

Mayor's Report – January 16, 2018

Since our last Council meeting on January 2:

- Donna Schantz and I had a phone conversation with Governor Walker about the ADEC approved C-Plan changes on January 3rd. Until the day before our call, he was completely unaware of the changes and was very concerned with how they would weaken the protection of the hatchery and Duck Flats. He let us know he would be discussing this issue with the involved people from industry and ADEC.
- Our attorneys, Mr. Brena and Mr. Staser, convened a meeting of all parties and their counsels to discuss the way forward on the C-Plan appeal after the comment period ends. This took place on January 10th and we will meet again after the 12th.
- The last date for comments to be sent in on the request for adjudicatory hearing on the Valdez Marine Terminal C-Plan appeals was January 12. To date there have been comments sent from Homer, Cordova, Whittier, Chugach Alaska, commercial, charter, and recreational fishermen, eco-tourism operators and concerned citizens. I would again like to thank everyone who sent in comments. My hope is still that the Commissioner will reverse the decision and return to the matrix in the past C-Plan and avoid any hearing at all.
- Last week, I was able to contact Mr. Brena regarding the possible change of scope in our legal contract with his firm. We hope he will be in town to discuss this further and for the meeting on the 16th.
- It is good to have City Manager Doom back in town. I was able to meet and catch up with her at our usual weekly meeting times. She let us know that we have a new Assistant CM coming soon which should help ease her load and allow for more work to get accomplished with less stress on our current staff. It is wonderful to see the teamwork that she is encouraging in staff at all levels.
- We do need to discuss the lack of office space at City Hall. I hope this will be part of the discussion during the Fire Department work session.
- On Monday the 8th, I met with Dan O'Connor, CM Doom, and Superintendent Nygaard to discuss the future possibilities for PWSC, COV and VCS to work together. One of the items that kept recurring in this discussion was the serious need for housing in Valdez.
- The Health Advisory Council (HAC) met Tuesday, January 8. It has been determined that the past Mayor's Task Force on Hospital Expansion needs to be resurrected. The Counseling Center will have a new practitioner coming and they have no space for this person to work. We still need to expand Physical Therapy, Specialty Care, and much more. The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) results were discussed. The HAC will be doing strategic planning in February which will be driven by the CHNA.
- Please stay warm, safe, and happy.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez