

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

Economic Diversification Commission

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wade called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM in the Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

Present 6 – Commission Member Rhonda Wade
Commission Member Grant Uren
Commission Member Colleen Stephens
Commission Member Lee Hart
Commission Member Susan Love
Commission Member Laurine Regan

Also Present 3 – Commission Member Keith Thomas (By Teleconference)
Economic Development Director Martha Barberio
Executive Assistant Debbie Roberts
Members in the Audience

III. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. New Business: Business incentives

Commissioner Stephens discussed Tax incentives and wanted to know what was allowable by State Statutes and what other communities have done as incentives that worked or did not work.

Commissioner Wade brought up Construction Grants as an option, or the possibility of State Rebate program.

Economic Development Director Barberio brought up the housing shortage and discussed the possibility of tax credits or builders incentive. Something to get builders to build in our area, Commissioner Uren brought up environmental concerns and land issues related to housing issues. Commissioner Wade also brought up rebates and Delinquent Tax properties. Commissioner Stephens brought up land development with the City giving deferrals for Water/Sewer to be paid back over time. Commissioner Uren also brought up issues relating to water/sewer. Discussion continued between commissioners on various ideas such as Business grants, Conditions on Sales with pay backs over time, School Programs/Trade Program (Students build and get experience), Peak1 out of Colorado was given as an example, discounted land, block grants, Special Assessments, HUD, performance bonding, performance agreements, and Habitat for Humanity. It was suggested to have a joint meeting with Planning and Zoning to discuss some of these ideas and then present it to City Council. Commercial/Retail business was also discussed.

2. Discussion & Report: Commission Powers and Duties

City Clerk Sheri Pierce discussed the ordinance language with the Commission and it was decided that they will meet once a month on the 3rd Wednesday. The Commission needs to make any changes formally at a future meeting, prefer a week but minimum 3 days. If nothing for the agenda then it can be cancelled.

V. REPORTS

1. Report: Update Regarding Kimley Horn Marketing and Branding Initiative

The report was given out to Commissioners and Kimley Horn will be invited to speak to this commission on Wednesday March 21st.

2. Report: Update North Star's Branding Initiative

VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

The Mayor Ruthie Knight addressed the Commission regarding Sectors and who represented each

Commissioner Laurine Regan – Micro Business
Commissioner Lee Hart – Winter Tourism Attractions
Commissioner Rhonda Wade – Retail
Commissioner Grant Uren – Transportation
Commissioner Colleen Stephens – Summer Tourism
Commissioner Susan Love – Professional Services
Commissioner Keith Thomas – Contracting

Commissioner Hart discussed Emergency Management and Economic Development with Director Barberio. The Winter Event Ice Festival was represented by 12 states and was well represented. Should get bigger each year and over \$1000 was raised for Advocates for Victims of Violence.

Civic Center seating was discussed.

Commissioner Uren asked about the Median cost of land, what it is and how it is established. Other Commissioners discussed the land issues also.

Jeremy Talbott, Port Director, discussed housing issues.

Commissioner Thomas brought up housing that have code issues and requested that it be followed up on.

Commissioner Wade brought up the grant on the waterfront project. Director Talbott stated it is an active grant and used.

Commissioner Wade and Commissioner Hart brought up some code issues that a business in town was experiencing. City Clerk Sheri Pierce, Director Talbott, Commissioner Regan, Commissioner Stephens, Mayor Knight, Tom McAlister and Assistant City Manager Phillip Miller also spoke regarding this issue. It was also brought up that a package explaining the process or steps required to build would be helpful.

Next meeting March 21st 7 PM City Council Chambers.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Wade adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.