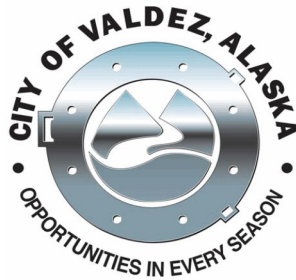


# City of Valdez

*212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686*



## Meeting Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, March 17, 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**

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

**III. ROLL CALL**

**Present: 6** - Mayor Jeremy O'Neil  
Council Member Ron Ruff  
Council Member Sharon Scheidt  
Council Member Darren Reese  
Council Member Dennis Fleming  
Council Member Alan Sorum

**Excused: 1** - Council Member Christopher Moulton

**Also Present: 6** - City Manager Mark Detter  
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval  
Assistant City Manager Roxanne Murphy  
City Clerk Sheri Pierce  
City Attorney Jake Staser (via teleconference)

**IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Patricia Relay – Director, Valdez Museum and Historical Archive

Ms. Relay stated that the museum would be closed through March 31 in compliance with the Governor's COVID-19 pandemic mandate.

Lanette Oliver – Director, Valdez Adventure Alliance

Ms. Oliver provided information on the upcoming Bike Bash event. Ms. Oliver said the event will be changed to comply with concerns related to COVID-19. All outside race activities will continue, however all indoor events will be cancelled.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1.** Proclamation - Earthquake Remembrance Day
- 2.** Appointment to Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (Dorothy M. Moore)
- 3.** Approval to Go Into Executive Session Re: (a) Escaped Property (b)TAPS Ad Valorem Tax (c)Pacific Pile and Marine Litigation (d) Alaska Trappers Association Litigation (e) Hillcorp Filing
- 4.** Approval of Liquor License Renewal: Restaurant/ Eating Place for The Potato

**MOTION:** Council member Reese moved, second by Council member Fleming, to approve all items on the Consent Agenda.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:** 6 yeas, 1 absent (Moulton). Motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Renewal of City/School Health Insurance Benefit Plan for Period Beginning 4/1/2020

**MOTION:** Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve the annual renewal of City/School Health Insurance benefit plan for period beginning 4/1/20.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:** 6 yeas, 1 absent (Moulton). Motion carried.

2. Discussion Item: COVID-19

Mayor O'Neil stated that he signed a Local Disaster Declaration today in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 working group continues to proactively prepare for the pandemic response.

Sheri Pierce, City Clerk, distributed sections of the Valdez Charter and City Code which address emergency response operations. The City Clerk and City Attorney provided information regarding city council and public participation via telephone or other electronic means during an emergency. Currently the city council policies and procedures do not allow for city council participation in regular or special meetings by telephone. The City Clerk and City Attorney will bring back the council policies with suggested amendments which will allow council members to attend by telephone when operating under a local disaster declaration. An emergency declaration only remains in effect for a period of seven days unless extended for a longer period of time by resolution of the city council. The City Clerk will schedule a special meeting within the next seven days for the purpose of bringing forth a resolution to extend the disaster declaration.

Mark Detter, City Manager, stated that the city has developed a unified command structure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He announced that Officer Aaron Baszek will take on the role of Emergency Manager for the City. Mr. Detter said that information will come directly from the unified command through the PIO to make sure that accurate information is being disseminated to the council and public. City operations will continue uninterrupted at this point in time, however this could quickly change based on circumstances.

Council member Scheidt asked if testing was available. Ms. Terri Lynch, Public

Health, said she has adequate testing supplies for now. She stated that at this time, only people who display signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will be tested by their primary care provider.

## VII. RESOLUTIONS

1. #20-16 - Amending the 2020 City of Valdez Budget by Appropriating \$6.29MM of Excess Funds Carried Forward from 2019, by Re-allocating \$12.5MM of Prior Project Appropriations to Council Approved Capital and Major Maintenance Projects, and by Recognizing \$795K of Previously Unbudgeted Revenue

**MOTION:** Council Member Sorum moved, seconded by Council Member Scheidt, to approve Resolution No. 20-16.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:** 6 yeas, 1 absent (Moulton). Motion carried.

2. Resolution #20-17 Establishing the Valdez 2020 Census Partnership and Complete Count Committee

**MOTION:** Council Member Reese moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve Resolution No. 20-17.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:** 6 yeas, 1 absent (Moulton). Motion carried.

## VIII. REPORTS

1. Report: Valdez Police Department Education Advancement Scholarship
2. Report: Wildlife Resistant Container Program Outreach Group [Update #1]

## IX. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS

1. City Manager Report

The City Manager thanked Council member Sorum and staff who attended the National League of Cities Conference in Washington D.C. last week.

2. City Clerk Report

The City Clerk read the list of eligible City Council and School Board candidates into the record.

3. City Attorney Report

Mr. Staser stated that public participation in city council meetings is not clearly defined in State Statute. Therefore, he believed that public participation could be by email, telephone or by other electronic means.

Mr. Staser stressed the importance of participation by Valdez residents in the 2020 Census. Population is used to determine State and Federal funding levels and will

play an important role in the upcoming State redistricting process.

4. City Mayor Report

Mayor O'Neil stated that he had the pleasure of participating in the Mayor's Snow Machine Race last weekend. He congratulated local residents Ed Frank, Ron Ruff and Scott Benda on winning trophies in their class.

X. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council Member Ruff

Council member Ruff thanked all the city staff who worked very hard to make the Mayor's Cup race a success. He thanked the city council for continuing to support this event.

Council member Sorum

Council member Sorum said during his time in Washington D.C. he met with a Coast Guard representative regarding day care and Coast Guard City status.

Council Member Scheidt

He thanked everyone for working on the COVID-19 issues. She thanked staff for information on the new bear proof refuse containers. She thanked the members of senior administrative staff who met with her last week to explain the budget and capital projects process in detail.

Mayor O'Neil

Mayor O'Neil reiterated his appreciation of senior staff members during the past few weeks to assist him in working through COVID-19 issues.

He encouraged the public to go outside and enjoy the beauty of Valdez while practicing safe social distancing.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XII. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neil adjourned the meeting at 10:00 pm.