

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

ORDINANCE #14-3

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ,
ALASKA, CREATING CHAPTER 2.60 OF THE VALDEZ MUNICIPAL
CODE CREATING AN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez has found diversification of the economy to be important; and

WHEREAS, a cohesive approach to economic diversification planning is necessary for success; and

WHEREAS, no group currently exists to provide an advisory role for comprehensive economic diversification in Valdez; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 Northern Economics report, *Economic Impacts of Alyeska Layoffs and Economic Development Plan for Valdez*, identified the need for an economic development body of some type; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 McDowell Group study, *Valdez Community GAP/Market Analysis*, identified a gap in the community due to lack of a structured economic development leadership; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 McDowell Group study further recommended development of a formal, structured economic development leadership group; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 *Valdez Community Strategic Plan* identified economic diversification as one of four broad goals for the community; and

WHEREAS, following numerous work sessions, in February 2014 the City Council gave direction that economic diversification is the City's top priority; and

WHEREAS, Valdez needs to implement "Interim measures" to develop a comprehensive economic diversification strategy, to determine the structure of a community economic diversification organization, and the implementation plan for both; and

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez has determined an Economic Diversification Commission will best suit the needs of the community as an initial Interim Measure, and perhaps a longer term solution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ ALASKA, that:

Chapter 2.60 of the Valdez Municipal Code is created as follows:

Chapter 2.60

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION COMMISSION

Sections:

2.60.010	Establishment – Composition – Appointment of members.
2.60.020	Powers and duties.
2.60.030	Quorum and voting.
2.60.040	Limitations.
2.60.050	Definitions.

2.60.010 Establishment – Composition – Appointment of members.

A. There is established an Economic Diversification Commission which shall consist of seven members who shall be appointed by the mayor, with the approval of the city council. The terms of the commission members shall be for three years or until their successors have been appointed and approved. The term of two members shall expire each year with the additional term expiring every third year. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the commissioners are appointed.

B. Appointment to the commission shall be adjusted by the mayor and city council to ensure continuity. In this regard, initial appointments may be made for terms other than three years, to ensure that the terms of no more than three members expire in any one year.

C. Members of the commission shall be diversified to the maximum extent possible and appointed to represent specific industry sectors of the economy. No two members may be appointed to serve concurrently from the same industry sector. Representatives will be selected from among the following industry sectors:

- 1. Accommodations**
- 2. Commercial Fishers**
- 3. Contracting/Trades**
- 4. Food & Beverage**
- 5. Healthcare**
- 6. Micro Business/Non-Professional Sole Proprietors**
- 7. Oil & Gas**
- 8. Professional Services (attorney, engineer, banker, real estate, media, etc.)**
- 9. Retail**
- 10. Seafood Processing**
- 11. Sport Fisheries**
- 12. Summer Tours & Attractions**
- 13. Transportation**
- 14. Utilities**
- 15. Winter Tours & Attractions**

D. The commission shall elect its chairman from among the appointed members.

E. There may be an additional appointed ex-officio position to represent the military members of the community. This position may be held by a local active-duty member of the United States Coast Guard or National Guard. This seat is a non-voting, advisory position.

Section 2.60.020 Powers and duties.

The commission is an advisory commission to the city council. It shall:

- A. Have the authority to prepare and submit to the city council for its approval a comprehensive economic diversification strategy for the overall economic diversification of the community. The commission shall recommend modifications of such plan from time to time, as it deems in the city's interest;
- B. Prepare and recommend to the city council for approval reports and plans regarding socio-economic data and specific sectors of the economy;
- C. As directed by the city council, review and make recommendations to the council for approval of strategic plans, plans of work and funding requests of agencies, organizations, and event sponsors;
- D. Review and make recommendations to the city council for approval on projects submitted for economic development grant funding opportunities;
- E. Receive, consider and evaluate public input, opinions and recommendations regarding economic diversification programs of the city and advise the city council of any findings or recommendations;
- F. Monitor progress and report to council the status of capital improvement projects, programs and activities outlined as goals, objectives or action items in the community's economic strategy;
- G. Have the authority to prepare and submit to council for approval regular quarterly or annual reports documenting economic trends in the community;
- H. Make recommendations to the city council regarding the economic diversification portion of the annual city budget;
- I. Meet at least once a month and cause minutes of each meeting to be recorded and forwarded to the city council through the city manager;
- J. Perform such other activities as may be requested of it by the city council.

2.60.030 Quorum and voting.

A quorum of the economic development commission for the conduct of any meeting or public hearing shall be a majority of the commission. No actions shall be taken by the commission except by concurrence of at least four members.

2.60.040 Limitations.

The commission has only those powers and duties set forth in this chapter and those necessarily implied from those enumerated. In particular, the commission may not:

- A. Expend or obligate city funds without prior approval of the city council; or
- B. Act in any manner inconsistent with the requirements of Section 2.60.020.

2.60.050 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

"Economy" means the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought.

"Economic development" means the process by which the economy is caused to grow, or a sector of the economy is made more advanced.

"Economic diversification" means the process by which the economy is changed to increase the variety of goods or services produced or offered.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA THIS 7th DAY OF April 2014.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

David C. Cobb
David C. Cobb, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce
Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

First Reading: 3/18/14
Second Reading: 4/7/14
Yeas: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 2
Abstain: 0

William M. Walker
William M. Walker, City Attorney
Walker & Richards, LLC

