

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting  
Council Chambers

**City Council**

**WORK SESSION AGENDA - 5:30 pm**

**1. Work Session: Child Care Next Steps**

**REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: 6 - Mayor Pro Tem Alan Sorum  
Council Member Dennis Fleming  
Council Member Todd Wegner  
Council Member Jimmy Devens  
Council Member Olivia Foster  
Council Member Austin Love

Excused: 2 - Mayor Sharon Scheidt

Also Present: 3 - City Manager John Douglas  
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk  
Administrative Assistant Katie Carr

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Approval of City Council Minutes - January 16, 2024**

**V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Joe Prax, Valdez resident, spoke on his concerns with the report provided during the Child Care Next Steps Work Session.

Faith Revel, Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Interim Director, thanked those involved in the museum's HVAC project and provided a brief update.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approval of Budgeted Travel for Commissioner Colleen Stephens to Attend Cruise Industry Meetings in Miami.**
- 2. Approval of 2024 Community Purpose Property Tax Exemption Applications**

**3. Proclamation: Commending Members of the West Valley High School, Lathrop High School, Hutchinson High School and North Pole High School Ski Teams**

MOTION: Council Member Fleming moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love

Absent: 1 - Scheidt

MOTION CARRIED.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. #23-68 - Approving Port Valdez Company Memorial Art Installation at Meals Hill**

MOTION ON THE TABLE FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2023.

Council Member Love reviewed the committee's recommendation included in the packet.

MOTION TO AMEND: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to Amend Resolution #23-68 by the replacing references to appendix A with reference to the attachment in the agenda packet titled Committee Recommendation on Final Design Proposal.

John Clark of the Port Valdez Company provided the perspective of the company on the proposal. Clark noted that they did not object to the design but that additional expense was not covered under the project's current budget.

Council Member Wegner and Council Member Fleming asked who would pay for the additional EVOS side stone element of the proposal.

Deputy Clerk Sorum-Birk clarified that the item on the table was the approval of the design and noted that funding there would be a need for a future discussion and decision on funding.

Mayor Pro Tempore Sorum expressed his desire to have the EVOS story told because it was EVOS funds which were used to purchase the property.

Council Member Wegner asked what maintenance would be needed for the installation. City Manager Douglas stated it would be minimal maintenance.

VOTE ON THE MOTION TO AMEND

Yays: 5 - Sorum, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love

Nays: 1 - Fleming

Absent: 1 - Scheidt

MOTION CARRIED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED

Yays: 6 - Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
Absent: 1 - Scheidt

MOTION CARRIED.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Approval of Lease Amendment #1 with IN Properties, LLC for a 3,720 Square Foot Portion of Lot 2, Block 2, Mineral Creek Subdivision (Barney Meyring Park Strip)

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve lease amendment #1 with IN Properties, LLC for a 3,720 square foot portion of Lot 2, Block 2, Mineral Creek Subdivision (Barney Meyring Park Strip).

Council Member Fleming asked if the lease would ever come to an end, and if not, would it be possible to sell the property to the lessee. Community Development Director Kate Huber stated as long as the parking requirements remained the same, she did not see the lease ending. Director Huber volunteered to look into the disposition of the land with Legal.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love  
Absent: 1 - Scheidt

MOTION CARRIED.

### 2. Discussion Item: Long Term Capital & Projects Planning

Finance Director Jordan Nelson reviewed his presentation outlining proposed adjustments to the project planning process, included in the agenda packet.

Council Member Love asked historically how long the carry-forward and projects funds have been repurposed within the CIP Fund. Director Nelson outlined the current and prior processes.

Mayor Pro Tempore Sorum asked if any momentum would be lost on potential new projects. Capital Facilities Director Nate Duval confirmed there would not be a lot of room to add projects for a year, and explained how it would benefit in the long run.

## IX. ORDINANCES

### 1. #24-02 - Amending Chapter 10.12 of the Valdez City Code Titled Parking. Second Reading. Adoption.

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve Ordinance 24-0002, Second Reading. Adoption.

Council Member Devens expressed concern over the increase and cited research.

Council Member Foster noted the safety hazard created for the plow crew when cars were parked in the street.

Council Member Fleming shared his support for a stricter penalty.

Council Member Wegner shared his personal experience with animal impound fees, noting his own behavioral changes due to steeper fines.

Bart Hinkle, Chief of Police, requested that approval be postponed due to a need to review Ordinance #24-02 and Ordinance #24-04 side by side as he was concerned there was an oversight on how one would affect the other, and needed additional time to review both with Legal.

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to postpone Ordinance 24-0002 to the next regular meeting.

City Attorney Staser and Deputy City Clerk Sorum-Birk confirmed if there was an amendment at the next meeting, the ordinance would need to come back for an additional first reading and public hearing.

Valdez Resident Clay Strickland spoke in favor of postponing the ordinance.

VOTE ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE

Yays: 6 - Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love

Absent: 1 - Scheidt

MOTION CARRIED.

**2. #24-03 - Amending Chapter 3.12 Section 3.12.040 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled Additional Exemptions. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve Ordinance #24-03. Second Reading. Adoption.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love

Absent: 1 - Scheidt

MOTION CARRIED.

**3. #24-04 - Amending Chapter 1.08 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled General Penalty. First Reading. Public Hearing.**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member

Fleming, to postpone Ordinance #24-04 to the next regular meeting.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

Yays: 6 - Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love

Absent: 1 - Scheidt

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**X. REPORTS**

- 1. Contract Amendment Report: Amendment #3 with Gulf Coast, Inc. dba Clean Alaska for a One-Year Contract Extension of Janitorial Service in the Amount of \$27,500.00.**
- 2. Verbal Report: Harbor H-K Replacement Project Update**

Capital Facilities Director Nathan Duval updated Council on the adjusted timeline for the H-K project.

- 3. Hazard Mitigation Plan Implementation Report**

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

- 1. City Manager Report**

Manager Douglas updated Council on the Washington, D.C. trip and the All-Hazards Preparedness AlaskEx2024 Valdez earthquake/tsunami Full-Scale ICS exercise.

- 2. City Clerk Report**

Deputy Clerk Sorum-Birk provided an update on City Clerk Pierce's successful surgery. She filled council in on the recent Valdez High School Student Government visit to City Hall and reminded those listening nominating petitions for the upcoming May 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Election were available at the Clerk's Office and due back by March 15<sup>th</sup>. She invited those listening to attend the upcoming Beautification Matching Grant Lunch & Learn.

- 3. City Attorney Report**

Attorney Staser provided updates on cases his firm is working on for the City, including escaped property, redistricting, and Alderwood.

- 4. City Mayor Report**

**XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Member Devens reminded those listening to be cautious and aware of standing water on roadways.

Council Member Foster informed those listening the Sound Wellness Alliance Network was offering a free hour on Saturdays and Sundays from 8am-9am at the Prince William College gym.

Council Member Fleming asked if flowers could be sent to City Clerk Pierce. Staff confirmed they could send flowers.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

DRAFT