

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

**City Council**

**WORK SESSION AGENDA - 6:00 pm**

**1. Work Session Topic: Valdez Senior Housing Associates, LLC**

**REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: 6 - Mayor Sharon Scheidt  
Mayor Pro Tem Alan Sorum  
Council Member Dawson Moore  
Council Member Susan Love  
Council Member Jimmy Devens  
Council Member Todd Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Dennis Fleming

Also Present: 5 - City Manager Mark Detter  
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval  
City Clerk Sheri Pierce  
Records Manager Shelley McMillen  
City Attorney Jake Staser

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Approval of April 5, 2022 Regular City Council Minutes**

**V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Proclamation: Public Service Recognition Week**

Ms. Rhea Cragun, Human Resources Director, thanked all of the hard-working public employees, and was pleased to be able to recognize the service they provide.

**2. Appointment to Economic Development Commission - Ana Bateman**

**3. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: (1) Escaped Property Litigation; (2) Proposed Settlement Agreement for B.P./Hilcorp Appeals.**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, to approve the Consent Agenda.

## VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

**1. Human Resources Department Report - Rhea Cragun, Human Resources Director**

Ms. Cragun reviewed the report included in the agenda packet.

Mayor Scheidt asked in regards to the compensation study, how often similar studies should be conducted. Ms. Cragun explained positions and jobs would be reviewed annually, although it may not be as formal.

**2. Approval of a Three (3) Year Contract with X-DLX Investments Corp. for Maintenance of Turf, Landscape and Pond Water in the Amount of \$174,190.00 Per Year**

MOTION: Council Member Wegner moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, to Approve a Three (3) Year Contract with X-DLX Investments Corp. for Maintenance of Turf, Landscape and Pond Water in the Amount of \$174,190.00 Per Year.

Council Member Wegner asked which department oversees the maintenance. Mr. Detter explained Parks & Recreation worked with X-DLX. Mr. Nick Farline, Parks & Recreation Director agreed, stating Parks Maintenance would review and validate the work.

Mayor Scheidt requested clarification on Parks Maintenance performing the monthly mowing and trimming. Mr. Farline explained how the contracts had been broken down, and how the bids had been reviewed before coming to the conclusion the mowing and trimming could be done in house.

## VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED

**3. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with R&M Consultants for Construction Administration and Special Inspection Services for Whalen**

**Avenue and St. Patrick Subdivision in the Amount of \$262,567.20**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner, to Approve the Professional Service Agreement with R&M Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$262,567.20.

Mr. Duval clarified R&M Consultants would also be responsible for any other special inspections needed around town, including the East Hanagita realignment.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming  
MOTION CARRIED

**VIII. ORDINANCES**

1. **#22-03 - Amending the Zoning Map to Effect a Change to Lot 5A, Block 4, Corbin Creek Subdivision Phase IV, Plat 2013-3 to Single-Family Residential and a change to Lot 1A, Block 11, Corbin Creek Subdivision Phase III, Plat 2014-1 and Lot 8A, Block 11, Corbin Creek Subdivision Phase III, Plat 2014-2 to Semi-Rural Residential. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, to Adopt Ordinance #22-03, amending the Zoning Map to effect a change to Lot 5A, Block 4, Corbin Creek Subdivision Phase IV, Plat 2013-3 to Single-Family Residential and a change to Lot 1A, Block 11, Corbin Creek Subdivision Phase III, Plat 2014-1 and Lot 8A, Block 11, Corbin Creek Subdivision Phase III, Plat 2014-2 to Semi-Rural Residential..

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming  
MOTION CARRIED

2. **#22-04 - Amending the Zoning Map to Effect a Change to Tract 1, Block 7, Corbin Creek Subdivision Phase II, Plat 2000-11 to Semi-Rural Residential. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Wegner moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to Adopt Ordinance #22-04, amending the zoning map to effect a change to Tract 1, Block 7, Corbin Creek Subdivision Phase II, Plat 2000-11 to

Semi-Rural Residential.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming  
MOTION CARRIED

**3. #22-05 - Amending Chapter 2.12, Section 2.12.030, Titled Deputy City Clerk Appointment. First Reading. Public Hearing.**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner, to approve Ordinance #22-05 on first reading and public hearing.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming  
MOTION CARRIED

**IX. RESOLUTIONS**

**1. #22-21 - Appointing the Judges and Clerks for the Regular Municipal Election to be Held on May 3, 2022 and Setting the Hourly Rate of Compensation**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner, approve Resolution #22-21.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION**

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming  
MOTION CARRIED

**2. #22-22 -Adopting the Valdez Community Branding Initiative**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution #22-22.

Ms. Karen King, Spawn Ideas, explained the main thing for the brand was to really help it take root in the community and become part of it, so people were using it. She outlined the early phase work, including three Lunch & Learns with different stylized items and Canva tutorials, as well as how the brand would be

implemented into City websites and social media sites. She stated she would be working with the Economic Diversification Department to create brand tool kits and goody bags to help get people excited. In addition, she outlined the plan to showcase the brand during the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities.

Council Member Wegner asked where the funding was coming from for the marketing materials, including water bottles, as he did not remember seeing it in the budget. He asked if giving these materials to people who were already in town was the best use of those items. Ms. Martha Barberio, Economic Diversification Director, stated the items had been included in her budget at the beginning of the year. She explained details around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July had not been ironed out yet and they would bounce the ideas off the committee for best use of the goodies and swag bags. Ms. King stated the community needed to use the branding first, and additional outreach would need to be looked at further.

#### VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, and Council Member Devens

Nays: 1 - Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED

#### 3. **#22-23 - Authorizing a Gravel Lease for Harris Sand and Gravel, Inc. on 55.9 Acres Consisting of Parcel E 1, Tract A, ASLS 79-116, Plat 2002-12 and Tract C-1, ASLS 79-116, Plat 2002-13**

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner, to approve Resolution #20-23.

Ms. Kate Huber, Planning Director, expressed the applicant's interest in a twenty year lease. She outlined where the five year recommendation came from.

#### VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED

#### 4. **#22-24 - Amending the 2022 City Budget by Appropriating an Additional \$44,190.00 to the Parks Maintenance Contractual Services Budget for Maintenance of Turf and Landscape**

MOTION: Council Member Wegner moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution #22-24.

Council Member Wegner questioned the need for additional funding. Mr. Jordan Nelson, Finance Director, explained the bids had been higher than the initial estimates during the fall budgeting sessions.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED

**5. #22-25 - Amending the 2022 City Budget by Accepting \$1,251.63 in Unbudgeted American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Revenues and Appropriating Same to the Sewer Force Main Project Within the Capital Projects Reserve Fund**

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution #22-25.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED

**6. #22-26 - Amending the 2022 Budget by Accepting \$294,000 in Additional Revenues from Valdez City Schools for the Previously Approved Walk-in Cooler and Freezer Replacement Project and Appropriating Expenditures**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner, to approve Resolution #22-26.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED

**7. #22-27 - Amending the 2022 Budget by Moving Previously Approved Appropriations in the Amount of \$400,000 from the VHS Major Renovation Project to the Herman Hutchens Elementary School Exterior Upgrade Project**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner, to approve Resolution #22-27.

Council Member Wegner asked what the funds were originally going to be used for. Mr. Duval explained the initial budget and how funds were being adjusted to cover specific scopes, in order to get a jump start on the High School project. In addition, he explained the budget had to be adjusted due to the shift in the cost of doing business between 2021 and 2022.

#### VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Mayor Pro Tem Sorum, Council Member Moore, Council Member Love, Council Member Devens and Council Member Wegner

Excused: 1 - Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED

## X. REPORTS

### 1. Report: Phase II: Bear-Resistant Solid Waste Management Plan (Update #6)

Mr. Bart Hinkle, Chief of Police, reviewed the history of the project, and provided an overview of the current status of the implementation of Phase 2, including the dumpster reduction and cost recovery phase.

Council Member Sorum asked if it was possible to come up with a compromise for the removal of dumpsters in the Robe River Subdivision. Mr. Detter explained it was not only the question of cost, it was also the issue of the dumpsters not being used properly and being an ongoing nuisance. He requested direction from Council and asked if the dumpsters remained, and continued to be a nuisance, how the situation should be handled.

Council Member Devens stated he found himself of two minds. On one hand, he agreed the trash service had grown to be an expected demand of the outlying areas and was one of the services the City offered to the areas. On the other hand, he felt the bear resistant containers were a quality service and lessened the need for dumpsters substantially through their size and availability.

Council Member Wegner shared public input he had received both supporting and opposing the removal of the dumpsters. He expressed concern over the dumpster at the bottom of Meals Hill also having the potential to become a nuisance.

Council Member Love shared concern over the miscommunication over the purpose of the removal of the dumpsters. She asked if the dumpsters had remained a nuisance since the miscommunication in November. Mr. Rob Comstock, Public Works Director, confirmed the situation had not improved, and large items and household garbage continued to be left outside of the

dumpsters. He stated it was not the intention to cut services to anyone, the number one focus at the beginning of the project was to mitigate the wildlife problem. He shared how the bird issue alone had drastically decreased since the implementation of the program.

Council Member Sorum expressed his gratitude for Staff's efforts and willingness to have the discussion.

Council Member Wegner reminded those listening when he says he has a lot of people reaching out to him, what he meant was really about 4-5 people, and noted that one person had been in support of the dumpster removal. He expressed his desire to not be reactionary to a few. He stated that he would expect a larger number of complaints from citizens if there was significant concern over the dumpster removal.

Mayor Scheidt stated the wildlife resistant cans had been a huge success. She encouraged additional outreach on the availability and benefit of the cans. She supported Staff recommendation, and encouraged them to continue to look into alternatives and compromises. Mr. Detter and Chief Hinkle agreed to continue the conversation with Staff.

Council Member Love stated hearing the garbage situation had not improved in the subdivision was disappointing, and that the lack of improvement was reason enough to continue to move forward with the POD program as intended.

## **XI. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS**

### **1. City Manager Report**

Mr. Detter reviewed the City Manager's Report included in the agenda packet. He highlighted his experience and take away from the Infrastructure Grand Symposium, and informed Council that a lease application for property along the highway would appear on the May 4<sup>th</sup> agenda. He discussed the need to schedule a Strategic Planning Retreat.

### **2. City Clerk Report**

Ms. Pierce updated Council on the upcoming Board of Equalization hearing, the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Municipal Election, the current status of the Deputy City Clerk position, upcoming Ordinances, and vacancies on Boards and Commissions.

The Council scheduled the next Board of Equalization hearing for April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Council Member Love agreed to serve on the hiring panel for the Deputy City Clerk position.

**3. City Attorney Report**

Mr. Staser provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including Alaska Trappers, redistricting, and escaped properties.

**4. City Mayor Report**

Mayor Scheidt updated Council on her experience at the Infrastructure Symposium, and her attendance at the Coast Guard Chief's Mess Initiation Dinner. She encouraged Council to attend Diane Kinney's Celebration of Life on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and Linda Brandenburg's Celebration of Life on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council members shared their gratitude for those working in public service. They congratulated Jordan Nelson on becoming the new Finance Director and Ray Gross for his new position as Solid Waste Manager. They shared their enthusiasm for the Senior Housing Grant and project.

Council Member Love thanked Council for updating policy so she could participate long distance.

Council Member Wegner shared his experience participating in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event.

Council Member Sorum updated Council on his participation in the Mariculture Conference.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION****XIV. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION****XV. ADJOURNMENT**