

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Dennis Fleming
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Olivia Foster
Council Member Joseph Lally
Council Member Joy Witte
Council Member Lester Greene
Excused: 1 - Council Member Austin Love
Also Present: City Clerk Sheri Pierce
City Manager Nathan Duval
City Attorney Jake Staser
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting of February 3, 2026**
- 2. Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting of March 3, 2026**

Minutes were approved by consent.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Proclamation: Earthquake Remembrance Day**
- 2. Proclamation Recognizing Animal Care and Control Officer Appreciation Week**
- 3. Proclamation Recognizing Public Safety Telecommunicators Week**
- 4. Approval of Late File Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption for Matthew Satter**
- 5. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: Discussion of Implications for City Revenues and Litigation Strategy Regarding Trans Alaska Pipeline System Ad Valorem Tax Issues**

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

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Excused: 1 - Love

MOTION CARRIED

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Contract with Wolverine Summit JV, for New Water Well #5 Pumping Station in the Amount of \$3,447,000.00

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve a contract with Wolverine Summit JV, for New Water Well #5 in the amount of \$3,447,000.

Council Member Witte asked for history on the well station project and context for why the new well was needed.

City Manager Duval provided background and explained the role the well station would play in the overall water system

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Excused: 1 - Love

MOTION CARRIED.

2. Approval of Contract with Wolverine Supply, Inc. for Pavement Management Phase IV Meals Avenue in the Amount of \$6,330,803

MOTION: Council Member Greene moved, seconded by Council Member Witte, to approve a contract with Wolverine Supply, Inc. for Pavement Management Phase IV Meals Avenue in the amount of \$6,330,803.

Council Member Devens thanked administration for putting forward a project aligned with council's strategic goals.

Council Member Witte asked about the timeline for construction and City Manager Duval noted that timing of construction was contingent on snow melting.

Mayor Fleming expressed some concerns about the low nature of the bid.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Excused: 1 - Love

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with DOWL, LLC for Construction Administration Services for Pavement Management Phase IV Meals Avenue in the Amount of \$591,938

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Greene, to approve a professional services agreement with DOWL, LLC for construction administration services for Pavement Management Phase IV Meals Avenue.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Excused: 1 - Love

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

1. #26-14 - Declaring the Official Intent of the City of Valdez, Alaska, to Reimburse Capital Expenditures in Connection with Pavement Management Phase IV-V from Proceeds of a Future Borrowing

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Witte, to Resolution 26-14.

City Manager Duval explained the federal allowance to issue for a bond after the fact and explained the process for entering into bonded indebtedness. He made notes about the anticipated changes to revenue and their tax cap implications.

Council Member Foster thanked administration for putting the resolution forward and asked if Finance Director Nelson had additional insight.

Finance Director Nelson provided further detail on conversations with bond counsel and timelines needed for bonding.

A member of the public, identifying himself as Dareck, spoke on the city reimbursing itself at the expense of the citizens and shared his views about high taxes on the oil companies negatively impacting residents. He also voiced concerns generally about city use of funds and the high city manager salary.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Excused: 1 - Love

MOTION CARRIED.

2. #26-15 - Amending the FY26 City Budget by Accepting a Fire Department Grant of Equipment from State of Alaska Department of Transportation Extraction Tools Project in the Amount of \$42,229

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve Resolution 26-15.

Mayor Fleming voiced appreciation for the fire department finding grant funding.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Excused: 1 - Love

MOTION CARRIED.

3. #26-16 - Accepting DNR Department of Forestry Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant in the Amount of \$9,900

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Greene, to approve Resolution 26-16.

Mayor Fleming repeated his appreciation for grant funding.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Excused: 1 - Love

MOTION CARRIED.

4. #26-17 - Approval of Annual Renewal of City/School Health Insurance Benefit Plan for the Period Beginning April 1, 2026

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Lally, to approve Resolution 26-17.

Shannon Mahan and Amanda Hesser Health Benefit Consultants with IMA gave an overview of the city's self-funded health plan with actual costs paid per employee as costs occur. Items highlighted were the role of stop loss insurance, the plan's grandfather status due to being in existence prior to the Affordable Care Act, the changeover in third party administration, explanation of health care costs and claims and healthcare trends driving cost nationwide.

Council Member Lally asked about what implications of losing the plan's grandfather status would be. Mahan noted that a change to status would not impact the overall cost of the plan but might lead to higher costs or other changes to benefits for plan participants.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Excused: 1 - Love

MOTION CARRIED.

5. #26-18 - Authorizing the Sale of a Surplus 2009 Nissan Crosswind Street Sweeper

MOTION: Council Member Lally moved, seconded by Council Member Witte, to approve Resolution 26-18.

Council Member Witte voiced support for the sale and noted the cost of maintaining old equipment.

VOTE ON MOTION

Yays: 6 - Fleming, Devens, Foster, Lally, Witte and Greene

Excused: 1 - Love

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. REPORTS

- 1. Report: Temporary Land Use Permit 26-02 for the Valdez Adventure Alliance for a Portion of 1500 Valdez Glacier Road (Tract A, ASLS 79-116), a Portion of 1730 Homestead Road (Tract J Raven Subdivision) & 3351 Falcon Avenue (Lot 5, Block 9 Robe River Subdivision) owned by the City of Valdez**
- 2. Procurement Report: Purchase of Caselle Annual Maintenance and Support from Caselle in the Amount of \$45,933.80**

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

City Manager Duval provided an update on the recent Washington, D.C. trip and expressed cautious optimism on the outcomes of the meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard. He shared that administration was following up with Copper Valley Electric Association on electrical needs for Sea Otter development.

Duval also reported that Providence Valdez had applied for project funding through the Rural Health Transformation Program and that the city had reached out to Sound Mental Health and Chugachmiut about opportunities as well. On a separate note, related to Providence, it was noted that the medical clinic and public health nurse had a need for additional space.

Duval followed up on whether Council was interested in adopting a resolution supporting HB 78, related to public employee retirement, and discussed vacancies and upcoming Governor appointments to the State Assessment Review Board. He concluded by thanking public safety dispatchers and animal control staff for their work.

2. City Clerk Report

City Clerk Sheri Pierce announced the certified candidates for the May 5, 2026 election.

She thanked staff member Katie Carr for taking on the "I Voted Sticker Challenge" project and announced that the newly developed Citizen's Academy would be scheduled to take place over the summer.

3. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Jake Staser provided an update on the Valdez Marine Terminal Contingency Plan hearings and findings by the Department of Environmental Conservation highlighting changes to testing parameters and testing process for the secondary containment lining.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Fleming shared an update on the Washington, D.C. federal advocacy trip and highlighted the success of the meeting with the Coast Guard. He thanked animal shelter staff for their work and encouraged everyone to attend the Mayor's Cup snowmachine race.

XI. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Member Greene thanked staff for their work on the "I Voted Sticker Challenge" and noted his appreciation for the context provided for the work session on the strategic planning process. He expressed a desire to seek more community input.

Council Member Witte reported on her attendance at the recent Valdez Tourism Task Force meeting.

Council Member Lally echoed thanks for the "I Voted Sticker Challenge" and for the work done by public safety telecommunicators and animal control staff.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Fleming excused himself from executive session and passed the gavel to Council Member Lally to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore.

XIII. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Pro Tempore Lally announced that guidance had been give to city attorneys on proceedings related to Trans Alaska Pipeline System ad valorem taxes.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tempore adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.