

Since our last Council meeting on February 20:

- I was able to attend the Economic Diversification Commission meeting on the 21st. They had great discussion and all agreed that housing was our #1 concern for growing the economy.
- On the 22nd, the PVMC Philanthropy sub-committee met and decided what smaller hospital projects would be appropriate to take before the Foundation and which we could try to fund with some sort of drive.
- Our Procurement Policy work session on the 22nd was long, but gave the staff direction. Thank you for the good discussion. I want to welcome our new Assistant City Manager, Phil Miller, to Valdez. He hit the ground running- having to jump right into these meetings. We do not ease into things here in Valdez! As you may be aware, we are known for our EXTREMES!
- I attended several of the Arctic Eagle events including welcoming an entire Civic Center Auditorium of camouflaged service members to Valdez. I invited them all to retire here. This exercise brought in about 250+ National Guard troops from Feb 22 – 25. On Saturday morning, I was able to welcome the Distinguished Visitors and met highly ranked officers from Colorado, New York, Illinois, Washington, Texas, and Alaska. I was invited to attend their last CUB (command unified briefing) on Saturday afternoon and heard how the response to the chemical and nuclear disaster was progressing. The Thursday night tanker accident and fuel spill was a topic of conversation. It was quite a coincidence that this happened in city limits for the first time (at least since I have been here- the last 19 years) at the same time we had Chemical Spill experts on site from the military. They allowed me to ask questions during this briefing, so I did. I asked for them to please provide us with written feedback on and suggestions for improvement on how our Ports & Harbors, Police and Fire personnel, along with Providence Medical Center team worked. I heard the community potlatch/market was well attended and very much appreciated. Thanks again to the Civic Center staff and to Doug Desorcie for making this happen.
- We had a combined Beautification Task Force and Port Commission meeting at noon on the 26th to look at and discuss the signage in the ECI, Kelsey Dock uplands and New Harbor projects.
- I attended the School Board meeting on February 26. They hired a new Superintendent, Mr. Shawn Arnold, from Nome along with teachers for all three buildings, and had discussion and action on curricular materials and policy.
- Elke and I met briefly on Friday the 23rd and Tuesday the 27th.
- On the 27th, the PWSEDD met and approved letters to be sent to the legislature supporting the bills that ask for increased funding for the Marine Highway. I have asked our Clerk and Manager to look into doing the same and to bring that before Council before we go to Juneau.
- We had our City Manager's 1st annual, formal evaluation in executive session on March 1st.
- I testified from the LIO, on the state budget, Friday the 2nd, after a brief meeting with Elke.
- On Saturday the 3rd, the Civil Air Patrol had the grand opening of their display and I was asked to be there for the ribbon cutting. It will be a great educational addition to our airport building.
- The School Board held a budget work session in the VHS Library on March 5th.
- I always meet with the City Manager, the Clerk, and now the City Attorney at 11:30, the day of the Council meeting, to go over the agenda and pose questions. Other Council members are always welcome, just so there are no more than three of us present.
- I have requested that we have a pre-lobbying meeting to include our State Lobbyist, all interested council members, and those staff and Council members who will be going to Juneau. This will need to happen this week.
- We have scheduled a Flood Mitigation Task force meeting at noon on the 8th.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez