

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Regular Meeting Minutes - Final
Wednesday, November 28th, 2018

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting
Council Chambers

Planning and Zoning Commission

WORK SESSION AGENDA - 6:00 PM

Community Development Work Session on Department Process

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Chair Gondek
Commissioner Haase
Commissioner Reese
Commissioner Uren
Commissioner Kipar

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Blehm
Commissioner Wade

III. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no public business from the floor.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Recommendation to City Council to Authorize a Lease with the Valdez Emergency Assistance and Food Bank for a Portion of Tract D, USS 447

MOTION: Commissioner Haase moved, seconded by Commissioner Reese, to approve a recommendation to City Council to authorize a lease with the Valdez Emergency Assistance and Food Bank for a Portion of Tract D, USS 447. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred.

Commissioner Haase said he felt it was a good use of the land and was in favor of approving the lease application. Commissioner Reese and Commissioner Kipar had nothing to add. Chair Gondek asked if staff had any comments. Ms. Nicole LeRoy, Planning Technician, replied all necessary information was included in the agenda statement. Chair Gondek asked if members from the Food Bank had anything to add. Ms. Christine Sasse, representative from the Valdez Emergency Assistance & Food Bank, thanked the City of Valdez for allowing the Food Bank to lease their land for so many years. She said they wished the City would approve their lease and promised to keep up with maintaining an active lease.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Chair Gondek, Commissioner Haase, Commissioner Reese,
Commissioner Uren, and Commissioner Kipar

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Blehm and Commissioner Wade

V. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Haase had nothing to add.

Commissioner Reese said he appreciated staff for holding the Community Development Work Session on their department process. He said he had learned a

great deal about the building permit process and would relay that to the public when asked as best he could. He said community members often treated him as a sounding board for complaints about the department as a Commissioner. He reiterated that he hoped to help educate the public on the permitting process. Commissioner Reese also brought up some of the “legacy” projects set in the annual goals and priorities meeting for the Planning and Zoning Commission. He said that it often felt like they were dropped for months at a time and asked for a way to include them into their regular meetings.

Ms. Rochelle Rollenhagen, Community Development Director, said she could understand why Commissioner Reese felt that way and noted that the annual goals and priorities setting meeting for the Commission would be taking place in January, 2019.

Commissioner Uren said he had been out of town for the past few meetings on business but had heard good things about the new Governorship and State administration being pro-industry and encouraging resource development in Alaska. He said he anticipated a spike in growth in Alaska, particularly in Valdez. He said he thought the development of Alpecto Road could help accommodate some of that growth by presenting recreational and residential land development. He said he felt the State would likely see growth in oil and gas, mining, and fisheries.

Commissioner Kipar said he agreed with Commissioner Reese and said he would like to see more follow up on the Commission goals and priorities and suggested they periodically be included as a line item under “unfinished business” on the regular Commission meeting agenda. Commissioner Kipar read a few sections from staff agenda statements from 2015 detailing the plans to develop Airport Industrial Park and Old Town North. He said those plans had been forgotten about, and he would like to see them brought forward regularly again. He also urged Community Development staff to prepare themselves for an influx of building permits as growth in the State took off.

Chair Gondek replied to Commissioner Kipar, saying he did not think they could include some of the old projects on agendas regularly. He said Commissioner Kipar could probably expect a report every once in a while. Chair Gondek said the City Clerk was nodding her head in agreement with him and that he did not want Commissioner Kipar to be let down when his suggestion did not come to fruition. Commissioner Kipar said he felt reviving old agenda items was necessary to ensure progress. Chair Gondek clarified that following Robert’s Rules of Order prevented them from being able to add items to the meetings in that fashion. Ms. Rollenhagen closed the meeting by thanking the Commissioners for their comments and stating that the department was always working to find ways to improve.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Gondek adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.