

City of Valdez

*212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686*



DRAFT- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tempore Love called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Council Member Austin Love
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Olivia Foster
Council Member Joy Witte
Council Member Lester Greene

Excused: 2 - Mayor Dennis Fleming
Council Member Joseph Lally

Also Present: Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk
Assistant City Manager Jordan Nelson
City Attorney Jack Wakeland
Records Manager Katie Carr

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Proclamation Recognizing Animal Shelter Appreciation Week**
- 2. 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**

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

VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Love, Devens, Foster, Witte and Greene

Excused: 2 - Fleming and Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Pro Tempore Love read the Animal Shelter Appreciation Week Proclamation into the record and shelter staff members Alyssa Schaeffer and Rhiannon Pierce were present.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of the Providence Valdez Medical Center 2026 Operating and Capital Projects Budget

MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve the Providence Valdez Medical Center 2026 Operating and Capital Projects Budget.

Chief Financial Officer Lindsie King and Interim Hospital Administrator Pauline Doucet responded to council question about the proposed budget including the following topics:

- Status of recruitment for a new hospital administrator.
- Impacts of staffing levels and current vacancies on budget and operations.
- Meaning of Patient Charge Ratios (reimbursement rates).
- Counseling Center budget changes, capacity and reimbursement model.
- Balance of hospital reserve account and days of cash on hand.
- Need for a new slit lamp (used in removal of foreign material from eyes).
- Implications and limitations of the planned integrated nurse call system update.
- Timelines for multi-year capital improvement projects.
- Importance of Critical Access Hospital federal designation.

Council Member Foster expressed appreciation for the key role played by the facility in ensuring community health and wellbeing. Foster also thanked Pauline Doucet for serving as interim administrator.

Mayor Pro Tem Love echoed Foster's sentiments and praised hospital administration for continuing to operate in a financially sustainable way.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Love, Devens, Foster, Witte and Greene

Excused: 2 - Fleming and Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

VII. RESOLUTIONS

1. #25-51 - Authorizing a Lease with Central Environmental, Inc. for an Approximately .85-acre Portion of USS 439 (Pipeyard) Owned by the City of Valdez

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Greene, to approve Resolution 25-51.

Council Member Foster expressed appreciation for inclusion of applicant in the scrap barge project.

Council Member Greene stated his support for the item.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Love, Devens, Foster, Witte and Greene

Excused: 2 - Fleming and Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

2. #25-52 - Authorizing the Donation of Two Matrice 210 Drones to the City of Skagway Public Safety

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve Resolution 25-52.

Council Member Devens praised the city for staying ahead with technology and for helping another community in the state.

Council Member Witte stated her opposition to the resolution and noted she would have favored the drones being disposed of via public auction to provide additional revenue for the city. She urged administration to further evaluate value of items being disposed of.

Council Member Greene voiced support for the donation.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Love, Devens, Foster and Greene

Nays: 1 - Witte

Excused: 2 - Fleming and Lally

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. REPORTS**1. 2025 Economic Development Report**

Council Member Foster asked about ongoing city's current efforts related to child care and Director Barberio provided details. Foster expressed a desire for a follow-up report on efforts being made toward achieving the more wholistic goals outlined by the Child Care Crisis Task Force and emphasized the continued importance of council focus on the issue. Assistant City manager Nelson confirmed that the report being discussed only covered a portion of efforts and administration would provide additional information on the topic.

Mayor Pro Tempore Love inquired about plans for the second iteration of the small business conference and business builder workshop in the coming year. Director Barberio and Assistant City Manager Nelson spoke to the success of the 2025 events, including relationships built and connection created between businesses.

The planned third phase of the wayfinding project was discussed, as was a desire to ensure that needs of local oil and gas employers were met when considering workforce development.

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

Assistant City Manager Jordan Nelson noted that a written report from City Manager Duval was included in the packet and offered to try to answer any questions. Nelson shared that the energy assistance program was underway, thanked the front office for their work and encouraged residents to apply.

2. City Clerk Report

Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk highlighted upcoming scheduled events, shared her experience attending an information governance conference and noted the Beautification Commission's plan to expand the length of application period for the 2026 matching grant program.

3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Jack Wakeland noted an email report had been provided and that additional updates related to ongoing litigation and negotiations would be provided in executive session.

4. City Mayor Report**X. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Member Devens noted that it was a high demand period for the food bank and encouraged residents to help by donating non-perishable items.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tempore Love recessed the meeting into executive session at 7:50 p.m.

XII. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon returning from executive session Mayor Pro Tempore noted that advice was provided to legal counsel on the topics noticed for executive session.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.