

City of Valdez

*212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Civic Center Conference Room

City Council

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Scheidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Valdez Civic Center Conference Room.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Sharon Scheidt
Council Member Todd Wegner
Council Member Susan Love
Council Member Dawson Moore
Council Member Jimmy Devens
Council Member Dennis Fleming

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Alan Sorum

Also Present: 4 - City Manager Mark Detter
Deputy City Clerk Allie Ferko
Records Manager Shelley McMillen
City Attorney Jake Staser (*by teleconference*)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2021

The City Council regular meeting minutes of August 3, 2021 were approved as presented.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

No members of the public appeared to provide testimony on a non-agenda item.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval to Go Into Executive Session Regarding Escaped Property and the B.P./Hilcorp Acquisition**

2. **Proclamation: National Suicide Prevention Month**

MOTION: Council Member Fleming moved, seconded by Council Member Love to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Wegner, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Fleming

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Scheidt read the proclamation into record

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. ~~**Discussion Item: COVID-19 Presentation by Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer for the State of Alaska, and Dr. Angela Alfaro, Valdez Physician**~~

This agenda item was administratively moved to later on the agenda and occurred after the City Clerk Report to accommodate Dr. Zink's availability.

VIII. ORDINANCES

1. **#21-09 - Establishing the City Beautification Commission. First Reading. Public Hearing.**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve Ordinance #21-09. First Reading. Public Hearing.

Ms. Patricia Relay, Beautification Task Force member, reviewed how the beautification program had benefited the community since its onset. She explained how shifting from a task force to a commission would allow the group to continue doing good work for the community.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Wegner, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Fleming

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. **#21-36 - Amending the 2021 City Budget by Transferring \$534,154 from Capital Projects Contingencies and Major Maintenance Reserve Contingencies to Nuisance Abatement Reserve and Rescinding Resolution #21-33**

MOTION: Council Member Love moved, seconded by Council Member Moore, to approve Resolution #21-36.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Wegner, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Fleming

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

2. **#21-37 - Authorizing Submission of a Sport Fish Restoration Act, Recreational Boating and Access Matching Grant**

MOTION: Council Member Devens moved, seconded by Council Member Wegner, to approve Resolution #21-37.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 6 - Mayor Scheidt, Council Member Wegner, Council Member Love, Council Member Moore, Council Member Devens and Council Member Fleming

Excused: 1 - Mayor Pro Tem Sorum

MOTION CARRIED.

X. REPORTS

1. **Monthly Treasury Report: July, 2021**
2. **Procurement/Expenditure Report**
3. **Travel Voucher Program Update Report**

XI. CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK / CITY ATTORNEY / MAYOR REPORTS

1. **City Manager Report**

Mr. Detter requested cancellation of the work session addressing roll-out of the city mission statement. He explained he wanted to coordinate further with staff on the topic and felt most of the other work could be done internally. Council Member Moore agreed the work session seemed premature. Mayor Scheidt directed staff to move forward.

Mr. Detter addressed the current child care crisis. He stated Stepping Stones Learning Center had reopened with additional staff. He explained their upcoming budget request would reflect their pursuit of ramping up operations and recruitment of additional staff.

He updated Council on the efforts of the 0-3 with Families Alliance to develop an assessment study regarding childcare. He explained Providence Valdez Medical Center (PVMC) wanted to look at multiple options on how to perform an assessment study, expanding on the study done in Kodiak. PVMC was also looking at options to address the community's childcare concerns in the Hospital Expansion Master Plan. He reminded Council that City Parks and Recreation Director Nick Farline was a member of the Alliance's facility subcommittee. The city's indoor recreation center feasibility study report does include an option for incorporating child care facility space which could be leased out to a provider. Mr. Detter stated both the Hospital Expansion Master Plan and the Recreation Facility Feasibility Study were more long term projects than short term solutions.

Council Member Fleming requested further information on the upcoming increased budget request from Stepping Stones Learning Center. Mr. Detter stated their request would be substantially more than in the past, with the goal of offering child care stability through additional staffing and expansion. Council Member Fleming asked for justification on Council supporting two different child care facility options: Stepping Stones and the Hospital Master Plan. Mr. Detter stated the need for redundancy in child care was apparent and ideally the community would not be dependent on one provider. He explained the feasibility study would explore if an additional provider would be sustainable within the community. Council Member Fleming stated as soon as a private industry came in to provide competition to the current provider, his support for providing City funding would end. He asked if anything immediate was being done by Stepping Stones to seek assistance from organizations outside the City. Mr. Detter was willing to explore the question in discussions with representatives from the Center.

Council Member Love shared her support of the current direction.

Council Member Wegner asked if daycare had been in the top three community priorities of the most recent PVMC Health Needs Assessment. Mr. Detter stated he was unsure of the topic's rank in the assessment, but it was clearly identified as a top priority in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Wegner shared his desire to see projects such as the Recreation Center stand alone on their own merit, with child care space being supplemental and not the driving force behind approval.

Mayor Scheidt shared her gratitude for those working in the 0-3 with Families Alliance and felt assessing needs was the correct place to start. She acknowledged Stepping Stones' efforts to revitalize their services in the wake of recent hardships and praised their fortitude.

Council Member Devens requested Council Member Fleming elaborate on his desire to discontinue funding if another child care center opened. Council Member Fleming explained other businesses would struggle to compete with City funded businesses.

Council Member Moore asked if child care staff training had been discussed further. Mr. Detter stated Prince William Sound College had been involved in dialog with Stepping Stones and PVMC in regards to staff training options. He stated there needed to be a sustainable level of need established prior to development of a program. If multiple providers needed training, it may influence how the college considered addressing the situation.

Mr. Detter expressed the need for a future work session on the topic once feasibility processes had been completed.

2. City Clerk Report

Ms. Ferko stated, in case members of Council were approached, there was a brief issue with the livestream which was resolved prior to Dr. Zink's presentation. She stated the Clerk's Office is working through the deliverables which came out of the Council work session on boards and commissions. She informed Council of upcoming vacancies on boards and commissions and reviewed upcoming work sessions.

Mayor Scheidt asked where Council was in the process with department reports. Ms. Ferko stated only the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and the Planning Department reports were left.

She provided a reminder City Clerk Sheri Pierce was out of the office, but connected to City email.

City Council took a brief recess at 7:53 p.m.

Mayor Scheidt called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

Discussion Item: COVID-19 Presentation by Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer for the State of Alaska, and Dr. Angela Alfaro, Valdez Physician

(Administratively moved from New Business to after the City Clerk Report to accommodate the availability of Dr. Zink)

Dr. Zink provided a presentation to Council on current statewide case counts and vaccination efforts. She answered questions from Council and members of the public.

3. City Attorney Report

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

Mr. Staser provide a brief update on the recent activities of the Alaska Redistricting Board. Council Member Wegner, Council Member Moore, and Mayor Scheidt expressed interest in exploring different mapping options for redistricting.

Mayor Scheidt asked if there was an option to provide formal input to the Alaska Redistricting Board. Mr. Staser confirmed there was an opportunity to submit third party maps by September 15th for consideration by the Board.

Mr. Detter stated he had recently participated in a Prince William Sound Economic Development District meeting. Those participating had expressed the desire to be in a district with all Prince William Sound, including Valdez.

Mayor Scheidt requested Mr. Staser move forward with developing a map to submit to the Board by September 15th. Mr. Staser expressed his preference to have further input and approval from Council prior to submitting a map. Ms. Ferko worked with Council to schedule a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 14th to review map options prior to submission.

4. City Mayor Report**XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Council Member Fleming stated he would need to recuse himself from Executive Session due to a conflict of interest.

Council Member Moore and Council Member Devens shared their gratitude for Dr. Zink and Dr. Alfaro making time to meet with Council.

Council Member Wegner shared his appreciation for the proclamation and encouraged the community to show acts of kindness to one another.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council transitioned into executive session at 9:17 p.m.

XIV. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council transitioned out of executive session at 9:45 p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Scheidt adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.