

Mayor's Report – February 21, 2017

Since our last Council meeting on February 7:

- It was so nice to welcome our new City Manager, Mrs. Elke Doom, to Valdez. She had a VERY full, first week and I look forward to having her as part of our team that is helping move Valdez forward. The Council and the City staff will be very busy the next several years!
- On February 8th, Mrs. Doom, Ms. Pierce, Ms. Von Bargen, Mr. Sorum and I met with Mr. Paul Lantz, Mr. Paul Whitlse and Ms. Marci Cornell. We listened to their presentation of the Alaska Interstate Gas Utility and we asked many questions. It was stated that they have a major investor and would like to begin laying the infrastructure in Cordova and Valdez, the northern end of their area, soon. This is a very interesting prospect, but we will need much more information on the cost structure, finances, engineering, etc. before we entertain this offer any further.
- The Health Advisory Council met on the evening of the 8th and worked to develop the Community Health Needs Assessment survey that will be passed out in May. If you are interested in helping run the survey, please let Jeremy O'Neil know. The more volunteers we have, the more people we can survey, and a more complete picture of Valdez's health needs can be garnered. This is the information that the hospital uses to do their strategic planning.
- The Gravel/Dike Task force meeting was held at noon on Friday, February 10. We discussed the work session with Council and got consensus on what to recommend as we move ahead with the plans for Mineral Creek, Glacier Stream, and the Lowe River.
- The Council/Task Force work session on the gravel/dikes/flood prevention was held on the 16th. It is good to know that we finally will have a good plan, after all these years of emergency flood declarations. This plan will be revisited annually so we can figure out the best way to keep our diked communities (most of Valdez) as safe as possible.
- I am still having concerned citizens talk to me about Tail Gate's request to DNR to expand their operation to 90 days and 3000 people. I continue to explain that the State will make that decision, and the City has no say on what the State decides to do with their lands. I have written a letter to Mr. Sullivan reminding them that the City will want to see their receipts on what they actually spend locally, like they promised to provide during budget hearings. (see attached)
- I still have standing meetings with the CM on Tuesdays at 11:30 and Friday's at 3:30. Council members are invited, so please check with Sheri, if you plan on attending these so we can make sure there are only 3 members present. Last Friday, Council member Needles and Ms. Pierce both attended and on Tuesday, Superintendent Nygaard dropped in to officially meet Mrs. Doom and visit.
- With all of the rain, I want to thank both the city and state street crews for keeping the roads passable and having the storm drains open. I also need to point out that the snow removal crews have been working tirelessly even in the rain. Thanks again to all for your efforts to keep us safe.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez