

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## DRAFT- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

**City Council**

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

Mayor Fleming called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 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  
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk

**IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES****1. Biannual Report on T3 Alliance and Mariculture**

Tommy Sheridan and Adam Low gave an update and the Teaching through Technology (T3) program and workforce development efforts in Valdez related to maritime industries and mariculture.

**V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR****VI. CONSENT AGENDA****1. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: 1) Discussion of Litigation Strategy for Larry Ables Lawsuit; 2) Implications for City Revenues and Litigation Strategy Regarding Trans Alaska Pipeline System Ad Valorem Tax Issues; 3) Discussion of Ongoing Escaped Property Legal Issues; 4) Discussion of Local Regulation and Assessment of Oil Spill Prevention and Response Property**

Mayor Fleming noted that first item on the executive session call, related to Ables lawsuit would be removed from the executive session.

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

## VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Fleming, Love, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

**VII. RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. #25-64 - Authorizing a Lease Amendment and Extension to the Lease and Management Agreement with the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive Association for the Museum and Museum Annex**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve Resolution 25-64.

## VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 7 - Fleming, Love, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

- 2. #25-65 - Amending the 2025 City Budget by Reallocating \$171,100 in Previously Appropriated Funds**

Council Member Love asked for and received clarification on adjustment to the administration budget in relation to the assistant city manager position.

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution 25-65.

## VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 7 - Fleming, Love, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

**VIII. REPORTS**

- 1. Alaska Women's Business 3rd Quarter Report**
- 2. 2025 Valdez By the Numbers**

Mayor Fleming thanked Economic Development Director Barberio for providing the reports.

**IX. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS**

- 1. City Manager Report**

City Manager Duval shared highlights from the Alaska Municipal League and Alaska Municipal Managers Association conferences and congratulated City Clerk Sheri Pierce on receiving the Vic Fischer Local Government Leadership Award.

He noted that updates on federal actions related to vessels of opportunity and shared forestry receipts had been shared via email. Duval also shared that the city had donated to the Coast Guard holiday party and reminded Council of the upcoming city holiday

party.

Council Member Love asked Duval about the timeline for the school remodel and the cookies with the City Manager event.

## **2. City Clerk Report**

City Clerk Sheri Pierce shared that she was deeply honored to receive the Vic Fischer award and shared her memories of and praise for Vic Fischer.

Pierce wished everyone happy holidays and shared additional information on the donation to the coast guard and the upcoming holiday party.

## **3. City Attorney Report**

City Attorney Staser also congratulated City Clerk Pierce on her award. He provided a brief update on the Valdez Marine Terminal Contingency Plan renewal and upcoming presentation to the state Department of Environmental Conservation on the secondary containment lining issue. Staser shared that a final judgement for 2019 to 2023 tax years had issued in the escaped property case at the superior court level. He noted additional items would be discussed in executive session.

## **4. City Mayor Report**

Mayor Fleming echoed congratulations to City Clerk Pierce on the honor of receiving the Vic Fischer local government award.

He shared his experiences at the Alaska Conference of Mayors and Alaska Municipal League conferences- noting a focus on the devastation in Western Alaska and overall challenges facing the state. He stated that many communities in Alaska were struggling in comparison to Valdez.

Fleming shared about the upcoming February Juneau trip and highlighted that it would be beneficial to have a smaller more focused group participate.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

## **X. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Members congratulated City Clerk Pierce on the Vic Fischer award, shared experiences of the Alaska Municipal League Conference and wished everyone happy holidays.

Additional details shared included:

- Council Member Greene highlighting the importance of workforce development programs.
- Council Member Witte expressing thanks on behalf of Cordova city council members she had spoken to for use of the trash truck.

- Council Member Devens reflecting on the history of Alaska Municipal League and the parallels between the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Local Government Conference in the wake of the 1964 earthquake and the 75<sup>th</sup> conference in the wake of the typhoon in Western Alaska and expressing optimism for Alaska communities lifting each other up.
- Council Member Love commented on the high winds and expressed appreciation for efforts of city staff. He encouraged everyone to be mindful.

## **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Fleming noted that the regular meeting was at an end and passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Love for Executive Session.

## **XII. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Pro Tempore Love announced that the city attorney would proceed as directed in the executive session.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro Tem Love adjourned the meeting.