

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

# **City of Valdez**

212 Chenega Ave

Valdez, AK 99686



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

**7:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting – Council Chambers**

## **Economic Diversification Commission**

## Regular Meeting Minutes

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7:00 PM

Council Chambers

### REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wade called the meeting to order 7:02 PM in the Council Chambers.

#### II. Rollcall

Present – 4 Commission Chair Rhonda Wade  
Commissioner Brandon Reid  
Commissioner Richard Long  
Commissioner Grant Uren

Excused – 2 Commissioner Colleen Stephens  
Commissioner Keith Thomas

Also Present – 2 Economic Development Director, Martha Barberio  
Executive Assistant, Debbie Roberts

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Economic Diversification Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2018 These Minutes were approved at the May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes for Economic Diversification Meeting August 1, 2018

MOTION: Commission Member Uren moved to approve and Second by Commission Member Long to approve minutes for August 1, 2018. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred. Commissioner Long commented that he was not at the meeting but did read them and felt he was ready to vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yeas: 4- Commissioner Uren, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Wade, Commissioner Reid.

Excused: 2 – Commissioner Stephens and Commissioner Thomas.

3. Approval of Economic Diversification Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2018.

MOTION: Commission Member Uren moved, seconded by Commission Member Long, to approve minutes for August 15, 2018. The motion carried by the following vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Yeas: - 3 – Commissioner Uren, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Wade, Commissioner Reid.

Excused: 2 – Commissioner Stephens and Commissioner Thomas.

### **4. Approval of Economic Diversification Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2018.**

MOTION: Commission Member Long moved, seconded by Commission Member Uren, to approve Minutes of September 19, 2018. The motion carried by the following vote after the following discussion occurred. Chairman Wade corrected the date of the Minutes to September 19<sup>th</sup> not 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Reid stated he was not at the meetings but felt he could vote on the minutes.

#### **VOTE ON THE MOTION**

Yeas: 4 – Commissioner Uren, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Wade, Commissioner Reid.

Excused: 2- Commissioner Stephens and Commissioner Thomas.

## **IV. REPORTS**

### **1. Report: Kimley Horn Project Update**

Economic Development Director, Martha Barberio stated the reports were attached. Commissioner Grant stated that he was on CPAC and that Kimley Horn would read to them when people are more than capable of reading. He also stated that they are not giving deliverables. Kimley Horn is focusing on Micro levels not Macro levels. Commissioner Long stated that the statement “the plan does not create a specific project” completely deviates from what a Comprehensive plan is supposed to do. Commissioner Long further stated that Kimley Horn does not know how to do a plan and stated that he strongly recommends to Council and the EDC commissioners that Kimley Horn needs to get on track. Commissioner Long stated that years ago he helped develop the Comprehensive Plan for Whittier and it was planned over 20 years ago and they are currently using it. The Waterfront Master plan is currently on track and they know how to do a plan. He further stated that Kimley Horn is wasting everyone’s time and should have stayed fired when they were fired once before. Discussion continued relating to Waterfront Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Wade also stated her frustration with Kimley Horn.

### **2. Report: Update Regarding Kelsey Dock Upland Improvements Phase One**

Commissioner Grant stated that the project is mostly complete, should be completed by May. They will not have market days at Kelsey Dock during the times Cruise ships are in town. Kelsey Dock looks awesome and will do great things for this town. The Business Meeting went well yesterday and He hopes that it will continue. Economic Director Martha Barberio also discussed

## Regular Meeting Minutes

that she hoped that businesses would continue to grow each year and become brick and mortar businesses. Discussion continued on how to get a “hook” for Cruise ship people to come to town and things that they could do while in town. Some of the ideas for a hook that were suggested included a chairlift, T-shirts, Zip line, Gondola on the water, tour bus, Can-Can girls and Native Dancers.

Reviving the Chamber of Commerce was also discussed. Commissioner Wade discussed the hardships on businesses to target the cruise ships, businesses in town are here all year and to target cruise ship passengers that only want to spend money on trinkets does not pencil out. Discussion continued on ways to help businesses and a draw for cruise ship passengers.

### 3. Report: Transportation Expo

Transportation Expo’s purpose is to create jobs and diversify the economy, it will be held in September 23-26, not sure of dates. We will be showcasing Port of Valdez for all forms of transportation. An Ice free port, road system, we have containers, we move fish are all examples. We will be inviting legislators, heads of industries and showcasing smaller ports in Alaska to compare them to Valdez and what we have to offer. Commissioner Grant then carried on the discussion to bring freight to Seward, Whittier and Valdez. The Expo will show that there are other options besides Anchorage’s port that is in need of repairs. Discussion continued.

## V. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Uren - Made a formal announcement to sponsor the first luncheon and start the Valdez Chamber of Commerce, have monthly meetings maybe the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month.

Commissioner Long – Discussed Economic Diversification Commission in general and the direction he would like to see it go. Growth in Agro tourism and Ecotourism like the Industrial Park. We need to have renewable energy and cost effective energy like a Hydro plant or Tidal project. We need to have a cheaper rates. The City could provide the structure and then turn it over to private industry. The City could get grant funding, or funds thru the federal government. 2 main components to our City; 1 is Alyeska and 2 is the Harbor, we need to find another way to expand, tourism is only in the summer.

Commissioner Wade –Wind generated products would be another industry to look at for renewable energy. Wood Carvings – Commissioner Wade asked why they were not out. Economic Director, Martha Barberio explained that some of the carvings were cracked and the need to repair before they are put on display. Marcie Robertson, from Parks and Recreation is repairing them and also building pedestals for the statues to be mounted on, then they will be placed around town this summer.

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Wade adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM.