

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, April 6, 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

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

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Ron Ruff
Council Member Susan Love
Council Member Dawson Moore
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Fleming
Council Member Alan Sorum

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 16, 2021

The City Council regular meeting minutes of March 16, 2021 were approved as presented.

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

No members of the public appeared to provide testimony from the floor.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Proclamation: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

2. Proclamation: Child Abuse Prevention Month

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

Mayor Scheidt read both proclamations into the record.

Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV) Director Rowena Palomar thanked Council for their time. She invited those present to join AVV to participate in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event on April 10th.

Herman Hutchens Elementary School Principle Jason Weber and counselor Gianna Giusti addressed the effects of abuse on children. Mr. Weber expressed the importance of reporting abuse when it is witnessed. Ms. Giusti stated it takes one trusted adult to impact a child's life in a positive way. She reminded those listening that adults should listen to hear, not listen to respond. She encouraged everyone to look up the trauma engaged framework on the Alaska Department of Education website, as well as the Stronger Together document prepared by the Alaska School Board Association.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update

Mr. Detter reviewed current local case counts and vaccination efforts. He reminded Council testing was a secondary mitigation measure and health officials' state vaccination is the most effective mitigation measure currently.

Public Health Nurse Terri Lynch explained local clusters were primarily centered around transmission between close contacts following travel. Recent transmission patterns also appear partially due to a complacency issue. She urged those listening to remain vigilant in their personal mitigation efforts. Ms. Lynch reminded those listening how to sign up for vaccination appointments in Valdez.

Mayor Scheidt asked what percentage of the local population was eligible for vaccination. Mr. Detter explained approximately three thousand people were eligible.

Mayor Scheidt asked if there was a plan to address vaccination hesitancy. Mr. Detter outlined current discussions on pushing through hesitancy and utilizing incentives. Ms. Lynch said the state was also currently working on messaging to address vaccine hesitancy concerns.

Dr. Angela Alfaro, physician consultant to the Unified Command, explained although people have many different reasons for choosing not to vaccinate, she appreciated the effort to provide messaging to address concerns. She recommended those who are hesitant to also reach out to their physician to discuss their particular situation and concerns.

2. Discussion Item: Valdez Municipal Code Chapter 6 (Animals), Section 6.08.020, Titled Running at Large Prohibited

Chief of Police Bart Hinkle explained why he recommended leaving the definition of restraint as written. He explained most communities in Alaska did not list e-collars as appropriate restraints, and although Anchorage did list it in their code, they were actively working on removing it. Chief Hinkle recommended considering an off leash area as compromise in the future.

Council gave consensus on the definition of restraint remaining as is, although they would be open to compromise in certain other areas. Council requested Chief Hinkle move forward with looking into areas to designate as "off leash acceptable".

3. Approval of Beautification Task Force Recommendation to Award 2021 Beautification 50:50 Matching Grants in the Amount of \$42,149.22

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Beautification Task Force recommendation to award 2021 beautification 50:50 matching grants in the amount of \$42,149.22.

Council Member Devens requested more information on the cited studies in the application packet. Ms. Ferko explained the studies mentioned were done when the program was originally developed, but she would look into them and get back to Council Member Devens.

Ms. Ferko expressed her appreciation for the work of the Beautification Task Force on this grant program. She outlined the process moving forward.

Beautification Task Force Member Patty Relay shared her excitement for all the projects the Task Force had been able to support over the years.

Mayor Scheidt thanked the Task Force and Ms. Ferko for their efforts

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Contract Amendment #1 with Dean Day DBA Day Engineering for Phase III Final Design and Grant/ Loan Submittals - Sewer Force Main Replacement in the Amount of \$ 756,600

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fleming, to approve contract amendment #1 with Dean Day dba Day Engineering for Phase III Final Design and Grant/ Loan submittals - Sewer Force Main Replacement Project in the amount of \$ 756,600.

Council Member Fleming requested verification on where the funds were coming

from for this contract amendment. Mr. Duval reiterated where the unencumbered funds would come from, as well as the purpose behind the project.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love,
Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro
Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Approval of Contract with Build Alaska General Contracting, LLC for VCT Causeway Repairs in the Amount of \$518,205.00

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fleming, to approve the contract with Build Alaska General Contracting, LLC for VCT causeway repairs in the amount of \$518,205.00.

Council Member Ruff asked how much time the repair would add to the use of the causeway. Mr. Duval stated his team's calculations estimated approximately twenty years of additional use.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love,
Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro
Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Approval of Contract Award with Orion Construction Inc. for the City Hall and Library Parking Lot Lighting Upgrades Project in the Amount of \$196,518.00

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Fleming moved, seconded by Council Member Ruff, to approve the contract award with Orion Construction Inc. for the City Hall and Library Parking Lot Lighting Upgrades Project in the amount of \$196,518.

Council Member Devens verified the lighting was in line with other areas in town. Mr. Duval agreed the intent was to have a more consistent aesthetic.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love,
Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro
Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

X. ORDINANCES

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

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming to approve Ordinance # 21-03. Second Reading. Adoption.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

- 2. #21-04 - Amending Chapter 7.04 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled Elections. First Reading. Public Hearing.**

MOTION: Council Member Moore moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fleming, to approve Ordinance #21-04. First Reading. Public Hearing.

Ms. Pierce explained the purpose of the changes proposed in the ordinance, including the need to develop and add a process for write-in candidates in municipal elections.

Council Member Fleming identified a section for clerical adjustment to the order it was placed in the ordinance. Ms. Pierce agreed the change would help the flow and to make the change.

Council Member Moore asked what would occur if there were no qualified write in votes for the open School Board position. Ms. Pierce explained, in that situation, the School Board would appoint someone to fill the vacancy until the next regular municipal election.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

XI. RESOLUTIONS

- 1. #21-14 - Waiving 2021 Annual Fishing Vessel Moorage Fees for Active Commercial Fishing Vessels**

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fleming, to approve Resolution #21-14.

Council Member Fleming asked if other businesses relying on the harbor were

being looked at for a similar program. Ports & Harbor Director Jeremy Talbott explained other businesses had been addressed in a prior program.

Council Member Love shared her appreciation for the thoughtful way in which the program was put together.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

2. #21-15 - Waiving Temporary Land Use Permit Fees for Temporary Land Use Permit 21-03 for Pruhs Construction

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution #21-15.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

3. #21-16 - Authorizing the City Clerk to Dispose of Certain City Records

MOTION: Council Member Moore moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fleming, to approve Resolution #21-16.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, Mayor Pro Tem Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

XII. REPORTS

- 1. Report: Amendment No. 1 to Temporary Land Use Permit #21-01 for Valdez Motor Sports Club for a Portion of USS 439 (Pipeyard)**
- 2. Report: Approval of Temporary Land Use Permit #21-02 for Pruhs Construction for Six Months, for an Approximately 1.85 Acre Portion of 1500 Airport Road Tract A ASLS 79-116, Owned by the City of Valdez**

3. **Report: Approval of Temporary Land Use Permit #21-03 for Pruhs Construction for Six Months, for a 31,250 Square Foot Portion of 226 S Harbor Drive, Tract G, Harbor Subdivision**
4. **Procurement Report: Contract Award to Spawn Ideas for 2021 Valdez Branding Project in the Amount of \$75,000**
5. **Personnel History - 1998-2021**

Council Member Ruff requested Finance Director Brian Carlson include reasons why there were staff increases or decreases in the report in the future.

Council Member Love thanked Mr. Carlson for bringing the report back in response to her request.

6. **Comprehensive Plan Update**
7. **Meals Hill Master Plan Report 3/2021**
8. **1st Quarter Report on the Mayor's Task Force Projects**

Economic Director Martha Barberio provided a brief update on economic projects, including recovery programs and branding.

9. **Monthly Treasury Report - January, 2021**
10. **Verbal Presentation: Finance Department**

Mr. Carlson provided a thorough verbal report on the mission, functions, and goals of the Finance Department.

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

1. **City Manager Report**

Mr. Detter updated Council on meetings with State representatives.

2. **City Clerk Report**

Ms. Pierce reminded Council absentee voting would begin on April 19th. She explained the different methods for absentee voting. Ms. Pierce stated she would be doing board training for the Parks & Recreation Commission the following night. She reviewed the upcoming Council calendar.

3. **City Attorney Report**

Mr. Staser outlined projects and provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including the Alaska Trappers, Barton v. City of Valdez, Pacific Pile & Marine, escaped property, code revisions, and redistricting.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Scheidt provided a brief update on meetings with Providence, the Beautification Task Force, Alyeska, and the Valdez Adventure Alliance.

XIV. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council shared their gratitude for those involved in the recent search & rescue efforts.

Council Member Love updated Council on her participation in the AVV coalition.

Council Member Sorum shared his support for the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation and encouraged Council to be more involved in assisting and supporting local organizations. He expressed his support for the local post office as they operate shorthanded through no control of their own.

Council Member Ruff shared his enthusiasm for the Mayor's Cup Race and requested Mr. Ken Lares, president of the Valdez Snowmachine Club, take a moment to speak. Mr. Lares thanked everyone who volunteered during the search & rescue. He expressed his gratitude for the Valdez Fire Department's back country search & rescue team as well as Alaska State Trooper Tony Beck.

Council Member Fleming asked what the process would be for inspecting recent road work, as damage is being reported. Mr. Duval suggested contacting himself or the Public Works Department if someone notices damage to the roads.

Council Member Moore stated draft guidelines for the Community Service Organization grant program would be brought to Council for review at the next regular meeting.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Scheidt adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m.