

Since our last Council meeting on July 18-

- The City Manager called and gave me the great news that the state had confirmed we could use the Kelsey Dock Uplands grant funds for the relocation of the Pipeline Worker's statue along with interpretive signage. I look forward to seeing this project completed in the near future and want to thank the capital facilities and economic development departments for all of their efforts on this project.
- The CVEA work session on July 20 was very well attended and much information sharing and gathering occurred. Thank you to the CVEA Board and staff who attended and had taken time to prepare the presentation. I would like to see this type of work session at least on a semi-annual basis and encourage the Port Director, Economic Development Director, Capital Facilities Director and Public Works Director to schedule a meeting with CVEA COO Travis Million after budgets and future work schedules have been determined. Keeping an open dialogue will only help Valdez find answers to our power concerns and allow CVEA to plan ahead.
- On Friday the 21st, Councilman Reese and I had time to meet with the City Manager to catch up on the projects and staffing that have been occurring. Things never slow down in this wonderful city!
- On Monday, July 24 the School Board held a quick meeting. They will be starting a superintendent search in coming months, since this is Mr. Nygaard's final year with us. If you know of anyone who would be a good leader for our schools, please let them know about this opportunity. The VHS gym floor is down and gorgeous and the underground fuel tank at HHES is being taken care of this week.
- I was able to attend the "Ocean Tuesday" workshop on July 25th, which is Alaska's attempt to get people interested and involved in developing our Blue Ocean Economy. The event was held statewide and PWSC hosted it with their video conferencing set-up. Mike Wells was the linchpin for this effort and I would like to thank him and Dan O'Connor for making sure Valdez was involved. It was attended by groups in Petersburg, Juneau, Valdez, Homer, Kodiak, Bethel, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. The presenters included innovators from Norway, United Kingdom, Maine, and Anchorage. We then had time to discuss our local challenges and opportunities for entrepreneurs in Valdez to capture more value out of our ocean resources. Each community reported out and we were asked to try and figure out ways for Alaskans to overcome the challenges and start capitalizing on this wonderful resource that is barely tapped. There will be more of these workshops in the future.
- During the workshop, I was called by the City Clerk and told that Glacier Stream was once again threatening property and that the Public Works and Capital Facilities Directors needed me to sign an emergency declaration for work to begin to mitigate the threat. The City Manager, Economic Development Director and I were taken to see the threat and I later signed the declaration. I did insist that a statement be put in that said, "due to the lack of timeliness by DNR to let permits out for work on Glacier Stream" this situation has occurred. If we had had the permits in hand when the original diversion dike was installed, the 4 kicker dikes would have been built and this emergency would have been avoided. The adverse effects of the state budget cuts are being realized by our City and I do not appreciate it.
- The afternoon of the 25th, I attended the Prince William Sound Economic Development District teleconference meeting. We elected Mike Wells as our new board member to replace Dave Dengel and have decided to hold a special membership meeting on November 10th in Anchorage to look at restructuring the by-laws and timing of meetings to better meet the membership needs.
- I also attended an PWSRCAC Information and Education committee teleconference meeting that same evening. Much good activity is happening with our communities' youths and educators to

make them aware of our environment and KACAC's mission to keep transportation on oil safe in the Sound. Look to see them at a booth during Gold Rush.

- On July 27th, Alyeska hosted their 40th anniversary celebration. This was well-attended and I hope to be around for the 80th anniversary.
- The rodeo came to town, set up on the park strip, and was attended with much greater numbers than I had predicted. P&R named it the "Black Gold" rodeo, which is fitting in many ways. The City Clerk and I were asked to ride and we accepted. This took us back to our younger days when we were both "cow chicks". It ran the 28th – 30th and I will be interested to see if it was profitable enough to return in the future.
- The 1st annual Community Playground work day happened on Saturday the 29th. A new music component was added, minor maintenance was done and fun was had by all. The Playground Committee would like to again thank the City for their contribution to the playground effort.
- Monday, July 31 was the Beautification Task Force meeting. Thank you to Ms. Barberio for taking the staff lead since Mr. Wegner left. The banners were installed before Gold Rush! There were reports given on the statue relocation, the matching grant program and a possible new program to beautify utility boxes.
- Even if the sun has only graced our town for several of the days this season, our community still knows how to enjoy summer... The fish are in, people are enjoying the outdoors/wildlife, and life is good.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruthie Knight".

Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez