

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Monday, March 20, 2023

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Ports and Harbor Commission

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pro Temp Colleen Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:59PM in the Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

- Present 4 – Chair Pro Tempore Colleen Stephens
Commission Member Andrea West
Commission Member Alan Steed
Commission Member Trevor Milich
- Absent 3 – Chair Stu Hirsch
Commission Member Mark Swanson
Commission Member Tim Bouchard
- Also Present 6 – Director of Ports and Harbor Jeremy Talbott
Harbormaster Sarah Von Barga
Port Operations Manager Andrew Doherty
Harbor Administrative Assistants Sarah Cox and Tenisha Hunt

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from 12/19/22 Ports and Harbor Commission meeting

MOTION: Commission Member Steed moved, seconded by Commission Member West, to approve Ports and Harbor Commission regular meeting minutes for December 19th, 2022.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Pro Tempore Stephens, Commission Member West, Commission Member Steed, and Commission Member Milich.

MOTION PASSED.

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

1. Mariculture Update

Tommy Sheridan, from the UAF Alaska Blue Economy Center gave an update on Mariculture development.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no public business from the floor.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Recommendation to Ports & Harbor Commission to Name Rates & Fees for Use of Facilities in the Valdez Harbors and Repeal Resolution No. 21-53 Naming Such Rates & Fees.

MOTION: Commission Member Steed moved, seconded by Commission Member Milich, to approve recommendation to Ports & Harbor Commission to name rates and fees for use of facilities in the Valdez Harbors and repeal Resolution No. 21-53 naming such rates and fees.

Hannah Metroka, Harbor Resident, wanted clarification on what rate changes there would be.

Harbormaster Sarah Von Barga provided an overview of the proposed changes.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Pro Tempore Stephens, Commission Member West, Commission Member Steed, and Commission Member Milich.

MOTION PASSED.

2. Approval of Recommendation to Ports & Harbor Commission to Update the Existing Fee Structure of the Harbor Residential Surcharge and Repeal Resolution No. 00-60 Establishing a Residential Surcharge for Residential Vessels in the Valdez Boat Harbor.

MOTION: Commission Member Steed moved, seconded by Commission Member Milich, to approve recommendation to Ports & Harbor Commission to update the existing fee structure of the Harbor Residential Surcharge and repeal Resolution No. 00-60 naming such fees.

Harbormaster Von Barga spoke on the reasoning for the Harbor Residential Surcharge to increase.

Jared Van Putten, Harbor Resident, spoke in opposition the residential surcharge increases and asked about the effect of owning property in Valdez. Harbor Master Bon Barga explained that the residential surcharge was designed to be in lieu of property taxes and detailed of city services supported by this fee. Ports and Harbors Director Jeremy Talbott provided detail on cost increases depending on the length of vessel.

Hannah Metroka spoke about the difficulties and expense of housing in Valdez and that living on a vessel was cost effective. Hannah also noted safety concerns with harbor facilities.

Director Talbott and Harbormaster Von Barga expressed a desire to have a liveaboard become a commissioner. Ms. Von Barga also noted that the possibility of getting key cards for harbor facilities was being explored by the IT department.

Commissioner West stated that this was not the first time she had heard about the public bathrooms being an issue for the Harbor Residents and requested future discussion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Pro Tempore Stephens, Commission Member West, Commission Member Steed, and Commission Member Milich.

MOTION PASSED.

3. Approval of Recommendation to City Council for the 2023 Renewal of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Valdez Yellow Cab.

MOTION: Commission Member West moved, seconded by Commission Member Milich, to Approve recommendation to City Council for the 2023 renewal of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Valdez Yellow Cab.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Pro Tempore Stephens, Commission Member West, Commission Member Steed, and Commission Member Milich.

MOTION PASSED.

4. Discussion Item: H-K Harbor Reconstruction Project Update

Capital Facilities Director Nathan Duval updated the commission on this project.

5. Discussion Item: Feasibility Study for Prince William Sound Ferry Authority, Phase 1 Summary

Director Talbott noted that information on this topic was included in the agenda packet.

VII. REPORTS

1. Staff Reports

Port Operations Manager Andrew Doherty gave an update on cruise ship operations for the 2023 season.

Harbormaster Von Bargaen announced that she had passed her Marina Manager Course.

Director Talbott spoke about the new rental car company.

VIII. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no commission business from the floor.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Pro Temp Stephens adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.