

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

6:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Moulton called the meeting to order at 7:03 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: 5 - Council Member Christopher Moulton (Chairman)
Council Member Ron Ruff
Council Member Lon Needles
Council Member Jim Shirrell
Council Member Darren Reese

Excused: 2 - Mayor Jeremy O'Neil
Council Member Dennis Fleming

Also Present: 5 - City Manager Elke Doom
City Clerk Sheri Pierce
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko
Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy
City Attorney Jake Staser

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

No members of the public appeared to provide testimony.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

**1. Approval To Go Into Executive Session Re: (1) Pending Litigation Strategy
(2) City Manager Evaluation**

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell and Council Member Reese

Absent: 2 - Mayor O'Neil and Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

VI. NEW BUSINESS**1. Approval of Funding for Installation and Maintenance of Two Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC) DART Buoys in Port Valdez in the Amount of \$40,000**

MOTION: Council Member Shirrell moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve funding for installation and maintenance of two PWSRCAC DART buoys in Port Valdez in the amount of \$40,000.

Council Member Needles requested further information on where data would go. RCAC representatives Allen Sorum and Joe Lally outlined how the public would have access to all data collected through the National Ocean Observing System, a branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Mr. Sorum explained in the past the buoys had been part of the National Data Buoy System and he hoped to have the buoys reincorporated into that system.

Council Member Shirrell asked how the funds requested would be allocated. Mr. Lally explained the funds would cover the transportation, installation, and maintenance of the two DART Buoys for a period of up to five years.

Council Member Shirrell requested clarification on the areas covered by the buoys and how the data would assist in future oil spill response. Mr. Sorum explained the placement of the buoys. Mr. Lally stated data gathered from the buoys would assist in response efforts for spills of all sizes, covering areas including the fish hatchery and the duck flats. Mr. Staser emphasized the need for real time data.

Council Member Reese asked what interest Alyeska had expressed in the information. Mr. Lally and Mr. Sorum outlined Alyeska's full and willing involvement in the placement of the buoys.

Council Member Reese asked for the life expectancy on the buoys. Mr. Sorum explained with proper maintenance, the life expectancy was decades. Council Member Reese requested further clarification on proper maintenance. Mr. Sorum outlined standard maintenance requirements and explained how RCAC hoped to work with the Science Center to perform necessary maintenance.

Council Member Reese asked about the expectations of data and if five years would suffice. Mr. Lally explained five years was the agreed upon settlement point. Afterwards, the hope was if NOAA integrated the buoys into their system, the buoys would collect data long term. City attorney Robin Brena outlined the original oil spill trajectory modeling and stated it had been unrealistic and explained how real time data from the buoys would assist in future trajectory models.

Council Member Moulton requested verification RCAC was stating in their proposal they would not request funds in the future for the buoys. Mr. Sorum confirmed they did not anticipate returning to request additional funds.

Council Member Shirrell encouraged RCAC to budget for the buoys moving forward.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell and Council Member Reese

Absent: 2 - Mayor O'Neil and Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

2. Approval of Waterfront Master Plan Steering Committee

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Shirrell, to approve the community stakeholders listed, for the Waterfront Masterplan Steering Committee.

Council Member Moulton asked where the names on the list came from. Ports & Harbor Director Jeremy Talbott outlined the selection process. He confirmed the committee would meet separately from the Ports & Harbor Commission. Council Member Ruff and Council Member Reese volunteered to serve on the committee as Council representatives. Mr. Talbott explained how the meetings would be advertised.

Council Member Moulton asked if other departments would be privy to the meetings. Mr. Talbott agreed they would be.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell and Council Member Reese

Absent: 2 - Mayor O'Neil and Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Valdez and Valdez Museum and Historical Archive Association

MOTION: Council Member Needles moved, seconded by Council Member Shirrell, to memorandum of understanding between the City of Valdez and Valdez Museum and Historical Archive Association.

Council Member Shirrell explained he felt the topic was perfunctory and was approving what came out of the work session.

Council Member Moulton requested information on expected funding sources for the project. Mr. Gary Minish, president of the VMHA Board of Directors, explained what approval of the MOU would mean for Council and outlined the expected funding process. He explained the commitment was to begin procurement of land for the museum and to set up a funding account. Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Director Patty Relay explained the initial outlay of the project and the purpose for the MOU.

Council Member Moulton expressed his desire for Council and the Museum to compromise when property selection was addressed.

Council Member Shirrell requested the Museum work in collaboration with the harbor planning group, Kimley-Horn, and other planning groups.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, and Council Member Shirrell

Nays: 1 - Council Member Reese

Absent: 2 - Mayor O'Neil and Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

VII. RESOLUTIONS

1. #19-08 - Adopting the City of Valdez Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

MOTION: Council Member Shirrell moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve Resolution #19-08.

Council Member Shirrell asked what the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was and what it committed the community to do. Ms. Doom explained the plan outlined all the natural hazards in Valdez, including risk assessments and mitigation strategies, allowing the City to apply for grant funding. She outlined how it would affect prioritizing projects. Economic Diversification Director Martha Barberio explained how the plan added an additional layer of mitigation effort in emergency management required by the state.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell and Council Member Reese

Absent: 2 - Mayor O'Neil and Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. REPORTS

1. January 2019 New Boat Harbor Report

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

1. City Manager Report

Ms. Doom reported Council Members and staff from the City traveled to Juneau for the annual legislative fly-in. They attempted to meet with the Governor, but he was unavailable. Meetings with state legislators occurred, discussing the proposed budget and potential impacts on the Valdez community.

2. City Clerk Report

Ms. Pierce reviewed upcoming items on the Council Calendar.

3. City Attorney Report

Mr. Staser outlined projects and provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including School Bond Reimbursement, Borough Formation, Barton v. City of Valdez, Boulder Bay, C-Plan and the Title 8 update.

4. City Mayor Report**X. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Member Ruff addressed the open letter to the Governor posted on Facebook by the Mayor. He stated in no way did the letter represent him as a Council member. He was not consulted about it and wanted to be on the record saying he wanted nothing to do with the Mayor's letter. Council Member Moulton stated it was his understanding the letter was not written on behalf of Council.

Council Member Reese reminded the community that local roads were still icy in the mornings. Please drive carefully.

Council Member Shirrell stated in regards to SB57, the City needed to take their time to work through and read it carefully, but also needed to move quickly to discuss strategies to address concerns it raised.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Council transitioned into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m.

XII. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Council transitioned out of Executive Session at 9:59 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council Member Moulton adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.