

## Mayor's Report – April 18, 2017

Since our last Council meeting on April 4-

- April 5<sup>th</sup>, the City Administration, College Director, School Superintendent, and I had a meeting to discuss the current and future needs of the education community in Valdez. The schools' CIP list and future finances were topics. With the funds from the National and State level being threatened, we discussed possible ways to keep Valdez youths' education uninterrupted and thriving.
- That same day was the Small Business Economic Development Kick-Off which I attended. Since it was not advertised widely, there was a small crowd of a dozen people. I was also told that 11 people had attended the Quick Books class that afternoon.
- On Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> the FEMA Open House was held at the Civic Center. I was not able to attend since we were driving to Fairbanks, but I was told that it was well attended and well run with lots of good information shared.
- I was in Fairbanks over the weekend to attend the Native and Rural Development conference session where our daughter was presenting a paper and her research. On Saturday, I called into the AGPA meeting and on Saturday evening we ran into Craig Richards. He was very interested in AGPAs progress and gave me some advice to pass on to the chair.
- I attended the School Board meeting on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and listened to the budget discussion. They will have a work session and public hearing next Monday, April 17 at the VHS Library, before finalizing their budget.
- Before the School Board meeting we were able to meet and greet the two Economic Development Director Candidates. I talked to Mr. Dengel during this event and passed on Mr. Richard's suggestions.
- On Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, the Flood Mitigation Task Force met to hear about the progress of DOWL getting permits, designing the work (extraction of gravel and dike building) and the timeline in which this work will be completed. We addressed and discussed the speed of the projects and were told that DNR is rushing their permitting process for us. Several members gave input to the design of the extraction outline in Glacier Stream. Mrs. Doom was present to listen. We will meet again on April 17<sup>th</sup> at noon.
- Valdez High School is up for renewing their accreditation this year and Mr. Schug and his staff have been working on this all year. The outside accreditation team was in town on Monday and Tuesday to do the on site research and observations. I was at the exit meeting where the team leader let the staff know what needs to be worked on and then he let us know that VHS will continue to be accredited for the next 5 years. Congratulations to the high school and the district, being accredited is a big deal.
- Thursday evening's work session to continue the discussion of the proposed Fire Department move promises to be interesting. I would like to thank Mrs. Doom and Mr. Miles for all of the work that they put in gathering the information and costs for us to make an informed decision to move this project forward responsibly.
- Enjoy the gorgeous weather we have been having and the fresh shrimp with the opening of shrimp season. I hope everyone had a nice Easter.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez