

Since our last Council meeting on August 1-

- I received a follow-up email report on the “Ocean Tuesday” workshop, which is Alaska’s attempt to get people interested and involved in developing our Blue Ocean Economy. Here is the important information from this communication: We will start with the Ocean Tuesday Innovation Sprint competition with assistance from Nigel Sharp, Alaska’s Global Entrepreneur in Residence. Then we’ll do a series of ocean economy presentations in Alaska and around the world. **We are focused on innovation, education and entrepreneurship**; please let me know if you have suggestions or want to present an opportunity during Ocean Tuesday. Check www.oceantuesday.com for the schedule. Events will be Zoom video meetings. We will post a link on the website the morning of the event. Next three Ocean Tuesdays:

Aug 8 (11am) - Ocean Technology Innovation Sprint (OTIS) competition design and planning

Aug 15 (11am) - OTIS competition design and planning

Aug 22 (11am) - OTIS competition launch

Note the MTS-IEEE OCEANS 17 Conference is in Anchorage Sept 18-21 and the Alaska Ocean Cluster Initiative is hosting a panel on building the blue economy in Alaska on Sept 21 (note this happens to be a Thursday not a Tuesday!)

- PWSEDD is interviewing candidates for the Executive Director position and should have a new director by the end of this month.
- Gold Rush was OUTSTANDING this year! I was able to attend the opening luncheon and crowning of King Henry and Queen Shannon Irish. There is no more deserving couple, congratulations to the Mahoney-Irish team. I also attended the grand opening of both the “Read on the Fly”, Imagination Library’s book station at the airport, and the USFS Crooked Creek Information Center’s new remodel ribbon cutting. Both of these events were well-attended and the Lil’ Kickers and Can-Can Girls made them exciting. The Comedy Club Dinner was hilarious and had an added surprise when the Governor and First Lady joined the fun. The parade sported good floats and walking entries, some of the cardboard/duct tape boats floated and others didn’t, the Alyeska community BBQ had lots of people, food and entertainment. To top off the great weekend, our beautiful city had SUNSHINE for 4 days! Thank you to all of the Gold Rush committee and everyone who made the celebration excellent.
- Both of the three-hour work sessions on Council Priorities and with the Flood Mitigation Task Force were fruitful and I would like to thank our Assistant City Clerk, City Finance Director, and Community Development Director for preparing for these sessions and being excellent facilitators. With our priorities, staff can feel more comfortable developing the coming budget and with a plan for broader and more focused communication, the misinformation that has been put out on Flood Mitigation can be settled.
- I attended the Wednesday Port Commission work session with our Kimley-Horn consultant and was very happy to see how the Water Front Maser planning is progressing and how it with work in tandem with the consultants plans.
- Tim Bradner and his wife Shehla Anjum, were in town and held an interview with Allie and me. The questions centered around the economy, education, tourism, fisheries and the future. They had talked with Peter Pan and were also scheduled to talk with Mike Wells.
- Thursday morning Sheri and I met with USCG District 17 Admiral McAllister and Commander Franklin. We brought up the current and future levels of USCG personnel in Valdez and how we could be more helpful to them.
- I will be out of country (in Victoria and Vancouver August 10 – 16) so will miss our August 15 meeting. I want to thank Mayor Pro-tem, Nate Smith for running the meeting.
- The first day of school for students is August 22, so please be aware of the kids walking, riding, or waiting at bus stops. I am wishing a safe start of the school year to all.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez