

Since our last Council meeting on February 6:

- We have scheduled our City Manager's 1st annual, formal evaluation to be held in executive sessions during the next several Council meetings. It was decided to use the adopted forms and look at and discuss changing them for the future.
- I attended the Arctic Eagle planning meeting with the CM on February 7th. The plans are well-done and it seems like everyone is very well informed and ready to go. This exercise will be bringing about 250 people to Valdez, Feb 22 – 25, to train for responding to a man made disaster. Our Ports & Harbors, Police and Fire personnel will be involved along with Providence Medical Center, and the VHS ETT class. Thanks to Doug Desorcie for making sure the community potlatch/market is planned and executed. All Council members and point staff members will be given a lanyard to allow them to be identified as observers. The public is asked to try and avoid the exercise areas.
- On February 8, our attorney held a teleconference to discuss the state of and the plans for moving forward on the adjudicatory hearing request. I am very pleased with the way all of the parties are working together and am even more pleased after the notice that was sent on February 13. ["The Administrative Law Judge made the recommendation for Commissioner Hartig to grant our hearing request before we responded because of the desire to expedite time frames under the new regulations, and "because the appropriateness of an adjudicatory hearing was readily apparent from the requests and the Division's opposition."](#)
- I attended the School Board meeting on February 12. Their next several meetings will be dealing with next year's budget. They will be inviting two more candidates for superintendent to Valdez for interviews.
- The CM and HR have been trying to educate some curious citizens on the hiring process and city policies and procedures. I received an email letting me know that there was a rumor circulating claiming that the city was not following their hiring policies. I put that person in touch with Elke to help clear up the rumor. I also replied, "I am in no way concerned or alarmed at the way our City is currently being managed." I truly believe our current City Manager is following policy and has been very effective in her hiring.
- On Friday the 9th and again on Tuesday the 13th, I met with SEED Media to hear and then have them present a possible new venue for helping advertise the City. I asked Martha, Jeremy and Elke to attend the meeting on the 13th, so they could vet and discuss the request.
- The Health Advisory Council met on Friday evening and all day Saturday to develop a strategic plan using the Community Health Needs Assessment data. I was able to attend Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. The monthly HAC meeting was on Tuesday the 13th. It looks like the resurrection of the Mayor's Task Force on Hospital Expansion will need to be accomplished in the near future to help with their plans/needs.
- On Valentine's Day, I was able to attend the Community Care Providers lunch meeting which is hosted by the Providence Valdez Counseling Center. The topic was their new model for counseling, education and helping people struggling with substance abuse. There was great discussion on how to help get information about their services out to our citizens. I left that meeting with my spirits lifted knowing that we have such a good, proactive team at PVCC and in the community helping those in need and coordinating that care.
- The PWSC Valentine's Day dinner was delicious. I hope the college was able to raise some funds for the John Devens Endowment Scholarship. Alan and I enjoyed our evening, sharing conversation with Elke and Bruce Doom. We also wished Mr. Doom a happy birthday!
- February 19 and 20 VCS has two superintendent candidates coming to town for interviews. I plan on meeting them during the scheduled community and teacher times.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez