

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

ORDINANCE #26-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE VALDEZ MUNICIPAL CODE BY CREATING CHAPTER 2.96 TITLED FIREFIGHTER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that:

Section 1. Title 2 of the Valdez Municipal Code is hereby amended by creating Chapter 2.96 to read as follows:

FIREFIGHTER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Sections:

- 2.96.010 Purpose and Policy
- 2.96.020 Definitions
- 2.96.030 Right to organize and bargain
- 2.96.040 Bargaining unit
- 2.96.050 Scope of bargaining
- 2.96.060 No strike or lockout
- 2.96.070 Collective bargaining agreements
- 2.96.080 Financial emergency reopener
- 2.96.090 Relationship to personnel regulations
- 2.96.100 Limitation of application
- 2.96.110 Severability

2.96.010 Purpose and policy.

A. The purpose of this chapter is to establish a framework for collective bargaining between the City of Valdez and career firefighters employed by the Valdez Fire Department.

B. It is the policy of the City of Valdez to allow career firefighters to organize and bargain collectively regarding wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment while maintaining the City's authority to manage municipal operations and services.

C. The City further declares its intent to maintain local control over municipal labor relations. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as subjecting the City of Valdez to the provisions of the Public Employment Relations Act or providing a right to collective bargaining to any employees of the City of Valdez other than career firefighters.

2.96.020 Definitions.

A. Career firefighter means a full time employee of the City of Valdez Fire Department whose primary duties involve fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue operations, hazardous materials response, or other emergency response services.

B. Exclusive bargaining representative means International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 5618, which has been selected by a majority of employees within the bargaining unit to represent those employees in collective bargaining.

C. Collective bargaining agreement means a written agreement between the City of Valdez and the exclusive bargaining representative covering wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment.

2.96.030 Right to organize and bargain.

A. Career firefighters employed by the City of Valdez may organize and designate an exclusive bargaining representative for purposes of collective bargaining. The City Council retains sole authority to approve and recognize the exclusive bargaining representative by ordinance.

B. The City recognizes International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 5618 as the exclusive bargaining representative for purposes of collective bargaining with career firefighters employed with the City of Valdez. No other bargaining representative shall be recognized by the City of Valdez absent express action from the Valdez City Council.

2.96.040 Bargaining unit.

The bargaining unit shall consist of career firefighters employed by the Valdez Fire Department.

The following positions are excluded from the bargaining unit:

A. Fire Chief.

B. Deputy Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chief.

C. Volunteer firefighters.

D. Paid on call firefighters or other part time emergency response personnel who do not serve as career firefighters.

2.96.050 Scope of bargaining.

A. The City and the exclusive bargaining representative shall bargain in good faith regarding wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment.

B. Nothing in this chapter requires bargaining over matters reserved to management authority.

2.96.060 No strike or lockout.

Firefighters shall not strike, slow down, or otherwise stop work. The City shall not engage in a lockout. The availability of arbitration serves as the final dispute resolution mechanism.

2.96.070 Collective bargaining agreements.

The City Manager shall have exclusive authority to negotiate collective bargaining agreements on behalf of the City. Any collective bargaining agreement which would result in a change in the amounts budgeted for career firefighters must be concluded in time for the changes to be considered in the annual budget prior to the end of the fiscal year. Any collective bargaining agreement negotiated under this chapter must be approved by the Valdez City Council before becoming effective. Absent a collective bargaining agreement, firefighters shall be subject to the same terms of employment as other City employees.

2.96.080 Financial emergency reopener.

A collective bargaining agreement may be reopened if the City Council determines that a financial emergency exists due to significant revenue loss or extraordinary expenditures.

2.96.090 Relationship to personnel regulations.

If a collective bargaining agreement conflicts with personnel regulations, the agreement controls for employees in the bargaining unit.

2.96.100 Limitation of application.

This chapter applies only to career firefighters and does not create bargaining rights for other City employees.

2.96.110 Severability.

If any section of this chapter is held invalid, the remaining provisions remain in effect.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately following adoption by the Valdez City Council.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this _____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Austin Love, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jake Staser, City Attorney
Brena, Bell, & Walker, P.C.

Adoption:
Yeas:
Noes:
Absent:
Abstaining: