

Mayor's Report – February 7, 2017

Since our last Council meeting on January 17:

- On January 20, I attended the RCAC board meeting in Anchorage where there was very good information provided regarding the upcoming escort/spill response transition that will be happening in 2018.
- The Gravel/Dike Task force meeting was held at noon on Monday, January 23. Ms. Lain did an excellent job putting the agenda and supporting materials together and it was decided to ask the Council to seek the federal funding for a Corp study, but to not stop moving ahead with the current plans for Glacier Stream and the Lowe River.
- On Tuesday the 23rd, Ms. Pierce and I met to discuss some concerns that were passed on to me. She is doing an excellent job as Interim Manager. On that same evening, I attended the policy work session which was very enlightening with many good questions asked.
- The Beautification Task Force met on Monday, January 30. Ms. Ferco put together an excellent agenda with an in depth report from Ms. Patton regarding the wind damage and how we are proceeding. The new lights are rated for 100-130 mph winds and since many broke or were damaged, CoV is working with the contractor and the manufacturer to get these replaced and the deficiencies corrected. The matching grant is being advertised and the task force will choose the awardees next meeting. This was a VERY productive meeting.
- The evening of the 30th, was a dinner meeting with PWSC Director Dan O'Connor, UAA Chancellor Tom Case, Interim Vice Chancellor Pat Shier and Provost Sam Gingerich Ms. Pierce, Ms. Von Bargaen, and myself. We discussed the college space and property needs along with the city's training and job needs. We also discussed the University land that was available in Valdez.
- Wednesday evening was a work session with the Economic Diversification Commission to hear Susan Bell present an over view of the McDowell Group's Valdez Visitor Study. Many good questions were asked and now we have information to start making decision for future actions. The next item was for the Alaska Department of Commerce representative to explain Northern Opportunity which is Alaska's Economic Strategy. He held a community engagement meeting to gather opinions and advice for how Alaska should move forward on the five areas of: Energy, Infrastructure, Business Development, Workforce Development, and Community Development. The website for this effort is: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/ded/DEV/AKEconomicStrategy.aspx> The next page explains this strategy which was started in November 2106.
- Mrs. Elke Doom and Mr. Doom arrived in Valdez on Ground Hog's Day, February 2nd. Ms. Pierce made sure their living arrangements were ready and we met them at the airport with the keys to the city vehicle she will be using. Everyone looks forward to her starting her work with the City on Monday, February 6th.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez