

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, March 6, 2017

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 7:00 p.m. in Valdez Council Chambers.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present 6 - Chair Mark Swanson  
Chair Pro Tempore Alan Sorum  
Commission Member Ryan Sontag  
Commission Member Stu Hirsch  
Commission Member Montgomery Morgan  
Commission Member Steve Cotter

Excused 1 - Commission Member Colleen Stephens

Also Present 4 - Director Ports and Harbor Jeremy Talbott  
Harbormaster Sarah Von Barga  
Port Operations Manager Jenessa Ables  
Capital Facilities Director Jason Miles

**III. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

There was no public appearances.

**IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

There was no public business from the floor.

**V. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There was no public hearings.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****Discussion Item: Waterfront Master Planning Update**

Commission Member Sorum attended a work session with the Economic Development Commission on Ports & Harbor Commission proposed list of waterfront master planning prioritization. There was interest in doing a business luncheon on the topic, as well as the Commission discussed a public hearing and survey as possible ideas. Chair Swanson confirmed there is a similar opportunity with the Planning and Zoning Commission next Thursday and volunteered to attend with Commission Member Sorum. Chair Swanson also solicited Commission Members to attend an upcoming Parks & Recreation Commission work session. Chair Swanson asked Jason Miles, Capital Facilities Director, whether he had any thoughts on the waterfront master planning process. Mr. Miles stated it would be good to know in advance if any rock from the new harbor uplands blasting would like to be used as fill for future Sea Otter RV Park [spit] expansion so they could obtain permitting and store the rock in conveniently located areas.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion Item: Valdez Small Boat Harbor Dredge Project Update**

Mr. Miles explained the bid amounts in relation to the three options [alternates] depicted on the map. Harris Sand & Gravel came in with the lowest base bid at roughly 543,000 dollars however, they also had the biggest increase for the addition of each alternate option. Mr. Miles allowed for the possibility that Harbor staff may wish to change the basin layout of the Small Boat Harbor in the future which could render some of the alternates ineffective.

Chair Swanson discussed the possibility that larger boats drawn in by the new harbor may need to utilize the small boat harbor lift and uplands, thus requiring dredging to the lift location to accommodate. Commission Member Hirsch said even further restrictions occur at extreme low tides. Mr. Talbott said Harbor staff is currently meeting demand by operating around tides. Commission Member Sorum confirmed the capacity of the current Travelift to be 75 tons and stated no further dredging would be needed to accommodate that size of vessel. Mr. Talbott said there is a trend toward wider and deeper draft vessels. In Commission Member Morgan's experience, it has always been a good idea to do the job to the fullest extent while the resources are being expended. Staff reiterated lifts affected by the tides are never cancelled but simply scheduled creatively. Chair Swanson confirmed there is funding to execute the maximum dredge area and it sounds unnecessary at this point. Commission Member Hirsch said after discussing the lift he does not see a need for the maximum dredging alternate. The Commission Members asked for consensus. All Commission Members agreed the base [original] dredge option was all that is necessary, except Commission Member Morgan who opted for the alternate option maximizing the dredge area.

## **VIII. REPORTS**

### **Valdez New Boat Harbor Construction Report**

Mr. Miles said the construction bid package will be published next week. Mr. Miles confirmed the package includes all basin work including in water blasting and dredging, breakwaters, drive down float and float placement, utilities, etcetera. He also discussed some pricing and legal review related to the USACE portion of the project explaining it behooves the City to bid both the City funded portion and the USACE funded portion in one package.

Mr. Miles has cut back on the Arcadis US, Inc. contract to save funding until construction bids come in and there is a better idea of what level of service is needed to manage the construction. Chair Swanson asked if this conversation was brought to City Council since often there is greater expenditure on City administration/labor when contracted project management is decreased. Mr. Miles said the construction bids will go to City Council. Commission Member Hirsch asked to clarify how much of the budgeted project cost is going to contract management. After some discussion, Mr. Miles stated the original project budget could be considered too low to accomplish all that is on the table. Mr. Miles said change orders less than three percent indicate the design was well executed, thus design is not a contributing factor to the tight budget. Chair Swanson spoke to the possible benefit of third-party project management again noting a long City CIP list that may require Mr. Miles' attention. Mr. Miles explained that a City Project Manager will oversee the project, with Mr. Miles

daily involvement in addition to Kim Nielsen of R&Ms daily involvement. Mr. Miles indicated he would like to keep Mr. Rozak involved as well but it is contingent on budgetary restrictions.

### **Ports & Harbor Staff Report**

Mr. Talbott said Ms. Von Bargaen was promoted to Harbormaster and Jake Meadows was hired as the Port Maintenance Manager. Additionally, the Harbor is currently in the process of hiring an Office Manager. There will be six new or promoted staff Ports & Harbor staff members this year. Mr. Talbott said annual USCG inspections were held recently. The National Container Inspection Program was recently rolled out by the USCG and there was a false positive that caused some delays for a resident carrier. Mr. Talbott said the Chugach Fat Bike Festival was held recently throughout the community and on Harbor grounds. The airport recently hosted a community market with twenty-four different booths in the old Whitney Museum wing. The Commission Members discussed some of the challenges of the National Container Inspection Program and Chair Swanson advocated for Commission Members and staff roles ensuring positive relations between shippers and regulatory agencies. Ms. Von Bargaen said staff proactively secured vessels prior to the high winds this week. Summer hiring will begin soon since seasonal staff is being brought on in April, earlier than previous years. Harbor staff is also working on the SWPPP, a requirement of the clean harbor program.

### **IX. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Commission Member Sorum noticed commissions are not set up to do executive sessions, however, there may be some benefit in organizing Ports & Harbor Commission involvement with certain issues between port clients and industry entities and agencies. Chair Swanson said the danger of clearing harbor floats in a bobcat might call for a small scuba apparatus used in USCG helicopter training that allows three to five minutes of air for an individual working to escape a confined space underwater.

### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Swanson adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

City of Valdez, Alaska  
Ports and Harbor Commission

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Mark Swanson, Chairman

Attest:

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Jenessa Ables, Port Operations Manager