

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting (Moved from 5/4 Due to Municipal Election)

Council Chambers

**City Council**

**REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM****I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Valdez City Council Chambers.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

City Council led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: 5 - Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Fleming  
Council Member Susan Love  
Council Member Dawson Moore  
Council Member Jimmy Devens  
Council Member Alan Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Sharon Scheidt  
Council Member Ron Ruff

Also Present: 5 - Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval  
Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy  
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko  
Records Manager Shelley McMillen  
City Attorney Jake Staser

**IV. CERTIFICATION OF MAY 4, 2021 VALDEZ MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve certification of results of the May 4, 2021 Valdez Regular Municipal Election.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

Yays: 5 - Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Scheidt and Council Member Ruff  
MOTION CARRIED.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES****1. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2021**

The City Council regular meeting minutes of April 20, 2021 were approved as presented.

**2. City Council Special Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2021**

The City Council special meeting minutes of April 29, 2021 were approved as presented.

**VI. PUBLIC APPEARANCES****1. Public Appearance: Update from Meals Hill Master Plan Project Team**

Holly Spoth-Torres - Huddle AK

Ms. Spoth-Torres introduced the team involved in the project and shared her excitement for beginning the sharing portion of the project, including the public review period, on schedule. She reviewed the Meals Hill Master Plan Executive Summary included in the agenda packet. She outlined potential funding options for the project.

City Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director Nick Farline requested those with questions reach out to him.

**VII. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mr. Ralph Watkins, newly appointed superintendent for Valdez City Schools, introduced himself and shared his excitement in working with the City in his new position.

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approval to Purchase a Caterpillar 906M Compact Wheel Loader from NC Machinery, Including Freight, in the Amount of \$109,909.00**
- 2. Approval to Purchase a Caterpillar 966M Wheel Loader from NC Machinery in the Amount of \$355,985.00**
- 3. Proclamation - Public Service Recognition Week**
- 4. Approval of the 2021 Renewal of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Valdez Yellow Cab**

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Scheidt and Council Member Ruff

MOTION CARRIED.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Approval of Contract with Harris Sand & Gravel, Inc. for Pavement Management Phase II Cottonwood Drive in the Amount of \$3,575,302.40**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve the contract with Harris Sand & Gravel, Inc. for Pavement Management Phase II Cottonwood Drive in the amount of \$3,575,302.40.

Council Member Love asked if underground utilities would be assessed as had been done with the Meals paving project the year prior. Mr. Duval expected the utilities would not require upgrades in these newer subdivisions.

Council Member Love asked if the dark fiber included in the West Hanagita/Ptarmigan Place project would also be necessary for Cottonwood Drive. Mr. Duval stated there was no current infrastructure in the Cottonwood Drive area requiring dark fiber.

Council Member Love asked at what point traffic routes would be impacted and if it would be communicated in any way other than on the website. Mr. Duval outlined planned public outreach on the project.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

Yays: 5 - Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Scheidt and Council Member Ruff  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**2. Approval of Contract with Pruhs Construction Company, LLC for Pavement Management Phase II - West Hanagita Street and Ptarmigan Place in the Amount of \$3,895,499.65**

**MOTION:** Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve contract with Pruhs Construction Company, LLC for Pavement Management Phase II - West Hanagita Street and Ptarmigan Place in the amount of \$3,895,499.65.

Council Member Love requested an explanation of funding for the project. Mr. Duval outlined the bond funds and other City funds being used for the project.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

Yays: 5 - Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Scheidt and Council Member Ruff  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Approval of Contract Amendment #2 with Kinney Engineering, LLC on Pavement Management Phase II - West Hanagita Street and Ptarmigan Place in the Amount of \$591,193.16**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve contract amendment #2 with Kinney Engineering, LLC on Pavement Management Phase II - West Hanagita Street and Ptarmigan Place in the amount of \$591,193.16.

Mr. Duval explained why the changes captured in Amendment #2 had not been included with the original contract.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Scheidt and Council Member Ruff  
MOTION CARRIED.

**4. Approval of Contract with Harris Sand & Gravel Inc. for the VCT Transfer Ramp Repairs Project in the Amount of \$980,000.00**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve contract with Harris Sand & Gravel Inc. for VCT Transfer Ramp Repairs in the amount of \$980,000.

Mr. Duval explained the contract addressed deficiencies noted during the 2015 underwater inspection.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Scheidt and Council Member Ruff  
MOTION CARRIED.

**X. ORDINANCES****1. #21-05 - Repealing and Reenacting Valdez Municipal Code Title 17.48.140 Temporary Land Use Permits. Second Reading. Adoption**

NO MOTION MADE.

Mayor Pro Tem Fleming asked if the Planning Department was tracking turnaround time for permits. Planning Director Kate Huber confirmed this was occurring. She explained, under the new ordinance, permits would no longer have to wait to be reported to Council before issuance. Permits could be issued after approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission. She stated permits would still be reported to Council and could be revoked if needed.

VOTE:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Scheidt and Council Member Ruff

*Procedural Note: After reviewing the video recording of this meeting, it appears no motion was made on this ordinance to put it on the floor for discussion or vote. Therefore the vote taken is not valid and the item must be heard again for a proper motion and vote. Item will be administratively moved to the next regular City Council meeting of May 18, 2021 for second reading and adoption.*

**2. #21-06 - Establishing Valdez Municipal Code 17.50.080 Conditional Use Permits for Telecommunication Tower. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Sorum, to approve Ordinance #21-06.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Scheidt and Council Member Ruff  
MOTION CARRIED.

**XI. RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. #21-18 - Establishing the 2021 Rate of Real Property Tax and Designating the Number of Mills for Each Dollar of Real Property to be Levied for Municipal and School Purposes**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution # 21-18.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Scheidt and Council Member Ruff  
MOTION CARRIED.

- 2. #21-19 - Authorizing a Lease and Management Agreement with the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive Association, Incorporated for the Museum and Museum Annex**

MOTION: Council Member Moore moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution #21-19.

Through Ms. Ferko, Valdez Museum and Historical Archive Director Patty Relay stated her board and staff were honored to continue the management of the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive. They were embracing every challenge along the way and looking forward to working with the City of Valdez to showcase the community's valuable heritage, human stories, and cultural relevance in the twenty-first century and beyond. Ms. Relay expressed the museum staff and board were honored to be passionate and dedicated caretakers of the community's valuable collection materials. Her team was here to serve the community of Valdez and the region in preserving and presenting the heritage and culture of our area.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 2 - Mayor Scheidt and Council Member Ruff  
MOTION CARRIED.

**XII. REPORTS**

- 1. Monthly Treasury Report: March, 2021**
- 2. Report: Approval of Temporary Land Use Permit #21-07 for Fat Mermaid Restaurant for 600 Square Feet of Public Right-of-Way Immediately Adjacent to Lot 1A, Block 39A, Harbor Subdivision**

**XIII. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS****1. City Manager Report**

Ms. Murphy stated City administration understood Council had received questions regarding the end of the mandate and disaster declaration. Mr. Duval explained the criteria outlined in the de-escalation plan had been met. The next step moving forward was to end the mask mandate and the disaster declaration. He said COVID-19 vaccine POD clinics were still able to occur without a disaster declaration in place, similar to what is done in Valdez every fall for the flu shot POD clinics. He stated masking would still be encouraged as appropriate.

Council Member Love asked for a synopsis of the public information transition plan as the Valdez Unified Command demobilized. Ms. Ferko explained the communications transition plan sought to utilize the appropriate platforms and content needed by the community at this point in the pandemic. Ms. Ferko would be transitioning back to the City public information officer/deputy clerk role and continue to update the COVID-19 Community Updates website with general content, weekly case count data, and weekly vaccine dashboard updates. The Valdez Unified Command Facebook page would go dormant as of May 8<sup>th</sup>. Vaccine POD information and breaking news about COVID-19 would shift to the main City Facebook page. The Sound Wellness Alliance Network would also be working to publish health and safety information for the community.

**2. City Clerk Report**

Ms. Ferko updated Council on current projects, including upcoming events, the All-American City Scholarship, work sessions, and the transition to meeting in the Civic Center during Council Chambers upgrades. She reminded Council Ms. Sheri Pierce would be sworn in as the International Institute of Municipal Clerks president on May 13<sup>th</sup> and offered her congratulations.

**3. City Attorney Report**

Mr. Staser outlined projects and provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including the Alaska Trappers Association, Pacific Pile & Marine, code revisions, and redistricting.

**4. City Mayor Report**

Mayor Pro Tem Fleming requested Chief of Police Bart Hinkle update Council on the new body worn camera program. Chief Hinkle gave a brief overview of the new program. He reminded Council, as of May 6<sup>th</sup>, all officers would be equipped with body cameras. He stated he would return to Council with further details at the upcoming regular meeting.

**XIV. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council thanked those involved in the election and congratulated the candidates who won their races.

Council Member Love thanked Ms. Ferko for helping with technology hiccups in Council Chambers and emphasized the need for upgrades to the system. She thanked the assistant city managers and city manager for taking her calls regarding the COVID-19



response transition plan.

Council Member Moore shared his enthusiasm for the new body worn camera policy for the police department.

## **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

DRAFT