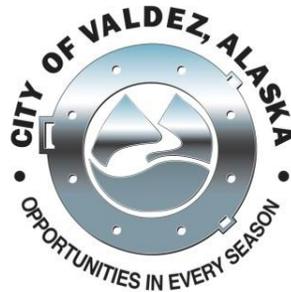


City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.

Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Knight called the meeting to order at 7:00 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: 7 - Mayor Ruth E. Knight
Council Member Nate Smith
Council Member Christopher Moulton
Council Member Lon Needles
Council Member Jim Shirrell
Council Member Dennis Fleming
Council Member Darren Reese

Also Present: 3 – City Manager Elke Doom
Records Manager Shelley McMillen
City Attorney Jake Staser

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2018

Minutes were approved as presented.

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Regarding Pending Litigation

Mayor Knight said Mr. Staser let Council know the Executive Session that had been scheduled was unnecessary as items originally intended for the session could now be discussed in public.

This agenda item was administratively removed from the agenda.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS**1. Discussion Item: Recap of 2018 Budget Process**

Mr. Brian Carlson, Finance Director, said the discussion item was a long awaited recap of the 2018 budget process. He said he regretted it had taken so long to come before Council and that the discussion was intended to obtain Council feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the 2018 budget process to inform the upcoming year and beyond.

Mr. Carlson said he thought it was realistic that Council and staff would have to complete all of the budget workshops going forward, some of which were removed for the 2018 process. He said the intention of these workshops was to set the service objectives for departments. He said he felt doing work on the budget early in the year would serve the City's interests better and assist with accomplishment of the Council's priority list. He said he thought personnel requests and all other aspects of budgeting would flow naturally from the process. Mayor Knight asked if any Council members had suggestions or questions for Mr. Carlson about the 2018 budget process.

Council Member Shirrell said he would like to see a list of projects based on resource needs. He said the 2018 year brought several surprises to Council in the form of projects and departmental personnel needs previously unknown to Council. He emphasized the Council must be fully informed about City administration's activities and any changes that arise. He said his final request was that the Council's annual priorities be developed relatively soon after reformulating the Council to either reconfirm or reconfigure their focus going forward. He said he hoped the coming budgets would be based off the Council's priorities.

Council Member Smith said he would like to see annual presentations from City departments highlighting what would be different about those departments in the next budget year compared to the previous year. Council Member Reese said he agreed with the points that had been brought up and hoped to have more amplifying information from City administration further in advance of budget work sessions. Council Member Moulton said he agreed with Council Member Reese, adding he wanted to see personnel requirements set as well.

Mayor Knight said she liked the two year budgeting process. She said if Council knew about budgeting needs two years in the future, departments and Council could make changes as needed. She said it was the forward funding Council had wanted to give departments for more assurance that their budget needs would be met. Council Member Shirrell asked if Council was forward funding projects two years in the future. He clarified the Council was simply approving in advance, but were not funding two years of projects in one year.

Mr. Carlson replied Council Member Shirrell's comment accurately reflected the projects budget. He said with respect to the operating budget, he would not characterize it as forward funding. He said he was keeping the details of

operations relatively status quo. He said he felt much of the process was repetitive and did not need to be accomplished annually if two years of planning could be done in one year with a budget reserve to absorb any budget to actual variance.

Ms. Doom said she agreed with what had been stated. She said she felt that while the 2018 budget process had been productive, there were some improvements which could be made. Ms. Doom said she would like to have all departments present to Council about their accomplishments, challenges, and future plans for ten or fifteen minutes each year. Council Member Shirrell remarked it was one of the few times the departments interfaced with Council to discuss their successes and challenges.

IX. ORDINANCES

1. **#18-03 - Amending Chapter 2.80 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled Procurement Policy. First Reading. Public Hearing.**

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve Ordinance #18-03 amending Chapter 2.80 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled Procurement Policy. First Reading. Public Hearing. The motion carried by the following vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Knight, Council Member Smith, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Reese

X. RESOLUTIONS

1. **#18-13 - Appointing the Judges and Clerks for the Regular Municipal Election to be Held on May 1, 2018, and Setting the Hourly Rate of Compensation**

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve Resolution #18-13 appointing the judges and clerks for the Regular Municipal Election to be held on May 1, 2018, and setting the hourly rate. The motion carried by the following vote.

Mayor Knight read Resolution #18-13 aloud to acknowledge the 2018 election officials.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor Knight, Council Member Smith, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Reese

XI. REPORTS**1. February - March 2018 New Boat Harbor Report**

Council Member Needles said he spoke with an employee at the New Boat Harbor site who said the contractors would have to blast to remove the rock, instead of ripping it. Mayor Knight said it was good information to know. Council Member Shirrell asked how the conversation came about. Council Member Needles said he asked the employee questions about how the project was going. Council Member Smith said he was already under the impression from the New Harbor Construction Manager Mr. Ron Rozak that the rock would most likely need to be blasted. Council Member Needles said the rock removal was more difficult than expected.

Council Member Shirrell asked about the cost implications of blasting the rock verses ripping it. Mr. Duval, Capital Facilities Director, said the contract clearly outlined a permit included for blasting and mechanical rock removal. He said it would fall into the "means and methods category" and that the contractor was free to remove the rock at their discretion. Council Member Shirrell said he thought the lack of need for blasting was the reason for the low cost bid. Mr. Duval said the Capital Facilities Department did not have a preference for how the rock was removed, as long as the job was complete.

XII. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS**1. City Manager Report**

Ms. Doom said she met with Mr. Duval, Ms. Barberio, and representatives from Copper Valley Electric Association. She said they discussed the fish processing plants and shared potential development plans to keep Copper Valley informed of upcoming electrical needs. She said they reviewed concept plans as part of an ongoing discussion with Copper Valley. She said the City was also working to inform residents applying for building permits to contact Copper Valley Electric to arrange electrical services.

Ms. Doom said she attended a conference on Homeland Security and Emergency Management in Anchorage with Ms. Martha Barberio, Economic Development Director. She said they expanded their knowledge of emergency management, and began strategizing to provide basic needs to residents in the event of a crisis. She said they discussed the lessons learned from the January 23rd 2018 earthquake. She and Ms. Barberio met with members from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, to discuss why Valdez is affected by inaccurate weather projections as well. She said attendees at the conference were excited to see Valdez involved in emergency management.

Council Member Smith asked if there was a copy of the flood map area available on the City website. Ms. Rochelle Rollenhagen, Community Development Director, said her department had developed a new map just prior to the January 23rd earthquake, adding it would be included in the hazard mitigation plan and put

on the City website. Council Member Smith said he thought it was important for residents to know. He said he hoped the public could be better educated on the causes of tsunamis and proper response safety protocol.

Ms. Barberio said she communicated with members from the National Weather Service and invited them to Valdez to do training on emergency management. She said she hoped to have a tsunami drill day in Valdez sometime that year.

Ms. Doom said they communicated with a gentleman from the Red Cross during the Anchorage conference who wanted to do outreach to Valdez as well. Ms. Doom added that when the public emergency alert sirens were tested, it was at a fraction of the volume they would be in a true emergency. She said Mr. Tracy Raynor, Valdez Fire Chief, assured her they would be heard by residents when sounded at full volume. Council Member Smith said he felt the full alarm sound should be incorporated into the tsunami exercise. Chief of Police Mr. Bart Hinkle said that while the emergency alert sirens are much louder in a true evacuation, they were outdoor warning systems and there were no guarantees they could be heard inside by everyone. Council Member Needles said the City used to have a model earthquake house for educational purposes. Ms. Barberio said she would be utilizing the model to educate 3rd and 4th graders on earthquake response.

2. City Clerk Report

Ms. McMillen stated Ms. Pierce, City Clerk, would be back in the office on Monday after attending the Municipal Clerk's Conference. She added there was a Council Work Session scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday the 26th on Capital Improvement Projects. She also said absentee voting in person was now available at City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

3. City Attorney Report

Mr. Staser thanked Council and departments for their work on the Procurement Code. He said he would be working with Ms. Rollenhagen and Ms. Pierce on the Community Development Code next.

Ms. Staser said Legal was continuing to negotiate with the Department of Revenue regarding the taxable use property standards under oil and gas statutes. He said the State Assessor Mr. Marty McGee had promised a response on the state tax cap matter in coming days. He also hoped to have an update on the AKLNG project for the next Council meeting. Mr. Staser said the codefendants in the Cummings litigation had made an offer to settle the case but had still not heard back on their proposal.

Mr. Staser said the case planning conference for the C-PLAN adjudication had been moved to May 10th, 2018 and he would have a better understanding of the timeline for a hearing and what procedures would take place after the conference.

Council Member Shirrell asked why an Executive Session had been scheduled

that evening. Mr. Staser replied scheduling an Executive Session had been simply procedural. He said they wanted the ability to discuss legal matters if required. They could remove an Executive Session from the agenda as needed but could not add an Executive Session without 24 hours of public notice.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Knight said her prayers were with the Hoffman, Curry, and Walli families after experiencing such senseless tragedy.

She remarked the Providence Valdez Health Advisory Council had developed a strong Community Health Improvement Plan based on the Community Health Needs Assessment from 2017. She said the priorities, in order of rank, were identified as local health providers, mental health and substance abuse, access to specialty care, and healthy lifestyle and chronic disease.

XIII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Member Moulton said it had been a somber week mourning the loss of Valdez resident Ms. Chellsie Hoffman.

Council Member Moulton said he hoped everyone could attend the Meet the Candidates on April 28th from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mayor Knight suggested they shorten the event. Council Member Smith remarked it was good to see Meet the Candidates return.

Council Member Reese said it was the last Council meeting before the election on May 1st and added May 1st was also the Blessing of the Bikes ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

Council Member Fleming said there were six more weeks until the sun begins setting earlier.

Council Member Needles said he did not hear any discussion about the physician recruitment plans at the meeting and was interested in an update.

Council Member Smith said his heart was with the Hoffman and Curry families.

Council Member Shirrell said he was left with the impression after the recent physician recruitment plan work session that Valdez would be losing physicians fairly soon and needed to take action. He said he was heartened to see the community's response to the Hoffman tragedy.

Mayor Knight said Ms. Doom expressed City administration's dedication to moving forward on the physician recruitment plan. Council Member Smith said he was under the impression the conversation was left with administration taking action and presenting their plan to Council. Ms. Doom said City administration needed some time to brainstorm. Mayor Knight said they would move forward with physician recruitment.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Knight adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.