

Since our last Council meeting on December 5:

- What weird weather we have had the last several weeks! Many thanks to Public Works for their tireless efforts in getting and keeping the roads cleared and passable. DOT has even verbally assured me that the highway, from 12-mile in, will be cleared by 7:00 a.m. each morning. Again, thank you to all the state and city employees who get up early and work those long hours to keep everyone else moving and safe.
- Representative Rauscher's office called me during our recent Richardson Highway avalanche and asked if they could do anything to help. I asked them if they could help figure out a way to get more DOT personnel to help keep the assurance of having the highway cleared by 7:00 a.m. every day.
- On December 7th ("The date that will live in infamy."), the AMHS Reform group had a teleconference meeting to discuss progress and Phase III. Rep. Kito was present and discussed the legislation he will be filing to help with this effort and if this effort stalls legislation is also being put forward to fully fund the current ferry system.
- I saw Mike Wells and Thane Miller at VFDS's holiday party on December 8th and thanked them for speaking so eloquently about the unprecedented changes ADEC has accepted in the Terminal's C-Plan. I also sat across from Victor Weaver who was contacted by someone who runs extreme triathlons world wide. Victor got him interested in Valdez and he is pursuing the possibility of planning an event in Valdez. I let Victor know for him to get in contact with Martha, Doug, Jeremy and Marcie to help answer any questions.
- Thanks to the Ports/Harbor crew for putting on such a fun (loud) City Employee holiday party on Saturday, December 9. I was honored to help Elke present the longevity awards and was happy to see Steve and Marilyn Waller made it down so he could receive his 30-year pin, jacket and the special framed resolution provided by the Harbor.
- On Monday, December 11, I attended the interviews for Health Insurance Broker/Consultant services. Brian Carlson has researched this, with expert help, and will be coming forward at a future Council meeting with the recommendation.
- Also on the 11th, Robin Brena had a teleconference to figure out the best way forward on the request for the C-Plan hearing. All entities involved with the request and their counsels were on line.
- I attended the December 11, School Board meeting and saw a great presentation by two second graders along with discussion regarding the upcoming surplus sale, budget amendments and the salary range and benefits that will be offered the new (to be hired) superintendent.
- Lon, Darren and I visited with Elke on Tuesday, December 12 and wished her safe travels and a Merry Christmas. She will be on vacation from December 14 – Jan 2 to spend the holidays with her family. If the weather allows, she will be at the January 2nd meeting.
- The Health Advisory Council met on Tuesday evening, so I missed the VHS Holiday Concert. I heard the music was excellent, "the best show in town." The wonderful HHES Holiday Concert was held on Thursday, December 14. It was very well attended and showcased the students' and Mrs. Bauman's musical and acting talents.
- On the 14th, Mayor Pro-Tem Smith, Sheri and I met with John Clark of Port Valdez Company to listen to his ideas about possible futures for Meal's Hill. He had met with Elke in Anchorage the day before.
- I was asked to MC the Community Christmas Concert again this year and accepted. It was a humbling experience to see and listen to the MANY talented individuals we have in Valdez. If you missed the show on December 16, you missed a great time. Thank you to the Arts Council for hosting this event and to all who came out and shared their talent.
- The PWSEDD had a teleconference meeting on Monday, December 18 which I attended.
- I am requesting that everyone who loves snow and wants a White Christmas to please wish that the precipitation will become more solid and white. Have a very Merry Christmas and safely enjoy ringing in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez