

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting (note date change due to state/ federal election)

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Dennis Fleming
Mayor Pro Tem Austin Love
Council Member Alan Sorum
Council Member Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Olivia Foster

Excused: 1 - Council Member Joseph Lally

Also Present: 5 - City Clerk Sheri Pierce
City Manager John Douglas
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk
Assistant City Manager Bart Hinkle
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

1. Public Appearance: Mat Brunton, Chugach Mountain Institute

Brunton shared his concern on the investment of public funds into the local outdoor industry via the CSO program.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Regarding Settlement of Redistricting Litigation Attorney Fees

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of the Providence Valdez Medical Center 2025 Operating and Capital Projects Budget

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Love, to approve the Providence Valdez Medical Center 2025 Operating and Capital Projects Budget.

Council Member Love requested additional information on the following topics:

- Increase to primary care cost
- Counseling Center operating at a loss

- Staff benefits & pay
- Long Term Care expansion

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Foster

Excused: 1 - Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

2. Acceptance of Final Plat for Subdivision #24-04 Duck Tail Subdivision Creating Tracts D1, D2 and D3, and Authorization of Mayor's Signature on the Plat to be Recorded.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Love moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve acceptance of the Final Plat for Subdivision #24-04 Duck Tail Subdivision Creating Tracts D1, D2 and D3, and Authorization of Mayor's Signature on the Plat to be Recorded.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Foster

Excused: 1 - Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Professional Service Agreement with Bettisworth North Architects & Planners Inc. for Child Care Facility Design in the Amount of \$395,036

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve the Professional Service Agreement with Bettisworth North Architects & Planners Inc. for Child Care Facility Design in the Amount of \$395,036

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Foster

Excused: 1 - Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. ORDINANCES

1. #24-13 - Amending Chapter 17.80, Section 17.80.090 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled Short-term Rentals. First reading. Public Comment.

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Love, to approve Ordinance #24-13 on first reading, public comment.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Foster

Excused: 1 - Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. #24-45 - Supporting the Alaska Salmon Hatchery Program

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt, to approve Resolution #24-45.

Council Member Love requested additional information on the following topics:

- Clarification the proposed Resolution would support the hatchery in requesting the Alaska Board of Fisheries reject the proposed 25% reduction in egg take
- The proposal process for the Board of Fisheries
- Who makes up the Board of Fish, and the appointment process
- Who makes the final decision on hatchery production

Council Member Love expressed concern over Council getting involved with the process of fisheries management. He stated he did not feel Council had the scientific expertise to be involved in the process.

Council Member Love moved to postpone Resolution #24-45 indefinitely. Motion failed for lack of second.

Council Member Foster asked why the hatchery disagreed with the proposal. Mike Wells, Valdez Fisheries Development Association, provided a history of how the limits had been set in the last 40 years. He explained how acceptance of the proposal would move the decision process away from basing decisions on production on the department and the fishery scientists, to a political decision.

Council Member Sorum stated he believed it was Council's place to be involved due to the economic impact the hatchery has on the community.

Council Member Devens agreed Council did not have the authority or expertise to speak on scientific findings, and noted the majority of the language of the resolution was regarding the economic findings of the impact on the community.

Council Member Devens moved to amend, striking section two of the "now therefor be it resolved" to not reference any scientific finding in the conclusion. Motion failed for lack of second.

Mayor Fleming shared his support of the resolution, because it was important to keep politics out of a scientific decision. He shared his support of the fish hatchery.

Council Member Scheidt shared her support of the fish hatchery. She stated Council had a loud voice and this was a great opportunity to use it. She did not

feel passing the resolution would be Council involving themselves in the minutia or the science.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Fleming, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Foster

Nays: 1 - Love

Excused: 1 - Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

2. #24-46 - Requesting the Governor of the State of Alaska Designate by Proclamation the Area of Prince William Sound Pink Salmon Fishery and any other Applicable Pink Salmon Fisheries as an Area Impacted by Economic Disaster in 2024, and Supporting a Recovery Plan for Affected Fishermen

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Love, to approve Resolution #24-46.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Foster

Excused: 1 - Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

3. #24-47 - Amending the 2024 Budget by Accepting a U.S. Department of Homeland Security State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Award in the Amount of \$45,000.00 for Development of a Cybersecurity Assessment and Authorizing Expenditure of the Same

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt, to approve Resolution #24-47.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Foster

Excused: 1 - Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

4. #24-48 - Adopting the City of Valdez Economic Development Strategic Plan

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Sorum, to approve Resolution #24-48.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Foster

Excused: 1 - Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

5. #24-49 - Amending the 2024 Budget by Appropriating \$400,000 from

the Council Contingency Reserve Fund to the Design of a Child Care Facility

MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt, to approve Resolution #24-49.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Sorum, Scheidt, Devens and Foster

Excused: 1 - Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

X. REPORTS**1. Verbal Report: Monthly Projects Update**

Director Duval provided a project update, highlighting the sewer force main, H-K dock replacement, Meals Hill, and the mooring dolphin.

2. Report: Sealed Bid Auction Results**3. Change Order Report - Change Order #2 with Valley Mechanical for Alderwood Water System Connections****XI. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS****1. City Manager Report**

City Manager Douglas thanked those involved with the Economic Development Strategic Plan. He requested Council review the AML draft resolution. He invited the community to Coffee with the Senior Manager on November 21st at the Valdez Senior Center.

2. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Pierce shared the drastic increase in traffic at the front office was due to the General Election, the Senior Exemption Program, and the Energy Assistance program. She reviewed Ordinances she would be bringing back to Council at the next meeting.

3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Staser provided updates on cases his firm is working on for the City, including the VMT C-Plan renewal, escaped property, redistricting fees, and Alderwood.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Fleming invited those listening to the Regional Volleyball Tournament at the high school. He stated he was working with Staff to address snow removal in the communities around Robe Lake.

XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council requested Staff look presenting a resolution triggered by an economic disaster declaration from the State which would waive dock fees for Valdez resident commercial fishermen impacted by the record low pink salmon run.

Council Member Love provided an update on the City Manager Review Committee.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

XV. ADJOURNMENT

XVI. APPENDIX

- 1. November 2024 Council Calendar**
- 2. AML Draft Resolutions for 2025**