

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, February 1, 2021

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Ports and Harbor Commission

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

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. in the Valdez Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Chair Mark Swanson
Commission Member Colleen Stephens
Commission Member Ryan Sontag
Commission Member Monty Morgan
Commission Member Stu Hirsch

Excused 2 - Commission Member Alan Steed
Commission Member Tim Bouchard

Also Present 4 - Director Ports and Harbor Jeremy Talbott
Office Manager Ports and Harbor, Karisa Friend
Port Operations Manager Jenessa Ables
Harbormaster, Sarah Von Bargaen

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from December 7th, 2020**

The Ports and Harbor Commission regular meeting minutes of December 7th, 2020 were approved as presented.

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**V. NEW BUSINESS****1. Approval of Recommendation to City Council for Resolution Waiving 2021 Annual Fishing Vessel Moorage Fees for Active Commercial Fishing Vessels**

MOTION: Commission Member Stephens moved, seconded by Commission Member Sontag, to approve recommendation to City Council for resolution waiving 2021 annual fishing vessel moorage fees for active commercial fishing vessels. The motion carried by the following vote after the following Discussion occurred.

Commission Member Morgan asked if the list of applicants was strictly Valdez residents. Ms. Von Bargaen, Harbormaster, confirmed the ones highlighted in yellow are Valdez residents and the list consists of Commercial Fishing Businesses that paid annual moorage. She also confirmed that if daily or monthly moorage was paid, it was not included, only if the whole year was paid was it included and stated all the names listed are tenant holders, with the exception of 2 are transient.

Chair Swanson asked about a missing business on the list, Ms. Von Barga confirmed the business should be listed. Chair Swanson stated it seems the Resolution is structured to link the relief to COVID-19 but it was also a poor fishing year, it invites folks that were impacted by COVID to send a letter to the Harbormaster. He discussed the link between COVID and bad fishing year, but still wanting to help out the Fisherman/Businesses. Chair Swanson stated he is always in favor of helping any business and the economics of Valdez.

Commission Member Stephens spoke from her position with the Mayor's Economic Recovery Taskforce. She said the Taskforce invited businesses to come talk to them about the economic impact and hardships that COVID-19 caused for them. The Commercial Fishing Fleet expressed that each vessel had extreme costs associated with responding and operating within the boundaries set by state and local municipalities to safely operate their vessels through COVID-19. COVID-19 affected shopping and testing procedures along with maintaining housing onboard the vessels. COVID-19 increased cost for every vessel on top of having a challenging fishing season. Commission Member Stephens confirmed the Taskforce heard that message from them loud and clear.

Chair Swanson confirmed the letter submission will go to the Harbormaster and that Harbor Staff is not asking the businesses to open their books just state they had a hardship. Mr. Talbott, Ports and Harbor Director, confirmed there are other relief options businesses will be able to apply for that will require those types of details but not Valdez Ports and Harbor. We are going to be accepting the applications at face value as long as they provide the required forms and letter.

Commission Member Sontag confirmed we are asking for a percentage of their revenue impacted but we are just waiving a flat fee. Mr. Talbott confirmed it will be a full credit of their annual moorage just like it was for the other credit we did in early 2020.

Chair Swanson confirmed all that are listed are Commercial Fishing Vessels that have moorage agreements, but the Resolution says it's open to residents only and there are several on the list that are not residents. Mr. Talbott confirmed City Council dialed into specific groups and the Resolution from the Taskforce is to help fishing businesses of Valdez residents.

Commission Member Morgan, stated anyone that received credit previously is not qualified to receive this credit. Mr. Talbott confirmed he did that to ensure there were no duplications. Ms. Von Barga confirmed there were charter businesses that got it last year and they are not on this list.

Chair Swanson asked if this relief is available to charter halibut and salmon fishing, Ms. Von Barga stated most charters submitted for it last year and the charters listed now are commercial shrimpers.

There being no further discussion, Chair Swanson invited a vote on the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Chair Swanson, Commission Member Stephens, Commission Member Sontag, Commission Member Morgan, and Commission Member Hirsch

Excused: 2 - Commission Member Steed, and Commission Member Bouchard

2. Discussion Item: City of Valdez Long Range Capital Projects List

Mr. Ron Rozak, Construction Manager from ARCADIS, provided a verbal report of the updates on the H-K construction plans and meetings he has had since the last Ports and Harbor Commission Meeting. Mr. Rozak mentioned the suggestions he received from staff and ideas that would like to be seen with the overall construction along with the tour dock upgrades and changes with wheelchair access. He refers to these as 4 areas, H-K floats, tour dock, boat launch, and travelift. The current scope includes replacing all floats, fire suppression, and water lines and also after discussion a pair of floats for kayaks staging area for the Charters. Also discussions had on replacing gangways and floats and fuel storage tank.

Mr. Rozak stated there are scope of work drawings from 8 years ago for the boat launch. He gave details about a longer and deeper ramp, this would help the use and safety of vessels and to replace the damaged west ramp. He stated the last priority is the travelift dock, replacing water sources, and existing gangway along with floats. He stated the possibility of repurposing floats at H Dock. As Mr. Rozak was wrapping up he stated he has looked at a lot of estimates and drawing to try to get reasonable costs. Overall looking for ADA accessibility, and considering Valdez snow load, structures stability. Preliminary budget estimates were provided and given to Mr. Talbott. It has been determined the prices have double and tripled due to COVID-19. Mr. Rozak created a preliminary timeline starting in November 2020 with trying to issue the RFP to Engineers in mid-February 2021 with a 60-day period then until September 2021 for design. Then in October 2021 award it, with a 60-day period and fabrication starting in December 2021. Mr. Rozak stated the project could begin preliminary construction in October of 2022 to be completed by June or early July of 2023.

Chair Swanson asked about the tour dock scope, if it would be 120ft straight or 2 60ft sections of gangways. He was thinking about use by kayakers hauling them down and taking the turn. Mr. Rozak stated it would likely be a straight shot down with a landing in the middle.

Commission Member Hirsch asked about I dock and making all 4 docks similar. Mr. Rozak said the idea is to make H similar to I dock and there wouldn't be any change to the configuration of the other docks and possibly and upgrade to the ramp at I dock. Commission Member Hirsch asked about vehicles down the 120ft gangway. Mr. Rozak said no, the long ramp would not be rated for vehicle use, pedestrian use only. Commission Member Hirsch also asked about the fuel dock replacement and is it incorporated in the tour dock replacement. Mr. Rozak confirmed it is not a part of the budget for the tour dock but the coordination is.

Commission Member Stephens asked for confirmation that the fuel dock is owned by Crowley. Mr. Rozak stated Crowley ownership begins at the "T" section. Mr.

Talbott confirmed and stated Crowley is looking for replacement at the same time. Chair Swanson mentioned that Mr. Rozak stated J-K floats would be going to a 4ft width from a 3ft width. Mr. Rozak stated they are currently 3 ½ ft. and the Harbor does not want to lose any slips by adding footage. Ms. Von Barga confirmed she did not want to lose slips because she did not want current slip holders to be displaced by the reconfiguration if they could not be put in another location.

Commission Member Hirsch asked for confirmation about replacing float at the boat launch. Mr. Rozak stated he didn't believe it needed to be replaced. He had mentioned the damaged west ramp needed replaced.

Mr. Rozak then asked Mr. Nate Duval, Capital Facilities Director and Project Manager, if he missed anything. Mr. Duval said the project is in the 10 to 12 million dollar range for the four major scope items. Mr. Duval agrees all that is listed is necessary and there is grant money and other monies available. The goal now is to fit the scope of work within a budget.

Chair Swanson asked for questions or comments for either Mr. Rozak or Mr. Duval.

Mr. Duval continued by providing a verbal overview of the written report included in the agenda packet. He continued to state that the overall project list was light on Ports and Harbor projects because he was told to pause until the Waterfront Master Plan was completed. Mr. Duval stated he does not advocate for projects, he asks that Commissioners do this.

Chair Swanson asked Mr. Duval to explain the project spreadsheet and asked how it translates concerning plus and minus numbers and the status of projects listed and their scores. Mr. Duval stated the low score wins by priority and necessity. He also explained the score system. If a project shows a negative score it is already in the works.

Commission Member Hirsch asked Mr. Duval about answering questions when citizens see these projects on agendas and ask about where money comes from to do these projects. Mr. Duval stated funds are repurposed, there is carry forward, and then the reserve/general account has funds that transfer to the project fund. Chair Swanson asked about bonding and referred to the new Fire Station. Mr. Duval confirmed correct and also possibility of grant money along with Harbor maintenance funds. Mr. Talbott also mentioned the pink salmon fish tax will be a part of the funds.

Mr. Rozak returned to H-K construction topic mentioned the project name and how it is referenced. Mr. Duval said it is called "Small Boat Harbor Major Reconstruction".

VI. REPORTS

1. Ports & Harbors Director Report

Mr. Talbott, Ports and Harbor Director, provided a verbal overview of his written report included in the agenda packet. Mr. Talbott commented that City Council is having a work session on February 25th at 6:00pm and asked Commissioners to give comments and help Ports and Harbor get funding for Sea Otter parcel. Mr. Duval stated there is an extensive permitting process. Chair Swanson asked who

to reach out to on Council. Mr. Talbott said all of them.

Ms. Von Bargaen offered a tour of the bilge treatment facility. She stated to schedule a time with Harbor staff member AJ Keeton. She also stated Port and Harbor is going to send out a quarterly newsletter and asked for a headshot and a short Bio from each Commissioner. Chair Swanson nominated Commission Member Tim Bouchard to go first since he was not currently present.

Chair Swanson asked for clarification on the \$187,000 and Pink Salmon Relief. Mr. Talbott said he would research how the money is determined.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Chair Swanson opened the floor for business from Commissioners.

Commission Members Hirsch, Stephens, Morgan, and Sontag stated no business. Chair Swanson also stated he had no business.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Swanson adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm