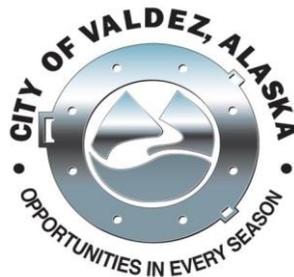


# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Civic Center Conference Room

**City Council**

**REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Scheidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Conference Room.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**III. ROLL CALL**

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

Also Present: 6 - City Manager Mark Detter  
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval  
Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy  
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko  
Records Manager Shelley McMillen  
City Attorney Jake Staser

**IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: Alaska Trappers Settlement**

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

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. COVID-19 EMERGENCY UPDATE**

Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy explained she had been appointed as the new Public Information Officer in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. She outlined various efforts by the City to help manage the current outbreak, including non-essential city staff working from home at least until November 1<sup>st</sup>. She provided information about the two-part Capstone Clinic mass testing event at

the Civic Center. She outlined the upcoming information campaign with Thompson & Co. to encourage vaccination in the community. She encouraged those with even mild symptoms to get tested and respond to contact tracing calls.

Council Member Moore asked when the upcoming flu shot clinics would be held. Ms. Ferko provided an updated schedule.

Council Member Wegner asked if booster shots were being encouraged. Ms. Murphy explained booster shots were available for those interested in receiving them.

Mayor Scheidt asked if the positive cases identified during the Capstone Clinic testing events were being included in the local case count dashboard. Ms. Ferko confirmed they were included.

Public Health Nurse Terri Lynch provided an update on current state and local case counts, testing, and vaccinations.

Mr. Detter asked if there would be a need for additional COVID vaccination PODs. Ms. Lynch stated she did not believe it would be necessary. However, when the COVID vaccination for five to 11-year olds was approved, it would not be difficult to stand up a POD to facilitate distribution.

Council Member Love asked if testing, outside of the Capstone Clinic events, was still limited due to supply availability. Officer Baczuk stated his testing suppliers felt confident supplies would return to normal shortly.

Council Member Love asked if it was possible to track the test positivity rate. Ms. Ferko explained although it was not something currently tracked, it could be possible if additional information was collected from testing providers.

Council Member Devens stated he thought there was a certain percent positivity rate which might signify there were more positive cases in the community which had not been tested. Ms. Lynch explained the contract with Capstone was in an effort to increase testing availability and capture those numbers more accurately. She stated the current percent positivity rate in Valdez was over 10%.

Mr. Matthew Wadsworth, Interim PVMC Administrator, updated Council on hospital staff brought in through contracted FEMA support.

Mayor Scheidt asked how updates were being received in regards to operational limitations on Anchorage area hospitals and the impacts on Valdez. Mr. Wadsworth explained there was a briefing every Tuesday and Thursday morning with Providence in Anchorage.

Council Member Devens asked if the FEMA workers were successfully easing the burden on local hospital staff. Mr. Wadsworth explained although there was still a strain and more hands on deck would always be helpful, the hospital was grateful for the help they had received.

Valdez City School District Superintendent Ralph Watkins updated Council on how the school was evaluating its needs in response to the increase in cases. He shared his gratitude for his staff's preparedness to reinstitute distance learning. He explained the goal was to keep students and staff healthy and maintain

face-to-face instruction when possible.

Mr. Detter explained one reason which lead to the temporary closure of City facilities was to encourage social distancing and isolation, while supporting the school system in distance learning.

Mr. Detter explained many essential things were occurring even with the facility closures, including a mariculture industry delegation visit to the community. This visit would include people from out of the country. He explained he would insist on masking and social distancing during the visit. The public portion of the presentation for the delegation had been canceled, but the visit itself was not something that could be put off. He believed if mitigation and protocols were followed, it was possible to attend to these important items safely.

Council Member Devens shared his pride in the community as everyone worked together to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## **2. Discussion Item: Tsunami - Education, Preparedness, and Decision Making**

Bart Hinkle, Chief of Police, explained the importance in learning the science behind tsunamis to better inform the decision making process. He reviewed information presented by Dr. Elena Suleimani during the Council work session prior to the current meeting.

Council Member Love identified a local landslide would be the most potentially hazardous portion of a local tsunami. She expressed concern over not having enough time to trigger the tsunami sirens in that type of situation. She asked if the tsunami alarm was beneficial or if it caused a false sense of security. Chief Hinkle explained Emergency Manager Aaron Baczuk would be sending out messaging to the public on self-resiliency and not waiting to be told to evacuate. He explained the sirens were for tsunamis with more of a lead up time, triggered by natural occurrences farther away than detectable locally. He outlined the campaign to have people sign up for warning systems such as NIXLE.

Council Member Wegner asked if a tsunami drill would be feasible in the near future, potentially using a table top method to start. Chief Hinkle agreed the incident management team was working towards a drill and were currently in the communication upgrading phase.

Council Member Wegner thanked Chief Hinkle for the upgrades to the tsunami warning system as he could not previously hear them from his home.

Emergency Manager Baczuk stated many municipalities were drifting away from sirens and moving towards warning systems like NIXLE. He outlined a conversation he had with another community who had stopped outdoor warnings sirens completely and chose to use electronic warnings instead. However, depending on the situation, electronic warning systems might not be the best option. He explained conversations he had with the National Weather Service

over recent NWS alerts causing panic when the alert was not refined to a specific region.

Emergency Manager Baczuk outlined upcoming tsunami education plans for the community, including working with Seed Media to create educational materials. He reviewed his efforts to identify and prepare for logistics such as food and sanitation supplies in the case of an evacuation.

Mayor Scheidt asked in the event evacuation notices were sent out prematurely by state or federal entities, if it would be possible to send staff to the local shelter areas to provide updates. Officer Baczuk explained, in the past, police officers had been dispatched to the area. However, in the future, the shelter manager would be dispatched to provide up-to-date information.

### **3. Approval of Providence Valdez Medical Center 2022 Budget**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Providence Valdez Medical Center 2022 budget.

Ms. Barb Rusher, Finance Comptroller, explained the contract with Providence included a requirement for the hospital to submit its budget to Council for approval but was separate from the City Operating Budget.

Ms. Lindsie King, Providence Valdez Medical Center Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the proposed 2022 hospital budget included in the agenda packet.

Council Member Wegner asked where the capital requests were located in the budget. Ms. King explained the funds came from the hospital reserve fund. She outlined the purpose of the requests.

Council Member Devens asked what the asterisks by CAT Scanner meant. Ms. King explained they indicated the hospital team needed to do additional design research and the item was not guaranteed to be purchased.

Council Member Devens asked about the expected serviceable life of the CAT Scanner. Ms. King stated it had been purchased in the mid- to late 2000's and it had an approximate eight to 10-year life expectancy.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**4. Approval of Contract Award to Gulf Coast, Inc. in the Amount of \$58,900.00 for 2022 Janitorial Services**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner, to approve contract award with Gulf Coast, Inc. in the amount of \$58,900 for 2022 Janitorial Services.

Council Member Wegner asked if the supply cost was included and if not, what would be an approximation of such costs. Capital Facilities Director Nate Duval identified the additional cost as approximately \$100,000.00 in various supplies.

Council Member Fleming asked about the cost increase of the janitorial contracts as compared to previous years. Mr. Duval explained the increase was approximately 5%-10% for the three janitorial services contracts combined.

Council Member Devens asked if the increase in cost was reflective of a difference in duties, the market value of services, or due to inflation. Mr. Duval explained for the most part it was all of the above, and included an increase in personnel costs.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**5. Approval of Contract Award to X-DLX Investments Corp in the Amount of \$69,840.00 for 2022 Janitorial Services**

MOTION: Council Member Wegner moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, to approve the contract award with X-DLX Investments Corp in the Amount of \$69,840 for 2022 Janitorial Services.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**6. Approval of Contract Award to Chugach Cleaning Company, LLC in the Amount of \$140,400.00 for 2022 Janitorial Services**

MOTION: Council Member Moore moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve the contract award with Chugach Cleaning Company, LLC in the amount of \$140,400.

Council Member Fleming asked why the company had been awarded the bulk of the work if they were a newer company in town. Mr. Duval confirmed they were a new company. He explained they were the lowest bidder and were awarded the contract based upon standard procurement processes.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**7. Approval of a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for Annual Operations and Maintenance of a Stream Gage on the Lowe River and on the Valdez Glacier Stream**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve the cooperative agreement with USGS for annual operations and maintenance of a stream Gage on the Lower River and on the Valdez Glacier Stream.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**8. Approval of FY2022 Community Jail Contract with State of Alaska**

MOTION: Council Member Wegner moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, to approve the Valdez Community Jail contract with the State of Alaska for the fourth year (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022) of an initial five-year term.

Council Member Wegner commented the State kept requesting more for jail services and the Valdez Police Department kept doing more. However, the State did not offer additional funding. He complimented the police department on how they managed the local jail.

Council Member Fleming asked how the electronic monitoring program was working. Chief Hinkle outlined benefits the community had seen through the program, including helping individuals awaiting trial or bail continue to be part of the community and their household.

Council Member Devens asked what the immediate burden on staff and facilities

was with the increase in utilization of electronic monitoring. Chief Hinkle explained the additional staff duties added through the monitoring system were outweighed by the benefit to the community and the decrease in the number of individuals incarcerated in the jail facility. He explained electronic monitoring also decreased the cost of running the jail.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**VII. ORDINANCES**

**1. #21-11 - Amending Chapter 5.06 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled Regulation of Marijuana. Second Reading. Adoption.**

**MOTION:** Council Member Moore moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Ordinance #21-11 amending chapter 5.06 of the Valdez Municipal Code titled regulation of marijuana, on second reading and adoption.

Council Member Wegner stated he was not in favor of adopting the ordinance. He stated, if it passed, he hoped the police department would manage it similarly to cigarettes and second-hand smoke.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

Yays: 5 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens, and Council Member Fleming

Nays: 2 - Mayor Pro Tem Sorum and Council Member Wegner  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**VIII. REPORTS**

- 1. Report: Update on the BLM Draft East Alaska Resource Management Plan Amendment, EA and FONSI (Thompson Pass Planning Process)**
- 2. City Manager's Report**

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

**1. City Manager Report**

Mr. Detter updated Council on current city projects, including street projects, Council Chambers upgrade, the 10 Mile Lowe River flood control project, the Land Shark building, the Pipeline Club building, the new well, the A-K small boat harbor launch ramp, the Robe River fire water booster pump replacement, the hospital master plan update, the Glacier Stream east access study, the senior housing project, and the Whalen project.

Council Member Sorum asked if an underground tank had been located under the old Land Sharks building. Mr. Duval explained a number of underground tanks had been located. He detailed efforts to safely remove the tanks and test the ground around them for contaminants.

Council Member Sorum asked Mr. Detter to continue to push on postal reform. He expressed concern over operating hours, raised rates, and deliberately delayed delivery times.

## **2. City Clerk Report**

Ms. Ferko stated Ms. Pierce would be out of the office through October 27<sup>th</sup>. She updated Council on vacancies on boards and commissions and reviewed the upcoming Council calendar.

## **3. City Attorney Report**

Mr. Staser requested to schedule a special meeting after the work session on the 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss draft redistricting comments. He outlined projects and provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the city, including the OSHA emergency temporary standard, redistricting, escaped property, Alaska Trappers, and Pacific Pile & Marine.

## **4. City Mayor Report**

# **X. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Member Devens recommended anyone with interest in the federal infrastructure bill to look into the bill, as it contained copious opportunities for infrastructure development in rural and tribal areas.

Council Member Moore thanked Mr. Detter for the reminder to hunker down through this portion of the pandemic.

# **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

City Council transitioned into executive session at 9:05 p.m.

# **XII. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

City Council transitioned out of executive session at 9:25 p.m.

# **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Scheidt adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.