

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## **DRAFT- Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 18, 2025**

**7:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting**

**Council Chambers**

**City Council**

**PUBLIC HEARING - 2026 CITY BUDGET - 6:00 pm**

Mayor Fleming called the public hearing on the 2026 draft city budget to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following members of the public made comments:

- Jerilyn Devens spoke in favor of funding for KCHU Public Radio
- Brooke Shippee with Providence Valdez Medical Center spoke in favor of funding for the Valdez Avalanche Center and read written comments from Janice Jimenez into the record.
- Rafael Alfaro spoke in favor of funding the Valdez Avalanche Center.
- Stephen Clark spoke in favor of funding the Valdez Avalanche Center.
- James Smith, a member of the KCHU board of directors, spoke in favor of funding KCHU public radio.
- Mason Mullen, a member of the KCHU board of directors, spoke in favor of funding KCHU public radio and the Valdez Avalanche Center.
- Jonathan Neville spoke in favor of funding KCHU public radio and the Valdez Avalanche Center.
- Tommy Kimberlin spoke in favor of funding KCHU public radio and the Valdez Avalanche Center.
- Mathew Brunton expressed concerns about the community service organization funding process generally and opposed funding to Valdez Avalanche Center specifically.
- Joe Prax encouraged Council to reflect on the total spend in the budget. He highlighted written comments submitted by Laurie Prax related to the KCHU radio tower and questioned level of city investment in the prior tower.
- Brian Bailey spoke in favor of funding the Valdez Avalanche Center.
- Merreley Donohue spoke in favor of funding the Valdez Avalanche Center.

Seeing no additional public wishing to participate, Mayor Fleming closed the public hearing and noted the regular meeting would begin at 7:00 p.m.

**REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fleming called the Regular meeting to order at 7:00 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 Manager Nathan Duval  
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk  
City Attorney Jake Staser

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 1. Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting of November 4, 2025**
- 2. Approval of Minutes for Special Council Meeting of October 28, 2025**

The minutes from November 4, 2025, and October 28, 2025, were approved by consent.

**V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: 1) Discussion of Implications for City Revenues and Litigation Strategy Regarding Trans Alaska Pipeline System Ad Valorem Tax Issues; 2) Discussion of Ongoing Escaped Property Legal Issues; 3) Discussion of Local Regulation and Assessment of Oil Spill Prevention and Response Property**
- 2. Appointments to Planning and Zoning Commission- Applicants: Rhonda Wade and Don Haase**
- 3. Appointment to the Valdez Consortium Library Board, Applicant: Celeste Hurst**

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

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approval of Write-Offs of Various City Fees and Forwarding to Collections Agency**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Witte, to Authorize write-off of various city fees and forwarding to collections agency.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**VIII. ORDINANCES**

**1. #25-15 - Repealing Chapter 2.60 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled Economic Diversification Commission. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Ordinance 25-15 in first reading for public hearing.

Council Member Devens summarized feedback received from commission members and expressed a desire to hold a work session to discuss the topic further.

City Manager Duval highlighted the lack of applicants and initial legislative intent for the commission to be temporary in nature.

Other Council Members expressed support for the ordinance.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Love, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Nays: 1 - Devens

MOTION CARRIED.

**IX. RESOLUTIONS**

**1. #25-53 - Authorizing the Negotiated Sale of Lots 4A, 6-7, and 9B, Block 33 Mineral Creek Subdivision, Formerly Known as the Pipeline Club Property**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Greene, to approve Resolution 25-53.

Council Member Devens noted initial hesitancy for allowing a negotiated sale but stated that he was reassured by the language in the resolution.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**2. #25-54 - Amending the 2025 City Budget by Transferring \$32,478 from General Fund to Harbor Fund to Replace Lost Revenue Resulting from the Commercial Fishing Vessel Moorage Waiver Relief Program**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve Resolution 25-54.

Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Mayor Fleming voiced appreciation for the relief given to fishing vessels and the reimbursement of the harbor fund.

Council Member Witte asked for and received clarification related to the scope and timing of the fisheries moorage relief program.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**3. #25-55 - Amending the 2025 City Budget by Transferring \$5,083,353 of Debt Service Fund Balance to the Projects Planning Reserve**

MOTION: Council Member Witte moved, seconded by Council Member Greene, to approve Resolution 25-55.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**X. REPORTS**

1.Monthly Treasury Report: September 2025

2.Monthly Treasury Report: August 2025

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

1. City Manager Report

City Manager Duval provided a summary of the advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. and

gauged Council's interest in scheduling a community presentation from Senator Sullivan. He also discussed upcoming work session topics. Council Member Love requested a status update be provided on personnel regulation edits related to public safety employees.

## **2. City Clerk Report**

Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk reviewed the council calendar.

## **3. City Attorney Report**

City Attorney Jake Staes provided updates on the following legal matters:

- The Valdez Marine Terminal Contingency Plan process, including communications with Prince William Sound Regional Citizen's Advisory Council and the state Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Ongoing discussions related to the Trans Alaska Pipeline System settlement negotiations.
- Awaiting a response in the Ables employment matter.

## **4. City Mayor Report**

Mayor Fleming noted that meetings in Washington, D.C. had been very productive and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

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

Council Member Greene thanked the public members who had provided comments on the budget.

Council Member Witte thanked city staff for their time and efforts during the budget process.

Council Member Devens echoed the positive comments on the budget process and encouraged the public to make donations to the Valdez Food Bank, noting a high community need.

Council Member Love thanked Mayor Fleming, Council Member Lally and city staff who had traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for Valdez.

Council Member Lally thanked everyone for all the work on the budget and complimented the efforts of the City Manager and Mayor in Washington, D.C.

Wishes for a happy Thanksgiving holiday were shared.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Fleming excused himself due to a conflict of interest and passed the gavel to Mayor Pro Tempore Love.

**XIV. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Pro Tempore Love noted that guidance had been given to the city attorney on the how to proceed relating to the matters discussed.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro Tempore Love adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

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