

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

**Present: 6 - Mayor Sharon Scheidt**

**Mayor Pro Tem Alan Sorum**

**Council Member Olivia Foster**

**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**

**Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk**

**City Attorney Jake Staser**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approval of City Council Minutes from March 21, 2023

**V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Proclamation: Child Abuse Awareness Month
2. Proclamation: Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month
3. Acceptance of Late File Application for 2023 Senior Citizen's Property Tax Exemption - Dee Hodges

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

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

Members of the Advocates for Victims of Violence Board of Directors accepted both proclamations and highlighted upcoming community events to raise awareness relating to child abuse and domestic violence.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Discussion Item: Valdez Medical Clinic**

Dr. John Cullen and Dr. Kathy Todd spoke on difficulties faced by the Valdez Medical Clinic, and the plan to move the facility under the Providence management umbrella.

Council Member Sorum asked about consideration of a community health center model. Dr. Cullen stated he had been in contact with the Southcentral Foundation and as of their last correspondence, they were not in the position to move forward with a community health center.

Council Member Devens asked what the process to transfer the clinic to Providence would look like and was provided an overview of the transitional steps that would be necessary by Dr. Todd. She spoke to the plethora of moving parts including transfer of medical records and transition of staff as well as a need for continuity.

Council Member Foster asked if Providence would be amenable to taking over the clinic. Melanee Tiura, Providence Valdez Hospital Administrator, answered in the affirmative and stated it was a common model throughout the tribal critical access hospitals in Alaska, but clarified that Providence had not used this model recently in the state.

Council Member Foster asked if services at the clinic would change under the Catholic hospital model. Ms. Tiura noted that at Providence facilities vasectomies and abortions were not performed, but birth control would still be offered. Foster made additional inquiries and was provided clarification on continuance of a sliding pay scale and prioritization of the obstetrics department.

Council Member Love queried about physician recruitment options. Ms. Tiura spoke to the additional recruitment tools that Providence would be able to access once they started operating the clinic but noted the challenges to recruitment across the state. Tiura highlighted the residency program as a pipeline for recruitment. Dr. Cullen spoke to the challenges of private practice not being able to compete for employees and noted that the Providence system would provide stability.

Dr. Todd spoke about the limits placed on Providence's ability to help a private practice with recruitment and highlighted pathways for future management, speaking in favor of a local control model of supervision. She spoke about the desire to ensure continuity of high-quality care in the community.

Council Member Love additionally asked the opinion of the physicians as to which management model they felt was most appropriate for the community. Dr. Cullen answered that, based on current circumstances, the Providence option was likely best.

Council Member Wegner thanked the doctors for their many years of service in operating the clinic and their deep dedication to the community. He stated that he hoped to support whatever they thought was best for Valdez.

Council Member Love confirmed with Ms. Tiura that there was a competitive recruitment program in place.

Mayor Scheidt thanked the physicians for their years of service in running the clinic.

**2. Approval to Purchase a 2023 CAT 906 Compact Loader from NC Machinery, to Include Freight, in the Amount of \$148,141.00**

**MOTION: Council Member Wegner moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve the purchase of a 2023 CAT 906 Compact Loader from NC Machinery, to include freight, in the amount of \$148,141.00.**

Capital Facilities Director Nate Duval provided context as to why the various equipment purchases were under new business and noted that the cost for the purchase for several of the items was above the budgeted amount but that adequate funds existed in the major equipment reserve to cover the additional costs.

Council Member Foster inquired as to the expected sale cost of the current equipment. Director Duval provided information about the sale and bid process and the goal of getting the best value for the sale. He also touched on the city's practice of local preference.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**3. Approval to Purchase a 2023 CAT 966 Loader from NC Machinery in the Amount of \$426,075.00**

**MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve the purchase of a 2023 CAT 966 Loader from NC Machinery in the amount of \$426,075.00.**

Capital Facilities Director Duval noted that the price on this piece of equipment was higher than the identical piece of equipment due to this machine having a loading arm.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

4. **Approval to Purchase a 2024 Peterbilt 520 Chassis with a Labrie Starlight 40 Cubic Yard Front-Load Refuse Body and Accessories in the Amount of \$385,746.00**

**MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve the purchase of a 2024 Peterbilt 520 Chassis with a Labrie Starlight 40 cubic yard frontload refuse body and accessories in the amount of \$385,746.00.**

Council Member Wegner requested that a more accurate price estimate and anticipated inflationary increases be considered in the crafting of the next year's budget for equipment. Director Duval gave credit for good planning to former Public Works Director Rob Comstock and Acting Public Works Director Joe Russell for careful planning of the equipment purchase schedule. Duval noted that some equipment was being purchased earlier to avoid additional inflationary costs.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

5. **Approval to Purchase a 2024 Peterbilt 567 Truck with a Stellar Hook Lift and Accessories in the Amount of \$275,138.76**

**MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner, to Approve the purchase of a 2024 Peterbilt 567 truck with a stellar hook lift and accessories in the amount of \$275,138.76.**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

6. **Approval to Purchase a 2023 CAT 966 Loader from NC Machinery in the Amount of \$417,353.00**

**MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve the purchase of a 2023 CAT 966 Loader from NC Machinery in the amount of \$417,353.00.**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**7. Approval of Contract Amendment #4 with PND Engineers, Inc. for the H-K Major Reconstruction Project in the Amount of \$360,308.00**

**MOTION:** Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to Approve contract amendment #4 with PND Engineers, INC for the H-K Major Reconstruction project in the amount of \$360,308.00.

Capital Facilities Director Nate Duval summarized the scope of the contract and various aspects of design work that the agreement would cover.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays:** 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner

**Absent:** 1 - Fleming

**MOTION PASSED.**

**8. Approval of the 2023 Renewal of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Valdez Yellow Cab**

**MOTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve the 2023 Renewal of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Valdez Yellow Cab. The Ports & Harbors Commission recommends approval.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays:** 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner

**Absent:** 1 - Fleming

**MOTION PASSED.**

**9. Approval of Cooperative Resource Management Agreement for the Mineral Creek Trails on State (DNR) Land - ADL 234033**

**MOTION:** Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to Approve Cooperative Resource Management Agreement for Mineral Creek Trails on State (DNR) Land - ADL 234033.

Planning Director Kate Huber explained that this was the final step in a public review process that had taken place through the state Department of Natural Resources. Director Huber expounded on the process and noted that the state's decision needed to be approved by Council in order for the Mayor to be able to sign the agreement. Huber continued by explaining that the management of the trails for motorized and non-motorized uses would remain the same and the surveying of certain gates and rights-of-way was the next step.

Council Member Wegner expressed happiness about the agreement and highlighted that the agreement was for a 50-year period. Huber agreed and reiterated that the management of the trails under the new agreement would align with how the city had been managing the area since passage of the ordinance on the subject in 2002.

Mayor Sharon Scheidt thanked planning staff for going through this process. Director Huber recognized Paul Nylund for taking a lead on the process.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**VIII. ORDINANCES**

- 1. #23-03 - Amending Chapter 3.12 of the Valdez Municipal Code by Creating Section 3.12.055 to Provide for Tax Adjustments on Property Affected by a Disaster. First Reading for Public Hearing.**

**MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Ordinance #23-03 on the First Reading for Public Hearing.**

City Attorney Jake Staser gave an overview of the ordinance and highlighted that the intent was allow for property tax relief to individuals whose property suffered more than \$10,000 in value during a tax year due to a disaster.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**IX. RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. #23-14 - Authorizing Matching Grant Funds in the Amount of \$200,000 in Partnership with Alaska Department of Transportation for Community Transportation Program "CTP" Grant**

**MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution #23-14.**

Capital Facilities Director Nate Duval highlighted that the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) was looking at providing matching fund for projects that were located in a DOT right of way and noted that the two resolutions were related to allocating local match for the Community Transportation Program and Transportation Alternative Program. He noted that both projects, Mineral Creek Loop Road improvement and Hazlet Avenue lighting, were in the right-of-way and outlined the benefit of the city providing matching funding. Duval expounded on reasons for seeking funding for these specific projects and summarized the grant process. He additionally noted that the passage of the resolutions would commit the city to a future appropriation if selected for the grant and that DOT would be primarily responsible for construction

Council Member Love sought and was given clarification on the ownership of newly constructed assets in conjunction with grant funding.

Council Member Wegner commented on potential challenges if grant criteria were to shift. Director Duval noted that if any change in ownership to assets were to take place a more robust discussion would occur.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

- 2. #23-15 - Authorizing Matching Funds in the Amount of \$235,000 in Partnership with the Alaska Department of Transportation for the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Application**

**MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution #23-15.**

Public Facilities Director Nate Duval specified that the two projects seeking funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program were a pullout at the Valdez arch and improvements to Allison Point trails. Duval provided a breakdown of the proposed match amounts and total project costs.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

- 3. #23-16 - Authorizing Submission of Denali Commission Matching Grant Application for the Public Safety Radio Infrastructure Upgrades Project**

**MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to Approve Resolution #23-16.**

Public Facilities Director Nate Duval outlined the grant deadlines and purpose and noted the He explained that the Denali Commission grant could potentially be used as a match for other federal grant funds then detailed the existing allocated funding and expected budget for the project. Duval explained the proposed upgrades to the emergency radio system that the grant would make possible.



**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

- 4. #23-17 - Authorizing Submission of a Community INNOVATION Grant Application to Thread to Assist with Community Child Care Planning and Capacity Building Efforts**

**MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution #23-17.**

Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk spoke to the short application time frame and broad potential scope of the grant. Sorum- Birk noted that conversations about the grant had taken place with the Child Care Crisis Task Force and outlined that the application would seek funding for tangible aspects of the work of the task force. She highlighted the importance of community partnerships and the need to clearly define a budget.

Council Member Foster declared a potential conflict of interest as a member of the thread board of directors.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

- 5. #23-18 - Establishing a Residential Surcharge for Residential Vessels in the Valdez Boat Harbor and Repealing Resolution #00-60 Formerly Establishing Residential Surcharge Fees**

**MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution #23-18.**

Harbormaster Sarah Von Bargaen shared the history of the residential surcharge for liveaboards in the harbor and detailed the conversations that had taken place with the user group in drafting the proposed changes. She noted that the residential surcharge was increase by 100% since it had not been increased since 2000.

Council Member Love expressed appreciation for involvement of commissioners and stakeholders in the process. Harbormaster Von Bargaen noted that the fee for liveaboards were still very small and noted the desire to find balance.

Council Member Foster inquired about the process for determining the 90 day timeframe listed in the resolution as well as monitoring potential short term rentals

on vessels. Von Barga provided information as to how liveboards were identified and spoke to the several potential issues involving short term rentals on vessels.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**6. #23-19 - Naming Rates & Fees for Use of Facilities in the Valdez Harbors and Repealing Resolution No. 21-53 Naming Such Rates & Fees**

**MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve Resolution #23-19.**

**Harbor Master Sarah Von Barga directed the Council to the summary of the rate changes she had provided.**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**7. #23-20- Appointing the Judges and Clerks for the Regular Municipal Election to be Held on May 2, 2023 and Setting the Hourly Rate of Compensation**

**MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution #23-20.**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**Yays: 6 - Scheidt, Sorum, Foster, Love, Devens and Wegner**

**Absent: 1 - Fleming**

**MOTION PASSED.**

**X. REPORTS**

**1. Verbal Presentation: Finance Department**

Finance Director Jordan Nelson provided a detailed presentation updating Council on Finance Department operations.

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

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

City Manager Mark Detter updated the council on the Chugach Corporation's workforce housing project. He also shared his experiences from attending a City Manager's conference in Fairbanks and noted that there was an upcoming meeting with the Department of Natural Resources Commissioner.

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

City Clerk Sheri Pierce reminded the public about the time frame and process for absentee voting for the municipal election.

### **3. City Attorney Report**

City Attorney Jake Staser updates on the Council on litigation including B.P./ Hillcorp, escaped property and Alderwood litigation. He additionally highlighted the introduction of SB 115, relating to oil and gas taxes, in the state legislature.

### **4. City Mayor Report**

Mayor Sharon Scheidt spoke to about her attendance at the Vietnam Veteran Memorial thanking the organizers. She also thanked Council Member Love for volunteering to chair the Child Care Crisis Task Force and congratulated the Valdez High School Basketball teams on their hard work.

## **XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Member Devens extended an open invitation to the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event highlighting the importance of the event and the attention it brought to issues of domestic violence.

Council Member Foster echoed the mayor's thanks to Council Member Love for chairing the Child Care Task Force and additionally extended thanks to the chair pro tem of the task force, Kate Dugan and to staff.

Council Member Love noted that she would provide updates on task force work.

Council Member Wegner echoed the importance of the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event and encouraged local men to participate.

Council Member Sorum shared an update on a forthcoming Sandia Labs entrepreneurial program relating to development and testing of maricultural and micronuclear technologies.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**XIV. APPENDIX**

**1. City Council Calendar - April 2023**

DRAFT