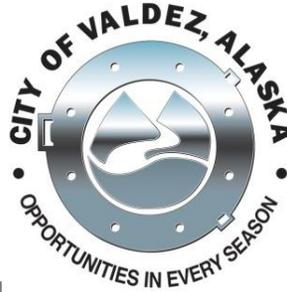


**City of Valdez**

212 Chenega Ave  
Valdez, AK 99686



**Minutes - Draft**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2018  
6:00 PM**

**Work Session (Providence Valdez Medical Center Contract) & Regular Meeting**

**Council Chambers**

**City Council**

**WORK SESSION AGENDA - 6:00 pm**

*Minutes not transcribed for work sessions. Audio available online or by request.*  
**Work Session: Providence Valdez Medical Center Operating Agreement**

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

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: 6 - Mayor Ruth E. Knight  
Council Member Christopher Moulton  
Council Member Lon Needles  
Council Member Jim Shirrell  
Council Member Dennis Fleming  
Council Member Darren Reese

Excused: 1 - Council Member Nate Smith

Also Present: 2 - City Manager Elke Doom  
Records Manager Shelley McMillen

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. **City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2018**
2. **City Council Special Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2018**

Minutes were approved as presented.

**V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

1. **Patricia Relay, VMHA Director Re: Disposal of F/V Perry Wheelhouse and Deck**

Ms. Patricia Relay, Valdez Museum and Historical Archive Director and Mr. Gary Minish, Vice President for the Valdez Museum Board, attended the Council meeting to answer questions regarding a letter the Valdez Museum had submitted about the pending disposal of the F/V Perry Wheelhouse and Deck. Mr. Minish said the Perry Wheelhouse was decaying and had become a safety hazard. Regrettably,

the Museum was forced to retire the F/V Perry from the collection due to the high costs of storing and refurbishing the item. He said it would cost roughly \$10,000 to bring the item back to a refurbished standard. Mayor Knight clarified the storage for the item was paid through 2018. Mr. Minish confirmed this as correct.

Council Member Reese asked where the connex was being stored. Ms. Relay replied the Wheelhouse was not in a connex. It was being stored at Mr. Rodney Walters', a Valdez resident, private shop. She explained the cost of dismantling, storing, and mitigating the lead paint for the Wheelhouse had been around \$25,000 to date. Mayor Knight asked what the Museum planned to do with the boat. Mr. Minish said it could either be brought to the City landfill for disposal or Mr. Walters could retain it. Mayor Knight replied she was comfortable with Mr. Walters retaining the artifact. Council Member Reese agreed. It was determined some type of compensation would be required if the City were to give Mr. Walters the Wheelhouse, in the form of a dollar paid by Mr. Walters. Mayor Knight asked to whom Mr. Walters would be required to pay the dollar, the Valdez Museum or the City. Ms. Relay replied technically the entire collection was owned by the City. Mayor Knight said if Mr. Walters chose to keep the F/V Perry Wheelhouse and Deck, he would need to pay one dollar to Mr. Brian Carlson, City Finance Director. Mayor Knight asked if the transaction needed to be voted on as an action item. It was determined a formal vote was unnecessary. Council Member Shirrell clarified since this was a sales agreement, the liability would be transferred as well. Mr. Minish agreed to draw up the sales agreement. Mayor Knight thanked Mr. Walters for taking custody of the F/V Perry.

## **2. Russ Blacker - Frontier Assisted Living**

Mr. Russ Blacker, Real Estate Manager from Frontier Assisted Living, gave a PowerPoint presentation proposing the development of an assisted living home in Valdez. He explained he operates a similar home in Fairbanks, Alaska and was hoping to develop a model for use in Valdez. He claimed there was a void of assisted living services currently available in Alaska to help elderly residents who need caretaking. He presented statistics showing a dramatic increase in the senior aged population at the national and state level in the coming decades. His preliminary research showed there were roughly 50-60 residents in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area that currently need assisted living care but cannot receive it due to high cost and lack of availability. His design proposed a 10-12 bed facility, with the potential for expansion. The facility would provide private suites with kitchenettes and have a graduated scale of care as needed. He showed photos of the potential design. He reviewed some barriers to developing the home, including high building costs and

specialized personnel requirements.

Council Member Fleming requested a copy of Mr. Blacker's presentation. Council Member Shirrell said he liked the project concept but wanted to ensure that Mr. Blacker had equity in the project before moving forward. Mr. Blacker replied he wanted to fund the project through a SBA loan and then transfer responsibility to the City to lease the property. Council Member Shirrell clarified Mr. Blacker intended to build the home with a loan, and then have the City purchase the building and rent it back to Mr. Blacker's company. Mr. Blacker replied this was the case. Council Member Shirrell reiterated he wanted to see Mr. Blacker invest money into the project. Mayor Knight said she wanted to see Mr. Blacker explore the feasibility of the project further with City administration and develop a plan to present to Council.

Council Member Moulton questioned Mr. Blacker's assertion that Valdez should be a retirement destination. Mr. Blacker replied this was due to its critical access hospital and stunning natural beauty. Council Member Moulton asked how many people would use the proposed assisted living home. Mr. Blacker replied it would be 10 or 12 residents. Council Member Moulton said branding Valdez as a retirement community was problematic due to the lack of motor scooter access in the winter months, coupled with the harsh winter weather. He pointed out the City already had initiatives in place to assist senior or retired residents, such as tax exemptions and the Energy Assistance Program. Council Member Moulton stated construction of the home would also have to follow Davis Bacon laws, increasing costs. Mr. Blacker said he hoped to find a way around being required to use Davis Bacon laws.

Council Member Shirrell asked what the approximate cost for a tenant of the facility would be per month. Mr. Blacker replied Medicaid residents would pay around \$1,200/month, with an additional \$153 contributed from the State. Private residents would pay \$6,500- \$8,500 per month. Council Member Shirrell asked how the costs to build Mr. Blacker's Fairbanks assisted living home had been managed. Mr. Blacker replied the facility in Fairbanks was constructed from a repurposed mental health facility. Council Member Fleming asked why Mr. Blacker was not seeking to expand in Fairbanks. Mr. Blacker replied that he was. Mayor Knight suggested Mr. Blacker communicate with Providence hospital administrators since they had already done the research on an assisted living expansion project for Providence Hospital and had developed rough estimates of the projected costs.

### **3. Kimley-Horn Re-Visioning Project**

Mr. Keith Pelan, Kimley-Horn representative, provided an update on the company's rebranding initiatives to date. He provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the

work that had been accomplished thus far, and the initiative's next steps. He said the company had been meeting with various community groups and individuals to discuss what they would like to see developed in Valdez. He explained the research and community outreach phase of the project would continue until September 2018 when the Comprehensive Plan would begin being drafted. He added the Comprehensive Plan would include several categories of information, including development challenges and opportunities in Valdez. He announced the upcoming workshop at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Valdez High School and invited Council and the listening public. Mr. Pelan said Kimley-Horn hoped to hear from some of the community members that they had not yet connected with. Mr. Pelan explained he and Ms. Martha Barberio, City Economic Development Director, were proposing a shift in mission of the City's Economic Diversification Commission to include a Valdez Vision Advisory Committee to inform the Kimley-Horn plan process. He said they were hoping to temporarily add six members to supplement and diversify the commission.

Mayor Knight said it was the first time she had heard of the workshop event at the High School on Thursday evening. Mr. Pelan replied Kimley-Horn had provided the advertisement to the City and that administration was responsible for posting it to the City's Facebook page or other advertising platforms. Mayor Knight asked when the flyers had been sent to the City. Mr. Nick Chen, Kimley-Horn AICP representative, said they were provided to the City three weeks prior to the event. Mayor Knight asked who was on the branding subcommittee besides the Ms. Doom, Ports and Harbor Director Mr. Jeremy Talbott, and Ms. Barberio. Ms. Doom replied Ms. Laurine Regan from the Valdez Visitor's and Convention Bureau was also on the subcommittee.

Council Member Moulton asked who they proposed adding to the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Pelan replied Mr. Grant Uren, Ms. Jessica McKay, Mr. Jack Shelton, Ms. Mo Radotich, Ms. Jenna Compehos, and Mr. Paul Pleiss had been selected. There was uncertainty as to whether or not those individuals had been formally contacted regarding their appointments. Council Member Fleming asked when the flyer was sent out to the community about the Kimley-Horne workshop. Mr. Pelan reiterated they had provided it to the City three weeks prior to the event. It was determined that the event had been advertised on the City Facebook page. Mayor Knight said that it was important to advertise in the newspaper and on the radio as well, since some residents did not use Facebook. Council Member Fleming requested any subsequent events and workshops be advertised in the newspaper and on the radio. He asked how many people had attended the previous Kimley-Horn workshop held that afternoon. Mr. Pelan replied the business owner's meeting had 12

attendees, which was more than expected.

## VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Jeremy O'Neil, Providence Valdez Medical Center Administrator, announced the Providence Health Advisory Council would be hosting a screening of the movie *Resilience* at 5:30 p.m. on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Civic Center. He explained the film detailed significant research linking childhood trauma and abuse to the development of chronic disease later in life. He said he hoped the listening public and Council would attend.

Ms. Lee Hart from the Valdez Adventure Alliance announced the demographic statistics from the recent 2018 Ice Climbing Festival, noting that attendees were nearly 50/50 male and female and highlighting some of the successes of the event. Ms. Hart was pleased to announce the women's climb raised \$1,070 to contribute to Advocates for Victims of Violence.

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval to Purchase a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD Crew Cab 4x4 Truck and Accessories from Alaska Sales and Service in the Amount of \$65,366.52 (This item was moved to New Business #5.)**

Council Member Moulton asked if this item was included in the City budget. Mr. Rob Comstock, Public Works Director, replied it was included in the budget. Council Member Reese stated he wanted to discuss the purchase of the 2018 Chevrolet truck before voting. Mayor Knight said Council would pull that item from the Consent Agenda and place it under New Business #5 for discussion.

2. **Approval to Purchase a 2018 906M Loader and Accessories from NC Machinery in the Amount of \$112,641.00**
3. **Appointment to Regional Citizens' Advisory Council Board of Directors – Dorothy M. Moore**
4. **Approval to Go Into Executive Session Regarding Pending Litigation Strategy**
5. **Proclamation: Earthquake Memorial Day**

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

Yays: 6 - Mayor Knight, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles,  
Council Member Shirrell, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Reese

Absent: 1 - Council Member Smith

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS****1. Discussion Item: Information Technology Services Department**

*(This item was pulled from the agenda as the presenter was unable to make it to the meeting).*

**2. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Arcadis US, Inc. for the Hospital Oxygen Generator Project in the Amount of \$72,143.00**

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve the agreement for Professional Services with Arcadis US, Inc. for the Hospital Oxygen Generator Project in the amount of \$72,143.00. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

Council Member Reese stated he appreciated that the City's project managers would be working with Arcadis and was pleased to see a cooperation stipulation included in the contract. He said he felt it was a valuable training opportunity for the City's project managers. Mr. Nathan Duval, Capital Facilities Director, explained that working alongside the contractors alleviates field burden for the City's project managers.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

Yays: 6 - Mayor Knight, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles,  
Council Member Shirrell, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Reese

Absent: 1 - Council Member Smith

**3. Approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Arcadis US, Inc. for the**

**HHES Exterior Upgrades Project in the Amount of \$99,005.00**

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve the Professional Services agreement with Arcadis US, Inc. for the HHES Exterior Upgrades Project in the amount of \$99,005.00. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

Mr. Duval clarified the three included items were one contract, but for ease of management had been separated into three separate resolutions. He explained none of the items met the threshold required for Council approval, but were presented for discussion anyway. Council Member Fleming asked how building upgrades for the schools were determined, and if there was a formula to assess lifecycle replacement. Mr. Duval replied most of the lifecycle assessment and maintenance was managed by the facilities department at the schools. He remarked that he would continue to advocate for upgrades to the Hermon Hutchens Elementary school to increase energy efficiency. Council Member Shirrell asked why Mr. Duval stated the contracts did not require Council approval. Mr. Duval said that if they each came as separate contracts, they would each be less than \$100,000 threshold for professional services agreements. Council Member Shirrell said that the \$100,000 threshold had not been approved. Mr. Duval apologized and said he stood corrected.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

Yays: 6 - Mayor Knight, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Reese

Absent: 1 - Council Member Smith

**4. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Arcadis US, Inc. for the Valdez City Schools ADA Project in the Amount of \$84,233.00**

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Arcadis US, Inc. for the Valdez City Schools ADA Project in the amount of \$84,233.00. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

Mr. Duval explained this contract would provide renovations to the elementary school locker room, one of the bathrooms at the elementary school, and one of the bathrooms in the high school. He explained it would bring both the elementary school and the second floor of the high school into ADA compliance. It did not, however, address other bathrooms at the facilities. Council Member Moulton asked if the end goal was to have every bathroom ADA accessible at both facilities. Mr. Duval replied there were several other

areas that needed to be addressed in order to make both facilities fully accessible. Council Member Needles asked if the upgrades with this resolution would bring the facilities into federal ADA compliance. Mr. Duval replied the work included in this contract would bring the City into compliance with federal ADA requirements for both facilities, but emphasized that more needed to be done to reasonably accommodate disabled community members.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Knight, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Reese

Absent: 1 - Council Member Smith

**5. Approval to Purchase a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD Crew Cab 4x4 Truck and Accessories from Alaska Sales and Service in the Amount of \$65,366.52**

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve the purchase of a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD Crew Cab 4x4 Truck from Alaska Sales and Service including accessories from various suppliers and travel expenses in the amount of \$65,366.52. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

Council Member Reese asked if this purchase would replace an Expedition cruiser that was currently operational. Chief Hinkle replied that it was in lieu of a Tahoe. Council Member Reese asked how many trucks the Valdez Police Department currently operated. Chief Hinkle replied that there were none in the department's fleet. Council Member Reese asked why the department was interested in adding one at this time. Chief Hinkle explained it was intended to add some versatility and towing power to the fleet. He added the truck could easily be repurposed for use in a different City department, whereas an additional cruiser could not.

Chief Hinkle explained a truck could also be useful in the event of needing to transport a moose or bear. Mr. Comstock explained that normally the City would send a loader to move a bear or moose. Council Member Reese asked if there were containers that would be included in the bed of the truck. Mr. Comstock replied there were boxes going into the side of the bed.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Knight, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell, Council Member Fleming and Council Member

Reese

Absent: 1 - Council Member Smith

## IX. RESOLUTIONS

### 1. #18-10 - Authorizing a Land Use Permit with Pacific Pile & Marine for Tract G, Harbor Subdivision

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve Resolution #18-10 authorizing a temporary six month land use permit with Pacific Pile & Marine for Tract G, Harbor Subdivision. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

Council Member Reese said he was surprised by the lack of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) included in the contract. Mr. Duval replied SWPPP provisions were included in the contract, just not specifically in the permit documents. Council Member Reese asked what the protocol was for removing material from the road. Mr. Duval replied the majority would be handled by a street sweeper. Mr. Ron Rozak, construction manager for the new harbor project, explained the contractor had assured the City that there would be an independent sweeper to avoid having the City clean the streets, as had been the case several years prior. He said there was a meeting scheduled for Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. with City staff, contractors, and stakeholders, to discuss the specificities. Council Member Reese stated he did not want to see the Streets Department having to clean the streets to help when the contractor was being paid to accomplish SWPPP. Council Member Shirrell seconded Council Member Reese's concerns, and said he felt the City should not assist the contractor unless they billed them for the service. He added the contractor needed to be responsible for filling any potholes or clearing any streets mess they make during the course of the project. Mr. Rozak said their intention was to create as little disruption as possible and use City resources only as a backup.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Knight, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Reese

Absent: 1 - Council Member Smith

### 2. #18-11 - Authorizing the City Clerk to Dispose of Certain City Records

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve Resolution No. 18-11 authorizing the City Clerk to dispose of certain City records.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Knight, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Reese

Absent: 1 - Council Member Smith

## X. REPORTS

### 1. Report: Official Qualified Candidates - 2018 Regular Municipal Election

Mayor Knight asked if the list of candidates was available on the City website or City Facebook page. Council Member Reese replied the list did not appear to be posted yet. Mayor Knight wished everyone good luck in the campaign and reminded the listening public that the last day to register to vote would be April 1<sup>st</sup>. She urged the public to register and vote if they were 18 years of age or older.

### 2. Report Regarding the Stop Work Order for Geeks in the Woods at 5440 Kodiak Cove

Mayor Knight thanked Community Development for the report. Council Member Shirrell said he did not feel the City was at fault for the situation. He asked if the City had reached out to Mr. Lee Brown and Mr. Lucas Brown to convey to them what had transpired.

Mr. Paul Nylund, Interim Community Development Director, said he had spoken to Ms. Camille Sutherland, executive assistant to Geeks in the Woods, and was pleased to report she was happy with the way that the City handled the matter. He stated he received the company's application for subdivision the day prior and said it would on the April 13<sup>th</sup> Planning and Zoning Commission meeting agenda for review. Mr. Nylund said the Geeks in the Woods engineer was pleased with the progress as well. He said he asked their engineer if there was anything the City was doing to delay their development and the engineer stated no.

Mayor Knight asked if the fines that were levied were flat rate or \$300 per day. Mr. Nylund clarified the fine was not per day. However, if the company were to continue to

work, the City would fine them again. Council Member Reese asked if the fines had been waived to date. Mr. Nylund replied the Community Development Department had not yet received the completed building application from Geeks in the Woods. As soon as it was received, they would have complied with the conditions of the stop work order. Council Member Reese asked if the company had an approximate timeline for when that would be accomplished. Mr. Nylund replied the department should have the completed application within a week or so. He explained Community Development was waiting on some basic information from the engineer about the plumbing and the electrical plans.

**3. Report: Kimley-Horn Re-Visioning Project**

*(This item was moved up to Public Appearances, item #3.)*

**4. Report: Status of City/School Health Plan Annual Renewal**

Mr. Carlson explained the restructuring of the City health insurance plan. He said Ms. Colleen Savoy, Representative from Parker, Smith & Feek had called in to the meeting to answer any of Council's questions about the new broker contract. Mr. Carlson explained the City health plan renews annually on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The plan is composed of four contracts, one of which was with Parker, Smith & Feek. Mr. Carlson said the third party contract with Meritain was unchanged from last year, except for enabling a "bridge health" program, making out of network services available to recipients. Mr. Carlson said he would have the case manager medical rehabilitation consultants and Meritain contracts on the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Council agenda. However, the deadline for decision is April 1<sup>st</sup>. He said Council could either set up a special meeting to vote on the contracts, or "bind" the contract prior to approval, something he said was fairly common. He asked Council which option they would be most comfortable with, pre-binding or coordinating a special meeting.

Council Member Shirrell asked Mr. Carlson if the total cost of the plan had changed from last year. Mr. Carlson replied there had been a shift, with healthcare costs for the school district being lower, but higher for City employees. Overall, he said the City is faced with a 14 percent increase over the prior plan year. He explained this increase was the primary reason for engaging Parker, Smith & Feek to analyze the program structure. Council Member Shirrell asked how much an increase of 14 percent represented. Mr. Carlson replied that the total increase was around \$350,000 per year. Council Member Shirrell asked what the increase was for employees. Mr. Carlson replied that it was approximately \$14 per month. Council Member Shirrell asked if there was any degradation of services until the plan renewal. Mr. Carlson said it could be characterized as a status quo plan renewal. Council Member Shirrell said he was comfortable with binding over. Council Member Moulton agreed as well, but said he

wanted to discuss the figure increase. He pointed out this was not the first time Council had been asked to approve the City's healthcare plan on unreasonably short notice, not allowing time to discuss and explore options. Mr. Carlson apologized and said he promised to move the City in a better direction with respect to the healthcare objectives. Mayor Knight thanked Ms. Savoy and Mr. Carlson.

## **6. Report: Prince William Sound Aquaculture Spring Board Meeting**

There was no discussion on this report.

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

### **1. City Manager Report**

Ms. Doom said she had attended the Juneau lobbying session, and met with Alaska Senator Mr. Mike Shower, Representative Mr. George Rauscher, ADEC Commissioner Mr. Larry Hardig, and Mr. Andy Mack from the Department of Natural Resources to discuss issues that are important to Valdez. Ms. Doom invited everyone to the community workshop at 6:30 Thursday March with Kimley-Horn representatives Mr. Pelan and Mr. Chen.

Ms. Doom said the New Harbor Project staff meetings were back in full swing with a tentative project completion date of late fall 2018. Ms. Doom said she met with the City Employee Relations Team to hear their thoughts and concerns, and would be delegating updates to the City Personnel Regulations Manual to Assistant City Manager Mr. Phil Miller. Ms. Doom said she attended a U.S. Coast Guard meeting to discuss oil spill response and prevention. She said the recent City Flood Task Force meeting was informative, and included discussion about the city's long term flooding issues. She said the conversation would always be at the forefront of Valdez's community safety concerns.

Ms. Doom announced the City would be interviewing for the vacant community development director position throughout the week and was hoping to hire by the beginning of the following week. She said after the director was hired, the City would begin to look at developing a code compliance officer position. Human Resources Director Mr. Tim James said that in his research, he found most community development departments around the country have a code compliance officer, with a large education component to their role.

### **2. City Clerk Report**

Mayor Knight read a note from the City Clerk stating she would be back in the office Thursday morning.

### **3. City Attorney Report**

Mr. Wakefield covered three cases that had changed since the last time his firm had presented to Council. Regarding the state tax cap matter, Mr. Wakefield said his firm submitted a written guidance to the state assessors. Mr. Wakefield said the assessor had acknowledged receiving the statement, but the City was still waiting on his reply.

Regarding the Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas line project, Mr. Wakefield said City Attorney Mr. Jake Staser would be attending a teleconference on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's request to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation requesting more data on their plan. Mr. Staser submitted some proposed revisions to municipal procurement code that afternoon and hoped to have revisions to the appeals and the enforcement sections for the Planning and Zoning commission review.

### **4. City Mayor Report**

Mayor Knight said she also attended the Juneau lobbying session from March 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and provided a brief synopsis of the trip. She said she met with City lobbyist Mr. Kim Hutchinson and Mr. Rauscher. Mayor Knight spoke highly of Mr. Rauscher's assistant Mr. Darrell Breese, saying he was extremely helpful and knowledgeable. She suggested that if anyone needed information, to contact Mr. Breese.

Mayor Knight said lunch with SHARPS III Administrator, Robert Sewell PhD, was a highlight of the trip. Mr. Sewell educated the City representatives on the SHARPS III program. He would be calling into the Providence Health Advisory Council meeting to explain the program to the committee. Council Member Moulton asked if Mr. Sewell was a state employee. Mayor Knight replied he was a state employee. Mr. Sewell had articulated the importance of developing an incentive program to bring medical personnel to rural communities and felt that SHARPS III could serve as that program. However, the initiative was unlikely to move forward in 2018 due to timing of the legislative session.

Mayor Knight said City representatives also met with Senator Shower to discuss issues important to Valdez. Mayor Knight said the City met with Mr. Mack to discuss flooding and gravel issues. The City delegation requested he examine the options for Lowe River gravel extraction and the possibility of filling up the 12 mile pit with the gravel that

would be removed from the river. Mayor Knight added they also met with Governor Walker, his Deputy Commissioners, and Chief of Staff Mr. John Hozey.

Mayor Knight mentioned the need to resurrect the Mayor's Task Force on Hospital Expansion. She briefly discussed her experience with this year's Mayor's Cup Snowmachine Race.

## **XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Member Shirrell remarked that Senator Shower seemed receptive to the concerns of the public and resolving the State's revenue challenges. He pointed out that as Mr. Sewell and Mayor Knight indicated, without a 2018 bill the SHARPS III program would not come to fruition. He said he felt the program has merit, but not if it was never developed. Council Member Shirrell restated the need to examine a use for the \$50,000 in trust for SHARPS III. He said rather than holding it for a program that does not exist, it should be allocated to community organizations that have positive impact on local health and wellbeing.

Council Member Fleming was disheartened to have missed the Kimley-Horn workshop event and felt it was poorly advertised. He said he was disappointed about the amount of money Council had spent on the Kimley-Horn project, only to have poor publicity. He was pleased to announced that both boys and girls basketball teams had made it to the State championships. Mayor Knight added the high school cheerleading team was competing in regional championships as well.

Council Member Reese congratulated everyone running for Council, School Board and Mayor in the upcoming election. He said he only had two Council meetings remaining to his term and encouraged the public to vote. He reminded the public of the deadlines for voter registration and absentee voting.

Council Member Moulton said he and Council Member Fleming were interested in having a discussion item for the yellow museum annex building before moving forward with the Kelsey Dock project. He felt there were creative alternatives to demolishing a necessary storage space and secondary museum location which would be more cost effective. He suggested it would be counterintuitive to fail to utilize existing storage when storage was a concern for the City. He requested a discussion item on the museum annex for the next Council meeting. He seconded Council Member Fleming's concern that the Kimley-Horn event had been poorly publicized and said he did not want to see that happen in the future.

Mayor Knight said that the Alaska Small Business group would be hosting their last two

business classes in Valdez on Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> on advertising and e-commerce. Council Member Moulton suggested City administration attend in order to develop better advertising strategies. Finally, Mayor Knight was pleased to announce Coach Todd Wegner was given the Coach of the Year award for the State of Alaska.

### **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

City Council transitioned into Executive session at 9:00 p.m.

### **XIV. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

City Council returned from Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Knight adjourned the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

DRAFT