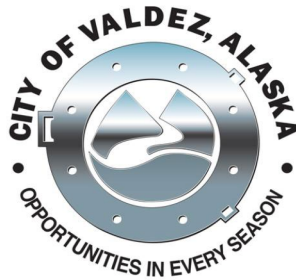


City of Valdez

*212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, June 6, 2022

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Ports and Harbor Commission

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

Chair Hirsch called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in Valdez City Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

Present 4 - Chair Stu Hirsch
Commission Member Mark Swanson
Commission Member Alan Steed
Commission Member Monty Morgan

Excused 3 - Chair Pro Tempore Colleen Stephens
Commission Member Tim Bouchard
Commission Member Ryan Sontag

Also Present 2 - Director Ports and Harbor Jeremy Talbott
Ports and Harbor Office Manager Karisa Friend
Administrative Assistant Vickie Martel

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. Ports and Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021.**

MOTION: Commission Member Morgan moved, seconded by Commission Member Swanson to approve Ports and Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021. The motion carried by the following vote, after the following discussion occurred.

There being no discussion, Chair Hirsch invited a vote on the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Hirsch, Commission Member Swanson, Commission Member Steed, and Commission Member Morgan

Excused: 3 - Chair Pro Tempore Stephens, Commission Member Bouchard, and Commission Member Sontag

2. Ports and Harbor Commission Special Meeting Minutes of January 31st, 2022

MOTION: Commission Member Morgan moved, seconded by Commission Member Swanson to approve Ports and Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of January 31st, 2022. The motion carried by the following vote, after the following discussion occurred.

There being no discussion, Chair Hirsch invited a vote on the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Hirsch, Commission Member Swanson, Commission Member Steed, and Commission Member Morgan

Excused: 3 - Chair Pro Tempore Stephens, Commission Member Bouchard, and Commission Member Sontag

3. Ports and Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of February 7th, 2022

MOTION: Commission Member Morgan moved, seconded by Commission Member Swanson to approve Ports and Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of February 7th, 2022. The motion carried by the following vote, after the following discussion occurred.

There being no discussion, Chair Hirsch invited a vote on the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Hirsch, Commission Member Swanson, Commission Member Steed, and Commission Member Morgan

Excused: 3 - Chair Pro Tempore Stephens, Commission Member Bouchard, and Commission Member Sontag

4. Ports and Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of April 18th, 2022

MOTION: Commission Member Morgan moved, seconded by Commission Member Swanson to approve Ports and Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of April 18th, 2022. The motion carried by the following vote, after the following discussion occurred.

There being no discussion, Chair Hirsch invited a vote on the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Hirsch, Commission Member Swanson, Commission Member Steed, and Commission Member Morgan

Excused: 3 - Chair Pro Tempore Stephens, Commission Member Bouchard, and Commission Member Sontag

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**1. Peter Pan Seafoods, Public Appearance**

Jeremy Talbott, Ports and Harbors Director stated this item will be postponed since Jon Hickman, Vice President of Peter Pan Seafoods is currently traveling to Valdez and unable to attend.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no public business from the floor.

VI. NEW BUSINESS**1. Discussion: Valdez SBH Boat Ramp Concepts**

Chip Courtright, PND Engineers provided a verbal overview of the written report included in the agenda packet. The packet included three design concepts of the launch ramp for consideration. Mr. Courtright asked for any comments or questions. He stated the intention is to receive feedback from the Commission and Public.

Commission Member Swanson asked about the tow and depth of the ramp because his concern was

accessibility with a negative tide. Mr. Courtright replied with a -7 to -8 elevation. He said there should be access during all tides.

Commission Member Morgan asked about the Z – sheet retaining wall and what type of slope it would have. Mr. Courtright replied with 1.5 to 1 slope, it is steeper but the intent is to prohibit access. He also stated the retaining wall would be about 6 ft. tall.

Chair Hirsch asked about the pilings and if they would be on the inside of the floats. Mr. Courtright replied with yes.

Mr Courtright finally stated the cost comparisons of all three options, option 1 is estimated to be 4.3 million, option 2 is estimated to be 4.8 million, and option 3 is estimated to be 4.5 million dollars. He also stated the grant would provide a 75% match. Mr. Courtright also confirmed this project is 2-3 years out before full funding is available.

Nate Duval, Capital Facilities Director asked the commission to allow for public comments or feedback.

Commissioners generally agreed that option 2 was the better choice.

Chair Hirsch asked for public comment, there being none he asked for additional comments or questions from the Commission.

2. Resolution of support for the USDA Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities Grant application

MOTION: Commission Member Swanson moved, seconded by Commission Member Steed to approve a recommendation to City Council to support the USDA Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities Grant application. The motion carried by the following vote, after the following discussion occurred.

Tommy Sheridan, Fisheries Consultant talked about the opportunities of Mariculture and Development.

Mr. Sheridan stated in October of 2021 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council funded \$32.8 million for Mariculture research and Development in the spill effected area and another \$6 million for infrastructure for the PWS for research. He also stated in October of 2021 a group including himself and Mr. Talbott put together a cluster grant with the EPA Build Back Better Program. There were 539 applications and Valdez was one of sixty applicants given the opportunity to move forward with the projects, out of the sixty picked the EPA will fund 30 projects.

Mr. Sheridan continues by stating Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation set up a tour to look at facilities and Valdez was one that was toured, while at VCT a gentleman on the tour from Iceland noticed the silos. He said the gentleman grows kelp for fertilizer and livestock feed and noticed the opportunities for the silos for large scale fermentation of the kelp. He and others would be looking for a secondary coastal processing plant and the silos would be a unique opportunity.

Mr. Sheridan stated the City of Valdez and other communities are teaming up to represent this grant application which could result in \$87 million dollars. He said this would benefit Valdez with newly created job opportunities and partners in Alaska, and a yearly conference for years 1, 3, and 5 in which one conference would be hosted here in Valdez.

Commission Member Swanson asked about the in-kind services that will be given and if the upland storage was included. Mr. Talbott talked about how we would navigate through this process.

Chair Hirsch asked if we would be allowed to continue with the cell site agreements if the silos were

used, Mr. Talbott says he thinks they can coexist.

Commission Member Morgan brought up the concern about the smell associated with fermentation.

Martha Barberio, Economic Development Director, talked about the benefits of the grants that are being brought to Valdez and she said we are in the early stages of the process.

Mr. Talbott talked about the timeline and how long everything will take. He thinks at least 5 yrs.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Hirsch, Commission Member Swanson, Commission Member Steed, and Commission Member Morgan

Excused: 3 - Chair Pro Tempore Stephens, Commission Member Bouchard, and Commission Member Sontag

3. Kelsey Dock Vending Machine Lease

Kaitlin Kramer, Valdez Resident, stated she has a vending machine she would like to install at Kelsey Plaza for the summer months. She said the machines would have snack items and one row of products made in Alaska. She said the machines have videos and she has reached out to the local businesses to add advertisements.

Commission Member Swanson stated that in the past it has been discouraged for vendors like food trucks, artists, and sales to be at Kelsey Plaza so that Cruise ship passengers go into town and visit shops. He is concerned Valdez residents will be upset. Mr. Talbott talked about how the Port has changed Kelsey Plaza and the vending machines would be more for our residents and fishing vessels.

Chair Hirsch stated he likes the idea.

Mr. Talbott stated this would be brought back at a later meeting for a vote.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Chair Hirsch opened the floor for business from Commissioners.

Commission Members Steed, Morgan, and Swanson stated no business.

Chair Hirsch stated he had topics to discuss but hold a later meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Hirsch adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA
PORTS AND HARBOR COMMISSION

Stu Hirsch, Chairman

ATTEST:

Vickie Martel, Port Administrative Assistant