City Manager Report: Council Meeting 7/15/25



### **Council Priorities**

- Child Care [Complete an operating, active, licensed childcare facility by Fall 2026]
  - 65% design and construction estimate for D.O. move complete
  - College will be offering existing online classes locally for residents utilizing the THREAD scholarship funds. Looking into hosting on site in future years
- Housing [Increase housing stock by Fall 2027, utilizing the housing needs survey]
  - Scheduling meeting of the Subcommittee for July to review survey and prepare next steps
  - Spoke with College about opportunities for their Construction program. They are looking for a fixer upper to purchase with grant funds they received.
- Maintenance [Annually appropriate funds toward deferred maintenance on critical infrastructure]
  - Project status update on 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of every month
  - Objectives discussed in Directors' retreat
- Modernize Aging Infrastructure [Annually modernize aging infrastructure, while leveraging natural and transportation assets, to expand: Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, Maritime, Community]
  - Objectives discussed in Directors' retreat

## **Legislative Interactions**

- Coordinating next steps for Federal priorities related to recent Funding Bill
  - USCG received \$20+ Billion
- Need to pencil in date for fall DC trip (November?)
- August 20th is tentative date for legislative reception in Valdez

#### **Essential Air Service**

- EAS RFP issued. Responses Due 7/23/25
  - Order requiring RAVN to continue service through 10/31
- Communicating with other air carriers to explore options to fill the gap & respond to RFP

#### **Operations & Initiatives**

- Directors' retreat 7/10-11
- Thank you to staff that made 4<sup>th</sup> of July a huge success
- Cutter Black Tip arrived in Valdez 7/7





#### Personnel

- July 7<sup>th</sup> marked an official farewell and thank you to Ken Wilson PRCS Director and the beginning
  of the "official" tenure of Bridget Rich as the PRCS Director
- Completed the annual engagement survey. "positive" feedback increased. Working with the executive team to identify focus areas and strategies.
- Meeting with departments to make introductions and understand needs and align their priorities with Council

# **Projects**

- Meals Hill Ribbon Cutting tentatively to coincide with State Parks Conference in September, will be publicly available prior.
- Scrap Metal collection is on track to make a barge load. Alaska Scrap & Recycling will mobilize to Valdez next week to begin processing. Working with local commercial businesses to assist in their scrap removal.