

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

7:00 PM

Special Meeting

Council Chambers

City Council

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

Mayor Pro Tem Scheidt called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in Valdez City Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Ron Ruff (*by telephone*)
Council Member Christopher Moulton
Council Member Darren Reese
Council Member Dennis Fleming
Council Member Alan Sorum (*by telephone*)

Excused: 1 - Mayor Jeremy O'Neil

Also Present: 6 - City Manager Mark Detter
Assistant City Manager Nathan Duval
City Clerk Sheri Pierce
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko (*by telephone*)
Records Manager Shelley McMillen
City Attorney Jake Staser (*by telephone*)

III. NEW BUSINESS**1. Valdez Emergency Proclamation Urging Citizens of Valdez to Shelter In Place**

MAIN MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve Valdez Emergency Proclamation urging citizens of Valdez to shelter in place.

Mayor Pro Tem Scheidt requested Mr. Staser explain the difference between a mandate and a proclamation. Mr. Staser provided a brief overview regarding the legal power of each, including the ability to legally enforce a mandate.

Council Member Reese explained his desire to leave the proclamation open ended to not encourage a false sense of security.

MOTION TO AMEND #1: Council Member Reese moved to amend Valdez Emergency Proclamation by striking the phrase "for a period of 14 days" from the fifth paragraph.

MOTION TO AMEND #1 FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.

MOTION TO AMEND #2: Council Member Ruff moved, seconded by Council Member Moulton to amend Valdez Emergency Proclamation by striking the phrase "citizens of" and replacing with the phrase "everyone in" throughout the proclamation.

VOTE ON THE MOTION TO AMEND #2:

Yays: 6 - Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor O'Neil

MOTION TO AMEND #2 CARRIED.

Council Member Moulton asked what contingency plans were in place for housing those who are homeless or who have been displaced. Mr. Duval explained the city had drafted a memorandum of understanding agreements with various entities around the city to take care of those who are homeless, displaced, or need housing to quarantine or isolate. He outlined available resources available to people experiencing these types of situations.

Dr. Angela Alfaro, physician consultant to the Valdez Unified Command, recommended replacing "social distancing" with "physical distancing" in the proclamation. Maintaining social connection is especially important for mental health during the pandemic. This would provide a clear distinction the recommended six-foot distance should be physical to prevent virus transmission.

MOTION TO AMEND #3: Council Member Fleming moved, seconded by Council Member Moulton to amend Valdez Emergency Proclamation by striking the phrase "social distancing" and replacing it with the phrase "physical distancing" throughout the proclamation.

Dr. Corina Hopkins-Vacca Providence Valdez Medical Center, agreed with the change. Ms. Ferko explained from a public information officer perspective, the change was appropriate to help with understanding of the concept.

VOTE ON THE MOTION TO AMEND #3:

Yays: 6 - Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor O'Neil

MOTION TO AMEND #3 CARRIED.

MOTION TO AMEND #4: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Reese to strike the word "minimum" and replace it with the word "maximum" in the third numbered paragraph.

VOTE ON THE MOTION TO AMEND #4:

Yays: 6 - Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor O'Neil

MOTION TO AMEND #4 CARRIED.

Council Member Moulton asked if those violating the proclamation would incur a fine under the ordinance passed at the prior meeting. He asked if the exemptions in the proclamation needed to match the previous mandate exemptions. Mayor

Pro Tem Scheidt explained a proclamation does not involve fines. She added the exemptions would be different, as the mandate was only for those who had traveled to a community experiencing infections. Ms. Pierce reminded Council of prior discussions regarding exemptions.

Council Member Moulton asked who would be handling questions regarding exemptions from the proclamation. Mr. Duval recommended questions be sent to covid-19@valdezak.gov.

Council Member Ruff asked if an effective date was necessary. Mayor Pro Tem Scheidt explained the intent was for the proclamation to go into effect immediately, once passed by Council.

Dr. John Cullen, Valdez physician, explained from a medical standpoint why the right time for the proclamation was now. He stated community spread was occurring and the intent was to prevent a high rate of infection.

Mayor Pro Tem Scheidt read the proclamation as amended into the record.

VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

Yays: 6 - Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor O'Neil

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.

2. Approval of City of Valdez COVID-19 Public Health Mandate #002

MOTION: Council Member Moulton moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve City of Valdez COVID-19 Public Health Mandate #002.

Mr. Duval explained the mandate was not a grab for personal property. He stated it was in accordance with guidelines at the state level regarding personal protective equipment and other medical type supplies. He explained companies or individuals should take an inventory. If they had extra or spare resources beyond what they needed and were willing to contribute, the city would welcome a donation of those resources. Mr. Duval asked those interested in donating to email resources@valdezak.gov or contact Stan Porritt, Unified Command Logistics Section Chief.

Mr. Duval stated Unified Command was also actively looking to purchase supplies. He explained some items were currently being purchased. Supply chains had also been established. However, it was expected those resources would eventually fall short of demand.

Council Member Ruff asked if previously opened items were being accepted, as it was hard to determine the integrity of unsealed items. Mr. Duval explained Unified Command was working with the hospital to put out a public safety announcement on exactly what could and would be accepted.

Mr. Neil Dees, owner of X-DLX Investments, asked if his cleaning company needed to continue stockpiling supplies needed to operate. Mr. Duval explained Unified Command was only asking for an inventory at this point.

Dr. Alfaro introduced Dr. Megan Rayman a past employee of the Valdez Medical Clinic currently practicing in Arizona. Dr. Rayman explained how her practice was handling a critical shortage on items including cleaning products, surgical masks and protective eyewear. She identified the current pandemic situation in Arizona as mass chaos. She recommended Valdez not wait and prepare as well as possible now.

Mr. Staser explained municipal code required Council approval prior to the issuance of any order related to private property, as well as the rationing of goods and supplies.

Council Member Moulton expressed his gratitude for Mr. Dees willingness to assist with procurement. He advised staff and others take advantage of those who specialize in procurement for a living.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Council Member Ruff, Council Member Moulton, Council Member Scheidt, Council Member Reese, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sorum

Excused: 1 - Mayor O'Neil

MOTION CARRIED.

Valdez Citizen Chris Knowles expressed his frustration in asking small business which had been recently shut down to inventory their supplies. He identified a number of communities which had recently put out stimulus packages. He recommended Council consider next steps for financial assistance to help and provide hope to the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Scheidt advised she felt confident Council would be discussing how to address the economic crisis. Council Member Moulton agreed the economic crisis was acutely affecting citizens and local businesses and was certain Council would see it on the upcoming agenda.

IV. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Detter stated city offices would be limited to essential in-person business only from this point forward. Many city services could be provided online, by email, or by telephone.

Ms. Pierce explained the tax appeal process would continue forward and citizens should contact the front office by phone with questions. She stated in-person payments would not be accepted at City Hall, so citizens should pay online or mail checks.

V. CITY MAYOR PRO TEM REPORT

Council Member Moulton encouraged people to do things to maintain their mental wellness.

Council Member Sorum and Council Member Ruff thanked staff and Unified Command for their efforts.

Mayor Pro Tem Scheidt thanked the local health care providers and those supporting

their efforts. She thanked city staff and community members for their support as she takes on her new role. She reminded the community to take mandates and proclamations seriously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Scheidt adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.