

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

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

Mayor Scheidt called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in Valdez City Council Chambers.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Ron Ruff
Council Member Susan Love
Council Member Dawson Moore
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Alan Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Fleming

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2021**

The City Council regular meeting minutes of March 2, 2021 were approved as presented.

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**1. Public Appearance: Patricia Relay, Valdez Museum & Historical Archive & Chris Whittington Evans, Wolf Architecture - New Valdez Museum Planning Update**

Ms. Relay updated Council on community outreach efforts in regards to the new museum design. Mr. Evans reviewed concept-level design plans and renderings included in the agenda packet. He discussed collection storage, community space, and a linear gallery.

Council Member Love asked about the square footage for the presented concept. Mr. Evans stated the square footage would be just under twenty-one thousand square feet.

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOORLynette Oliver – Valdez Adventure Alliance

Ms. Oliver shared a video from the 2021 Valdez Ice Festival. She shared her excitement for the upcoming Bike Bash on April 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

Ms. Oliver provided public notice for VAA's application for a grant for a trail project connecting Blueberry Rock and Raspberry Rock, near the Blueberry Lake Recreation Site.

Ken Lares – Valdez Snowmachine Club

Mr. Lares reminded Council of the upcoming Mayor's Cup snowmachine race on March 20th.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: (1) PPM Litigation & (2) Alaska Trappers Litigation**
- 2. Proclamation: 1964 Earthquake Memorial Remembrance Day**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Ruff to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Scheidt read the 1964 Earthquake Memorial Remembrance Day Proclamation into record. Ms. Dorothy Moore, representing Pioneers of Alaska Women's Igloo #2 and Men's Igloo #7, thanked Council for the proclamation and invited them to attend the Earthquake Memorial at the Kelsey Dock on March 27th.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Detter provided a brief update on local and state case counts.

Public Health Nurse Terri Lynch outlined current vaccination efforts. She shared her appreciation for the volunteers assisting with the points of dispensing (PODs) clinics. She outlined changes to the CDC guidelines for those fully vaccinated.

Dr. Angela Alfaro, physician consultant to the Valdez Unified Command, thanked those involved in the vaccination POD clinics. She provided the CDC definition of "fully vaccinated", which means two weeks after receiving the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer BioNTech vaccines or two weeks after receiving the single

dose of the Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine.

Mayor Scheidt thanked those involved in the vaccination clinics.

Mr. Detter updated Council on the Economic Recovery Grant Program and the Economic Diversification Commission. Mayor Scheidt thanked the Economic Diversification Commission for their efforts.

Police Chief Bart Hinkle, who serves as operations section chief on the Valdez Unified Command, presented Unified Command's plans and recommendations moving forward, including plans involving the fisheries and economic recovery.

Assistant City Manager Nate Duval outlined the effects of ending the local emergency declaration, including the demobilization of Unified Command and changes to supply logistics.

Mayor Scheidt shared her appreciation for Unified Command's effort to present a well thought out demobilization plan addressing concerns she had received from citizens.

Mr. Detter reviewed the future of the current economic recovery efforts. Ms. Martha Barberio, city economic diversification director, updated Council on federal economic recovery efforts.

Mr. Detter reviewed Unified Command's recommendation to remove outdoor masking requirements from Valdez Public Health Mandate 003 and continue the mandate until May 7th when it would end in its entirety.

Ms. Lynch shared her comfort with the plan due to the local rate of vaccinations. Dr. Alfaro shared the medical community's encouragement for the public to continue mitigation efforts and remain cautious. She agreed the May deadline allowed for additional vaccination efforts to occur prior to the end of the mandate.

Mayor Scheidt asked how long current testing recommendations and contact tracing would occur. Dr. Alfaro stated testing at the first sign of symptoms was still recommended by the CDC and testing would continue without change at this point. Ms. Lynch explained Public Health conducts contact tracing for all infectious diseases, not just COVID-19, so those protocols would not change.

2. Approval of Amendment No. 7 to Valdez Public Health Mandate 003 (Mask Mandate)

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Amendment No. 7 to Valdez Public Health Mandate 003 (Mask Mandate).

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Nays: 1 - Council Member Ruff

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Contract with Build Alaska General Contracting, LLC for the Valdez Civic Center Emergency Lighting Upgrades Project in the Amount of \$118,210

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Ruff, to approve contract with Build Alaska General Contracting, LLC for Valdez Civic Center Emergency Lighting Upgrades Project in the Amount of \$118,210.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming
MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Contract with Earhart Roofing Company, Inc., for the Baler & Fire Stations 3 & 4 Roof Replacements in the Amount of \$639,000

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve contract with Earhart Roofing Company, Inc., in the amount of \$639,000.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming
MOTION CARRIED.

5. Approval of Providence Valdez Medical Center Projects Funding Requests in the Amount of \$1,496,000

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Providence Valdez Medical Center projects funding requests in the amount of \$1,496,000.

Finance Director Brian Carlson explained the budgeting side of the projects funding request, including amendments which appear later in the agenda. Capital Facilities Director Nate Duval stated although the projects were managed by Providence Valdez Medical Center, the city still had oversight and approval.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming
MOTION CARRIED.

6. Approval of Federal Lobbyist Contract with Capitol Hill Consulting Group in an Amount Not to Exceed \$36,270

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Federal Lobbyist Contract with Capitol Hill Consulting Group in an amount not to exceed \$36,270.

Council Member Love requested details on how the goals sent to the lobbyist were developed. Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy outlined the process of used to put together the list of goals.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming
MOTION CARRIED.

7. Approval of Annual Renewal of City/School Health Insurance Benefit Plan for Period Beginning 4/1/2021

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Ruff, to approve renewal of City/School health insurance benefit plan for period beginning 4/1/2021.

Ms. Deloris Gard, Valdez Resident, asked where she would find information on the school portion of the health insurance benefit plan, as she had not seen school specific information included in the Council agenda packet. City Human Resources Director Rhea Cragun stated the Valdez School Board approved the school district portion of the benefit plan separately.

Council Member Love asked Mr. Carlson to explain how the health plan worked between the school and the city. Mr. Carlson explained the health benefit plan included two entities – the school district and the city. The city and school portions of the benefit plans are negotiated separately, but part of one overall package for cost savings. The two entities work on separate timelines due to differing fiscal year calendars and negotiating requirements with the school district collective bargaining unit. Once the two portions of the plan are worked out, the city signs the overall contract and administers the plan.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming
MOTION CARRIED.

IX. ORDINANCES

1. **#21-03 - Amending Title 12 of the Valdez Municipal Code by Creating Chapter 12.06 Titled Addressing and Street Naming. First Reading. Public Hearing.**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve Ordinance #21-03. First Reading. Public Hearing.

Planning & Zoning Director Kate Huber explained the purpose of amending Chapter 12.06. She stated the ordinance provided clear direction regarding addressing and street naming.

Council Member Devens expressed concern over the phrase abutting property owners and requested it include renters and residents. Ms. Huber reminded Council of the notification process. She stated, although the current method of tracking property owners allowed for proper notification of changes, establishing who was a renter in the area would be harder to verify. Ms. Huber added street name changes would fall to the Planning & Zoning Commission for review, allowing for public comment from those with concerns. Ms. Gard stated she appreciated knowing public comment would be held prior to the renaming of a street.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming
MOTION CARRIED.

X. RESOLUTIONS

1. **#21-11 - Authorizing the Continuance of the COVID-19 Local Government Disaster Declaration**

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution #21-11.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming
MOTION CARRIED.

2. **#21-12 - Amending the 2021 City Budget by Appropriating \$5.5MM of Excess Funds Carried Forward from 2020, and \$10.5MM from Unassigned General Fund Balance, and \$7.7MM of Prior Project Appropriations to Council-Approved Capital and Major Maintenance Projects and Miscellaneous Operating Expenses**

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve Resolution #21-12.

Mr. Carlson stated the resolution reflected the projects list discussed during previous City Council work sessions. He explained why the Lowe River Dike Flood Project had not been included. He reviewed the purpose of non-project appropriations.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming
MOTION CARRIED.

3. **#21-13 - Amending the 2021 City Budget by Appropriating \$295,000 for New Providence Valdez Medical Center Projects, Closing \$1,524,050 in Previously-Appropriated Projects, Transferring \$1,046,000 to General Fund, and Remitting \$183,050 in Excess Funds to Providence Valdez Medical Center**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Ruff, to approve Resolution #21-13.

Mr. Carlson outlined PVMC projects and explained how the process worked.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Fleming
MOTION CARRIED.

XI. REPORTS

1. **City of Valdez Newsletter Update**
2. **Comprehensive Plan Update**
3. **Quarterly Financial Statements: December 31, 2020**

4. **Monthly Treasury Report: January, 2021**
5. **Procurement Report: Professional Services Agreement with Arcadis, Inc. for the Small Boat Harbor Reconstruction Solicitation and Design Support in the Amount of \$97,788**
6. **Procurement Report: Professional Services Agreement with RESPEC COMPANY, LLC dba PDC Engineers for the ASLS 79-116 Access Study in the Amount of \$79,935**

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

1. City Manager Report

Mr. Detter outlined current projects including the fire service study, the Rydor property and access study, the Comprehensive Plan, and the upcoming work session on negotiated land sale.

2. City Clerk Report

Ms. Pierce reviewed upcoming items on the City Council calendar. She updated Council on the May 4th Municipal Election, including candidate names included on the ballot.

3. City Attorney Report

Mr. Staser outlined projects and provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including Barton v. City of Valdez, and HB76.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Scheidt encouraged the community to attend the Valdez Mayor's Cup. She updated Council on meetings she had with the Mountain Sky Hotel and those involved in the ice rink project.

XIII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Members thanked those who volunteer with the vaccination POD clinics and encouraged those who choose to be vaccinated to schedule their appointments.

Council Member Sorum shared his appreciation for the local snow removal team.

Council Member Ruff thanked the community for their support of the Valdez Snowmachine Club.

Council Member Moore encouraged Council to visit the Museum's open house.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Council transitioned into executive session at 9:28 p.m.

XV. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Council transitioned out of executive session at 10:00 p.m.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Scheidt adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.