

**City of Valdez**

*212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686*



**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Wednesday, September 4, 2024**

**5:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting**

**City Council Chambers**

**Beautification Commission**

**REGULAR AGENDA - 5:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Beautification Commission was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

**Present** 6 - Chair Magdalena McCay  
Chair Pro Tempore Donna Lane  
Commissioner Kathy Nielsen  
Commissioner Keena Miller  
Commissioner Meg Weaver  
Commissioner Timi Miner  
(One Vacancy)

**Also Present** Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk

III. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no public business from the floor.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion Item: Regular Beautification Commission Meeting Time

The Commission determined by consensus that their new meeting day would be the First Thursday of each month instead of the Frist Wednesday but that the meeting time would remain at 5:00 p.m.

2. Discussion Item: Initial Timelines for Our Town Grant Proposal and Public Art Policy Subcommittee Work

Commission discussion included the following:

- The Public Art Policy and Our Town Grant were separate but interrelated projects.
- The Our Town Grant application could benefit from a two year planning process, with the intention to apply in 2026 instead of 2025.
- The significant partnership building and public engagement that would be need for a successful Our Town Grant project.
- That the Public Art Policy could be the main focus for 2025.
- That the Public Art Policy Subcommittee would report back after they had an opportunity to meet.

- 3. Action Item: Approval of Recommendation to City Council to Capitalize the Beautification Reserve Fund to a Starting Balance of \$200,000 for 2025.

**MOTION: Lane moved, seconded by Weaver, to approve the recommendation to City Council to capitalize the Beautification Reserve Fund to a balance of \$200,000 for 2025.**

The Commission discussed whether it would be appropriate to reduce 2025 reserve fund capitalization request to \$150,000 since the Our Town grant application process would be taking place in 2026. They came to a consensus that it would be helpful to have funding other than the amount designed to the Beautification Matching Grant Program available for other priority projects or ideas that would emerge in the coming year. It was noted that the unspent reserve fund balance rolled over each year and that all proposed spending would need Council approval, regardless of the amount in the fund.

**VOTE ON MOTION**

**Yays:** 6 - Nielsen, Miller, Commission Member McCay, Lane, Weaver, and Miner

**MOTION CARRIED**

V. REPORTS

- 1. Report: Next Steps on Nuisance Abatement Collaboration

Commission staff gave a brief summary of the Code Enforcement/Nuisance Abatement work session held by City Council and informed commissioners that City Council has requested a joint work session with the Beautification Commission at a later date on the topic.

Commissioner Nielsen added to the report by highlighting the potential for a zone-based approach for abatement and by sharing her excitement about the scrap barge proposal.

Commissioners discussed the history of the Code Enforcement Officer position and the interplay between Title 8 provision related to Nuisance Abatement and the new adopted Titel 17 zoning code. Commissioners expressed a desire to work on public education related to the nuisance abatement reporting process and to assist with any proactive future clean-up efforts.

VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no commission business from the floor.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.