September 21, 2012

Dear City Council Members:

I strongly support the City Council's recent affirmative vote on the Plastic Bag Ordinance. I urge the Council to consider citizen concerns, but to continue in the leadership role and move forward eventual implementation by overriding the Mayor's veto. Bringing bags to the store or purchasing inexpensive reusable ones at the counter, or using a truly biodegradable bag provided by the merchant can be done without too much inconvenience. There are concerns that have been raised that can be addressed by giving businesses a bit more time to use up bag supplies maybe until April or perhaps a little later. A citizens task force or some such entity could help identify ways to help merchants and residents make a smooth transition. Reusable bags are a good opportunity to advertise one's business, or for Homer to create a unique bag maybe with a special Homer "brand".

I have been using reusable bags for years and find them easy to use and much stronger than those flimsy plastic ones. Plastic grocery bags have a way of getting away from people and ending up in trees, rivers, bays, and up in the air riding the winds to who knows where. We have to start reducing our use of plastics and this is good first step. Plastics eventually break into neddles of plastic, small plastic beads that many organisms eat, especially in our oceans. Acting locally is one small step toward a solution of this much bigger problem. Avoiding the use of the single use plastic grocery bag is also a step toward making Homer a more sustainable community. This ordinance may be inconvenient for a while, but down the road it will only add to our community reputation as a place that really cares about its environment. That will help attract visitors who come here because of the special kind of community that Homer has become.

Lead us forward, overturn the veto on the Plastic Bag Ordinance. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

## A Letter in Support of the Plastic Bag Ban

September 20, 2012

To the members of the Homer City Council,

Some people have been saying that the banning of plastic bags is against their rights but I think that we need to look at our responsibilities by keeping Homer a clean environment. It's not that hard to bring your own bags, I do it all the time. By doing something little like this you can really help the environment. Please uphold the ban.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wynand Strydom".

Wynand Strydom age 11

09/20/12

I asked the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in my school, which kind of bag they would prefer to use in a store. These are the results:

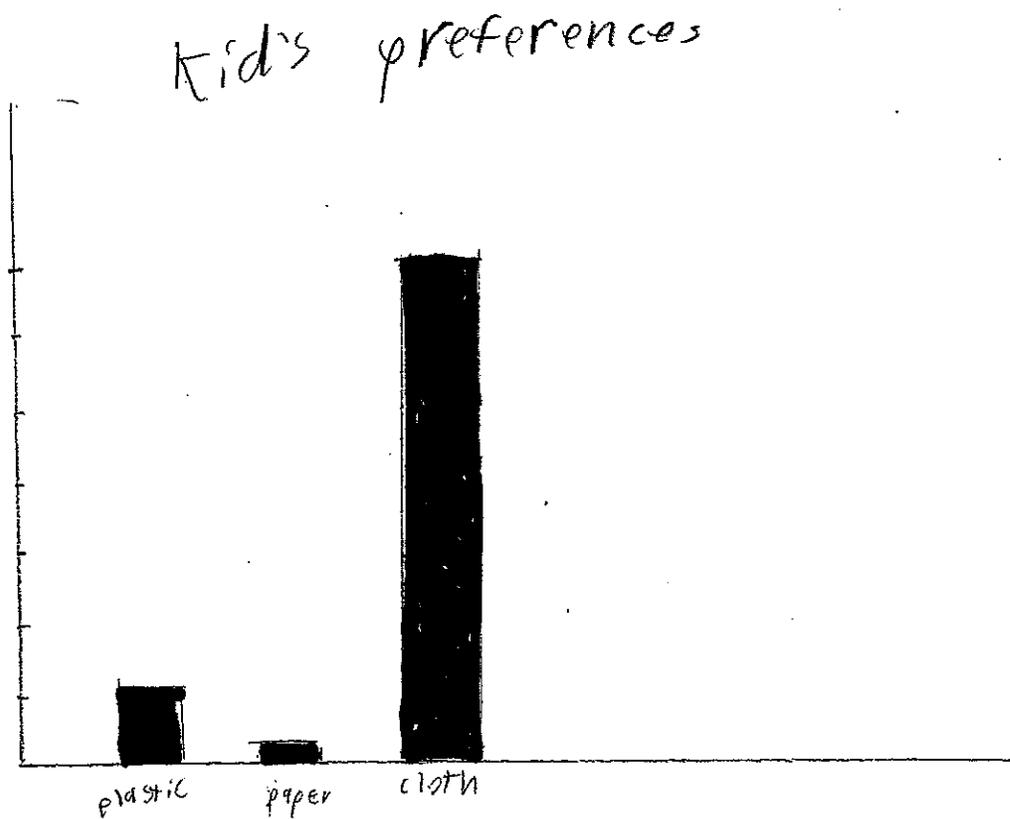
Plastic Bags: 11

Paper Bags: 2

Cloth Bags: 70

Thank you for your consideration.

Wynand Strydom



**Jo Johnson**

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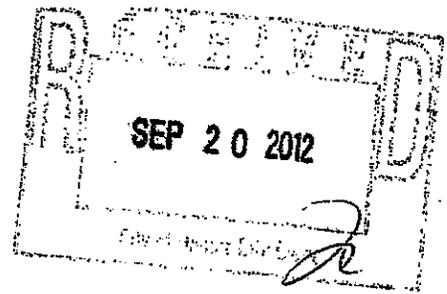
**From:** Steve Hughes [taz@xyz.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2012 4:11 PM  
**To:** Department Clerk  
**Subject:** plastic bags

Dear Mayor Hornaday and Council members

I am writing in hopes that this e-mail is not too late. I had thought the ordinance for the plastic bag band had passed so I did not comment. I was quite happy this had finally been achieved. I was then very disappointed to have it later vetoed. I am now writing so my comments might be viewed. I understand small businesses are worried folks (tourists) would be turned off with not having a bag. How other places who have this same ordinance live with it, they have bags (recyclable) ones that are sold to the customer for cost, usually \$.50 to \$1.00 and they have the business name and town name on it. Folks would find that to be a souvenir or a nice reminder of their time here in Homer. Europe has been bag less forever. Eight years ago while I vacationed there we arrived with no bags. We bought three bags for a dollar each and used them for the two months we were there. We still use those bags and several others we have accumulated over the years. The real challenge of course is to remember to put them back in ones car for your next trip to town, but that will come with practice and a new mind set. PLEASE remove the veto and let this ordinance stand. Thank you for your time and consideration

Robbie Coffey  
2101 Mt Augustine Drive  
Homer, AK 99603  
[taz@xyz.net](mailto:taz@xyz.net)





September 17, 2012

Dear City Council of Homer,

Thanks so much for taking on the very difficult task of trying to direct the community of Homer regarding use of plastic bags. When I read the letters to the editor in the most recent Homer Tribune I realized how difficult this decision must have been for you. I am very proud of you all because Homer is a beautiful place and I presume most of us live here because of the beauty. Fact is, if we want to continue to live in a beautiful place; a place rich with life, we must make some choices. Those appointed and elected (by the people) have to make difficult choices too, many times on behalf of all of us (for the people).

Many people have forgotten that we used to package meats in waxed paper and carry our groceries in cloth bags, baskets or boxes. We no longer do that because the use of plastics has become so pervasive in our culture. But there is a cost to this use and although some folks think they can solve the problem by recycling the bags it is not that simple. Plastics even if recycled will eventually break down into smaller bits and when broken down can be particularly dangerous to animals, sea creatures and birds. Many animals and birds ingest small pieces of plastic mistaking these pieces for food. Others swallow bags which can choke them or obstruct their digestive systems causing death. Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photo degrade. This process can take years and will cause a bag to break into small pieces that may never fully degrade.

In the Pacific Ocean there is a plastic "island" known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch estimated to be as large as the surface area of the United States. Plastic garbage including water bottles and bags have been swirled together by the currents in the Pacific creating this patch. I heard a fisherman tell a story a few years ago about seeing this patch and trying to determine the breath of it. He gave up after a few hours of trying. It broke his heart.

Plastic bags have become a part of our culture because they are cheap to produce, sturdy, plentiful, easy to carry and store. Because of this they have captured the grocery and convenience store market. Instead of being used selectively they are used for everything. Because of this they are easily used and discarded and they blow on the streets, hang in our trees and drift on our ocean. They clutter landfills too. Some people estimate that between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year.

Plastic bag litter has become such an environmental nuisance and eyesore that some countries have taxed their use or banned their use outright. Several other regions, including England and some U.S. cities, are considering similar actions. Most stores in the lower 48 offer a nickel or quarter to shoppers who bring their own bags to discourage the use of plastic...because it is the right thing to do. I ran into a visitor from Belgium a few weeks ago while I stood in line at Safeway. She was extremely surprised to see that our community used plastic bags to carry our

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groceries without apparent regard for the ocean we live near. Closer to home the ACE store on St. Paul Island uses paper bags, preferring to protect the fragile Bering Sea and the communities place in it.

You should be very proud of the step you have taken. Let's make it cool to carry reusable shopping bags and eliminate one small part of the plastic industries intrusion into our lives in Homer.

Unfortunately I cannot attend the council meeting next week. If I were able to attend I would support your decision to ban plastic bags in our community and offer the following suggestions.

Please stay the course. Many of the folks who responded to your decision focused on other issues related to energy use, other plastic products and the process you went through when you made the decision. This lack of focus will not allow us to address this issue. The world is a big place and we have many problems...let's eat the elephant one bite at a time. Please do not be discouraged or dissuaded from your goal. It is a good one.

Groceries and other purchases can be carried from stores using cloth bags or boxes. Currently boxes are being broken down and discarded or recycled at some grocery stores in our area. This change would simply mean saving those boxes and creating a box/bin space in stores. Necessary food packaging including use for unpackaged vegetables and bulk foods could be available using cellulose or other plastic-like products that will degrade and are certified to do so.

A way to encourage people to carry cloth bags is to reward them. If stores were willing to offer a nickel for each cloth bag used (or rewards in the form of gasoline credits etc...) the community might be more inclined to agree with your decision. I would bet that these systems already exist in other states and would be easy to research.

If people don't want to carry their own bags, short fiber paper products made from paper waste or recycled products are a good alternative. While use of paper products is not an ideal solution to the problem of bag use, these products will break down and pose no threat to the environment when discarded.

And finally, if you provide folks in Homer with additional time beyond the January 1 date they may be more inclined to adjust to changes made on their behalf and for the good of all. You might consider a working group to find solutions to the plastic bag problem with a deadline in the spring. This working group could be made up of citizens and small business owners who could advise the council of recommendations of how to ban plastic bags by June 1. This would give stores an opportunity to get ready to convert to another product with a specific goal of finding an alternate bag product made of natural fibers which will break down easily in the environment.

Merry Maxwell

## Jo Johnson

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**From:** Jack Wiles [wilesmichaud@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2012 4:16 PM  
**To:** Mary Wythe; Barbara Howard; Beauregard Burgess; Bryan Zak; David Lewis; Francie Roberts; Department Clerk; Department Clerk  
**Cc:** Jack Wiles  
**Subject:** Veto Override of Plastic Bag Ordinance

Reducing the amount of plastic waste in the waste stream of life would seem to be a universally accepted goal yet one only has to Google 'Dangers of Plastic Bags' to realize that the amount of plastic in the environment is a huge problem world-wide. Why not act locally?

Those who say, 'the use of reusable bags over plastic bags should be a lifestyle change' fail to recognize the problem. If people were left to 'do the right thing' then we would not need judges, courts, and the city council could only concern itself with appropriating and spending funds. You have the leadership role in this matter.

The fact of the matter is that reducing the amount of plastic in the environment is not a solution looking for a problem but a problem to be solved.

Given the ideology of 'paper or plastic' does not contribute to a lifestyle change. We act out of necessity and innovation and acceptance comes from motivation - such motivation is provided by banning plastic bags.

Plastic bags can only be selectively recycled, if at all, and while it is laudable to reuse them the amount of plastic bags generated over a short period of time far exceeds their reuse.

The mayor and members of the Council voiced many thoughtful concerns about the depth of implementing the plastic bag ordinance. The opportunity exists to start a discussion and improve on the ordinance.

I would hope that the Council would override the mayor's veto to send a leadership message that we are acting locally and then establish some strategies to further amend the ordinance based on a community dialogue not possible from a 3 minute spiel at the foot of the Council.

I would suggest that the Council establish a task force to examine means of implementation and improvements to the ordinance.

The task force would be charged with:

1. Developing a community action plan to involve communication of a lifestyle change, access to alternative bag products, cost to business, and greater means of recycling plastic and other waste products.
2. Monitor the implementation of the ordinance and determine its success and challenges.
3. Identify partners (many non-profits, business, service organizations, etc.) that would be willing to participate in the community outreach, provide alternative reusable bags (a good membership drive - join and get bagged...), find funding sources, and create a community identity that strengthens Homer's appeal to visitors.
4. Develop a community logo or 'brand' to identify Homer as an environmental friendly community - celebrate Homer's success with its climate action plan and continue the campaign to implement community strategies to protect the place we call home.
5. Set a time frame and reporting date for actions by the task force.

I hope you will all step up to the environmental leadership role that is needed to address at the local level the positive response to reducing plastic bags.

Thank you for taking a stand for the environment. Banning Plastic Bags - The Only Thing We Lose is Plastic in the

Environment!

Jack Wiles  
399-5242  
PO Box 639  
Homer AK 99603

CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA

City Clerk/  
Public Works Director

RESOLUTION 12-082(S)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR SNOW REMOVAL AND SANDING SERVICES 2012/13, 2013/14, AND 2014/15 TO THE FIRM OF CLARK PLOWING OF HOMER, ALASKA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$680.00 TOTAL TRIP BID AND PURSUANT TO THE BID SCHEDULE SUBMITTED AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS.

WHEREAS, In accordance with the Procurement Policy the Invitation to Bid was advertised in the Homer Tribune on August 29 and September 5, 2012, posted on the Clerk's home page, and sent to an in-state plans room; and

WHEREAS, Bids were due on September 20, 2012 and three bids were received; and

WHEREAS, Bids were opened and the firm of Clark Plowing was determined to be the low responsive bidder and found to be qualified to complete the work; and

WHEREAS, This award is not final until written notification is received by the firm from the City of Homer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, approves the contract award for Snow Removal and Sanding Services 2012/13, 2013/14, and 2014/15 to the firm of Clark Plowing of Homer, Alaska, in the amount of \$680.00 total trip bid and pursuant to the bid schedule submitted and authorizes the City Manager to execute the appropriate documents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012.

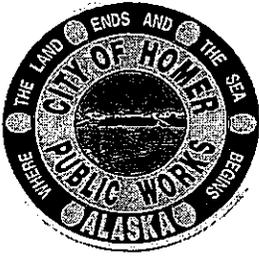
CITY OF HOMER

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES C. HORNADAY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK

47	Fiscal Note: <b><u>Pro rated each department:</u></b>	
48	<b><u>Fire</u></b>	<b><u>100.150.5210</u></b>
49	<b><u>Police</u></b>	<b><u>100.160.5244</u></b>
50	<b><u>City Hall</u></b>	<b><u>100.140.5210</u></b>
51	<b><u>Library</u></b>	<b><u>100.145.5244</u></b>
52	<b><u>Pratt Museum</u></b>	<b><u>100.000.1158</u></b>



**CITY OF HOMER  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Jan C. Jonker, Superintendent  
3575 Heath St.  
Homer, Alaska 99603

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Fax: (907)235-3145

EMAIL : [jjonker@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:jjonker@ci.homer.ak.us)

**MEMORANDUM 12-150**

**To:** Walt Wrede, City Manager  
**From:** Jan C. Jonker, PW Superintendent  
**Through:** Carey Meyer, PW Director  
**Date:** Friday, September 21, 2012  
**Subject:** SNOW REMOVAL & SANDING SERVICES 2012-2015

On September 20, 2012 bids were opened for the above three-year renewable service contract. This work was advertised in the Homer Tribune on 08/29 & 09/05/2012. This service contract provides snow plowing and sanding services for City Hall, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Library and the Pratt Museum.

Three bids were received from qualified firms. The bid results were totaled per citywide trip and the results are.

<b>Firm Name</b>	<b>Snow Plow/Trip</b>	<b>Sanding/Trip</b>	<b>Total/Trip</b>
<b>Frigid North Plowing</b>	<b>\$ 434.00</b>	<b>\$ 342.00</b>	<b>\$ 776.00</b>
<b>Clark Plowing</b>	<b>\$ 460.00</b>	<b>\$ 220.00</b>	<b>\$ 680.00</b>
<b>Gregoire Construction</b>	<b>\$ 430.00</b>	<b>\$ 275.00</b>	<b>\$ 705.00</b>

\*\* Bid tabs are attached for reference.

**Recommendation:**

Award the 2012~2015 Snow Removal & Sanding Services Contract to Clark Plowing, 4142 Mattox Rd., Lot #1, Homer, AK 99603; Timothy Clark, owner/operator.

**Fiscal Note:**

Account No.'s:  
Fire 100.150. 5210  
Police 100.160. 5244  
City Hall 100.140. 5210  
Library 100.145. 5244  
Pratt Museum 100. 000. 1158

