

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

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: 6 - Mayor Dennis Fleming
Mayor Pro Tem Austin Love
Council Member Alan Sorum
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Olivia Foster
Council Member Joseph Lally

Excused: 1 - Council Member Sharon Scheidt

Also Present: 4 - City Manager John Douglas
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk
Assistant City Manager Bart Hinkle
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of City Council Minutes from August 21, 2024

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Faith Harris, Executive Director of Discover Valdez, provided an update to Council on 2024 operations.

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Proclamation: Recognizing Karen Feero Retirement**
- 2. Proclamation: Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**
- 3. Acceptance of Resignation Letter from Deborah Plant - PVMC
Community Advisory Council- Effective July 11, 2024**
- 4. Appointment to the Providence Valdez Medical Center Community Advisory
Council, Applicant: Dennis Humphrey**
- 5. Acceptance of Resignation Letter for Economic Diversification Commissioner
Mercedes Blancaflor**

6. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: Alderwood Litigation Strategy and Settlement Discussions

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens, Foster and Lally

Absent: 1 - Scheidt

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. ORDINANCES

1. #24-11 - Amending Chapter 1.08 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled General Penalty. Second Reading. Adoption.

MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to Approve Ordinance 24-11 in second reading for adoption.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens, Foster and Lally

Absent: 1 - Scheidt

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. #24-36 - Establishing Physician Recruitment Program and Rescinding Resolution No. 18-20

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve resolution 24-36.

Council Member Love asked if local physicians had provided input on the resolution. City Attorney Jake Staser stated input was received from Council, the Clerk's Office, and Providence.

City Clerk Pierce noted the resolution was on the agenda in anticipation of a new full time physician joining Providence in September.

Council Member Foster expressed concern over the success of the program regarding retention, and the City's involvement with Providence in this manner. She noted a doctor who had received the subsidy had already left the community.

Capital Facilities Director Duval outlined the history of the program.

Council Member Love expressed concern about the effectiveness of the program.

Council Members Devens and Sorum shared their support of the program.

City Clerk Pierce stated it would be possible to postpone to the next meeting to receive additional information from Providence if Council desired.

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Sorum, to postpone Resolution 24-36 to the next regular meeting.

Council Member Devens voiced concern over the start date of the most recently recruited physician and the impact on their access to the program.

VOTE ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens, Foster and Lally

Absent: 1 - Scheidt

MOTION CARRIED.

X. REPORTS

- 1. Report: Issuance of Temporary Land Use Permit #24-09 for Wilson Brothers Distributing for Six Months, for a 1.44-acre portion of 226 S Harbor Drive, Tract G, Harbor Subdivision**

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

1. City Manager Report

City Manager Douglas asked if Council was interested in forwarding an official recommendation regarding the essential air service via resolution at the next upcoming regular meeting. Council Members Foster and Devens volunteered to form a subcommittee.

Director Duval provided an oral capital projects update.

2. City Clerk Report

Deputy Clerk Sorum-Birk reviewed the upcoming Council calendar.

3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Staser provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including escaped property, C-Plan, Alderwood, and TAPS Ad Valorem.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Fleming reminded those listening the Chugach Naswik building would be holding their grand opening September 5th.

XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council thanked Jason Weber, Kate Huber, and Nate Duval for representing the community well in the Alaska Public Media article addressing Valdez housing.

Council thanked Bettisworth North and staff for the recommendation for the childcare facility at Herman Hutchens Elementary School.

Council congratulated Karen Feero on her retirement.

Council Member Foster invited those listening to attend the upcoming Sound Wellness Alliance Network's Wellness Symposium.

Council Member Lally thanked Faith Harris and Kevin Reeves for the update and presentation on the Valdez Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**XIV. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION****XV. ADJOURNMENT****XVI. APPENDIX**

- 1. September 2024 City Council Calendar**
- 2. Legal Billing Summary - July 2024**