

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, June 16, 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 7:00 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: 7 - Mayor Jeremy O'Neil
Council Member Ron Ruff (*by telephone*)
Council Member Susan Love
Council Member Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Dennis Fleming (*by telephone*)
Council Member Alan Sorum (*by telephone*)

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*)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of City Council Regular Meeting Minutes March 17, 2020

The City Council regular meeting minutes of March 17, 2020 were approved as presented.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Patricia Relay, Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Director

Ms. Relay updated Council on how the museum was navigating around a gap in revenue caused by COVID-19. She stated the museum would be reopening under winter hours and outlined mitigation measures put in place by staff. She shared her excitement over having a fully staffed Board of Directors.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA**1. Appointment to Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association Board of Directors (Seven-Month Term) - Felicia White**

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

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

VII. 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 explained the updates to the state travel mandate and the resulting effects on testing. She urged residents to not gather with those outside their households during the upcoming holidays and to use every mitigation tool available to prevent further spread.

Council Member Fleming asked if it was feasible to open the pool for limited use. Mr. Detter stated the temporary alternative care site connected to the pool presented a roadblock to opening the pool, but Unified Command would look into accommodations.

Mr. Detter explained if someone was looking to reserve an outdoor city facility, staff would provide guidance on how to do so in a safe manner. Staff would not be approving reservations for city facilities for the near future. Ms. Lynch reminded Council the second wave of recent cases was stemming from small personal gatherings, including parties and backyard BBQ's.

Council Member Scheidt asked if the City would be doing anything for the upcoming Fourth of July. Mr. Detter summarized the reverse parade Economic Diversification would be holding.

Mayor O'Neil encouraged the community to follow all recommended mitigation guidelines and to self-monitor for symptoms.

2. Approval of the City's Annual Property and Casualty Insurance Renewal for the Period Beginning July 1, 2020

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Ruff, to

approve the City's annual property and casualty insurance renewal for the period beginning July 1, 2020.

Council Member Devens inquired about the 7% increase included in the renewal. Dave Hale from Hale & Associates explained the many facets triggering the increase.

Council Member Fleming asked about coverage for several groups, including city employees, school employees, and vessels. Mr. Hale explained how those listed were covered under the insurance renewal.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Contract Award to Huddle AK for Meals Hill Master Plan in the Amount of \$287,924.00

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve contract award to Huddle AK for Meals Hill Master Plan in the amount of \$287,924.

Council Member Scheidt asked how the Meals Hill Master Plan tied into the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. Parks & Recreation Director Nick Farline stated they were all linked to each other and he was confident in how the Meals Hill Master Plan would add value to the other plans.

Council Member Fleming asked if the funds would come out of the budget being presented later in the meeting. He asked what the timeframe was for spending those funds. Mr. Farline confirmed the funds were included in the referenced budget. Finance Director Brian Carlson summarized the timeline for use of the funds.

Mayor O'Neil asked why one third of the funding was being spent on planning and design. Mr. Farline explained the value of collecting substantial community input for a project of this nature.

Valdez Citizen Jim Shirrell asked who on the Meals Hill Planning Committee had voted against using Huddle AK and why they had voted against using the company. Mr. Farline stated the member with the nay vote felt a competing bid was more fitting, but they were also not opposed to Huddle AK being selected.

Council Member Sorum asked if the proposal had been taken back to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Farline stated the commission meeting where it would have been discussed had been canceled. However, he had reached out to all commission members and received unanimous positive feedback.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval to Purchase 340 Bear Resistant Carts from Rehrig Pacific Company Including Freight in the Amount of \$96,169.00

MOTION: Council Member Scheidt moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve purchase of 340 bear resistant carts from Rehrig Pacific Company including freight in the amount of \$96,169.

Council Member Love asked how the amounts were calculated for both the initial and follow up purchases.

Public Works Director Rob Comstock explained the original calculation for number of containers was based on current customer numbers, plus one hundred additional cans, totaling six hundred cans. He explained public interest in the program had exceeded expectations. A second purchase was necessary to fill additional requests.

Council Member Scheidt asked why there were two different color options. Mr. Comstock explained the blue cans were free rentals owned by the city. The black cans were purchased by the home owners.

Council Member Love asked what the warranty on the cans was from a citizen standpoint if something malfunctioned. Solid Waste Manager Erick Garcia explained the five year non-prorated warranty applied for the containers. He explained parts were interchangeable and outlined basic prices associated with each part.

Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum complimented the City Public Works Department on the success of the program.

Mayor O'Neil shared his appreciation for multiple aspects of the program.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

5. Approval of Contract with Vision Construction International LLC for City Buildings Exterior Caulking in the Amount of \$624,856.67

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt, to approve contract with Vision Construction International LLC for city buildings exterior caulking in the amount of \$624,856.67.

Council Member Devens asked Mr. Duval to explain the process of caulking and what the expected lifetime of previous caulking materials had been. Mr. Duval summarized the process and stated the materials used had exceeded their life expectancy by three times. Council Member Devens asked where the skylight was located. Mr. Duval stated he believed the skylight indicated was located in the library.

Council Member Ruff asked if replacing these materials every three to five years would be standard moving forward, and if other issues could be identified through this process. Mr. Duval confirmed a minimum of a visual inspection would occur every three to five years, with replacement and repairs as necessary.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

6. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with DOWL, LLC for the Design Services of the Pavement Management Phase II Project in the Amount of \$649,263.30

MOTION: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve professional services agreement with DOWL, LLC for the design services of the pavement management phase II project in the amount of \$649,263.30.

Mr. Shirrell asked if public outreach would occur for those affected by the project. Mr. Duval confirmed a portion of the funds would be used for public outreach.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

1. **#20-33 - Amending the 2020 Budget by Transferring \$100,000 from Major Equipment Reserve to Solid Waste/Contractual Services for Purchase of Additional Bear-proof Refuse Cans**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Love, to approve Resolution # 20-33.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

2. **#20-34 - Amending the 2020 City Budget by Recognizing \$900,000 of New Revenues, and Appropriating Same to the Meals Hill Development Project**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution # 20-34.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

3. **#20-35 - Authorizing a Lease Agreement with the Valdez Medical Clinic, LLC for a 4,137 Square Foot Portion of the Mary Kevin Gilson Medical Center**

MOTION: Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Devens, to approve Resolution # 20-35.

Mr. Detter thanked Planning Director Kate Huber and Finance Director Brian Carlson for their efforts on putting together the lease agreement. He explained how fair market value was set.

Council Member Devens stated the reduction was not substantial. Mr. Detter explained how it compared to similar locations and why he felt the reduction was proper.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 7 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Ruff, Council Member Love, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Devens, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. REPORTS**1. Report: Comprehensive Plan**

Mr. Detter summarized the upcoming timeline of the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Huber outlined upcoming public meetings, public outreach, and encouraged Council to attend meetings virtually.

Council Member Scheidt asked when postcards would be sent to the community. Ms. Huber stated at least two weeks in advance of the survey deadline. Council Member Scheidt asked how the timeline would be adjusted due to delays. Ms. Huber said Corvis was taking delays into account as they move through the necessary steps to draft the Comprehensive Plan.

2. Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update**3. Change Order Report: Contract Amendment with Cornerstone General Contracting, Inc. for the Providence Valdez Medical Center Copper Pipe Replacement.****4. Report: Temporary Land Use Permit #20-04 for Pruhs Construction for Six Months, for the following City of Valdez Owned Lots: 31,250 square foot portion of 226 S Harbor Drive, Tract G, Harbor Subdivision 201 S Harbor Drive (Tract S, Harbor Subdivision) and 19,293 SF of adjacent ROW on South Harbor Drive 134 East Pioneer Drive, Lot 3, Pioneer Commercial Subdivision 150 Pioneer Drive, Lots 3-6, Block 25, Mineral Creek Subdivision 210 Chenega Avenue, Lot 7, Block 25, Mineral Creek Subdivision****5. Report: Temporary Land Use Permit #20-07 for Christine O'Connor for the Roadside Potatohead Restaurant for Six Months on 325 Square Feet of Public Right-of-Way Immediately Adjacent to Lot 12, Block 40, Harbor Subdivision****6. Report: Temporary Land Use Permit #20-06 for Harris Sand and Gravel for Six Months, for the Following City of Valdez Owned Lots: 311 Dylan Drive, Tract A ASLS 88-47, 3483 Falcon Ave, Lot 18A, BK 1 Robe River Subdivision, 3383 Eagle Ave, Lot 1A, BK 8 Robe River Subdivision, 3468 Robe Ln, Lot 5, BK 2, Robe River Subdivision, 3476 River Drive, Lot 4, BK 2, Robe River Subdivision, and 414 Derk Way Lot 3, BK 13 Robe River Subdivision****X. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS****1. City Manager Report**

Mr. Detter briefed Council on current city projects and programs, including the new projects reporting system, the projects website, the fire station, the Kelsey Dock deck replacement, the COVID assistance program, and upgrades to virtual

options for public meetings.

Council Member Ruff asked if project updates could include all projects beyond 75% completion. Council Member Scheidt asked Mr. Detter to include lower cost projects in his update as well. Mr. Detter agreed. Mr. Duval explained the intent of the new reporting system was to provide Council with more detail than what was available on the website.

Council Member Love asked where the additional \$80,000 for the COVID assistance relief program was coming from in the city budget. Mr. Carlson explained the numbers would even out once the line items were adjusted accordingly. Council Member Fleming asked when a hard application deadline would be applied to the program. Mr. Carlson stated the deadline had been reached.

Several council members expressed their gratitude for the efforts put into working through finding ways for the public to participate in meetings and encouraged staff to reach out to Council for support if needed.

Mr. Detter thanked Ms. Debbie Roberts for thirty years of service to the city and wished her well in her retirement.

Mr. Detter recognized Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy had been appointed to the ICMA executive board representing Alaska in the northwest.

2. City Clerk Report

Ms. Pierce updated Council on scheduled meetings. She stated she would reach out to Council once a COVID conscious retirement party was scheduled for Ms. Roberts.

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, escaped properties, Harvest Alaska, Hilcorp, the C-Plan, and the Alyeska tax assessment.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor O'Neil thanked the Valdez Police Department for their continued efforts to address issues highlighted by current national tragedies.

Mayor O'Neil and Ms. Pierce reminded Council agenda items needed to be received by the Clerk's Office at least seven days in advance of a council meeting, preferably.

Mayor O'Neil shared June 11th was the 119th birthday of the Valdez community.

XI. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Member Fleming, Council Member Ruff thanked Mr. Detter and city staff for their efforts.

Council Member Devens and Council Member Love reminded the community the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation was June 19th.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neil adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Jeremy O'Neil, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk