

PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 22, 2011

Session 11-06, a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Ulmer at 5:00 p.m. on June 22, 2011 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS CARROLL, HARTLEY, HOTTMAN, HOWARD, ULMER, ZIMMERMAN

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER WEDIN

STAFF: PORT AND HARBOR DIRECTOR HAWKINS
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as written by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no public comments.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations scheduled.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 25, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

HOWARD/HARTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 25 MEETING MINUTES.

Commission Howard noted a correction to reflect that Commissioner Wedin was absent at the May 25th meeting.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Port and Harbor Director's Reports for June 2011

Harbormaster Hawkins reviewed his staff report.

There was brief discussion that the ice sales were down due to halibut quotas being down 29% from last year. Harbormaster Hawkins reported there is still a lot of halibut coming in and that the salmon run is shaping up to be a big one.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearing scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Capping Long Term Parking Fines at \$250

Harbormaster Hawkins commented that quite a few citations have been given out for people parked over seven days, including citations for boat trailers. His goal is to make every effort to contact owners and have them remove their vehicle or trailer from the spit. They have been writing a citation and then attempting to contact. They are trying to avoid owning or impounding anyone's vehicles. He has been advising people that there aren't going to be changes made mid season and recommend they write letters to the Port and Harbor Commission and we will review the results in the fall.

Commissioner Zimmerman commented that the ordinance doesn't affect seasonal parking; it deals with year round parking. He recognized the time it takes to get through the City Council's schedule but doesn't see a reason to put it off. He proposes a \$250 ceiling on long term parking fines, with \$200 paying for the annual parking pass. If someone goes out fishing they come back and have a long term parking pass and a \$50 fine. He said he thought this is something the Commission passed on to Council.

ZIMMERMAN/HOWARD MOVED THAT THE PORT AND HARBOR COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO PUT A \$250 LIMIT ON THE LONG TERM PARKING FINE ON THE SPIT WITH \$200 GOING TOWARD THE LONG TERM PERMIT.

There was discussion supporting the motion. While the Commission agrees that normally it would be best to go to the council with a packet of information to consider at one time, the potential issues that could come from dealing with this administratively for a time would make it appropriate to bring it forward for Council approval. There was further discussion to clarify that this will require an ordinance to amend what was recently adopted in Code.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business items scheduled.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Harbormaster's Monthly Statistical Report for May 2011
- B. Weekly Crane and Ice Report
- C. Deep Water Dock Report
- D. Pioneer Dock Report
- E. Pioneer Dock Ferry Landings Report
- F. Resolution 11-053 Re: Water Infrastructure Set Aside Funding Program
- G. Resolution 11-058 Re: Dredge Spoils Contracts
- H. Resolution 11-060 Re: Establishing a Port& Harbor Improvement Revenue Bonding Plan
- I. Strategic Plan
- J. Lease Expirations as of 2/17/11
- K. Commissioner Attendance Schedule for City Council Meetings

The Commissioners briefly discussed resolution 11-060 and the Port and Harbor Improvement Committee. Commissioners Howard and Hartley advised that they were willing to participate on the Committee. There was no opposition expressed by any other Commissioners.

Chair Ulmer brought up the Commission's strategic plan. She noted one item is to request a City Council member attend their meetings. Commissioner Howard said he could make that happen. Another item is for the Clerk to help the Commission learn to be more efficient and effective. Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen commented that aside from reminders to turn on the microphones, the Commission appears to be doing well at staying on task and getting through their agenda.

Commissioner Howard advised that he attended the last City Council meeting to give an update on the Commission's business, and Commissioner Hartley attended to comment in support of Resolution 11-060.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Barbara Howard, Councilmember, thanked the group for serving on this very essential Commission. She acknowledged the importance of their work and the financial environment impact of their recommendations toward our general plan for Homer. The Port and Harbor Improvement Revenue Bond Committee is charged with development of a plan to finance several significant projects and the Commission's involvement is crucial. The suggested projects listed on resolution 11-060 mirror the goals of the Commission's strategic plan. Mrs. Howard said that on a recent flight to Seattle she had the good fortune to sit next to a gentleman who introduced himself as a herring fisherman from Kodiak. She asked why he was in Homer and he responded that Homer's superior docks, incredible harbor staff, very reasonable rates, and quality marine ancillary services caused him to deliberately choose Homer over Kodiak for repairs. She quoted him as saying, that Matt Clark is a quality, well experienced, nice guy, and you city folks should be thankful to have such a person representing the Port of Homer." She assured him that his comments would be passed on to this Commission and City Council. Lastly Mrs. Howard commented that in reading the Harbormaster's report she is reminded of the 24/7 service that is delivered by staff with "a can do, will do" attitude to protect person and property. She thanked them for the level of service they provide.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

Harbormaster Hawkins noted a possible agenda item for the next meeting will be a proposal to the City from the Roanoke Island to stand up a small wind turbine at the lease lot by their office on the spit.

He also noted that since the card-readers for the cranes are now on the cranes themselves it has eliminated the need for the card reader room. He is looking forward to looking into the opportunity to use the old card-reader room to expand the bathroom on the fish dock. There is a grant in place for \$86,000 and hope it will be enough money to do that as it is just a remodel in the existing building. He is looking forward to putting a project together for that.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

There were no Councilmember comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Ulmer had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Zimmerman thanked the Commission for revisiting the parking issue.

Commissioner Howard commented that in the fee parking areas the R numbers get knocked out and asked if they would be using overhead wires or something that can't be backed into. Harbormaster Hawkins said they might look into painting numbers on the spaces or getting away from the numbers.

Commissioner Zimmerman commented that previously they had discussed making up coupon book for parking passes. Harbormaster Hawkins said that they have not done that.

It was requested that the Clerk research the record and bring back the information they passed regarding the parking ordinance so they can review what they recommended in relation to what was passed by Council.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____