

Mayor's Report – November 22, 2016

Since our last Council meeting on November 1:

- The standing meetings with the City Manager happened on Friday the 4th at 3:30, and at 11:30 on Tuesday the 7th, which Councilman Needles and Councilman McCune attended. Budget decisions, Kimley-Horn's future work, City Manager evaluation process, and continued city space needs were discussed. There is still the desire for the city staff to be able to speak freely to council and not feel uncomfortable in so doing. It was pointed out again that the council, administration and staff all need to feel that they are working toward common goals and teamwork is something that needs to be developed.
- The Economic Diversification Commission meet at noon on the 2nd and 4th. I was able to attend part of both of those meetings and listened to their thoughts and added my two cents on the future of the commission's work, priorities and how it would be supported by administration in the future.
- The budget hearing process was very LONG, beginning on October 19th and ending on November 7th with the meeting that lasted until midnight. I want to thank all of the community, staff, administration and council who put their time and efforts into this arduous process. I hope that next year it will be much more organized and expedited.
- On Tuesday, November 8th Mr. Needles, Mr. Wegner, and I attended the Health Advisory Council meeting (hospital board) and discussion included resurrecting the Mayor's Task Force on Hospital Space needs, etc.
- I was invited to attend the ERT (Employee Relations Team) on Thursday, November 10th. I listened to concerns and was able to answer questions regarding the budget process and staffing. I feel that we need to put staffing, employee benefits and pay as the first budget issue we deal with in all future budget hearings.
- After attending the opening of the AASB conference and listening to Governor Walker speak, I had an in person meeting with Robin Brenna and Tony Guerriero on Friday, November 11 in Anchorage, regarding our law services for this coming year, FERC comments and possible meetings, and employment contracts.
- I attended the Alaska Conference of Mayors' on Tuesday, November 15. While there, I met and talked to the Fairbanks, North Pole and FNSB mayors and all are very interested in meeting about the FERC comments and AGPA, so I will be making this happen ASAP.
- Councilman Needles, Manager Ragsdale, Mr. Wegner, Ms. VonBargen and I attended AML, November 16 – 18 in Anchorage. The Governor and Lt. Governor gave great speeches and much good networking and sharing information happened. The clerk and assistant clerk attended the Clerks' Conference and there were staff and Planning and Zoning Commissioners attending the Planning Conference during this same time frame.
- I am sitting at AML today (11/17) and listening to a presentation from Alaska Housing and thinking we really need to do an energy audit on all of our buildings and should look into contracting an energy management position. It was said that this position is guaranteed to pay for itself by the savings they find. We should look into the Alaska Retrofit Database. We need to download their Strategic Management Practices book off their website. Savings, wherever we can find them, is important.
- I have been in contact with Bob Slavin and have asked him to call into an Executive Session on November 29th, when we meet for the first of the two meetings we are to have on the City Manager's annual evaluation.
- I was able to meet with Commissioner of Department of Corrections, Dean Williams and the Director of Pre-Trial Services, Geri Fox on November 10th. It was nice to hear them speak so highly of our police and jail personnel and facilities.
- The Library's Book Basket Auction was very well attended and it broke a record for raising money. I can say I helped with that bottom line.
- The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be Sunday, November 27th @ 6:00 P.M. and I get to read the proclamation
- I hope everyone had a very memorable Veterans' Day and please have a restful Thanksgiving!!

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez