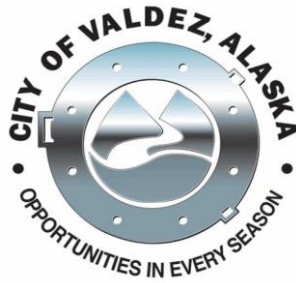


City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Planning and Zoning Commission

Meeting Minutes – Draft

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

WORK SESSION - 6:00 pm

Hazard Mitigation

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

WORK SESSION AGENDA - 6:00 pm

1. Public work session on the City of Valdez Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update, specifically risk assessment review.

Attachments: [2014 Hazard Mitigation Working Document](#)
[Valdez Newsletter Number 1](#)

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Chair Donald Haase
Chair Pro Tempore Jess Gondek
Commission Member Brandon Reese
Commission Member Roger Kipar
Commission Member Victor Weaver
Commission Member Harold Blehm
Excused: Commission Member Grant Uren

Also Present: Administrative Assistant Sue Moeller
Director of Community Development AnnMarie Lain
Sr. GIS Planning Tech Paul Nylund
Sr. Planner Rochelle Rollenhagen

II. ROLL CALL

Present- Chair Donald Haase
Chair Pro Tempore Jess Gondek
Commission Member Brandon Reese
Commission Member Roger Kipar
Commission Member Victor Weaver
Commission Member Harold Blehm
Excused – Commissioner Grant Uren

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The motion to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2017 was made by Commissioner Gondek and seconded by Commissioner Weaver. The minutes were approved as present by the following vote:

Yeas- Chair Donald Haase
Chair Pro Tempore Jess Gondek
Commission Member Brandon Reese
Commission Member Roger Kipar
Commission Member Victor Weaver
Commission Member Harold Blehm
Excused – Commissioner Grant Uren

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Ken Lares, Local Resident, approached the Commission asking about the plans for improving services for the benefit of property owners, such as extending the sewer system to Corbin Creek and Robe River, paving of subdivisions, etc. Director AnnMarie Lain briefly explained the process for Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) whereby recommendations made by staff or Commissioners are compiled onto a CIP list for review by the City Manager, who makes recommendations to the City Council. Ultimately it's up to the City Council as to which they approve. If there are particular projects you would like to see move forward, you can submit a letter (addressed to the City Council) requesting your desired project get approved. Community members can also speak to staff and ask that their project be included on the list. Director Lain said that there are a number of City water and sewer projects that she has spoken at length about with the City Manager, asking that they be included in the 2019 CIPs budget approval process. A request does not equal to approval – it is a process. What does carry a lot of weight is public input, so being aware of when the meetings are and speaking up is very vital to letting the Council know of the importance of the project to the community. The design for the sewer extension to Corbin and Robe River has been available since 2010.

Nate Duval, Director of Capital Facilities, explained that he had sent out a long range planning request sheet to the City which will be out laid onto a long range plan and year by year they'll see what cream rises to the top, and what needs to be done, with a focus on life safety, major maintenance, deferred maintenance, capital improvements, etc, etc. So any of these suggestions can be brought forward to Planning and Zoning, Economic Development, Capital Facilities and they'll be put on the list. It then becomes a matter of triage: how much resource do we have, how much money do we have, and what years can we get this sort of stuff in for. That process is going on now – the determination for the 2019 projects will likely happen sometime in March. This next month will be a matter of collecting information from everybody and planning out the process of getting these on the radar for the next five to ten years.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Setting of the 2018 Commission Goals*

Director Lain explained that she wanted to be able to communicate to the Commission where we as a department were headed for work load and the scope of our work for 2018. The Department had three Council priorities that were taken on and reflected in the budget: affordable housing, code enforcement, and flood mitigation. With-in the agenda statement is information intended to provide a framework for discussion and goal planning, pending the Commissions feedback. Director Lain hoped that within the next month, the Commission would set their own goals, and that the two sets align so that the Department and the Commission would be working towards the same end.

Acting Director Paul Nylund continued the discussion about aligning the goals of the department and the Commission. The goals are broken down into three manageable priorities which should offer measurable results. Affordable housing remains on top of the goal list, followed by Code Enforcement and Flood Mitigation.

Ideas for implementation included increasing public lands for sale, capitalizing on foreclosed properties and getting them up for sale to the public, hiring a Code and Compliance officer who will work with the Mayor's Code Enforcement Task Force, as well as working closely with the Mayor's Flood Mitigation Task Force. Utility expansion, mobile home replacement program and streamlining the permit process are all ways the Department is working towards achieving the goals; additional suggestions from the Commission are more than welcome.

A work session is to be scheduled for the first meeting in February.

VI. REPORTS

No reports were scheduled for this meeting.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Kipar voiced his concern that, in the event of a tsunami, the generator used by the Police and Fire is on the ground making it prone to flooding and malfunction. Elevating the generator should be included in the discussion of the new fire station.

Commissioner Weaver was in Sitka when the tsunami warning was sounded to evacuate to higher ground. He found it interesting that the warning was accompanied by the siren in Sitka, while in Valdez the warning was communicated via radio/phone announcements without sounding the sirens. The City Manager, Elke Doom, explained the reasoning behind the actions of the City when deciding whether or not to sound the siren, which signals evacuation.

Chair Haase announced that at the next regularly scheduled meeting, there would be an election for the Chair and Chair Pro Tempore.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Haase adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30pm.

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