

## Mayor's Report – for the April 3, 2018 Council meeting

Since our last Council meeting on March 20:

- The Health Advisory Council met on March 21<sup>st</sup>, we had Dr. Robert Sewell educate us on the SHARP program, its history and what SHARP 3 would do for our community. We also looked over the draft Community Health Indicators and were asked to give input.
- On March 21<sup>st</sup>, the school district convened a Preschool Committee to discuss and help design a recommendation for a full day, universal PreK program. This is an important item for the City to stay aware of and involved in since having consistent and enough education and care for our youngest citizens is a big factor for young families choosing Valdez as their home.
- PVMC hosted a screening of the documentary Resilience at the theater on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and a panel discussion followed. There were about 80 people in attendance. I greatly appreciate the efforts of all the caregivers and educators to have us understand the importance of how adverse childhood events (ACES) affect us as a society and what we can do about it.
- Elke and I met on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Councilmen Needles and Reese were also present. We discussed the SHARP 3 program and the idea of Valdez creating their own program to incentivize doctors to move to Valdez. The idea is that M.D.s would move and stay in Valdez for a certain amount of time providing care to our community in exchange for getting their loans repaid. Elke was asked to take this to our Assistant City Manager, Finance Director, and Legal to see if such a program could be developed and run by the City without having the doctors who received the loan repayment have to pay taxes on it. We have also set a work session on Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. to discuss our City IT Department and this Medical Professional Incentive.
- I attended the School Board meeting on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. There was much discussion on the Breakfast Program and the Board gave their consent to have the stop loss carrier changed for the employee health insurance program.
- We had a Beautification Task Force meeting at noon on the 27<sup>th</sup> since the 26<sup>th</sup> was Seward's Day (hope those who had the day off enjoyed it). We discussed the 5 business applications for the matching grant funds and decided to rank those, but to have a second round to allow for those that missed the first deadline. We also discussed developing a Long Range Plan.
- The 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Alaska Earthquake was on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Our local chapter of the Pioneers of Alaska did a wonderful job hosting the annual Earthquake Memorial on the City (Kelsey) Dock at 5:27 p.m. I would like to recognize Jim Gifford, Suzie Koklich, and Dan Stowe for their efforts and give my condolences to the families of those lost.
- I was able to participate HHES's celebration week by being one of the readers during the Food for Thought evening literacy event on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The March 30<sup>th</sup> assembly and reception capped the week off with a flare! Congratulations to the

HHES staff for being awarded the title of a National Title 1 school, only two schools from Alaska were selected. We are very lucky to have such good educators and education facilities in our City.

- On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the PWSEDD met and discussed the ongoing economic initiatives and the ferry summit that will be happening in Cordova on April 4. I hope Elke and Jeremy will be able to attend.
- The 29<sup>th</sup> was the third meeting of the Valdez Prevention Coalition, which is funded by a state grant to help Valdez develop ways to prevent violence in our community at all levels. This is a very involved group of citizens representing much of Valdez.
- I have had communication with Dr. Sewell, Mr. Tom Chard, Senators Shower, Representatives Spohnholz and Rauscher regarding figuring out how to get SHARP3 off the ground this year.
- I also received notice that the Secure Rural Schools (Timber Receipts) funding was included and passed in the omnibus bill that the president did sign. This is a very sizable amount of federal funding that had been done away with last year. Mr. Alan Sorum had been working with the SRS national coalition to get it refunded. The City and the Schools are very thankful to have these funds back in our budgets.
- Mr. Werthmann of the PEW Trust, who has been working to secure more federal funding for flood control, which we supported, sent me great news also regarding the Omnibus bill, stating:  
“Pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) will increase to \$249 million, \$149 million more than last year’s amount. And mapping/risk assessment will go up to \$263 million, an \$85 million-dollar increase from last year. These are the largest increases in ten years for these programs.”
- The final wonderful communication I received was from Dave Mitchell of the Great Land Trust. “As you know, in November the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council approved funding for the acquisition of Meals Hill along with additional funds for park development...PVC had some follow up questions that we have been working through with them and they are in the final stages of deliberation over our offer...”
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> is Career Fair Day at VHS, I hope everyone gets a chance to attend and to thank Mr. Woodgate and the VHS staff for making this happen again this year.
- The agenda overview meeting with the City Manager, the Clerk, and the City Attorney will happen at 11:30, April 3<sup>rd</sup> before the Council meeting.
- I hope everyone had a peaceful Easter/April Fool’s Day and that April will bring us a beautiful Spring.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez