

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting (Moved from 5/5 due to Municipal Election)

Council Chambers

City Council

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

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Valdez City Council Chambers.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Council led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Jeremy O'Neil
Council Member Christopher Moulton
Council Member Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Darren Reese
Council Member Dennis Fleming (*by telephone*)
Council Member Alan Sorum (*by telephone*)

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ron Ruff

Also Present: 7 - City Manager Mark Detter
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval
Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy
City Clerk Sheri Pierce
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko (*by telephone*)
Records Manager Shelley McMillen
City Attorney Jake Staser (*by telephone*)

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOORStu Hirsh, Valdez Resident

Mr. Hirsh voiced his concern over the dumpsters in Robe River Subdivision. He stated residents were using the area around the dumpsters as a dumping spot instead of hauling their large items directly to the baler. He requested the dumpsters be removed. Mr. Detter agreed to follow up with Mr. Hirsh.

Tammy Jo, Valdez Resident

Ms. Jo asked when the residents could expect to receive their economic relief checks from the city, if the checks would be subject to garnishment, and if there were two adults under the same home but not married, if both adults would receive their own stimulus check. Mayor O'Neil deferred all questions to the COVID-19 portion of the agenda.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Proclamation - Public Service Recognition Week**
- 2. Proclamation - Police Week**
- 3. Proclamation - Bike Week**

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Moulton to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ruff

MOTION CARRIED.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Certification of the Results of the May 5, 2020 Regular Municipal Election**

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt, to approve certification of the May 5, 2020 regular municipal election.

Ms. Pierce reviewed the election report.

Council Member Moulton asked if the voter roll could be purged. Ms. Pierce stated it had been discussed at the state level, but was not currently scheduled. Voter rolls are maintained by the state, not the city.

Council Member Scheidt asked how the 24% turn-out compared to an average year. Ms. Pierce conveyed local voter turnout averaged at around 30%.

Council Member Sorum and Mayor O'Neil complimented election workers on their effort and flexibility under unusual circumstances. Ms. Pierce agreed, stating election workers had spent the day counting questioned and 426 absentee ballots as well. She thanked the Mat-Su Borough Clerk for lending the sneeze guards used at the election precincts to protect workers and voters.

Ms. Jo thanked the front office staff for their assistance with helping her vote absentee.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ruff

MOTION CARRIED.

2. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update

Mr. Detter briefed state and city case counts. He explained current objectives were to establish control measures and to support local businesses and fish processing plants.

Mr. Detter and Finance Director Brian Carlson updated Council on the Economic Relief and Recovery Program. Mr. Detter stated the program would provide a direct, onetime payment to businesses and citizens, estimated at \$1,800 per household.

Council Member Scheidt asked why the in-person drop off application method had been chosen over an online portal. Mr. Carlson explained development and vendor research required to create an online portal secure enough to protect tax information could not occur in a timeframe congruent with Council's intent to fast-track fund availability.

In response to Ms. Jo's question regarding garnishment, Mr. Detter stated it was off the table for this particular program and would not occur.

Mr. Detter updated Council on the current COVID-19 associated expenditure. Council Member Fleming asked if a breakdown of these expenditures could be provided in a timely manner if Council requested it in the future. Mr. Carlson confirmed, stating everything was dialed down to each line item.

Mr. Detter provided a reminder about the Valdez Unified Command's meeting schedule.

Council Member Scheidt asked how access controls on South Harbor Drive would affect residents over the summer. Mr. Duval stated the first checkpoint, just beyond SERVS accessing the fish processing plants, would require scheduling and advanced notice to the companies. Access to the new harbor and Dock Point would be maintained for local traffic.

Council Member Fleming complimented Mr. Detter and Unified Command for their success on the MOU's with Peter Pan Seafoods and Silver Bay Seafoods.

Ms. Jo asked if the Civic Center would be where people could sign up for Relief Program. Mr. Detter confirmed application assistance would be provided at that location. Ms. Jo asked if there was a way to apply remotely. Mr. Detter stated contact information would be advertised for the program once it was available, and staff would be happy to work with residents on an individual basis as needed.

VII. ORDINANCES

1. **#20-05 - Amending Chapter 9.38 of the Valdez Municipal Code Relating to Trapping. First Reading. Public Hearing.**

MOTION: Council Member Reese moved, seconded by Council Member Moulton, to approve Ordinance # 20-05. First Reading. Public Hearing.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ruff

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

1. **#20-26 - Amending The 2020 Budget By Accepting The State Of Alaska Department Of Natural Resources, Division Of Forestry 2020 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant In The Amount Of \$5,000.00 And Authorizing The Expenditure**

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Moulton, to approve Resolution # 20-26.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ruff

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. REPORTS

1. **Change Order Report: Change Order #2 for Fire Station 1 Mold Remediation and Ventilation Upgrades Project with Orion Construction Inc.**

Council Member Reese asked for an explanation on a COVID related line item. Mr. Duval stated to accommodate Orion Construction after travel mandates were released, the city had paid rent accrued due to quarantine requirements when employees had returned to complete the project.

Council Member Scheidt asked when the project should be completed. Mr. Duval responded the end of May.

2. **Report: Temporary Land Use Permit #20-03 for Copper Valley Telecom for Six Months, for Lot 20, Block 7, Alpine Woods Subdivision**
3. **Parks and Recreational Services Report**
4. **Report: Wildlife Resistant Container Program Outreach Group [Update #4]**

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

1. City Manager Report

Mr. Detter invited all members of City Council to the upcoming onboarding and orientation training session on May 14th with new council members. The session would be to review topics including the finance structure, parliamentary procedures, and open meetings. Ms. Pierce added the School Board requested training on a number of the included items and had also been invited to participate.

Planning Director Kate Huber updated Council on the status of development of the Comprehensive Plan and upcoming key dates.

Mr. Detter explained a meeting was scheduled with the state and members of the local Unified Command on May 14th to discuss the Valdez community's needs in the wake of COVID-19. He looked forward to opening the line of communication with the state for future needs. Mayor O'Neil expressed his gratitude for the upcoming partnership.

Council Member Scheidt thanked staff for pulling together the onboarding meeting for new council members.

Council Member Reese asked for information on the upcoming Valdez Community Clean-up Day. Mr. Duval stated physical distancing would be encouraged. Trash pickup along the side of the road and large debris would occur at a later date.

Mr. Detter shared his appreciation for Council Member Reese and Council Member Moulton's service on the Valdez City Council.

Council Member Fleming asked if all incoming city contractors would be subject to COVID-19 mitigation measures. Mr. Duval stated contractors had developed COVID related safe plans and were subject to quarantine requirements.

2. City Clerk Report

Ms. Pierce thanked Council Member Reese and Council Member Moulton for their work on Council. She asked they be available to attend the beginning of the May 19th Council meeting.

Ms. Pierce thanked local voters for their patience and cooperation during the municipal election. She thanked Katie Carr for her work on the election and the entire Clerk's Office staff for their help with elections and the Board of

Equalization process.

She stated she would be contacting new council members the following day to formally invite them to the orientation session. Council Member Fleming expressed his intent to attend.

3. City Attorney Report

Mr. Staser outlined projects and provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including Pacific Pile & Marine, escaped properties, Alaska Trappers Association, and COVID-19 related issues.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor O'Neil thanked everyone who ran for office during the municipal election. He shared his pride and appreciation for the graduating Class of 2020, and thanked the school administration for how they have handled education during the pandemic. He thanked the Mat-Su Borough for the Plexiglas shields they loaned election workers during the election.

XI. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mayor O'Neil and Council Members thanked Council Member Reese and Council Member Moulton for their work on Council and congratulated the incoming council members. They thanked the election workers for their efforts on the election.

Council Member Scheidt reminded citizens to remain vigilant in COVID mitigation measures.

Council Member Moulton thanked everyone for their support during his time on Council and stated it had been a pleasure serving Valdez.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neil adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Jeremy O'Neil, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk