

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Mayor Pro Tem Austin Love
Council Member Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Joseph Lally

Excused: 3 - Mayor Dennis Fleming
Council Member Alan Sorum
Council Member Olivia Foster

Also Present: 4 - City Clerk Sheri Pierce
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk
Assistant City Manager Bart Hinkle
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting March 18, 2025, and Special Meeting March 20, 2025**

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- 1. Public Appearance: Allie Steed, SWAN**

Ms. Steed invited those listening to attend the Break-Up Break-Down, the SWAN sponsored sober safe dance.

- 2. Public Appearance: Allie Steed, Valdez Senior Center**

Ms. Steed provided a brief update on programs provided by the Valdez Senior Center, including Meals on Wheels, congregate meals, and the ride program.

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Jessica Vincent, 6th Grade teacher, thanked the Clerk's Office and former Mayor Scheidt for participating in the "If I were Mayor" event.

Jeff Saxe, Valdez Resident, requested an update on lawn maintenance along the Meals/ Richardson Highway. He shared his desire for inclusion of the local campgrounds and RV parks in conversations regarding camping and RV Parks.

VII. CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: REPORTS & REFERRALS

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Senior Citizen Hardship Property Tax Exemption for Barbara Ezell**
- 2. Proclamation: Child Abuse Awareness Month**
- 3. Proclamation: Sexual Assault Awareness Month**
- 4. Proclamation: Public Safety Telecommunicators Week 2025**
- 5. Proclamation: Animal Care and Control Officer Appreciation Week 2025**
- 6. Proclamation Recognizing the Valdez Dance Company**
- 7. Approval of 1-year Extension and Modification of Contract with X-DLX Investments for Maintenance of Turf, Landscape and Pond Water**
- 8. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: City Manager Applications**

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION.

Yays: 4 - Love, Scheidt, Devens, Lally

Absent: 3 - Fleming, Sorum, Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Approval to Sell Surplus 2003 Ford E450 on GovDeals.com**

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to Approve the sale of the surplus 2003 Ford E450 vehicle on GovDeals.com, with a reserve price of \$17,000.50, as recommended by the City Manager.

VOTE ON THE MOTION.

Yays: 4 - Love, Scheidt, Devens and Lally

Absent: 3 - Fleming, Sorum and Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

- 2. Approval of Contract Award with PTP Construction Services LLC for the Senior Center Siding Repair Project in the Amount of \$145,775.00**

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt, to Approve the Contract Award with PTP Construction Services LLC for the Senior Center Siding Repair project in the amount of \$145,775.00.

Council Member Scheidt asked why one bid was so much lower. Capital Facilities Director Nate Duval reviewed conversation had with the company and noted their confidence.

VOTE ON THE MOTION.

Yays: 4 - Love, Scheidt, Devens and Lally

Absent: 3 - Fleming, Sorum and Foster

MOTION CARRIED.

X. ORDINANCES

Council Member Foster joined the meeting virtually.

2. #25-05 - Amending Chapter 3.12 of the Valdez Municipal Code Entitled Property Taxes. First Reading. Public Hearing.

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Lally to approve Ordinance #25-05.

Attorney Staser recommended postponing indefinitely.

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to postpone indefinitely.

VOTE ON THE MOTION.

Yays: 5 - Love, Scheidt, Devens, Foster, and Lally

Absent: 2 - Fleming and Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

1. #25-04 - Amending Chapter 10.20 of the Valdez Municipal Code Titled Recreational Vehicle Parks and Tent Camping. Second Reading. Adoption.

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve Ordinance 25-04 in second reading for adoption.

Council Member Scheidt stated she intended to not support 25-04. She appreciated the work which had been put into it but felt there needed to be restrictions in place.

Council Member Devens cited concerns regarding a lack of transparency shared in a letter received from a member of the public

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved to postpone indefinitely. Motion died for lack of a second.

Council Member Lally asked if Staff had met with the RV parks yet. City Manager

Hinkle stated Police Chief King was in the process of scheduling the meeting.

Council Member Foster stated the ordinance was needed from a safety perspective, to prevent camping in unsafe locations.

Jeff Saxe, Eagle's Rest RV Park, shared concern over the City being in direct competition with the local campgrounds and RV parks.

Kate Spadafora, Valdez RV Park, shared her opposition to the ordinance outside of extreme scenarios.

John Spadafora, Valdez RV Park, asked if the State had been approached about the issue on State property.

Council Member Lally stated because the meeting with the RV parks and campgrounds had not occurred yet, he would like to see the ordinance postponed.

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Devens to postpone Ordinance 25-05 to the next regular meeting.

Saxe supported postponing until after the meeting between Staff and the RV parks.

VOTE ON THE MOTION.

Yays: 5 - Love, Scheidt, Devens, Foster, and Lally

Absent: 2 - Fleming and Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

XI. RESOLUTIONS

1. #25-16 - Waiving the Solid Waste Fees for Certain Items During the 2025 Community Clean-up Event

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve Resolution 25-16.

VOTE ON THE MOTION.

Yays: 5 - Love, Scheidt, Devens, Foster, and Lally

Absent: 2 - Fleming and Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

2. #25-17 - Authorizing the Execution of a Cooperative Participation Agreement Among Alaska Municipalities and School Districts Creating Alaska Public Risk Alliance (APRA)

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution 25-17.

Mayor Pro Tem Love requested additional information on the following:

- What would this insurance cover?
- Would it allow entities such as the City of Valdez to join municipal pools in other states?
- When would we find out if the rates would be reasonable?

Finance Director Nelson addressed each question, and noted he hoped to have insurance figures on the first June Council meeting agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION.

Yays: 5 - Love, Scheidt, Devens, Foster, and Lally

Absent: 2 - Fleming and Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

XII. REPORTS

- 1. Auction Report: 2008 Ford F150**
- 2. Monthly Treasury Report: February 2025**
- 3. Procurement Report: Contract with Digitize for Emergency Self-Monitoring in the Amount of \$67,940.00.**
- 4. Report: Carry Forward Resolution**
- 5. Emergency Communications System Project Overview**

XIII. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS

1. City Manager Report

Interim City Manager Hinkle shared his experience with the “If I Were Mayor” program and shared his gratitude for the entire Valdez Dance Company competitive team attending the meeting. He thanked those who traveled to lobby for City efforts in Washington DC. He turned his time over to Community Development Huber to give a brief presentation on new plans management software.

2. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Pierce shared her gratitude for the “If I Were Mayor” program. She reviewed the upcoming Council calendar, including the upcoming decommissioning of the Coast Guard Cutter, the Boards & Commissions dinner, and Strategic Planning.

3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Staser provided an update on legal matters his office was pursuing on behalf of the city, including Alderwood, escaped property, the Contingency Plan renewal, and Board of Equalization processes.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Pro Temp Love thanked Council Members Lally and Devens for going to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the City of Valdez, as well as city staff who also traveled.

XIV. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Member Devens requested staff bring forward a proclamation recognizing the month of May as Foster Care Awareness Month.

Council Member Lally shared his experience traveling to Washington, D.C. and thanked those who offered their support.

Council Member Scheidt echoed gratitude for those advocating on the city's behalf. She thanked those volunteers who partnered in the recent Copper Basin spay, neuter, and vaccination clinic.

Council Member Foster reminded those listening it was Tax Day.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XVI. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

XVIII. APPENDIX

1. Legal Billing Summary - January and February 2025

2. APRIL 2025 CALENDAR