

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

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 Sharon Scheidt  
Council Member Jimmy Devens  
Council Member Joseph Lally
- Absent: 1 - Council Member Olivia Foster
- Also Present: 5 - City Clerk Sheri Pierce  
City Manager John Douglas  
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk  
Assistant City Manager Bart Hinkle  
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval

**IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

**1. Public Appearance: Kate Foster, Valdez Veterinary Services**

Foster provided a progress update on the new Veterinary Clinic on the old Pipeline Club property.

**2. Public Appearance: Zrinko Amerl, Steelhead Systems Inc. (East Peak Resort)**

Amerl provided an update on the East Peak Resort project.

**V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Tracy Gilson, Director of the Valdez Dance Company, shared the recent successes of her 4 competitive dance teams at two Alaska division competitions hosted by Starpower International and Canadian company 5678 Showtime. She reminded those listening to watch for upcoming fundraisers as the travel team would be going to New York in December to dance on Time Square.

Robin Capers, Valdez Adventure Alliance, thanked Council for their support and invited those listening to the Annual Fat Bike Bash.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Acceptance of Late File Application for 2025 Senior Citizen's Property Tax Exemption - Rebecca and Kenneth Tetz**
- 2. Approval of 2025 Community Purpose Property Tax Exemption Applications**

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

VOTE ON THE MOTION

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

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Appointment to VMHA Board of Directors - Applicants: Rachelle Barrus and Margaret Nordstrom**

After a tally of ballots by the Clerk, the following motion was made.

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to appoint Margaret Nordstrom to the VMHA Board of Directors.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

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

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

- 2. Discussion Item: Structure of Initial Memorandum of Agreement with Chugachmiut to Operate a Head Start Program in Future City Owned Child Care Facility**

Council Member Love shared his support of the communication between staff and Chugachmiut to make sure any needs are met.

Council Member Devens asked if the operation of the Head Start program inside of the city facility would in any way impact or cause detriment to the current operations in the facility. City Manager Douglas stated the facility was being designed to accommodate both operations.

Council Member Love requested additional clarification on the proposed program and expressed a desire for the infant age group to be served. Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk provided further explanation regarding what Chugachmiut believed they could provide with their services.

- 3. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Altman, Rogers &**

**Company for 2024 and 2025 Financial Audit**

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve the professional services agreement with Altman, Rogers & Company for the 2024 and 2025 Financial Audit.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

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

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

**4. Approval of Contract with Harris Sand & Gravel Inc. for Pavement Management Phase III-B Pioneer Drive in the Amount of \$2,586,057.50**

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Love moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve the contract with Harris sand & Gravel Inc. for Pavement Management Phase III-B Pioneer Drive in the amount of \$2,586,057.50.

Council Member Sorum stated he would like to see paving done in outlying subdivisions.

Council Member Love asked if there was scope change to the rural roads project with this change. City Manager Douglas explained he did not see a change, and they would look to backfill the funding at another time.

Council Member Love asked if repairing the bike path was included in the plan. Capital Facilities Director Duval stated it was not explicit in the scope but could be included.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

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

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

**5. Approval of Purchase of Volvo L30H Loader in the Amount of \$125,965.00**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve the purchase of a new Volvo L30H Loader including a 1-year warranty and delivery to the City of Valdez in the amount of \$125,965.00.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

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

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

**VIII. ORDINANCES**

- 1. #25-03 - Amending Chapter 3.30 Entitled Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Pipeline Transportation, and Spill Prevention and Response Property Tax. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt, to approve Ordinance 25-03 in second reading for adoption.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Lally  
Abstain: 1 - Fleming  
Absent: 1 - Foster  
MOTION CARRIED.

**IX. RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. #25-09 - Amending the 2025 Budget by Transferring \$600,000 in Previously Approved Appropriations from Rural Roads Project to Pavement Management Phase IV-V for Pioneer Drive Phase III-B Project**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve Resolution 25-09.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Lally  
Absent: 1 - Foster  
MOTION CARRIED.

- 2. #25-10 - Amending the 2025 City Budget by Accepting the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry 2025 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant in the Amount of \$9,900 and Authorizing Expenditure of the Same**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve Resolution 25-10.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Lally  
Absent: 1 - Foster  
MOTION CARRIED.

- 3. #25-11 - Authorizing the Valdez City Manager to Request and Pursue Federal Funding up to \$4,000,000 for the Permitting and Design of New Capital Waterfront Infrastructure in the Area Identified in the Valdez Comprehensive Waterfront Master Plan as Sea Otter Park**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve of Resolution 25-11.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

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

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

**4. #25-12 - Amending the Tax Calendar for the 2025 Tax Year and Repealing Resolution #24-53**

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution 25-12.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

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

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

**X. REPORTS**

**1. Report: Animal Shelter and Animal Control Statistics for 2024**

Council members commended the shelter on its operations and complimented the good work done by Animal Shelter staff and volunteers, as well as, the Friends of the Valdez Animal Shelter.

**2. Report: Implementation of "Valdez Fix It" Resident Reporting Initiative**

**3. Report: City of Valdez Grant Program**

**4. Report: Child Care Grant Status Update**

**5. Report: Results of Surplus Auction for 34 Pieces of Dens Deck Prime Fireguard Roof Boards**

**6. Procurement Report: PSA with Callan LLC for Permanent Fund Investment Service**

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

**1. City Manager Report**

City Manager Douglas reviewed his report, highlighting the Coast Guard Cutter.

**2. City Clerk Report**

City Clerk Pierce stated nominating petitions to run for office were available at the Clerk's Office and reviewed the upcoming Council calendar.

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

City Attorney Staser provided an update on cases his office was working on behalf of the city, including PERA and escaped property.

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

Mayor Fleming requested staff review the pavement plan to see if unpaved areas like 10 mile could be addressed, encouraged those listening to volunteer at the animal shelter, and shared what he was looking for at the upcoming work session on PERA.

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

Council Member Scheidt thanked staff for putting out the notices addressing the tax assessor's visit, and reminded Council CVEA would be attending in an upcoming work session and to reach out if there were any specific questions.

Council Member Lally thanked those who presented at the meeting.

Council Member Devens shared his appreciation for the animal shelter and encouraged volunteers to go in and visit the animals. He asked the public to reach out if they had any topics they would like Council to look into while in Juneau.

Council Member Sorum spoke on the National Forest, Counties, and Schools coalition's work on reauthorizing the Self Determination Act.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**