# City of Valdez

*212 Chenega Ave.*
*Valdez, AK 99686*

# DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

**7:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting**

**Council Chambers**

## City Council

DRAFT

## REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Jake Staser
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk

## IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 1. Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting of December 16, 2025

The minutes from December 16, 2025 were approved by consent.

## V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

## VI. CONSENT AGENDA

### 1. Appointment to VMHA Board of Directors - Applicant: Martha Barberio

### 2. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: 1) Implications for City Revenues and Litigation Strategy Regarding Trans Alaska Pipeline System Ad Valorem Tax Issues; 2) Discussion of Ongoing Escaped Property Legal Issues; 3) Discussion of Local Regulation and Assessment of Oil Spill Prevention and Response Property

City Attorney Staser requested that the executive session be pulled from the agenda due to a lack of new information.

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve the remaining item on the consent agenda.

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

## VII. RESOLUTIONS

### 1. #26-01 - Amending the Housing Incentive Plan for the Purpose of Constructing New Residential Dwelling Units and Rescinding Resolution #24-14

Council Member Love asked for and received a status update on the housing needs assessment project.

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution 26-01.

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

### 2. #26-02 - Authorizing the Purchase of a 5-Acre Parcel, Known as Lot 2, Mineral Creek Industrial Subdivision (Tract K) From the Port Valdez Company, Inc. in the Amount of $415,000

Council Member Love asked about any potential remediation issues or contamination to the site. City Manager Duval noted that the overall soil quality was likely poor and silty but no contamination or pollution was known of.

Love received clarification on the history of the easement.

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution 26-02.

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

### 3. #26-03 - Authorizing the Sale of a 2011 Skidsteer Bobcat S100

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve Resolution 26-03.

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

## VIII. REPORTS

1. **Report: Issuance of Temporary Land Use Permit 26-01 to the Valdez City School District for Temporary Use of City-Owned Property**

## XIV. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS

### 1. City Manager Report

City Manager Duval shared on the following topics in addition to his written report:

- The status of the federal discretionary funding request for the radio tower project.
- An upcoming visit from a firefighters' union representative from the Anchorage Fire Department.
- An update on the negotiation of the federal lobbying contract.

### 2. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Pierce asked Council, on behalf of HR, to complete their annual evaluations for herself and the City Manager. She reminded Council of the upcoming work session with the Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau.

### 3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Staser wished the Council a happy new year and provided updates on:

- Status of Trans-Alaska Pipeline System settlement negotiations and a possible path to mediation.
- December presentation to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Spill Prevention and Response and the outcome of required improvements needed for the Valdez Marine Terminal Contingency Plan.
- The Ables employment matter.

### 4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Fleming complimented the city's New Year's Eve fireworks display and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

## XV. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Members wished each other and the public a Happy New Year.

Council Member Foster expressed gratitude for the street maintenance crew in Valdez, shared about the new Federal Rural Health Transformation initiative and made comments on the Governor's proposed budget.

## XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fleming adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.