

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

**WORK SESSION AGENDA - 6:00 pm**

**1. Work Session: 2024 State Legislative Priorities and Strategy**

**REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: 7 - Mayor Sharon Scheidt  
Mayor Pro Tem Alan Sorum  
Council Member Dennis Fleming  
Council Member Todd Wegner  
Council Member Jimmy Devens  
Council Member Olivia Foster  
Council Member Austin Love

Also Present: 3 - City Clerk Sheri Pierce  
City Manager John Douglas  
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk

**IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Natasha Falke, Valdez resident, expressed concern over her experience as an employee with the Valdez City Schools.

Mathew Brunton, Valdez resident, shared his frustration with local taxes and how the funds were used.

Lisa Wax, Valdez resident, stated she wanted to bring to attention the Bureau of Land Management in Gakona was considering the release of 28 million acres of federally protected land.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approval of Contract with KVAK Radio for Broadcasting Services in an Amount Not to Exceed \$40,000**
- 2. Approval to Go Into Executive Session Regarding City Clerk Annual Evaluation**

MOTION: Fleming moved, seconded by Sorum, to approve all items on the consent agenda.

## VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****1. #23-68 - Approving Port Valdez Company Memorial Art Installation at Meals Hill**

MOTION: Love moved, seconded by Fleming, to postpone Resolution #23-68 Approving Port Valdez Company Memorial Art Installation at Meals Hill to next regular meeting scheduled for February 6, 2024 pending a recommendation of the committee.

## VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS****1. Approval of Extension of Physician Recruitment Contract with Angela Alfaro, MD.**

MOTION: Sorum moved, seconded by Fleming, to approve the Extension of Physician Recruitment Contract with Angela Alfaro, M.D.

Council Member Love requested information on how \$60K had been set as the original amount.

Assistant City Manager Duval outlined the history of the SHARPS 3 program, and \$60K was the market rate at the time for physician programs. He stated when the program was established via Resolution, it was based on 5 physicians at the clinic, not to exceed \$300K.

Council Member Love voiced concern on the effectiveness of the program in general when it comes to a long-term solution to local physician retention. Mayor Scheidt agreed and stated a review of the program had been discussed recently by herself, and City Administration.

Council Member Foster asked who sourced the program funds and requirements of the program. City Manager Douglas outlined the program, and who oversaw different portions of it. City Clerk Pierce provided the history of the program.

## VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

**2. Approval of Contract with Kim Hutchinson dba Trust Consultants for State Lobbyist Services in the Amount of \$50,000**

MOTION: Devens moved, seconded by Foster, to approve contract with Kim Hutchinson dba Trust Consultants for state lobbyist services in the amount of \$50,000.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

**3. Approval of Federal Lobbying Contract with Capitol Hill Consulting Group in an Amount Not to Exceed \$100,000.**

MOTION: Foster moved, seconded by Sorum, to approve federal lobbying contract with Capitol Hill Consulting Group in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

**4. Approval of 2024 City of Valdez State Legislative Priorities**

MAIN MOTION: Devens moved, seconded by Sorum, to approve 2024 City of Valdez State Legislative Priorities.

MOTION TO AMEND: Love moved, seconded by Foster, to amend language related to prioritizing a stable and attractive public retirement system to be inclusive of both the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and the Teachers Retirement System (TRS)

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO AMEND: Sorum moved, seconded by Love, to amend the DOT&PF portion of the priorities to add replacement of the culverts at the Robe River crossing with a bridge.

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO AMEND: Love moved, seconded by Foster, to amend language relating to ferry service to replace "maintain" with "improve".

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

## **5. Approval of 2024 Federal Legislative Priorities**

MAIN MOTION: Devens moved, seconded by Foster, to approve the 2024 Federal Legislative Priorities.

MOTION TO AMEND: Foster moved, seconded by Sorum, to amend the health care section to add advocacy for available senior support services.

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION TO AMEND: Love moved, seconded by Foster, to amend the disaster preparedness section to include advocacy for an avalanche forecast center.

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
MOTION CARRIED.

## **6. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with U.S Army Garrison Alaska (USAG Alaska) for Operation and Maintenance of Glacier Campground**

MOTION: Wegner moved, seconded by Fleming, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with U.S Army Garrison Alaska (USAG Alaska) for Operation and Maintenance of Glacier Campground.

Council Member Wegner asked if there had been an RFP.

PRCS Director Ken Wilson provided background on the contract, and the option to renew based on good standing.

Council Member Fleming requested Director Wilson forward the 2024 end of year report from MWR to Council when he received it.

Lisa Wax, Valdez resident, spoke on the importance of outdoor recreation in Valdez and in opposition to renewal of MWR contracts.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 4 - Love, Wegner, Fleming and Scheidt

Nays: 3 - Foster, Devens and Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

**7. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with U.S Army Garrison Alaska (USAG Alaska) for Operation and Maintenance of Allison Point Campground**

MOTION: Love moved, seconded by Fleming, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with U.S Army Garrison Alaska (USAG Alaska) for Operation and Maintenance of Allison Point Campground.

Council Member Foster asked how often the campgrounds were put out to RFP. Director Wilson stated the former director had selected MWR of the two applicants.

Council Member Wegner provided a history of the management of Allison Point. He stated there was an element of evaluation in the contract if the operator selected was not doing their job, where the contract could be terminated and put out for a new RFP.

Council Member Love stated the photos presented by Resident Wax were unacceptable and he did not want to see mismanagement at a campground representing Valdez. He followed up, saying he would trust Director Wilson to provide oversight and follow up if the group was not responsive to correction.

Council Member Foster noted Valdez Adventure Alliance cares for two state campgrounds, and perhaps they would be interested in looking after the two city campgrounds if things did not work out with the current operators.

Resident Wax expressed additional concern over the management of Allison Point, and hoped the oversight provided by Director Wilson would steer the campground in a better direction.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 4 - Love, Wegner, Fleming and Scheidt

Nays: 3 - Foster, Devens and Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

**8. Approve Agreements with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Relating to Glacier Stream Erosion Protection**

MOTION: Love moved, seconded by Foster, to approve agreements with the Natural Resources Conservation Service relating to Glacier Stream erosion

protection.

Council Member Sorum asked if it was possible to get an evaluation of the bridge, and why it was causing issues. Director Duval agreed he would ask.

**VOTE ON MOTION**

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**VIII. RESOLUTIONS**

**1. #24-02 - Amending the 2024 Budget by Transferring \$61,000 from Budget Variance Reserve to Public Safety Department Personnel Accounts**

MOTION: Foster moved, seconded by Fleming, to approve Resolution 24-02 Amending the 2024 Budget by Transferring \$61,000 from Budget Variance Reserve to Public Safety Department Personnel Accounts.

Casey Dshaak, City Financial Analyst, outlined the change of classification of public safety personnel which had not been transferred into the approved budget.

**VOTE ON MOTION**

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**IX. REPORTS**

**1. Monthly Treasury Report: November, 2023**

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

**1. City Manager Report**

City Manager Douglas reviewed his report, including scheduling a work session on the SAFER Grant.

**2. City Clerk Report**

City Clerk Pierce reminded Council of the upcoming Special Meeting and public hearing on Title 17.

**3. City Attorney Report**

City Attorney Staser provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including Alderwood, escaped property, and the Meals Hill Memorial Art contract.

**4. City Mayor Report**

**XI. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Member Devens reminded those listening to be aware of the expected upcoming severe weather.

Council Member Foster updated Council on Chugachmiut’s home visiting services for expecting parents and families with young children up to kindergarten age.

Council Member Love thanked Finance for their skillful management of City investments.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**XIII. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

  
Sharon Scheidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk

