

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Valdez City Council Chambers.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Council led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Jeremy O'Neil
Council Member Ron Ruff (*by telephone*)
Council Member Susan Love
Council Member Sharon Scheidt (*by telephone*)
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Dennis Fleming (*by telephone*)
Council Member Alan Sorum (*by telephone*)

Also Present: 6 - Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval
Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy
City Clerk Sheri Pierce
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko (*by telephone*)
Records Manager Shelley McMillen
City Attorney Jake Staser (*by telephone*)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2020**

The City Council regular meeting minutes of November 17, 2020 were approved as presented.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

No members of the public appeared to provide public testimony on a non-agenda item.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Appointment to Providence Valdez Medical Center Health Advisory Council (Partial Term - Deborah Plant)**
- 2. Appointment to City Ports & Harbors Commission (Partial Term - Monty Morgan)**
- 3. Approval of 1-Year Contract Extension to Gulf Coast, Inc. DBA Clean Alaska in the Amount of \$142,740.00 for Janitorial Services**
- 4. Approval of 1-Year Contract Extension to X-DLX Investments, Inc. in the Amount of \$163,076.40 for Janitorial Services**

5. Approval To Go Into Executive Session: City Manager Evaluation

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion Item: COVID 19 Update

Mr. Duval briefed Council on state and city case counts, including results from the recent targeted mass testing event. He encouraged the community to remain diligent in mitigation efforts.

Mr. Duval addressed concerns over a diminishing rapid test supply. Although sufficient numbers of were currently on hand, supplies provided by the state would likely not last. He explained the Valdez Unified Command is working with the local medical community and public health to identify and contract with a private rapid testing supply vendor.

Mr. Duval informed Council of changes being made to the distribution method of local case count information, including new procedure for updating the local case count dashboard and shifting to a weekly summary news release.

Mr. Duval shared the state's vaccine website was up and running. He stated supplies and ample refrigeration space have been procured locally. This allows Valdez to serve as a vaccine hub with the ability to supply vaccines to local residents and support surrounding communities as well if needed.

Council Member Love asked if Valdez would be playing the role of a testing hub in addition to a vaccine hub. Mr. Duval stated it would not.

Mayor O'Neil asked about timing in regards to the release of the vaccine. Mr. Duval stated he did not have a current date for the vaccine's arrival, but he had heard as early as December 15th. Mayor O'Neil requested more information on how distribution would be organized. Mr. Duval explained the CDC recommended a phased approach to distribution. He stated the first phase would likely be healthcare workers, first responders, and residents of long-term care facilities. Vaccine distribution to the general public would occur in a later phase.

Dr. Angela Alfaro, physician consultant for the Valdez Unified Command, shared her appreciation for the efforts and cooperation from those impacted by the recent exposure in the K-12 school system. She encouraged those with symptoms to get tested.

2. Appointment to City Permanent Fund Investment Committee (Full Term - Multiple Applicants)

Using paper ballots, City Council selected Mr. Jim Shirrell for appointment.

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to appoint Jim Shirrell to the City Permanent Fund Investment Committee for a full term expiring November 2023.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of the Advertising/Marketing Grant Program in an Amount Not to Exceed \$500,000

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve the advertising and marketing grant program in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Discussion Item: Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award

Finance Director Brian Carlson explained the application process and scoring involved in presenting the budget for the GFOA Distinguished Budget award. He thanked Budget/Financial Planner Jordan Nelson on the work he put into the budget documents and process.

Council Member Devens asked about the scoring criteria, specifically three categories where the budget had been scored as "does not satisfy". Mr. Carlson explained the scoring process and why he felt those sections of the budget were identified that way.

Mayor O'Neil and Council congratulated the Finance Department on winning the Distinguished Budget Award.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS**1. #20-65 - Adopting the 2021 Budget for the City of Valdez and Appropriating Monies for that Budget**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution #20-65.

Council Member Fleming asked if there would be one final debrief for Council to discuss how to enhance the budget process in the future. Mr. Carlson stated his team had captured much of Council's feedback during the process, but intended to bring individual topics back during future regular Council meetings for additional discussion.

Council Member Devens thanked the Finance Department and department heads for the effort they put into the 2021 budget process.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

2. #20-66 - Establishing the 2021 Tax Calendar

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution #20-66.

Council Member Devens requested verification the tax calendar was available on the city website. Mr. Carlson confirmed it was on the website. Ms. Pierce reminded Council the Clerk's Department advertised the deadlines for property tax payments. The information is also on the property owner's tax assessment document which are mailed out.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

3. #20-67 - Accepting the 2020-2021 EMPG Grant in the Amount of \$25,000 from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Approving as Expenditure

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve Resolution #20-67.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

4. #20-68 - Authorizing the Continuance of the COVID-19 Local Government Disaster Declaration

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution #20-68.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. REPORTS

1. Procurement Report: Professional Services Agreement with RSA Engineering, Inc. for GMS Water Piping Replacement Design in the Amount of \$56,313.80

Council Member Fleming expressed his concern over this being the first time Council had heard of the pipes leaking in the GMS. Mr. Duval confirmed it had been brought up in the past. He explained the leak was the result of a defect in the CPVC piping.

Council Member Fleming shared his desire to make sure projects are brought to Council as soon as feasible in the future. He asked if the city would be participating in a class action lawsuit against the maker of the defective piping. Mr. Duval agreed projects should be presented with appropriate notice, but this project was unexpected and time sensitive. He confirmed the class action lawsuit was on the radar of City staff. He would provide more information to Council as it came available.

Mayor O'Neil asked how the issues caused by the defective piping were manifesting throughout the school building. Mr. Duval confirmed the presence of

multiple leaks, including a substantial leak in the gymnasium.

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

1. City Manager Report

Ms. Murphy did not have anything to report to Council.

2. City Clerk Report

Ms. Pierce reviewed upcoming meetings with Council. She informed Council of communications she had received from other municipal clerks from communities in Alaska as their communities began the process of implementing mask mandates. She thanked Council and Unified Command for their timely efforts to keep the Valdez community safe.

3. City Attorney Report

Mr. Staser outlined projects and provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including the Alaska Trappers Association, Pacific Pile & Marine, and escaped property.

Mr. Staser reminded Council that Valdez is a home rule municipality and has the right to implement a mask mandate, where other communities in the state do not.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor O'Neil shared his experience with the virtual AML conference. He reminded Council the Governor would be unveiling his 2022 budget on December 18th.

Mayor O'Neil expressed his gratitude for all who were involved in the Tree Lighting Ceremony. He thanked the Parks & Recreation team for being willing and able to switch gears and put on an amazing event.

XI. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor O'Neil and Council Members congratulated Finance on their award, and thanked them for their efforts.

Council Member Fleming and Council Member Ruff thanked those who attended the Valdez Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Council Member Devens thanked the community for their willingness to set aside traditions and gatherings in light of the pandemic.

Council Member Love thanked the school district administrative staff for maintaining safe in person education options for students.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Council transitioned into executive session at 8:24 p.m.

XIII. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Council transitioned out of executive session at 9:30 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neil adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.