



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

From: Thor Christianson, Chris Ystad Assembly Members

Date: December 20, 2022

Subject: Changing from sealed bid to outcry auction for HCH vendor permits.

Background

On December 13 the Assembly passed a sweeping change to how vendors and vehicles would be governed at the HCH. At the time a number of changes were suggested, but at the request of city staff, no changes were made in order to move the process along in time for next year's tourist season. This ordinance addresses one of those changes, the type of auction for HCH vendor permits.

Analysis

One of the issues that was brought up when the original ordinance was passed was the preference for an outcry auction vs. a sealed bid auction. This ordinance would change the auction from sealed bid to outcry. This would allow greater transparency, since not only the name of the business would be public, but people behind the business would have to be present. It should also make it easier for local businesses to participate since they would have to be in town to attend the auction. It would also make it easier for a business to up their bid in order to keep their business viable.

Fiscal Note

This should not have any major effect on the amount raised by the permits.

Recommendation

Our recommendation is to pass this ordinance for the following reason: it provides transparency and flexibility for the vendors.