City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Dennis Fleming
Council Member Austin Love
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Olivia Foster
Council Member Joseph Lally
Council Member Joy Witte
Council Member Lester Greene

Also Present: City Clerk Sheri Pierce
City Manager Nathan Duval
City Attorney Robin Brena
City Attorney Jake Staser
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: Discussion of Implications for City Revenues and Litigation Strategy Regarding Trans Alaska Pipeline System Ad Valorem Tax Issues**

2. **Approval of Senior Citizen Hardship Property Tax Exemption for Barbara Ezell**

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Witte, to approve the consent agenda.

VOTE ON MOTION
Yays: 7 - Fleming, Love, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene
MOTION CARRIED

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Approval of 2026 Community Purpose Property Tax Exemption Applications**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve 2026 Community Purpose Property Tax Exemption applications.

Council Member Love confirmed that all the properties were prior applicants and asked about the percentage change for the KCHU property.

VOTE ON MOTION
Yays: 7 - Fleming, Love, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene
MOTION CARRIED

VII. REPORTS

1. Procurement Report - 2025 Kubota L3560HSTC-LE Tractor

2. Procurement Report - 2025 Ford Explorer Patrol Vehicle #251

3. Procurement Report - 2025 Ford Explorer Patrol Vehicle #252

4. Procurement Report - 2025 Chevrolet 2500 Crew Cab

5. Procurement Report - 2025 CAT Skid Steer

6. Change Order Report with Knik Construction for Kelsey Doc Dolphin/Bollard Temp Install in the Amount of $16,500

Council Member Love asked about the timeline for work on the project. City Manager Duval shared details on the installation and Capital Facilities Director Kasey Walker noted that work was in fact complete.

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

1. City Manager Report

City Manager Duval shared that a broken water line on Meals Ave that had been repaired and that the sledding hill at the elementary school had been constructed.

He shared the plan for holding the Council's annual strategic planning session in June and requested for an upcoming work session to discuss topics for the session.

Duval also expressed a desire to limit the size of the group traveling to Washington, D.C. in March due to the uncertainty of the current situation with the federal government. Council discussed general strategy around the timing and attendance of federal advocacy trips.

2. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Pierce shared that public engagement flash vote results had been reviewed by city administration and planning of next steps was underway. She highlighted the idea of a citizen's academy to get more public engagement with local government.

City Clerk Pierce also gave an update on election activities and shared the success of the "I

Voted Sticker Challenge" and thanked Elections Coordinator Katie Carr for organizing it.

She encouraged the public to pick up nominating petitions to run for upcoming School Board and Council vacancies.

She also asked that the Council consider moving the second to ensure that the current Council would be able to sit as the Board of Equalization.

3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Staser gave a status update on the Valdez Marine Terminal Contingency Plan and several legal cases currently under appeal.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Fleming spoke about the recent Juneau trip and complimented the group who attended on being good advocates and representing Valdez well.

IX. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Several Council Members thanked local youth for submitting artwork for the voting sticker challenge. Members who had traveled to Juneau reflected on the trip and successful advocacy for Valdez.

Council Member Greene shared that he had learned a great deal in his appointed term to City Council and would be seeking election.

Council Member Witte expressed gratitude the first responders who helped with the Man Camp fire.

Council Member Lally thanked Communications Manager Sarah Jorgenson-Owen for helping put together the public engagement flash vote and spoke to the value on the feedback received.

Council Member Love reflected on the thank you letter received from Skagway related to the recent donation of drones and noted that he was glad Valdez could help other communities in Alaska.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Fleming passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Love and excused himself for Executive Session due to an employment related conflict.

XI. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tempore Love brought the meeting back to order and shared that the Council had heard from the city attorneys on escaped property and TransAlaska Pipeline System

ad valorum tax issues and provided direction on both topics.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tempore Love adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.