

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM**I. CALL TO ORDER****II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****III. ROLL CALL**

Present: 6 - Mayor Pro Tempore Austin Love
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Olivia Foster
Council Member Joseph Lally (remote)
Council Member Joy Witte
Council Member Lester Greene

Excused: 1 - Mayor Dennis Fleming

Also Present: 3 - Assistant City Manager Jordan Nelson
City Clerk Sheri Pierce
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approval of Minutes for Special Meeting August 20, 2025**
- 2. Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting of September 2, 2025**

The minutes from August 20, 2025, and September 2, 2025, were approved by consent.

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**1. Public Appearance: Providence Valdez Counseling Center**

Edmore Mangena, Glyn Deputy and Carolyn Fry of the Providence Valdez Counseling Center shared information about suicide prevention month, highlighting the broad reaching impact of suicide on the community and community engagement efforts on the issue.

2. Public Appearance: Lanette Oliver, Valdez Adventure Alliance, Odyssey Off Trail Race

Lanette Oliver, Executive Director for Valdez Adventure Alliance, provided a presentation and slide show highlighting the recent Odyssey Off Trail Race.

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Sharon Scheidt, Communications Director for Copper Valley Electric Association, informed Council about her upcoming retirement and introduced her replacement, Morgan Melton. She expressed gratitude for her years of working closely with the city.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Appointment to the Economic Diversification Commission, Applicant: Colleen Stephens**
2. **Appointment to City Permanent Fund Investment Committee- Applicant: Mike Wells**
3. **Acceptance of Resignation of Library Board Member Kent Runion**
4. **Approval of New Tourism Liquor License— Alaska Backcountry Guides LLC #60308**
5. **Approval of Renewal Marijuana Cultivation Facility License – DKW Farms, LLC**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Love, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Absent: 1 - Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. ORDINANCES

1. **#25-11 - Authorizing an Amendment to the Zoning Map to Effect a Change to Lot 2, A.S.L.S. 78-139, Plat 98-2 to General Commercial. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Witte, to approve Ordinance 25-11 in second reading for adoption.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Love, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Absent: 1 - Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. **#25-41 - Adopting Revisions to the Permanent Fund Investment Policy Statement and Rescinding Resolution #22-50**

MOTION: Council Member Greene moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve Resolution 25-41.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Love, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Absent: 1 - Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

2. #25-42 - Amending the 2025 City Budget by Transferring \$134,444 from Budget Variance Reserve to Community Development Department Contractual Services

MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution 25-42.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Love, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Absent: 1 - Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

X. REPORTS**1. Report: Code Enforcement Update**

Council Member Foster asked for clarification on call volume and process of reporting through the Code Enforcement Officer.

Police Chief King confirmed that nuisance abatement activities were the main focus of the Code Enforcement Officer but noted that the scrap metal barge had been additional major project in recent months. He noted that the initial scrap barge had not included vehicles and that 95 vehicles had been processed to date.

Council Member Love inquired about the statistics included in the report and the breakdown of call type. Chief King provided context.

City Clerk Pierce noted that the draft nuisance abatement ordinances were finalized and would be in first reading at the next regular meeting.

- 2. Procurement Report: Agreement for Professional Services – HDR Engineering, Inc. (Balefill & C&D Landfill Survey)**
- 3. Procurement Report: Service Agreement with Harris Sand & Gravel, Inc. (2025 Asphalt & Sidewalk Repair) in the Amount of \$60,477.00**
- 4. Change Order Report: Change Order with Harris Sand & Gravel for the Valdez SBH H-K Major Reconstruction project in the amount of \$28,496.01**
- 5. Contract Amendment Report: Extend the 2025 Emergency Generator Annual Inspection Contract Through 2026.**

6. **Report: Issuance of Temporary Land Use Permit 25-10 for the Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc. for 161 Galena Drive (Lot 31, Block 33 Mineral Creek Subdivision), 310 Galena Drive (Lots 15 & 16, Block 35, Mineral Creek Subdivision) and 180 Galena Drive (Lots 11 & 12, Block 35, Mineral Creek Subdivision) owned by the City of Valdez**

XI. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS

1. City Manager Report

Assistant City Manager Nelson provided additional information on the schedule for budget work sessions and process for October. He noted that the Community Service Organization committee had met to discuss sponsored events and would provide Council with recommendations to consider.

2. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Pierce noted that the work session schedule and calendar for October had been distributed. She highlighted the upcoming Pioneers of Alaska convention being held in Valdez and shared information about the upcoming Alaska Municipal League conference in Anchorage. Pierce also announced to the public that the city was seeking applicants for the Economic Diversification Commission.

3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Jack Wakeland gave an update on the request for reconsideration in the escaped property litigation.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Pro Tem Love highlighted the Nayurluku Park grand opening. He gave a belated thank you to various members of past City Councils who had supported the project over the years and to City Manager Nate Duval who also served as project manager for the park's development.

XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Members reflected on the importance of recognizing Suicide Prevention Month and encouraged the community to take the issue seriously and assist those in need.

Members echoed the Mayor Pro Tem's positivity about the opening of Nayurluku Park at Meals Hill and congratulated Sharon Scheidt on her upcoming retirement.

Council Member Foster provided details about the upcoming thread summit in Anchorage about the economic impacts of child care and encourage community leaders to attend.

Council Members Witte and Devens shared about the staff appreciation event and thanked city staff for their service.

Council Member Witte also shared about her participation in a tour of the Westerdam Cruise Ship and attendance at the 9/11 Memorial.

Council Member Lally added his gratitude for the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and shared his firsthand experiences of being involved with response during the tragic event while stationed in New York with the Coast Guard.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Love adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA


Dennis Fleming, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk

