

Mayor's Report – April 4, 2017

Since our last Council meeting on March 21-

- March 24th Council Member Needles and I had the standing meeting with the City Manager. Mr. James was also in the meeting to ask our opinions on dates for bringing the selected candidates for the Economic Development Director position up for face-to face interviews. It is good to see this and other positions being filled.
- That same day was the opening reception at the museum for the annual Student Art Show, which Alan and I attended. If you haven't been to the Museum and the Library (lower level), you need to go and view the amazing student art work. These will be on display until the first week of May.
- I hope all city and state employees had a very nice 3-day weekend celebrating Seward's Day on Monday, March 27. That was the first day of the new state assessments (PEAKS) at our schools and so far testing is proceeding nicely.
- March 27th also marked the 53rd Anniversary of the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake. The Pioneers held a very appropriate memorial service on Kelsey Dock at 5:30, in the snow. Please remember the lost and their families.
- I attended the School Board meeting that same evening and heard the discussion about the bus incident. I am glad the district is taking this very seriously and am sure future precautions will be taken by the bus company. It also saddens me to know our superintendent's last year will be next school year.
- On Tuesday, March 28th, the Beautification Task Force met to decide on the way forward with ordering banners, they heard the latest report on the lights/wind damage and how they are being repaired/replaced, and decided on how to award the \$46,000 in matching grant funds for the beautification of the downtown corridor. There were over a dozen applications and we did not have close to enough funding to award everyone the full amount. It was discussed whether to come back to the Council to ask for more funding this Spring. We decided to ask for more funding in the Fall during budget time and advertise the grant earlier in the year. Mrs. Doom made some very persuasive points during this discussion and I asked her to share these with the Council.
- The Special Council meeting was quick and I would like to thank the Council members who were able to attend along with the staff, school employees, and members of the public. We received important information on the insurance and it was good to have the contract language corrected.
- Thursday the 30th was a day when EVERYONE wanted to meet...10 a.m. Meeting with DOT Northern Region Director, 11:30 meeting regarding AGPA/REI gas line, in the afternoon, ECO, and the Southeast gas utility all were in town and wanted to meet.
- Thursday evening's work session to discuss the proposed Fire Department move promises to be well attended with much good discussion.
- It is Spring in Valdez and we finally have our snow back! Hope everyone is having fun enjoying our beautiful white weather.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez