

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Valdez City Council Chambers.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Valdez City Council led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Jeremy O'Neil
Council Member Ron Ruff
Council Member Christopher Moulton
Council Member Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Darren Reese
Council Member Dennis Fleming
Council Member Alan Sorum

Also Present: 5 - Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy
City Clerk Sheri Pierce
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko
Records Manager Shelley McMillen
City Attorney Jake Staser
City Attorney Robin Brena

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2019**

The regular meeting minutes of July 16, 2019 were approved as presented.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Patty Relay, executive director of the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive provided an update on planning for the new museum, including community outreach efforts and online surveys. She stated Civic Center hill appears to be the favorite location of the options presented to the community. She stated she would like to schedule a work session with the Council in the near future to discuss next steps, including new museum design and fundraising the museum's 50% match for the project.

Ms. Rhonda Wade, Valdez resident and City commissioner, stated she has recently been going through the City budget. She explained she has also done research on neighboring coastal communities and although Valdez may be different than those communities, the data is interesting. She provided comparison budget data for the following categories: population, population growth, number of municipal employees, payroll growth, home construction numbers, operational budget growth, and revenues. She expressed her concerns with the growth of city payroll and expenditures, when revenues were decreasing. She stated she would like to see Valdez citizens providing direction for the future of Valdez into the future. Mayor O'Neil reminded Ms. Wade of the five minute limit for public testimony during public business from the floor and asked her to conclude her remarks.

Ms. Dina Lee, Valdez resident, expressed concerns with being told she was wrong about her interpretation of statements by the state of Alaska Alcohol and Marijuana Control Board. She also stated she did not appreciate her business being discussed by the Beautification Task Force. She expressed concerns with being billed for city water and not being able to locate the deeds to her property.

Mr. Jess Dixon, Valdez resident, stated he just purchased property in town. As he cleans the property, he continues to find more and more issues and requested assistance with baler fees to dispose of the junk on the property. Council asked Mr. Dixon to coordinate his request with the interim city manager.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of the 2019-2020 Renewal of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Valdez Yellow Cab**
- 2. Approval To Go Into Executive Session:**
 - 1. Potential Property Acquisition**
 - 2. Municipal Oil and Gas Ad Valorem Tax Legal Strategy**
 - 3. Confidential Personnel Matters**
 - 4. Spill Response Contingency Plan Legal Strategy**
 - 5. Pending Active Litigation Strategy**

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Approval of Contract with Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc., for Kelsey Dock Phase II in the amount of \$6,477,829. POSTPONED FROM JULY 16, 2019.**

MOTION ALREADY ON THE FLOOR.

MOTION TO AMEND: Council Member Reese moved, seconded by Council Member Sorum to amend contract with Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc. for Kelsey Dock Phase II by reducing the amount of the contract to no more than \$2,161,000 and limiting the scope to Option A and Option B3 minus the mural.

VOTE ON THE MOTION TO AMEND:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

2. #19-34 - Amending the 2019 City Budget by Transferring \$275,000 of Unencumbered Project Funds from the Kelsey Dock Parks Storage Project to the Kelsey Dock Yellow Building Project (POSTPONED FROM JULY 16, 2019 REGULAR MEETING)

MOTION ALREADY ON THE FLOOR.

Ms. Pierce recommended the Council vote nay on the agenda item and explained this resolution is no longer necessary as the contract amount was reduced.

VOTE ON THE MOTION (FAILED):

Nays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment to City Ports & Harbors Commission (Three-year Term)

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Reese to appoint Alan Steed to a three-year term on the City Ports & Harbors Commission. The motion carried by the following vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

2. Discussion Item: Federal Lobbyist Report - Stratton Edwards (Capitol Hill Consulting)

Mr. Stratton Edwards provided a brief update on his firm's federal lobbying activities on behalf of the City. He expressed appreciation for the improved level of engagement at the city manager level over the past four months following the appointment of Ms. Murphy as interim city manager. Mr. Edwards explained he has had recent discussions with Ms. Murphy regarding several areas of federal lobbying interest, including water and wastewater infrastructure needs, secure

rural schools funding, NOAA nautical weather buoy funding, waterways management, and opportunities to apply for federal grant funding.

Mayor O'Neil stated he appreciated Mr. Edwards's request for additional guidance and asked to revisit the City's formal federal lobbying priorities in the near future.

Mayor O'Neil asked Mr. Edwards if he had knowledge of the recent FERC DEIS. Mr. Edwards replied he was unaware of the issue. He explained his firm had repeatedly attempted to coordinate with the former city manager on various topics, but received no response. Mayor O'Neil expressed his frustration with Capitol Hill Consulting not being made aware of the FERC DEIS and asked that moving forward the firm coordinate with the city and city legal on the topic.

Council had a brief discussion regarding how to improve communications with Capitol Hill Consulting. Mr. Edwards explained with other clients there are usually weekly or monthly calls with the city manager. Council asked to continue setting annual legislative priorities during a work session with Mr. Edwards. Council also asked for quarterly discussion items to check in with Mr. Stratton in addition to his routine collaboration with the city manager.

3. Approval of Contract with CentralSquare Technologies (TriTech Software Systems) for 911 Phone System Refresh in the Amount of \$184,360.72

MOTION: Council Member Fleming moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt to approve contract with CentralSquare Technologies (TriTech Software Systems) for 911 phone system refresh in the amount of \$184,360.72. The motion carried by the following vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

4. Approval to Solicit Contract for Construction of Fire Station 1 Project in an Amount Not to Exceed \$16,000,000

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve solicitation of contract for construction of Fire Station 1 Project in an amount not to exceed \$16,000,000. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

Council Member Moulton stated replacement of Station One has been a Council priority for years. He explained the design, location, and cost before Council

reflect decisions made through multiple Council votes and lengthy discussion. Despite the outcome of the bond proposition, the station was reaffirmed as a priority during the last Council work session. He stated he does not take the vote lightly, but feels it is the best option for the community.

Council Member Reese explained the vote for the bond was an option to help retain funding locally. He stated the original design for the fire station was elaborate and the constraint demonstrated in the current design is good for the design. He stated the failure of the bond proposition gave some indication of the support for the project at that time.

Mayor O'Neil stated he has consistently supported the project from the start of his tenure on Council. He stated current working and sleeping conditions and issues with equal opportunities for different genders at the station do not meet fire service standards. He explained failure of the bond measure does not constitute a mandate to cease moving ahead with the fire station project. He stated the community elects Council representatives to do the work for them in researching issues and making well educated decisions on their behalf. He explained the state of Alaska Constitution provides for elected bodies appropriating monies for governmental programs and services. Mayor O'Neil stated at the top of services a local government should provide and invest in are public safety services.

Ms. Scheidt stated she has done her best to educate herself about the projects and the needs for the fire station. She stated she has also done her best to gather input from the community. There are many people who agree and many people who disagree with this specific project, but the majority agree there is a need for a new fire station. She explained many people support the project overall, but disagree with specific aspects of the current design or location. She added the people who disagree are also not able to agree on an alternative. She stated she believes due diligence was done in vetting and designing the project.

Council Member Reese asked for clarification about the construction timeline if the project is approved. Mr. Duval stated the intent would be to solicit a firm to complete the design. There is sufficient time between now and late spring 2020 to commence construction. He stated there are some timelines which are undefined at this time – including fire marshal review. He anticipated construction would be well on its way in 2020. Every month in delay starting the process adds approximately one month on the end of the project.

Ms. Kathy Nielson, Valdez resident, expressed there was not enough public involvement and input in the decision making process and that is why many in the community are uncomfortable with the project. She also stated many people in the community did not realize the project would proceed in the event of a "no" vote on the bond question. She encouraged Council to consider improving the public involvement process in the future.

Ms. Gail Johnson, Valdez resident, stated she did not believe there was enough information presented to move forward on the project or make solid decisions. She encouraged Council to consider following the will of the people.

Mayor O'Neil stated the proposition presented to voters in the May election was to determine the funding mechanism for the project. Bonding would allow the local retention of property tax revenue stream. The ballot measure was not an

advisory vote about the project itself. He stated the people elected the Council to act as their representatives and make appropriation and project scope decisions.

Mr. Keith Thomas, Valdez resident, asked about the plans for the old fire station. Mayor O'Neil stated there are current storage needs. There are also opportunities to bring departments in from outlying buildings. Mr. Thomas asked if the cost of the project include purchase of the property. Mayor O'Neil explained the location is already owned by the City and shovel ready for the project. Mr. Thomas asked what would be done in the event of cost overruns. Mayor O'Neil stated there is a built in contingency in the overall project cost. Mr. Duval explained the \$16,000,000 includes the construction, site work, and contingency funding. The intent would be not to the maximum. Mr. Thomas asked how the construction would be solicited. Mayor O'Neil explained municipal code directs procurement methods. Mr. Duval added the solicitation would go out statewide in addition to distribution through the Builders Exchange of Washington which covers the west coast.

Ms. Rhonda Wade, Valdez resident, stated the Council is elected to be the voice of the people instead of the voice to the people. She stated she would rather see the money spent on a fire station than other projects the City spends money on. She explained her concerns are primarily with the Council not following how the people voted. She stated that to go against the will of the people invalidates their vote and their willingness to get involved and vote in the first place.

Ms. Pamela Verfaillie, Valdez resident, stated she has had challenges reaching out to Council by email. Ms. Verfaillie explained she believes everyone in the Valdez community supports our local firefighters. She explained voting no on the proposition did not mean voting against the firefighters or their safety. She stated the problems being discussed should have been addressed long before now if they were such serious issues. Ms. Verfaillie stated she was not under the impression when she went to the polls on Election Day that she was voting on just the funding mechanism and did not believe the project would move forward if the proposition failed. She stated Council is elected to be the citizens' representatives and should follow the majority consensus. She recommended the Council wait until the new city manager was onboard, find alternative ways to communicate and educate the people, and figure out a way to follow the vote of the people.

Mr. Rik Neilson, Valdez resident, stated he appreciated all the hard work of the Council. He stated there was a strong campaign in support of the bond measure and almost no campaign against. He explained everyone in town supports our local firefighters, support revamping the old station, or doing something to provide our first responders with the equipment they need and a safe place to work. He stated the topic has become really emotional and hotly debated on social media. He stated he does not want Council to lose the trust of the people, but will respect whatever decision is made.

Mr. Peter Marsh, Valdez resident, asked for the percentage of registered voters in the election. Mayor O'Neil stated the voter turnout was 29% during the May 2019 election. He stated the turn-out was pretty low and so the outcome is not necessarily representative of the entire community nor a mandate. He stated many people voted against the bond issue as they thought it would cause property taxes to increase. He explained fire stations are critical infrastructure which should be invested in to run a modern community and appropriately

respond in emergencies. He stated taking care of public safety should be the top concern for leadership.

Mr. Rick Wade, Valdez resident, stated he supports a new fire station, but this is not the right project and there was not enough public input in the process. He stated that long term residents feel betrayed the project is moving forward after the outcome of the May election.

Council Member Sorum stated he is frustrated with how the project has unfolded. There are many other issues which need to be addressed, including housing and childcare. He stated he was genuinely surprised the proposition did not pass overall. He explained there is an ongoing problem with figuring out how to get the entire community interested, educated, and engaged in the local government process. He stated he would like to know why people voted against the bond proposition so those concerns could be appropriately addressed and fences could be mended. He stated the interim city manager had expressed she would take the lead on public outreach to determine those concerns.

Council Member Sorum stated he would like regular updates provided to both Council and the public to keep everyone updated on the fire station project. He explained Arcadis did a good job with reports on the new harbor project and he would like to see something similar with the fire station project. He stated he would also like to see excess City land developed for housing. He stated he hopes the old fire station is used for storage, and the City demolishes the storage building on Hanagita and sells that land for private housing.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Nays: 2 - Council Member Ruff and Council Member Reese

Council took an approximate ten minute recess.

5. Adopt 2020 Budget Policy Statement

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming to adopt 2020 Budget Policy Statement. The motion carried by the following vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

6. Approval of CMGC Contract with Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc. for the Providence Valdez Medical Center Copper Pipe Replacement project in the amount of \$2,714,975.

Council held a brief discussion regarding Mayor O'Neil's need to rescue himself from items involving Providence Valdez Medical Center. Mayor O'Neil is

employed as the administrator for PVMC. Council consensus was that the Mayor had no direct financial conflict of interest for this agenda item and could participate in the discussion and vote. Both the city clerk and city attorney agreed the Mayor had no direct financial conflict of interest in this case.

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Moulton to approve CMGC contract with Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc. for the Providence Valdez Medical Center copper pipe replacement project in the amount of \$2,714,975. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

Council Member Fleming asked how the project would affect operations of the hospital. Mr. Nate Duval, city capital facilities director, explained there is likely a significant impact. However, in an effort to mitigate the impact, the project is broken into phases, demo will be reduced in scope from full walls to partial walls, and work in certain areas of the hospital will be scheduled for nights and weekends. A fair amount of piping will also be drained, isolated, and left in place to reduce impacts. The overall hospital, including the emergency room, will continue to function and serve patients. Mr. Duval stated the city now has the hospital as-builts and Architects Alaska will update the plans as part of the project.

Council Member Moulton asked if any cause had been identified which could be prevented in the future. Mr. Duval explained the problem has not been one hundred percent identified. He stated around the time the hospital was built there was a large construction boom nationwide and materials were made at a lower quality. He stated Valdez homes and facilities also tend to experience less problems with pipes leaking when plastic is used instead of copper.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

7. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Architects Alaska, Inc. for the Hospital and Clinic Copper Piping Replacement - Construction Administration Services in the Amount of \$111,860

Council held a brief discussion regarding Mayor O'Neil's need to rescue himself from items involving Providence Valdez Medical Center. Council consensus was that the Mayor had no direct financial conflict of interest for this agenda item and could participate in the discussion and vote. Both the city clerk and city attorney agreed the Mayor had no direct financial conflict of interest in this case.

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Ruff to approve professional services agreement with Architects Alaska, Inc. for the hospital and clinic copper piping project - construction administration services in the amount of \$111,860. The motion carried by the following vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

8. Approval of Permanent Fund Investment with QMA Small Cap Core Equity Fund for \$5.09 Million

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming to approve Permanent Fund Investment with QMA Small Cap Equity Fund for \$5.09 million. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

Council Member Moulton asked for clarification on the process for liquidation of different investment funds and changes to investment managers. He stated the fund had already been liquidated by the City Finance Department following consensus by the City Permanent Fund Committee. He asked if the fund had already been liquidated and this agenda item failed, what would be the outcome. Mr. Brian Carlson, city finance director, explained the City would maintain a cash money market position until the City Permanent Fund Committee reconvened and decided on a new direction. Council Member Moulton asked if the Permanent Fund Committee had the authority to direct staff to liquidate funds or if that type of direction needed to come from City Council. Mr. Carlson stated this situation is rare and while liquidated from a particular investment fund, the monies still remain in the overall permanent fund. He stated he would bring back clarifying procedural language to both the City Permanent Fund and City Council for the future.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

IX. ORDINANCES

1. **#19-06 - Amending the Zoning Map to Effect a Change to a Portion of ASLS 79-94, 1570 Dayville Road, from Unclassified Lands to Public Lands. Second Reading. Adoption.**

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming to approve Ordinance #19-06. Second reading. Adoption. The motion carried by the following vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

X. RESOLUTIONS

1. **#19-36 - Amending the 2019 City Budget by Transferring \$16,000,000 from Unencumbered General Fund Balance to New Fire Station Project**

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt to approve Resolution #19-36. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

Council asked for a monthly update on this project similar to what was done with the new boat harbor. Council Member Scheidt asked to see the communications plan for the public updates on the project once it was developed. Ms. Murphy stated she would be happy to provide the communication plan and welcomed any input from Council on how to make public outreach on the project most effective.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

2. #19-37 - Amending the 2019 City Budget by Transferring \$280,700.81 from Unassigned General Fund Balance to Citywide Phone System Upgrade Project

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Reese to approve Resolution #19-37. The motion carried by the following vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

3. #19-38 - Authorizing a Lease with the Valdez Community Garden for a .69 Acre Portion of Medical Park Subdivision

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Moulton to approve Resolution #19-38. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Council Member Moulton asked if the lease language included the ability for the City to terminate the lease in the event the land needed to be used for another purpose. Ms. Rochelle Rollenhagen, city planning director, explained the previous agreement with the community garden was made by previous planning department staff using a "land use permit". However, a "land use permit" does not exist in Valdez municipal code. A temporary land use permit exists in municipal code, but does not apply in this case. The agreement should be a lease for use of city land. Ms. Rollenhagen explained when the agreement transitioned into the lease format, the termination language likely did not also transition over.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming to reconsider Resolution #19-38. The motion to reconsider carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

VOTE ON THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Yays: 6 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Nays: 1 - Council Member Ruff

Mayor O'Neil explained the motion to reconsider was made for procedural purposes to clean up the lease language and not due to lack of support for the community garden itself.

MOTION TO POSTPONE: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Moulton to postpone Resolution #19-38 to the next regular City Council meeting of August 20, 2019. The motion to postpone carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

VOTE ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE

Yays: 6 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Nays: 1 - Council Member Ruff

XI. REPORTS

1. **Report: Lowe River Levee Certification and LOMR Update**
2. **VCT Electrical Upgrades Change Order 2 Report**
3. **Procurement Report: Professional Services Agreement with Wolf Architecture, Inc. for the Fire Station 1 Hazmat Remediation and Ventilation Upgrades Design**
4. **Procurement Report: Callan Associates Inc., Permanent Fund Advisor**
5. **Report on the Progress of the Sale of 100 Acres of City Owned Land to Rydor Enterprises LLC., Authorized via Resolution #19-19.**
6. **Report: Contract No.1518 Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Valdez and Quantum Spatial, Inc. for the 2019 Aerial Photography and LiDAR Project**

XII. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS

1. City Manager Report

Ms. Murphy expressed her sincere condolences to the families of the three individuals who lost their lives while boating in Valdez Glacier Lake. She thanked Valdez Fire and Police Departments for their response to that accident.

Ms. Murphy stated at the next regular City Council meeting staff would bring forth a housing presentation, including potential housing development incentives.

Ms. Murphy thanked those involved in the Gold Rush Days Festival, including the City staff who supported the event. She announced the last cruise ship for the season would be in town on August 20th. She stated lessons learned from this season would be incorporated in procedures for next year.

Ms. Murphy stated she would provide Council the communications plan for the fire station project. She would also provide Council with the schedule for Permanent Fund Committee meetings and follow-up regarding the procedural

items discussed.

Ms. Murphy stated she will be working with Mr. Edwards to improve communications between the City and Capitol Hill Consulting.

2. City Clerk Report

Ms. Pierce stated her office was contacted by staff from the Alaska Earthquake Center. They recently completed a tsunami hazard mitigation for coastal communities report and inundation map. They would like to visit Valdez to do a formal presentation on maritime tsunami hazards and also give a public lecture on general tsunami information on September 12th.

Ms. Pierce stated she is scheduled to be out of the office next week for personal leave. She explained Ms. Ferko will serve as acting city clerk in her absence.

Ms. Pierce stated the City Clerk's Office will be mailing out a special notice to all Valdez post office box holders regarding the upcoming special election on Tuesday, September 10th. She reviewed the options and timelines for absentee voting for the special election.

Ms. Pierce reviewed upcoming vacancies on City boards and commissions. She stated City address books were now available for purchase at the City Planning Department counter for \$12. She explained city manager interviews were scheduled for the next day at the Civic Center and open to the public to observe.

3. City Attorney Report

Mr. Staser stated he would reserve his comments for executive session.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor O'Neil thanked the Gold Rush Days committee for their hard work in putting on another successful year of the festival. He discussed recent change of command for the local Coast Guard cutter and the Valdez kids' pink salmon derby. He reminded the community about the upcoming children's TBA theater productions at the Civic Center and the women's silver salmon derby. He stated he looked forward to the upcoming city manager interviews with two viable candidates.

XIII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Member Reese thanked the community for their recent engagement in the fire station discussion and other City business.

Council Member Sorum asked if a plaque would be incorporated with the Alyeska Pipeline Workers Statue. Ms. Martha Barberio, city economic development director, stated the City commissioned a replica of the original plaque and just arrived this week.

Council Member Fleming asked to schedule a Flood Mitigation Task Force in the very near future. He thanked Ms. Murphy for her hard work serving as interim city manager.

Council Member Moulton asked for administration to develop a process for meetings or other methods where citizens in non-paved subdivisions could provide feedback

regarding paving those subdivisions in the future. He explained some citizens in those areas are in favor of paving unpaved streets, other citizens are very opposed. Mr. Duval stated as part of the paving project, a website is in development which will include an interactive map of the entire community where residents can make comments regarding paving. Mayor O'Neil commended Mr. Duval's team for the recent outreach to Robe River Subdivision residents regarding paving efforts in their area. Mr. Duval explained the directive was to make contact with each household in the subdivision regarding the impacts of the project, by either directly handing them a flier or, at the least, hanging a flier on their door. An open house was also held at the Robe River Fire Station.

Council Member Scheidt stated she hoped there would be post-cruise ship season meetings, not only from the port operations perspective but also with local businesses to discuss lessons learned. She asked about scheduling the budget priorities work session in the near future. Ms. Pierce explained the previous direction from Council was to wait to schedule the priorities work session until the new city manager was hired and all seven members of Council were able to attend. Council Member Scheidt stated she hoped communications regarding the upcoming special election would be wide reaching and extremely clear on the question being asked.

Mayor O'Neil wished the Coast Guard a happy Coast Guard day. He also reiterated all of the positive feedback he had received from cruise ship visitors regarding the Valdez community.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Council transitioned into executive session at 9:36 p.m.

XV. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Council transitioned out of executive session at 11:29 p.m.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neil adjourned the meeting at 11:30 p.m.