

Since our last Council meeting on August 15-

- PWSEDD is in negotiations with the candidate chosen for the Executive Director position. This was one of the actions that was taken during our meeting on August 29.
- The Stepping Stones Day Care/Preschool building problems have been consuming for the portion of our community who rely on this organization's service for their children. I emailed the state Child Care Licensing Department and copied my communication to the Governor's office. On the 30th, Ms. Galipeau and I called the state and spoke with Bob Gerwin who was very willing to help, but needed to make sure the temporary relocation was following regulations. We discussed the proposed use of the First Baptist Church and this all hinges on a Fire Marshal's inspection and a Childcare Licensing Specialist's inspection. We are still trying to find ways to speed up the process to get them into a temporary facility and ease the childcare problems for our Valdez families. Thank you to Mr. Nygaard, Mrs. Reese, Ms. Giusti and the staff at HHES for offering afterschool care during the month of September to the displaced children. We hope this issue is resolved ASAP.
- The week of the 21st was busy with Kimley-Horn (K-H). I was able to give them a tour of the town on Monday, attended the Ports and Harbors Commission work session on the Water Front Master plan on Tuesday, had my K-H interview and attended the Community Forum on Wednesday. Thursday I attended the Student Focus Group at VHS and provided the ice cream treats for the students who participated. Finally, on Thursday evening, I took the North Star rebranding team on a Valdez tour.
- The Community Forum was well attended and had a very good variety of citizens representing a wide range of community interests and ages. K-H gave an overview of the process and then participants went to different stations to answer questions and give opinions. Maps of the town were provided and lots of great conversation was held. K-H captured some excellent input and will return to continue the process in about 3 months.
- I called in to, and Brian was present for the meeting between our attorneys and the Department of Revenue regarding the proposed change of regulation for taxing oil and gas infrastructure that was held on August 24. Mr. Brena did an excellent job explaining our concerns. We had a debrief call on August 28.
- On the evening of the 28th, I attended the School Board meeting and heard how they plan to move forward on their search for a high quality person to replace Mr. Nygaard at the end of this school year.
- On the 29th, the Interim Chancellor and Provost of UAA were in town to visit PWSC. Dan O'Connor had invited me to meet with them in the morning regarding Dual Credit classes and then the City Manager and I had lunch with them at the Senior Center. We discussed things the city and college currently work together on and what possible opportunities we will have to work together in the future.
- I spoke with Mr. Deaton, saw pictures and heard a great report on the Pipeline Workers statue move. He also let me see photos of the new, permanent targets that were installed and the great job that was done by the USCG volunteers to clean-up the Shooting Range. I sure hope people using the range will pick up after themselves and keep it clean and inviting to use.
- I want to thank Mayor Pro-tem, Nate Smith, again, for running our last meeting, I was told he did an excellent job.
- The 3-day Labor Day weekend was much needed and I hope everyone remembered the reason we have this Holiday:

***Labor Day**, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the **labor** movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. <https://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history>*

My thanks go to all of the people who work in Valdez and labor to make this a wonderful place to reside.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez