

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019**

**8:00 PM**

**Special Meeting**

**Council Chambers**

**City Council**

**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA - 8:00 PM****I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in Valdez City Council Chambers.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Mayor Jeremy O'Neil  
Council Member Christopher Moulton  
Council Member Lon Needles  
Council Member Jim Shirrell  
Council Member Darren Reese

**Excused:** 1 - Council Member Ron Ruff

**Absent:** 1 - Council Member Dennis Fleming

**Also Present:** 6 - City Manager Elke Doom  
City Clerk Sheri Pierce  
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko  
Records Manager Shelley McMillen  
Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy  
City Attorney Jake Staser

**III. RESOLUTIONS****1. #19-09, Opposing SB57 & HB59**

MOTION: Council Member Reese moved, seconded by Council Member Needles to approve Resolution #19-09, opposing SB 57 and HB 59.

Mayor O'Neil read the resolution into record.

Council Member Shirrell expressed concern over a community being left out of the listed municipalities. City Attorney Robin Brena explained how the listed communities had been identified and did not believe any had been missed.

Council Member Shirrell requested all Council Members sign the resolution to present a united front. Mr. Brena agreed. Ms. Pierce explained in the past Council had included a letter to accompany the resolution and individual Council Members would sign the letter. She expressed concern over gathering all signatures in a timely manner congruent with Council's desire to expedite the mailing of the resolution. Mr. Brena added one of the Council Members may be conflicted from signing due to employment.

Council Member Needles asked what the letter would say. Ms. Pierce explained it would be a cover letter to the resolution. Council Member Shirrell stated he was comfortable supporting a letter if Council chose to follow through with the option. His desire was to show a united front.

Council Member Moulton asked if those employed by Petro Star Oil Refinery would be conflicted from voting in the same manner as those employed by the

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. Mr. Brena explained how the two differed and a conflict was only present for the latter.

Council directed Ms. Pierce to format the letter and provide it for signatures.

Council Member Shirrell asked in regard to the draft press release, what precedent was set to change the taxing of areas other than oil and gas, i.e. fish tax. He asked if there would be value to mentioning fish tax in the resolution. Mr. Brena explained Mr. Staser had suggested language in regard to taking taxes from other municipalities, but suggested against identifying specifics. He recommended deferring to the Mayor's comments. Mr. Staser stated one of the goals was to treat SB57 and HB59 as a distinct issue rather than lump them into other elements of the proposed budget. Mr. Kim Hutchison, state lobbyist for the City, explained everyone was aware they were facing similar issues. He was comfortable continuing with the press release as written.

Mr. Mike Wells, Valdez resident, applauded Council for taking a stand against SB57. He asked the City to put together a well-crafted letter and send it to every resident post office box holder outlining what was at stake. He requested Council invite Representative George Rauscher and Senator Mike Shower to come to Valdez and sit with the constituents who would be impacted by the proposed bills. He expressed interest in reestablishing alliances with the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Company (TAPS) communities listed in the resolution to broaden the voice of those opposed to the bills.

Council Member Moulton explained the general population assumed the funds discussed stemmed from an oil tax levied against TAPS when in actuality the funds came from the same City property tax levied against every property within the municipality.

Ms. Doom informed Council the Alaska Municipal League had reached out to schedule a conference call with multiple Alaska communities to discuss the potential effects of both bills and collaborate together. She stated she would reach out to Council with further details once a date had been set.

Several Prince William Sound College nursing students expressed their support of the resolution and shared potential effects of SB57 and HB59 on the nursing program, up to and including cancellation of said program.

Council Member Shirrell shared his support for the local nursing program.

Mayor O'Neil shared his hope the bill would not muster the political support it would need to move forward. He stated SB57 and HB59 were especially pernicious and un-Alaskan. He explained the numerous impacts extended beyond TAPS and would be devastating to the Valdez community.

#### VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 5 - Mayor O'Neil, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Needles, Council Member Shirrell and Council Member Reese

Excused: 1 - Council Member Ruff

Absent: 1 - Council Member Fleming

MOTION CARRIED.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neil adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.