

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, June 2, 2020**

**7:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting**

**Council Chambers**

**City Council**

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

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in Valdez City Council Chambers.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**III. ROLL CALL**

Present: 6 - Mayor Jeremy O'Neil  
Council Member Susan Love  
Council Member Sharon Scheidt  
Council Member Jimmy Devens  
Council Member Dennis Fleming (*by telephone*)  
Council Member Alan Sorum (*by telephone*)

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ron Ruff

Also Present: 7 - City Manager Mark Detter  
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval  
Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy  
City Clerk Sheri Pierce  
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko (*by telephone*)  
Records Manager Shelley McMillen  
City Attorney Jake Staser (*by telephone*)

Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Love, and Council Member Devens volunteered to serve on the City Permanent Fund Committee.

Council Member Sorum, Council Member Fleming, and Council Member Devens volunteered to serve on the City Audit Committee.

Council Member Scheidt volunteered to continue to serve as Council's representative on the Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum volunteered to continue to serve on the Mayor's Flood Mitigation Task Force.

**IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**Lanette Oliver, Valdez Adventure Alliance (VAA)

Ms. Oliver shared her excitement over VAA being awarded the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and Federal Highway Administration's competitive grant. She thanked Council for the letter of support for the grant. She explained how VAA would utilize grant funds moving forward.

Patty Relay, Valdez Museum and Historical Archive

Ms. Relay congratulated Council Member Love and Council Member Devens on their

recent election to Council. She invited them to meet with her if they had any questions regarding the museum. She thanked Jim Shirrell for joining the museum's board of directors.

Ms. Relay updated Council on how the museum would be operating safely under the COVID-19 mitigation guidelines put forth by the state. She reviewed grants the museum had applied for to support operations during the pandemic.

## **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approval To Go Into Executive Session: Attorney/Client Communication Regarding Foreclosure of Property**
- 2. Appointment to Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association Board of Directors (Two-Year, Seven-Month Term) - Jim Shirrell**
- 3. Acceptance of Resignation from the City Parks & Recreation Commission (JJ Kinstrey)**
- 4. Proclamation Recognizing National Trails Day**

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

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ruff  
MOTION CARRIED.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Detter briefed Council on state and city case counts. Public Health Nurse Terri Lynch offered specifics of current numbers throughout the state. She urged residents to use every mitigation tool available to prevent further spread. Dr. Angela Alfaro, physician consultant for the Valdez Unified Command, encouraged physical distancing, handwashing, and to self-monitor for symptoms. Dr. Kathy Todd, Valdez Medical Clinic, reviewed key symptoms to watch for regarding COVID-19. She encouraged those with symptoms to stay home until they were able to receive a test.

Mr. Detter briefly reviewed the current cost of expenditures which staff believed would be eligible for reimbursement under the CARES act. Ms. Rachel Farline, representative from Providence Valdez Medical Center (PVMC), explained the initial phases of asymptomatic testing available thru the hospital. She explained the PVMC's goal of protecting the community through early detection. Council Member Scheidt asked for the estimated timeline for the next phase of asymptomatic testing. Ms. Farline stated they expected phase three to begin in

approximately two to three weeks. Dr. Todd stated the hospital needed to keep testing numbers at a level which would not overwhelm the state lab used to process the tests. Council Member Devens asked if there were other labs available to process tests if the Fairbanks state lab was overwhelmed. Ms. Farline stated there were private labs available, but there would be a cost associated with using those options instead of the state lab.

## VII. RESOLUTIONS

**1. #20-30 - Authorizing the Submission of the 2020/2021 EMPG Matching Grant Application to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management**

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution # 20-30.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ruff

MOTION CARRIED.

**2. #20-31 - Accepting Coronavirus Relief Funds in the Amount of \$1,686,597.73 from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development for Costs that are for Necessary Expenditures Incurred Due to the Public Health Emergency with Respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Amending the 2020 Budget to Reflect the Grant Revenue**

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution # 20-31.

Council Member Scheidt asked if staff knew where the money would be spent once it was received. Mr. Detter stated it would be applied as funding replacement, as well as in other areas identified by the Finance Department.

Mr. Carlson broke up how different line items would be eligible for different programs, including FEMA reimbursement and the CARES Act. Council Member Devens asked if the grant agreement was available for public review. Mr. Carlson confirmed it was available within the publicly released agenda packet.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ruff

MOTION CARRIED.

**3. #20-32 - Authorizing the Continuance of the Local Government Disaster Declaration**

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution # 20-32.

MOTION TO AMEND: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt, to amend Resolution # 20-32 by striking the date "June 17, 2020" from Sections 1 and 2 and replacing it with "July 8, 2020".

Council Member Sorum expressed his desire to retain the June 17<sup>th</sup> date.

Ms. Ferko stated, for reference, the state's disaster declaration had been extended to November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

VOTE ON THE MOTION TO AMEND:

Yays: 5 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, and Council Member Fleming

Nays: 1 - Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ruff

MOTION CARRIED.

VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

Yays: 6 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ruff

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.

**VIII. REPORTS**

**1. Monthly Treasury Report - March, 2020**

Council Member Devens asked if the city was seeing a downward trend. Mr. Carlson confirmed the chart historically tended to drift down during this time of year and spike at the end of June.

**2. Report: Wildlife Resistant Container Program Outreach Group [Update #6]**

Council Member Devens asked about the date of implementation. Police Chief Hinkle stated July 1<sup>st</sup> would be the implementation date. He reviewed outreach tactics used for the program.

Council Member Love asked about the average time of delivery for the containers. Chief Hinkle stated it depended on availability.

Council Member Scheidt asked if there had been an increase in those interested in the program. Chief Hinkle stated there had been a substantial increase in curbside pickup program usage.

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

Mr. Detter reviewed the upcoming shift in how he would report projects to Council.

Mr. Detter and Ms. Pierce reviewed scheduling and discussion priorities for the upcoming Council and staff retreat the weekend of July 17<sup>th</sup>.

**2. City Clerk Report**

Ms. Pierce reviewed upcoming scheduled meetings with Council.

**3. City Attorney Report**

Mr. Staser outlined projects and provided updates on cases his firm is working on behalf of the City, including Pacific Pile & Marine, Alaska Trappers Association, and escaped properties.

**4. City Mayor Report**

Mayor O'Neil thanked those in the Coast Guard who were transferring in 2020 and welcomed those members who were joining our community. He recognized those involved in the community celebration of Memorial Day.

**X. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Member Love shared her appreciation for information provided on [valdezpaving.com](http://valdezpaving.com).

Council Member Scheidt reminded Council of the kickoff meeting of the Economic Recovery Task Force happening June 5<sup>th</sup>. She stated she looked forward to an update on the Comprehensive Plan.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council transitioned into executive session at 8:39 p.m.

**XII. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council transitioned out of executive session at 9:39 p.m.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neil adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

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Jeremy O'Neil, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk