

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Civic Center Conference Room

City Council

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

Mayor Scheidt called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. in the Civic Center Conference Room.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Todd Wegner
Council Member Susan Love
Council Member Dawson Moore
Council Member Jimmy Devens

Excused: 2 - Council Member Dennis Fleming
Mayor Pro Tem Alan Sorum

Also Present: 6 - City Manager Mark Detter
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval
Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy
City Clerk Sheri Pierce
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko
City Attorney Jack Wakeland *(by teleconference)*

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. City Council Special Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2021**

The City Council special meeting minutes of June 17, 2021 were approved as presented.

2. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2021

The City Council regular meeting minutes of June 15, 2021 were approved as presented.

3. City Council 2018 Minutes: (1) Regular Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2018, (2) Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2018, and (3) Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2018

The City Council regular meeting minutes of August 7, 2018; City Council regular meeting minutes of August 22, 2018; and City Council regular meeting minutes of September 4, 2018 were approved as presented.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

No members of the public appeared to provide testimony from the floor on a non-agenda item.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA**1. Appointments to the City Ports & Harbors Commission (Full Terms - Colleen Stephens and Tim Bouchard)**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Wegner, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore and Council Member Devens

Excused: 2 - Council Member Fleming and Mayor Pro Tem Sorum

MOTION CARRIED

VII. NEW BUSINESS**1. Discussion Item: City of Valdez Policy 8300-01 Small Unmanned Aircraft System**

Chief of Police Bart Hinkle provided a brief overview of the purpose of the program and policy. He explained the policy would be posted on the City of Valdez emergency management webpage for public reference.

2. Approval of a Contract with Harris Sand & Gravel, Inc., for the 10 Mile Dike Maintenance Project in the Amount of \$3,570,100

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner, to approve a contract with Harris Sand & Gravel, Inc., for the 10 Mile Dike Maintenance project in the amount of \$3,570,100.

Mr. Duval explained there is an overall desire to create and follow a comprehensive maintenance plan for Lowe River. The plan was submitted to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for approval several years ago. He provided a brief overview of the purpose and scope of the contract.

Council Member Wegner asked for clarification regarding the composition and meeting process for the Mayor's Flood Mitigation Task Force. Mr. Duval explained the Task Force meets once a month and is comprised of community representatives from the three areas of the city with rivers or major streams plus two Council members. The Task Force previously worked on projects for Mineral Creek and Valdez Glacier Stream. The current focus of the Task Force is mitigation efforts on the Lowe River.

Council Member Wegner asked how long the Mayor's Flood Mitigation Task Force had been in places, as those types of meeting bodies were traditionally short in scope and timeframe. Ms. Pierce explained the process regarding establishment and management of city task forces would be discussed during the upcoming Council retreat. She explained a policy for this topic needed to be

incorporated into the Council Policy and Procedures document.

Mr. Duval explained the original proposal submission deadline for the project was extended to allow clarification of questions received about the contract.

Mr. Detter provided additional information from the process leading up to the contract being presented to Council, including a robust public process, task force involvement, ensuring enough time in the request for proposal process for quality bids, and other actions.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Wegner, Council Member Love,
Council Member Moore and Council Member Devens

Excused: 2 - Council Member Fleming and Mayor Pro Tem Sorum

MOTION CARRIED

3. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with PND Engineers, Inc for the Valdez Small Boat Harbor H-K Major Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$734,663.00

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve the Professional Services Agreement with PND Engineers, Inc for the Valdez Small Boat Harbor H-K Major Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$734,663.

Mr. Duval explained this project has been on the long-range project plan for several years. He provided a brief overview of the scope of the project.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Wegner, Council Member Love,
Council Member Moore and Council Member Devens

Excused: 2 - Council Member Fleming and Mayor Pro Tem Sorum

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

1. **#21-26 - Amending the 2021 City Budget by Accepting \$930,567.10 in Unbudgeted American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") Grant Revenues and Appropriating Same to Sewer Force Main Project Within the Capital Projects Reserve Fund**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Moore to approve Resolution # 21-26.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Wegner, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore and Council Member Devens

Excused: 2 - Council Member Fleming and Mayor Pro Tem Sorum

MOTION CARRIED

2. **#21-27 - Amending the 2021 City Budget by Transferring \$275,000 from the Reserve/Harbor Major Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects/Harbor H-K Replacement Fund**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner to approve Resolution # 21-27.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Wegner, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore and Council Member Devens

Excused: 2 - Council Member Fleming and Mayor Pro Tem Sorum

MOTION CARRIED

IX. REPORTS

1. **Monthly Treasury Report: May, 2021**

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

1. **City Manager Report**

Mr. Detter discussed city programs, issues, and projects, including housing projects such as senior housing, a new subdivision proposal at Whalen and Egan, and the Chugach Alaska Corporation's preliminary multi-use housing facility concept and the impacts to those projects from current building construction and material costs nationwide. He also discussed the BLM land exchange in Thompson Pass, the Fire Station 1 open house and ribbon cutting ceremony, the Lowe River flood maintenance, demolition of the Pipeline and the Landsharks buildings, the pavement management project, the schools waterline project, and the school generator project, and the access study for properties east of Valdez Glacier Stream.

Mr. Detter outlined his desire to increase funding for a total of \$300,000 for the travel incentive voucher program. He stated if Council expressed no objection to

the increase staff would move forward with reopening the program. However, this would be the final extension for vouchers. He explained there are remaining funds allocated for COVID-19 economic recovery due to other programs being under budget. This increase would come from that funding source.

Council Member Devens said he was impressed with the number of visitors in town over the July 4th holiday and felt the voucher program contributed to the success of the weekend. He stated he supported extending the program one final round.

Council Member Moore reiterated his concerns over roll-out issues of the program and some confusion amongst the public about how vouchers could be used. He stated he supported a final extension of funding for the program. He shared his support for putting money into small local businesses.

Mayor Scheidt shared positive feedback she had received on the program. She questioned whether now was the time to authorize additional incentive vouchers or if it would be better to postpone with the intent to reopen in the shoulder season to increase tourism during a traditionally slower time of the year. She shared her gratitude for the positive impact the program had on public relations and increasing tourism.

Multiple Council members expressed concerns with the potential for public frustration with multiple starts and stops to the program over time.

Council Member Love was unsure how to measure the success of the program outside of anecdotal support. Mr. Detter stated to date feedback was mostly anecdotal, but he felt it had been a net positive.

Council Member Wegner expressed concern over potential negative impacts to staff time by extending the program during an already very busy season. He asked if the funds earmarked for COVID-19 economic recovery had an expiration date. Mr. Detter stated the money had been earmarked for that purpose, but could be repurposed if the funds were not used fully.

2. City Clerk Report

Ms. Pierce reviewed the upcoming Council Retreat agenda, provided a progress update regarding ordinance drafting for code revision, and reviewed her upcoming travel calendar.

3. City Attorney Report

Mr. Wakeland reviewed current cases and topics his firm is working on behalf of the City, including the Alaska Trappers litigation.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Scheidt congratulated the City of Valdez on the success of the Fourth of July event.

XI. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Multiple Council members shared their appreciation for those involved in making the Fourth of July holiday event a success.

Council Member Moore thanked those involved in the theatre conference and expressed his gratitude for a great event.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Scheidt adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

DRAFT