

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

City Council

WORK SESSION AGENDA - 6:00 pm

1. Work Session: East Peak Resort

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Dennis Fleming
Council Member Austin Love
Council Member Scheidt
Council Member Foster
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Joseph Lally

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alan Sorum

Also Present: 3 - City Clerk Sheri Pierce
City Manager John Douglas
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of City Council Minutes from June 18, 2024

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Jeri Devens, Valdez resident, expressed her concern over the undue expense to the residents of Alderwood triggered by the long overdue waterline connection and requested a grant program.

Mathew Brunton, Valdez resident, stated his concern over the subject of the work session.

Faith Revell, Valdez Museum, thanked Council for their support of the museum, and provided an update of the museum schedule. She highlighted the Tlingit artist Kaax Tséen and his work with the museum. She shared the Tlingit word for a sincere thank you, shared with her by Kaax Tséen, "Gunalchéesh".

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Proclamation: Recognizing July 2024 as National Parks and Recreation Month

2. **Approval To Go Into Executive Session RE: Escaped Property Litigation Strategy**
3. **Approval of Liquor License Renewal: Fraternal Order of Eagles 1971**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve the consent agenda.

Vote on the Motion.

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

Absent: 1 - Sorum

Motion Carried.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Approval of Tier 1 Beautification Matching Grant to Mark's Repair in the Amount of \$12,500.00**

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to Approve Tier 1 Beautification Matching Grant to Mark's Repair in the amount of \$12,500.00.

Vote on the Motion.

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

Absent: 1 - Sorum

Motion Carried.

2. **Approval of Meals Hill Renaming Subcommittee Final Report Recommendations**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to the subcommittee recommended Council adopt the 5 recommendations outlined in their report.

Council Member Love reviewed the subcommittee's report included in the agenda packet, including their recommendation to name the parkland on Meals Hill "Nayurluku Park".

Council Member Devens expressed a desire for public input and acknowledged the subcommittee's concern over the potential for muddying the waters and clarified that the name would apply to the park itself and not the geographic location.

Council Member Scheidt requested clarification it was an actual recommendation of the original committee to use an indigenous name. The subcommittee read the original recommendation, including their desire to review the potential name "Suacit" with the Valdez Native Tribe.

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Mayor Fleming, to amend the current motion to accept recommendation 1 and 2 of the report and 5 (added back by Council Member Devens).

Council Member Devens agreed moving some items to a later recommendation was ideal and proposed having an extension of the Meals Hill working group to flesh out the recommendations.

Council Member Love noted, given the workload outside of the project, he recommended holding off on continuing the workgroup until a later date. Council Member Foster concurred.

Diane Selanoff, Valdez resident, shared her gratitude for Council's consideration of a Sugcestun name for the parkland. She expanded on the meaning of Nayurluku, noting it translated to take care of, to oversee, and to guard.

Vote on the Amendment.

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

Absent: 1 - Sorum

Motion Carried.

Vote on the Main Motion as Amended.

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

Absent: 1 - Sorum

Motion Carried.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

1. #24-30 - Amending the 2024 Budget by Appropriating an Additional \$2,500,000 to Legal Department for Legal Fees to be Transferred from Repayment Reserve

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Foster, to Approve Resolution #24-30.

Vote on the Motion.

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

Absent: 1 - Sorum

Motion Carried.

2. #24-31 - Authorizing the Submission of a 2024 US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) Program Grant Application for the Valdez Mobile Home Replacement Program

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member

Love, to Approve Resolution #24-31 Authorizing the Submission of a 2024 US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) Program Grant Application for the Valdez Mobile Home Replacement Program.

Council voiced their support and enthusiasm for the application and shared their gratitude for staff's efforts to move forward, as well as the community's involvement.

Council Member Love asked in the budget worksheet construction subcategory why foundation systems added up to 120 and not 140. Community Development Director Kate Huber thanked him for catching the single error which made it past her review team. She noted there was enough room in the budget to account for the difference, so a change was not needed in the resolution.

Council Member Lally asked what the feedback process would be if the application was denied. Director Huber stated there had not been a clear answer to the question as of yet.

Karen Johnson, Valdez resident, requested clarification that the program would only replace current mobile homes and not add additional housing. Director Huber stated part one would replace current qualified mobile homes and part two would consider adding additional units.

Jeri Devens, Valdez resident, shared her support of the program.

Michael Johnson, Valdez resident, stated he supported the program with proper accountability for taxpayer funds.

Vote on the Motion.

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

Absent: 1 - Sorum

Motion Carried.

IX. REPORTS

1. Annual Department Report - Capital Facilities; Building Maintenance

Capital Facilities Director Nate Duval reviewed his report included in the agenda packet.

2. Procurement Report: Contract with Harris Sand & Gravel for Shoup Street Drainage and Asphalt Improvement Project in the Amount of \$46,000.00

3. Procurement Report: Contract with Harris Sand & Gravel for Pioneer Drive, Tatitlek Ave and Chitina Ave Asphalt Repairs in the Amount of \$63,220.00

X. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS

1. City Manager Report

City Manager Douglas congratulated Police Chief Bart Hinkle on his 25 years of service to the City of Valdez.

2. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Pierce gaged Council's interest in attending the Alaska Awards Dinner for the United States Coast Guard in Anchorage on Tuesday, August 13th.

Deputy Clerk Sorum-Birk updated Council on the Legislative Reception on Friday, August 2nd.

3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Staser provided updates on cases his firm is working on for the City, including Alderwood, borough incorporation, and escaped property.

4. City Mayor Report

XI. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council congratulated Chief Hinkle on 25 years of service to the community. Council thanked staff for their efforts putting together the strategic planning session.

Council requested a discussion on the issues presented by resident Jeri Devens in Public Business from the Floor and how to help.

Council Member Devens reminded those listening to have a great Independence Day and to get out and enjoy the City events.

Council Member Foster shared her experience touring the container terminal.

Council Member Lally thanked East Peak for their presentation, as well as the Meals Hill subcommittee for their efforts.

Council Member Scheidt thanked East Peak for their presentation and requested additional information on the plan to move forward. She asked how the numbers on the Senior Housing project were looking, and how the parking structure was developing. City Manager Douglas stated last he had heard there were still 10 units available, and he would get an update on the parking structure. She invited those listening to register for the Copper Valley Electric Association member tour.

Council Member Love requested scheduling a CSO parameter review. He updated

Council of his meeting with Code Enforcement on nuisance abatement.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIII. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

XV. APPENDIX

1. July 2024 City Council Calendar
2. Approval of Meals Hill Renaming Subcommittee Final Report Recommendations

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