

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2019-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL IDENTIFYING THE CITY OF UNALASKA'S STATE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

WHEREAS, Captains Bay Road is heavily used by commercial traffic, and future growth and business activity is expected to occur along Captains Bay Road, requiring road improvements, water, sewer, and electric utilities; and

WHEREAS, the Robert Storrs Boat Harbor A and B Floats have served the community well for over 30 years and in order to ensure the safety of those who use the dock and the vessels that moor at the Storrs Boat Harbor, the floats must be replaced and the dock redesigned; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska has several sites that were subject to the Department of Defense's Formerly Utilized Defense Sites environmental program due to contamination which occurred during WWII activities, as well as WWII related contamination that is discovered during construction projects today; and

WHEREAS, support from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is critical to managing these contaminated areas and ensuring Federal assistance and support; and

WHEREAS, habitat restoration on the local road system for Summer Bay Lake and Watershed, Morris Cove Lake and Watershed, and Unalaska Lake and Watershed will help to improve depressed salmon stocks; and

WHEREAS, regular ferry service helps to meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors on our remote island with limited and costly transportation and shipping options; and

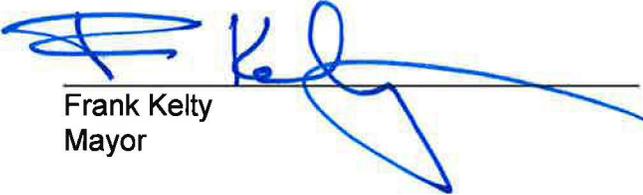
WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska's ability to fulfill the obligations of a local government is limited by available resources including State funding, specifically funding through the Community Assistance Program and the Shared Fisheries Tax Program, offsetting the burdens that might otherwise be felt by a local tax base.

WHEREAS, Unalaska's internet connection speeds thwart business growth, medical service, post-secondary education, and overall quality of life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Unalaska hereby identifies its top state legislative priorities for Fiscal Year 2021 as:

- Captains Bay Road and Utility Improvements Project: \$52 Million
- Robert Storrs Boat Harbor Improvements: \$9.5 Million
- Environmental Remediation Support
- Habitat Restoration for Salmon Stock Improvement Support
- Ferry System Support
- Community Assistance Program and Shared Fisheries Tax Program Support
- Broadband Internet Support

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on September 24, 2019.



Frank Kelty
Mayor

ATTEST:



Roxanna F. Winters
Acting City Clerk



MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Erin Reinders, City Manager
Date: September 24, 2019
Re: Resolution 2019-51, identifying the City of Unalaska's State Priorities for Fiscal Year 2021

SUMMARY: Council reviewed and discussed priorities at the August 27, 2019 work session and September 10, 2019 Council Meeting. This resolution was developed based on Council's feedback. Identified priorities are listed below. Staff recommends approval.

- Captains Bay Road and Utility Improvements Project; \$52 Million
- Robert Storrs Boat Harbor Improvements: \$9.5 Million
- Environmental Remediation Support
- Habitat Restoration for Salmon Stock Improvement Support
- State Ferry System Support
- Community Assistance Program and Shared Fisheries Tax Program Support
- Broadband Internet Support

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: This is a recurring council action to express our support for certain initiatives, to submit projects to the State of Alaska for consideration in their capital budget, and in preparation for Lobbying Trips.

Previous State Priorities

- Council specifically offered support for the full funding of the State of Alaska's Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY20 State Capital Budget. This support was provided on February 12, 2019 through Resolution 2019-05.
- Council identified FY20 State Priorities on February 12, 2019 in the approval of Resolution 2019-06. This included:
 - \$24 Million for Captains Bay Road and Utility Improvements
 - \$9.5 Million for Robert Storrs Boat Harbor Improvements
 - Environmental Remediation Support
 - Habitat Restoration for Salmon Stock Improvement Support

City Council discussed priorities at the August 27, 2019 work session. City Council considered this resolution at the September 10, 2019 Council Meeting, but deferred it so that support for improved internet speeds could be added.

BACKGROUND: The fiscal situation in the State has not significantly improved regarding availability of funding or bonding initiatives. However, it remains necessary to identify to the State our highest priorities.

DISCUSSION: Council discussed priorities on August 27. At the September 10 Council Meeting, Council asked that support for improved internet be added. Resolution 2019-51 addresses these discussions. An overview is provided below.

- **\$52 Million for Captains Bay Road and Utility Improvements.** Captains Bay Road is heavily used by commercial traffic, and future growth and business activity is expected to occur along Captains Bay Road, requiring road improvements as well as water, Packet Page Number 163 sewer, and electric utilities. The cost of this project is estimated at \$52 Million, up from an estimated \$24 Million. Staff is working to ensure that this project is on the STIP. Our federal lobbyist has identified potential grant opportunities for this project and we will explore those as well.
- **Environmental Remediation Support.** Unalaska has several sites that were subject to the Department of Defense's Formerly Utilized Defense Sites environmental program due to contamination, which occurred during WWII activities, as well as WWII related contamination that is discovered during construction projects today. Assistance and support from the state and federal levels is critical to managing these contaminated areas.
- **\$9.5 Million for Robert Storrs Boat Harbor Improvements.** The Robert Storrs Boat Harbor was inherited by the City of Unalaska from the State of Alaska. It has served the community well for over 30 years and in order to ensure the safety of those who use the dock and the vessels that moor at the Storrs Boat Harbor, the floats must be replaced and the dock redesigned. This is an existing Capital Project for the City of Unalaska. State funding for this project is a part of State of Alaska's Harbor Facility Grant Program, a program that the City of Unalaska has long supported.
- **Habitat Restoration for Salmon Stock Improvement Support.** Habitat restoration on the local road system for Summer Bay Lake and Watershed, Morris Cove Lake and Watershed, and Unalaska Lake and Watershed will help to improve depressed salmon stocks.
- **Ferry System Support.** Ferry service is identified in the City's Comprehensive plan as a community priority, stressing the importance of advocating for an increase of service to the State so that the needs of residents, business and visitors are addressed. Regular ferry service helps to meet the needs for our remote island with limited and costly transportation and shipping options.

- **Community Assistance Program and Shared Fisheries Tax Program Support.** The City of Unalaska works to fulfill the obligations of a local government. Our ability to do so is limited by statute, public interest and available resources. Traditionally those resources have included State and Federal funding, which offset the burdens that might otherwise be felt by a local tax base. In FY 19, our Community Assistance funding was \$158,479.93. Our share of the Shared Fisheries Business Tax was \$3,528,499.35 and our share of the Fish Landing Tax was \$5,220,958.21. This totaled 8,907,937.49, nearly 25% of our general fund revenue.
- **Broadband Internet Support.** Unalaska's slow internet connection speeds impede business growth, medical service, post-secondary education, and overall quality of life. Unalaskans are unable to fully utilize cloud-based systems to improve efficiencies and effectiveness in personal, educational, medical, and business processes. Improving internet services has long been a priority, and the City supports programs and activities that help to bridge this digital divide.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to approve Resolution 2019-51.

CITY MANAGERS COMMENTS: This resolution is based on Council's feedback.