

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.

Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting (note date change due to Council travel)

Council Chambers

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Sharon Scheidt
Mayor Pro Tem Alan Sorum
Council Member Dennis Fleming
Council Member Todd Wegner
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Olivia Foster
Council Member Austin Love

Also Present: 4 - Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval
City Clerk Sheri Pierce
Deputy City Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk
City Attorney Jake Staser

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of City Council Minutes- April 4, 2023

V. SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

VI. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to Council Member Sorum for Mayor Pro Tem.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love
MOTION CARRIED.

VII. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

1. Public Appearance: Chugach Corporation; Ms. Sheri Buretta, Chairman of the Board, Ms. Josie Hickel, President, Mr. Paul MacDonald, General Manager.

Ms. Buretta and Ms. Hickel provided an update on the groundbreaking ceremony planned for the new housing project.

VIII. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (For Hire Vehicle License) for Keystone Tours

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Foster, to approve the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (For Hire Vehicle License) for Keystone Tours

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love
MOTION CARRIED.

2. Approval of the 2023-2024 Valdez City Schools Budget

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve the 2023-2024 Valdez City Schools Budget.

Council Member Love asked how certified salaries compared to the statewide average, and how they were changing over time. Tim Bauer, Superintendent, outlined the benefits included in the Teacher's Union negotiations, and noted negotiations occurred every three years, which kept salaries and benefits in line with statewide averages.

Council Member Love requested additional information on the Director of Curriculum. Mr. Bauer outlined the development of the new position.

Council Member Love asked what an extra duty contract would cover. Mr. Bauer stated it included items such as coaches and advisors which added duties above and beyond a standard teaching contract.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love
MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Contract with Curtis Electric, LLC for the Fisherman's Wharf Electrical Repairs Project in the Amount of \$370,000.00

MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve contract with Curtis Electric, LLC for the Fisherman's Wharf Electrical Repairs project in the amount of \$370,000.00.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love
MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Contract Award with Orion Construction, INC for the VHS Pool Column Repair Project in the Amount of \$110,818.00

MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member

Wegner, to approve the contract award with Orion Construction, INC for the VHS Pool Column Repair Project in the amount of \$110,818.00.

Council Member Wegner asked about the pool closure affects on the swim team's season. Mr. Duval stated there would be closures, but they were striving to keep the effects to a minimum.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love
MOTION CARRIED.

X. RESOLUTIONS

1. #23-29 - Approval of Fee Waiver for Temporary Land Use Permit #23-05 for End of the Road Renaissance Fair

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve Resolution #23-29.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love
MOTION CARRIED.

2. #23-30 - Amending the 2023 City Budget by Accepting \$825,458.96 in Unbudgeted COVID-19 FEMA Grant Revenues and Repealing Resolution #20-75

MOTION: Council Member Foster moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution #23-30.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Wegner, Devens, Foster and Love
MOTION CARRIED.

3. #23-31 - Amending The 2023 City Budget by Transferring \$350,000 from Unassigned General Fund Balance to the Park Meals Hill Development Account and Authorizing Expenditure of Funds for Design and Construction Administration

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution #23-31.

Council Member Wegner expressed concern the project was out of the scope of what was initially asked for. He stated some items still had not been taken into consideration, such as maintenance, vandalism, and trash. He stated he was not in favor of adding additional funds.

Council Member Love asked who attended the meeting with Great Land Trust and how the meeting had gone. Mr. Duval outlined the phone call between himself and Melisa Babb. He stated their understanding of the funding was any of the other items needed did not meet the criteria for conservation.

Council Member Devens shared information he'd gathered on a similar project in Homer. He noted the project would essentially double the park space in the community and expressed his interest in pushing forward with the project. He stated not to invest in the project would be foolish.

Council Member Sorum stated he continued to support the project.

Council Member Love stated he supported the project as a whole, and hesitated to leave money on the table which was born out of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. He stated he had not read the US Fish & Wildlife agreement, he did not believe anyone in the City had read the document, and Great Land Trust themselves had stated they were taking a conservative approach to the interpretation of the document. He stated he felt it was the City's duty to push back a little and ask where the agreement was which was restricting the funds. He stated the document should have been reviewed before the plan was ever approved. He recommended not passing the resolution at this time, going back to Great Land Trust, and have Legal review the document. Mr. Duval stated some of what the funds were for was for the administration of the project, which EDA funds would not cover.

Council Member Devens stated in regard to the expiration of the funds, he did not want to risk the future of the project.

Mr. Staser confirmed he had not reviewed the US Fish & Wildlife agreement.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Scheidt, Sorum, Fleming, Devens and Foster

Nays: 2 - Wegner and Love

MOTION CARRIED.

XI. REPORTS

- 1. Report: Issuance of Temporary Land Use Permit #23-06 for the Fat Mermaid Restaurant for 518 Square Feet of Public Right-of-Way Immediately Adjacent to Lot 1A, Block 39A, Harbor Subdivision**
- 2. Report: Issuance of Temporary Land Use Permit 23-09 for the Roadside Potatohead Too, LLC for Six Months on 369 Square Feet of Public Right-of-Way Immediately Adjacent to Lot 12, Block 40, Harbor Subdivision**
- 3. Report: Issuance of Temporary Land Use Permit #23-10 for Faith Harbor Fellowship for 334 Galena Drive, Lot 22, Block 35 Mineral**

Creek Subdivision Owned by the City of Valdez

4. **Report: Issuance of Temporary Land Use Permit #23-05 for End of the Road Ren Fair for an Approximately 8-Acre Portion of 251 Pioneer Drive, Lot 2, Block 2, Mineral Creek Mineral Creek Subdivision (N Barney Meyring Park Strip) Owned by the City of Valdez**
5. **Quarterly Financial Summary Reports: March 31, 2023**
6. **Contract Amendment Report with DOWL, LLC for Glacier Stream Erosion Mitigation Design.**
7. **Monthly Treasury Report, April 2023**
8. **Title 17 Rewrite Update**

XII. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS**1. City Manager Report****1. Interim City Manager Report**

Mr. Duval reviewed his report included in the agenda packet, highlighting housing, the Washington DC trip, operations & initiatives, personnel, Council Retreat, and projects.

2. City Clerk Report

Ms. Pierce updated Council on the City Manager recruitment.

3. City Attorney Report

Mr. Staser provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including escaped property, Hilcorp Alaska, and Alderwood v. Valdez.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor Scheidt updated Council on her trip to Washington DC, her participation in the interview process for Prince William Sound College, Military Appreciation Day, and congratulated Mr. Mike Bowden on his retirement.

XIII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Members congratulated Council Member Love on his election. They reminded the community to be aware of the speed limits in residential neighborhoods, highlighting the increase of child pedestrians as school let out for the summer.

Council Member Devens shared his enthusiasm for the upcoming groundbreakings, including the new Senior Housing.

Council Member Foster thanked those who attended the Bike Rodeo and Clean Up Day and shared their success. She reminded the public of the upcoming Child Care Taskforce Meeting and invited them to attend.

Council Member Love thanked and recognized his wife, former Council Member Susan Love, for her service. He shared his enthusiasm for working with Council moving forward.

Council Member Wegner thanked those who participated in Clean Up Day, highlighting Parks & Recreation, Parks Maintenance, and Public Works.

Council Member Sorum encouraged those listening to read the Alyeska Terminal Safety Report.

XIV ADJOURNMENT

XV. APPENDIX

1. Attorney Billing Summary April 2023

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA


Sharon Scheidt, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk



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