

City of Valdez

*212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 4, 2025**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2025**
- 3. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 4, 2025**

Council Member Love asked that the following changes be made to the minutes:

For February 18, 2025:

Indicate under summary of Public Appearance that a request for funding of a study had been made by Zrinko Amerl of Steelhead Systems, Inc.

For March 4, 2025:

Under the agenda item for renewal of the City and School Health Benefit Plan reflects that Love expressed concerns about large cost increase and that Finance Director Jordan Nelson committed to a future work session with Council on the topic of healthcare costs.

Minutes were approve as corrected by consent.

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**1. Robbin Capers, VAA Secretary and Event Coordinator - Bike Bash**

Capers shared highlights of the recent Fat Bike Bash, and their use of city grant funds on the program, and effects on the local economy.

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**VII. CONSENT AGENDA****1. Appointment to Regional Citizens' Advisory Council Board of Directors
- Applicant: Amanda Bauer****2. Acceptance of Late File Application for 2025 Senior Citizen's Property
Tax Exemption - John Engles****3. Proclamation: 2025 Earthquake Remembrance Day**

MOTION: Council Member Devens 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.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS**1. Approval of Contract Award with Barnett Building LLC for Civic Center
Green Room Renovation in the Amount of \$701,840.00**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt, to approve a contract with Barnett Building LLC for the Civic Center Green Room Renovation project in the amount of \$701,840.00.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

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

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

**2. Approval of Purchase - 2025 Schwartz Model A7TE Tornado Street
Sweeper in the amount of \$396,328**

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve the purchase of a 2025 Schwartz Model A7TE Tornado Street

Sweeper.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

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

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Shared Service Agreement Between the City of Valdez, on Behalf of the Valdez Public Safety Dispatch Center, and the City of Whittier, Alaska on Behalf of the Whittier Department of Public Safety

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve the Shared Service Agreement between the between the City of Valdez, on behalf of the Valdez Public Safety Dispatch Center, and the City of Whittier, Alaska on behalf of the Whittier Department of Public Safety.

Council Member Love asked about revenues from the City of Whittier for the service. Police Chief Hinkle shared that this was a paid service with \$91,000 annual revenue.

Council Member Scheidt asks for confirmation of the Police Department's capacity to provide the service, which Hinkle confirmed.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

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

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Discussion Item: Work Session on Council Contingency

Council Member Love expressed his desire to discuss the following:

- History of the Council Contingency Reserve, including past usage
- Advantages vs Disadvantages of having a specific Council Contingency fund

City Clerk Pierce noted there were two Council Contingency funds, and she would outline what they had been used for in the past.

Council Member Sorum encouraged the work session to be scheduled for after the upcoming election.

Council Member Scheidt agreed it would be important for oncoming Council members to participate in the conversation.

Finance Director Jordan Nelson agreed a work session after the new Council was seated, possibly after the Strategic Planning session, about fund balance policy would be ideal.

IX. ORDINANCES

1. #25-04 - Amending Chapter 10.20 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled Recreational Vehicle Parks and Tent Camping. First Reading. Public Hearing.

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Ordinance 25-04 in first reading for public hearing.

John Spadafora, Valdez RV Park, voiced opposition to the city being involved in RV Parking. He voiced concern on proposed locations, especially schools, and asked about fees for RVs parked in city permitted areas. He requested additional information on the limit to the number of permits.

Police Chief Hinkle noted the ordinance was a framework. He gave an overview of the plan for the working group his team would be putting together and that future discussions would include RV park owners.

Council Member Love shared his concern over limiting the number of tents on private property, as well as the length of time, as there were several local businesses who housed seasonal employees with this method.

MOTION TO AMEND: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to amend Ordinance 25-04 language in subsection 10.20.040(b) by striking "limited to no more than 2 tents for a period not to exceed 30 days".

VOTE ON AMENDMENT

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Scheidt, Devens and Lally

Nays: 1 - Sorum

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION ON AMENDMENT CARRIED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Devens and Lally

Nays: 1 - Scheidt

Absent: 1 - Foster

MOTION MAIN MOTION CARRIED.

X. REPORTS

1. Monthly Treasury Report: January 2025

2. Report: Temporary Land Use Permit 25-01 for the Valdez Adventure Alliance for An Approximately 6,000 Square Foot Portion of 1500 Valdez Glacier Road, Tract A, ASLS 79-116 owned by the City of Valdez & 3351 Falcon Avenue Lot 5 Block 9, Robe River Subdivision

3. Procurement Report - 2025 Ford F-150

4. Procurement Report - Mitsubishi FG25 Forklift**5. Procurement Report - 2024 Ford F-150****6. Quarterly Financial Summary Reports: December 31, 2024****XI. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS****1. City Manager Report**

City Manager John Douglas thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve in the manager's role and congratulated them on projects completed over the last year. He shared his plans for the future with Council and wished them well.

2. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Sheri Pierce noted that she'd distributed copies of the certification of candidates for the municipal election with City Council and announced the candidates who had filed to run for local office.

Pierce also shared that Representative Fields had reached out seeking support for HB 79 renaming Shoup Bay State Marine Park as Vic Fischer Shoup Bay State Marine Park to honor the late statesman and father of the state marine park system. She sought and received the council's consent to draft a letter which they provided.

She also noted that a letter on the topic of the Valdez State Park Ranger position had been submitted to the House Finance Committee of the State Legislature and reminded the public that tax appeal were due April 1st and reminded Council of Board of Equalization dates.

She also shared upcoming scheduling conflicts and asked that Council consider rescheduling the second regular meeting of April.

3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Staser provided an update on legal matters his office was pursuing behalf of the city, including escaped property, contingency plan renewal and Alderwood.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Fleming shared about his enjoyment of the Mayor's Cup Snowmachine Race. He also congratulated the high school basketball teams for their success at the regional tournament and wished them luck at the state.

XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Member Devens spoke on the topic of memorials, sharing that Vic Fischer was an inspiration for him and reminding everyone of the deep impact and significance of the upcoming 1964 Earthquake Memorial.

Council Member Lally thanked Valdez Adventure Alliance for their presentation.

Council Member Scheidt thanked the citizens who had been willing to run for Council and School Board.

Council Member Love gave an update on the annual audit and Audit Committee proceedings. He also shared Beautification Commission concerns on the Black Gold Parkstrip and possible next steps in the Beautification Commission coordinating with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA


Dennis Fleming, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk

