

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Tuesday, February 4, 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: 5 - Mayor Dennis Fleming
Mayor Pro Tem Austin Love
Council Member Alan Sorum
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Joseph Lally

Also Present: 5 - City Clerk Sheri Pierce
City Manager John Douglas
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk
Assistant City Manager Bart Hinkle
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval

Excused: 2 - Council Member Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Olivia Foster

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 7, 2025

January 7, 2025 Minutes were approved by consent.

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

**1. Public Appearance: Kristin Ramstad and Phyllis Wimberley,
Chugachmiut Head Start**

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Proclamation: Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**
- 2. Appointment to VMHA Board of Directors - Applicant: Patrick Olson**
- 3. Approval of Amendment #1 City Clerk Employment Agreement**

Item 3 Moved to New Business by request of Council Member Love

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Love, to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally

Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS**1. Approval of the Site Selection of the Valdez City School Administrative Building Located on the Hermon Hutchens Elementary School Campus (Tract A, Lots 6 and 7) as the Location for Future Child Care Center**

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Love, to approve the revised site selection for childcare center.

Council Member Love requested information on the following topics

- An overview of how the childcare facility would work from the perspective of Bettisworth North
- Timeline of moving the district office and associated cost
- Willingness from the School Board to meet the timeline to begin construction in 2026

David Popiel, Bettisworth North, shared the layout of the VCS Office Test Fit.

Jason Webber, Superintendent, spoke on his concerns on the previous location, and how they could accommodate the timeline of the current plan.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally

Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

2. 2025 Federal Legislative Priorities

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Love, to approve the 2025 Federal Legislative Priorities.

Council Member Love requested the following specific asks be added

- Housing - PRICE Program or an alternative solution at the Federal Level to address Mobile/Manufactured Homes
- Childcare Needs – Copper Basin Childcare Advocacy Center funding shortfalls
- Education & Work Force Development – Secure Rural School Funding

Council Member Love requested the following items with no specific asks be cut

- Healthcare Access
- Arctic Policy
- Climate Change Environmental Protection
- Tribal Sovereignty and Self Determination

Council Member Devens shared his support of Council Member Love's additions and his preference to retain all current items on the list. He agreed streamlining could be done on an individual basis with whom they were meeting with at the time.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally
Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster
MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of 2025 City of Valdez State Legislative Priorities

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Love moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve 2025 City of Valdez State Legislative Priorities.

Council Member Love requested the following specific ask be added

- Economic Disaster Declaration for the Prince William Sound fisheries

Kathy Todd, Valdez School Board, stressed the need for school funding.

Nathan Duval, City Employee, expressed concern over not receiving interest on the PERS retirement contributions since October and how the State was handling the issue for those participating in the PERS program.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally
Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster
MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of the Providence Valdez Medical Center 2025 Capital Budget

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Love moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve the Providence Valdez Medical Center 2025 Capital Budget.

Mayor Fleming requested additional information on the numbers associated with the Counseling Center numbers. Lindsie King, PVMC, explained how the numbers could fluctuate based on need in the wake of the additional Counseling Center opening within the community.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally
Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster
MOTION CARRIED.

5. Approval of Amendment #1 City Clerk Employment Agreement

Moved from Consent Agenda

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve amendment #1 City Clerk Employment Agreement.

Council Member Love expressed his concern over the adjustment.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 4 - Fleming, Sorum, Devens and Lally

Nays: 1 - Love

Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. ORDINANCES

- 1. #25-03 - Amending Chapter 3.30 Entitled Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Pipeline Transportation, and Spill Prevention and Response Property Tax. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve Ordinance 25-03 on second reading for adoption.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 4 - Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally

Abstain: 1 - Fleming

Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

- 2. #25-01 - Amending Section 3.12.030 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled Property Exempt for Taxation. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Ordinance 25-01 on second reading for adoption.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally

Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

- 3. #25-02 - Amending Title 3 Property Taxes, Chapter 3.12, Section 3.12.040 Titled Additional Exemptions. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve Ordinance 25-02 on second reading for adoption.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally
Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster
MOTION CARRIED.

X. RESOLUTIONS

- 1. #25-06 - Supporting Efforts by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys (DGGs), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Conduct a Snow Avalanche and Landslide Hazards Assessment in the City of Valdez and Nearby Richardson Highway Transportation Corridor**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution 25-06.

Council Member Love asked if there would be any future funding requests stemming from the approval of the resolution. Community Development Director Kate Huber stated she did not foresee any.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally
Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster
MOTION CARRIED.

- 2. #25-07 - Amending the 2025 City Budget by Appropriating an Additional \$10,340 to Child Care Facility Design & Renovation to be Transferred from Council Contingency Reserve**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve Resolution 25-07.

Council Member Love asked if an additional change order would be brought forward. Director Duval said there would not be one as it related to the design effort.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally
Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster
MOTION CARRIED.

- 3. #25-08 - Authorizing the City Clerk to Dispose of Certain City Records**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve Resolution 25-08.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally
Absent: 2 - Scheidt and Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

XI. REPORTS

- 1. Monthly Treasury Report: December 2024**
- 2. Hazard Mitigation Plan Implementation Report**
- 3. Procurement Report: Contract with Commercial Contractors, Inc. for City Hall Door Replacement in the Amount of \$41,375.00.**
- 4. February 4, 2025**

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

1. City Manager Report

City Manager Douglas spoke on Chugachmiut, the physician recruitment program, the Senior Center, and See.Click.Fix.

2. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Pierce reminded those listening petitions to run for City Council and School Board would be available beginning February 14th. She reviewed the upcoming Council calendar.

3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Staser provided an update on cases his office was working on behalf of the city, including escaped property, Alderwood, and the C-Plan.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Fleming requested Council respond to the survey the Clerk would be sending out regarding work sessions.

XIII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Member Lally thanked Melanee Tiura for her briefing on the medical facilities.

Council Member Love thanked the Clerks for the Boards & Commissions training.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT