

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Dave Cobb	Council member Joe Prax
Council member Steve McCann	Council member Alan Sorum
Council member Dorothy M. Moore	Council member Karen Ables

Council member Mike Wells was absent and excused.

Also Present:

John Hozey, City Manager
Sheri Pierce, City Clerk
Bill Walker, City Attorney
Members of staff and approximately 25 people in the audience.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF February 7, 2011

The minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2011 were approved as presented.

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

1. Health Advisory Council Update

Pam Shirrell, Chairman, Providence Valdez Health Advisory Council, provided the city council with information regarding their upcoming strategic planning session which will take place on March 4 and 5th. Ms. Shirrell stated that the health advisory council will be focusing on defining their role and updating their bylaws. Ms. Shirrell asked the council to consider and provide feedback to the health advisory board regarding how they may best keep the city informed regarding hospital and health care issues. The consensus of the council was to schedule quarterly updates by the advisory council at regular council meetings. Mayor Cobb stated that the council preferred face to face communications verses a written report. Council member Moore stated that oral reports during a council meeting will also keep the public informed.

2. Valdez City Schools – Capital Improvement Projects

Mr. Jacob Jenson, School Superintendant, spoke to a list of capital improvement projects the school board provided to the city council. Mr. Jenson stated that the cost

figures were derived from estimates established by Mr. John Weir, of McCool, Carlson and Green. He explained the rationale behind the rank order as judged by the school board and school district administration. Mr. Jensen stated that he believed there may be some options in regard to the replacement of the Valdez High School roof which would significantly decrease the cost of this project. Mr. Ben Olds, Valdez City Schools Facilities Director, stated that by reducing the proposed snow load no structural reconfiguration of the building would be required, therefore a new roof could be built over the gym and a membrane applied to the remaining roof area. Mr. Olds stated that this would reduce the project cost from 8.8 million to approximately 1.2 million. Mr. Jack McCay, Capital Facilities Director, stated that if the entire roof was replaced in kind with the snow load remaining at 90 lbs per square foot, the cost to replace the VHS roof would be approximately 2 to 2.5 million dollars.

Council member Moore asked Mr. Jensen if the school district planned to submit this list to the State of Alaska reimbursement program. Mr. Jensen said he hoped this list would serve as a starting point of discussion between the city and school district prior to finalization and submission for Department of Education funds.

Council member Sorum stated that during the city budget work sessions it was agreed that school facilities belonged to the city and that the city would look to move forward on these projects. He stated that life safety issues needed to be addressed. Council member Sorum suggested the VHS roof replacement project be scheduled first.

Council member Moore pointed out that many city buildings are older than school buildings and are also in need of renovation or repair. She stated that when she was recently in Juneau she learned that our legislators believed that the replacement of the high school roof was the city's first priority. Council member Moore said that she responded by stating that in her opinion the city's top priority for funding was the harbor expansion project. Mr. Hozey stated that during his recent visit to Juneau both he and the Mayor expressed to Senator Coghill that the city's number one priority was in fact the expansion of the small boat harbor. Mr. Hozey stated that he would ask the city lobbyist to monitor this.

Council member Ables asked the best solution for completing the school projects. Mr. Hozey responded that the school projects would need to dovetail with all other city capital improvement projects scheduled for the upcoming summer. He stated that these new projects would need to be included in the 2012 budget process.

Council member Prax asked Mr. Jensen about the proposed renovation to the school administration building. Mr. Jensen replied that one of the goals the school board had set for him was to improve efficiency at the district offices which included a renovation of the school district office. Mr. Jensen stated that he currently has the highest paid secretarial person acting as the receptionist; therefore he was looking for a way to better use this staff. He said he also was interested in providing space, support, and oversight for the IT Department. Mr. Jensen said his other goal was to move Ruthie

Knight, Curriculum Instruction, into an office at the administration building. Mr. Jensen stated that the cost to increase office space, rearrange positions, and move the technology department into the administration building was approximately \$104,000. Mr. Jensen said that confusion ensued when \$104,000 was moved into an account which already had \$400,000 in it, making it appear like the project cost was \$500,000. Mr. Jensen said that due to the confusion this project has been put on hold. Council member Prax asked if the proposed project included installation of a new security system. Mr. Jensen replied that over a course of years a number of master keys have been lost requiring re-keying; therefore one of the options to re-keying every door would be to install key badge doors. Mr. Jensen said that this remodel was proposed to install two of these type doors in the administration office to find out if they worked as advertised. Council member Prax said he disagreed with the idea of locking people out of a public building. Council member Prax also questioned why the district was out of office space since the loss of enrollment was over 200 students within the past few years. Mr. Jensen said he was attempting to get his technology department some office support. Council member Sorum said he was present at the last school board meeting and believed that the project had been moved forward by the school board. Mr. Jensen replied that the project had been stopped.

Mayor Cobb requested that accurate cost estimates be developed for the capital improvement projects on the list. He stated that the bleachers were very much a safety concern and should be replaced prior to replacing the gymnasium floor.

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Nate Smith

Mr. Smith requested to be involved with any strategic planning by the city regarding development of recreational opportunities in Valdez.

Sandy Moore

Ms. Moore requested an update from the Valdez Museum regarding the Egan plaque project. Mr. Hozey responded that he would look into the status.

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

City Manager

VCT Electrical Project

Mr. Hozey reported that temporary measures will be taken during the upcoming commercial fishing season to supply power to refrigerated vans at the container terminal due to a delay in the availability of electrical pedestals needed to complete the project.

Homestead Road Improvements

Mr. Hozey stated that this project will go out to bid by the end of the month.

Civic Center Seating

Mr. Hozey thanked the Coast Guard for their help in removing the old theatre seats at the civic center. Replacement seats are scheduled to begin installation on March 14th.

School Facilities Master Planning

Mr. Hozey stated that a work session is scheduled for March 1st to discuss the results of the analysis. Mr. Hozey requested that a public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, the 29th of March, 6:30 pm, at the Civic Center to take public comment on the Middle School analysis. Mr. Hozey said that following the public hearing he would like to schedule a joint work session between the school board and the city council prior to the regular council meeting on April 4th. There was no objection from council.

Beautification Committee is working on updating the 1998 plan and is currently meeting every two weeks. Mayor Cobb stated that while recently in Juneau he had discussed with the Deputy Commissioner of ADOT the possibility of updating the lighting and planting trees along Egan Drive. The commissioner suggested the city work with their design engineer in Fairbanks to discuss the issue further.

Mr. Hozey reported that he will be travelling to Washington D.C. the week of March 14th.

Mr. Hozey thanked the City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk for developing a city newsletter project. The newsletter will be distributed to box holders on a quarterly basis.

City Clerk

Sheri Pierce, City Clerk, reiterated that the first city newsletter will go out to residents in March. Council member Prax asked what prompted the creation of the newsletter. Ms. Pierce responded that the idea of a city newsletter had been discussed over the years as a way to keep the public informed regarding city projects and programs and to introduce citizens to our city departments and city employees who provide public service to the community.

City Attorney

Mr. Walker stated that he was recently surprised by the announcement regarding the closure of the Nikiski LNG facility. Mr. Walker said that the excuse used for the closure was the deterioration of the Asian market. Mr. Walker said he received calls from Tokyo, Japan asking if this was a joke. Mr. Walker stated that the truthful reason for closure of the plant was because they simply ran out of gas. The Nikiski plant operated on an "interruptible supply" meaning the company would supply the product as long as someone else did not need it.

Mr. Walker stated that the bullet line has been a concern since the closure of Nikiski. A bill was filed in congress the same day as the plant closure to authorize a bullet line along the Parks Highway. Mr. Walker said that he hoped the Alaska legislature realizes that a small diameter bullet line is not the answer to Alaska's future. Mr. Walker said that at this time he did not believe that there was any upcoming action by the legislature that would impact an all Alaska gas line. Mr. Walker said that only an All Alaska gas line would provide enough natural gas to once again operate the Nikiski facility.

Mayor Cobb

Mayor Cobb reported that he and Mr. Hozey had spoken with the Alaska Department of Transportation Commissioner regarding why the left turn lanes on the Richardson Highway were not included in the STIP. The Commissioner did not know why the project was removed from the STIP, however he advised the City to contact the local ADOT office to draw up a design concept and determine a project cost which can be included in the ADOT General Fund budget. Mr. Hozey stated that it is estimated to cost 3.8 million for turn lanes in two different locations, one at each end of Loop Road.

Mayor Cobb stated that Governor Parnell spoke at the AML Mayors meeting where he made the statement that revenue sharing to municipalities will not be reduced and there would not be a reduction in education funding.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Proclamation: Valdez Youth Court Month
2. Approval of Liquor License Renewals: Fu Kung, Landsharks, Glacier Sound Inn
3. Appointments to Valdez Museum and Historical Archive Board
4. Approval of Hardship Exemption
5. Approval to go into Executive Session RE: 2011 TAPS Valuation

Council member Prax requested that item #4 be moved to item #8 under New Business.

MOTION: Council member Moore moved, seconded by Council member McCann, to approve all remaining items on the Consent Agenda.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yea, 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Moore Alaska Consulting for Military Logistical Services in the Amount of \$26,184

MOTION: Council member Moore moved, seconded by Council member Wells, to approve a professional services agreement with Moore Alaska Consulting in the amount of \$26,184.

Council member Sorum asked that the Coast Guard be recognized for all of the assistance they provide to the city and the community. Ms. Moore responded that the city does reach out to the coast guard to reciprocate for their generosity. Last year the city donated funds to assist with the Coast Guard Christmas party.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yea, 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

2. Approval to Purchase 2011 Ford Expedition from Cal Worthington Ford in the Amount of \$39,697

MOTION: Council member Ables moved, seconded by Council member Sorum, to approve the purchase of a 2011 Ford Expedition in the amount of \$39,697.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 5 yea, 1 nay (Prax), 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

3. Approval to Purchase 2011 Ford Expedition XLT from Cal Worthington Ford in the Amount of \$53,919.42

MOTION: Council member Moore moved, seconded by Council member Ables, to approve the purchase of a 2011 Ford Expedition XLT in the Amount of \$53,919.42.

Council member Moore asked why this vehicle cost more than the vehicle just previously approved for purchase. Mr. Larry Weaver, Public Works Director, replied that this vehicle was an "XLT" which is a larger version of the standard model. Council member Prax asked why radios cannot be swapped verses buying a new one. Mr. Weaver replied that the radio in the vehicle which is being replaced was currently not working properly. Council member Sorum asked if the purchase of this vehicle was time sensitive. He questioned why the city would pay \$7,000 more for this vehicle due to the XLT designation.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 4 yea, 2 nay (Prax/Sorum), 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

4. Approval to Purchase 2011 Ford F-150 Super Cab 4X4 in the Amount of \$28,456

MOTION: Council member Moore moved, seconded by Council member Ables, to approve the purchase of a 2011 Ford F-150 Super Cab 4X4 in the Amount of \$28,456.00.

Council member Prax asked that in the future the council be given information on the number of miles remaining on the vehicle which is being replaced.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 5 yea, 1 nay (Prax), 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

5. Approval of Operating Permit for Allison Point Campground Management

MOTION: Council member Ables moved, seconded by Council member McCann, to approve the award of an Operating Permit for Allison Point Campground Management to Brad and Maureen Kimberlin.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yea, 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

6. Approval of Contract Extension to Appraisal Company of Alaska for Tax Appraisal and Assessment Services

MOTION: Council member Ables moved, seconded by Council member Moore, to approve a 4 year contract extension to Appraisal Company of Alaska for tax appraisal and assessment services.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 5 yeas, 1 nay (Sorum), 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

7. Approval of Change Order #2D to PND Design Firm for Relocation of Mooring Dolphin in the Amount of \$27,150

MOTION: Council member Ables moved, seconded by Council member McCann, to approve Change Order #2D to PND Design firm for relocation of mooring dolphin in the amount of \$27,150.00.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yea, 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

8. Approval of Hardship Exemption

MOTION: Council member Prax moved, seconded by Council member Moore, to approve a hardship exemption for Ms. Barbara Ezell.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yea, 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

X. RESOLUTIONS

1. #11-13 – Amending the 2011 Budget by Accepting a Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency in the Amount of \$721,600 for Sewer and Water Infrastructure Improvements

MOTION: Council member Ables moved, seconded by Council member Moore, to approve Resolution No. 11-13.

Council member Moore asked if there was time limit for expenditure of funds awarded by this grant. Mr. Hozey responded that this grant was unusual because Lisa VonBargen, Community Development Director, had been in contact with the granting

agency to revise the date, and so she would need to address this question. Mr. Hozey stated that he would ask Ms. Von Bargaen to provide this information in the form of a report to the council.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 5 yea, 1 nay (Prax), 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

2. #11-14 – Amending the 2011 City Budget in the Harbor Fund by Transferring \$17,737.85 from the Harbor Fund Balance to the 2011 Harbor Budget for Salaries and Benefits

MOTION: Council member Sorum moved, seconded by Council member McCann, to approve Resolution No. 11-14.

Ms. Laura Meadors, Ports and Harbor Commission Member, stated that she spoke on behalf of the Ports and Harbor Commission in support of this position at the harbor.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 5 yea, 1 nay (Prax), 1 absent (Wells). Motion carried.

XI. REPORTS

1. Moore Consulting
2. Valdez Small Boat Harbor 2010 Year End Report
3. Gravel Lease/Sales Report
4. Alaska Shield Status Report

Council member Sorum stated that he would have liked to receive the Alaska Shield status report in a timelier manner. Mayor Cobb stated that the council had received information about this exercise from administration last year.

Council member Prax asked the status of emergency planning coordination with the Alpine Woods group. Mr. Hozey responded that he will be providing a report on this very soon.

Mr. Hozey stated that the city will be doing a tabletop emergency drill in April and participate in an emergency exercise with Alyeska during the month of July.

XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Council member Moore

Council member Moore stated that she met with Senator Coghill and Representative Feige while recently in Juneau.

Council member Moore reported that the Audit Committee has met with the auditors. The committee has requested that the auditors start looking at individual departments a

little closer each year. This year the focus will be on the streets and shop department. Ms. Moore stressed that there is no concern with any city department, only that we will start looking at all of them in turn. Mr. Hozey stated that the rationalization for starting with this department was based solely on the size of their budget. Council member Moore stated that June 20th is the target date for completion of the audit for presentation to the council at their first meeting in July.

Council member Prax

Council member Prax pointed out that the structure of our city council meetings allowed for the give and take of information with the School Superintendent, which is not allowed during a school board meeting. Council member Prax stated that meetings which are open and solicit public comment are much more effective.

Council member Prax asked if the public works department could check into the LED street lights which are dim or no longer working. Mr. Weaver said he would notify the electric company.

Council member Prax asked how the Valdez Port Authority representatives are appointed and what the term limit was.

Council member McCann

Council member McCann thanked the VCVB for the information presented in the work session this evening.

Council member Sorum

Council member Sorum stated that he agreed with Council member Prax regarding the difference between city council and school board meetings. He objected to the new procedure which was developed by the school board to restrict public comment on their agenda items. He stated that in the interest of public participation he would prefer that the school board resume broadcasting their meetings on the radio.

- XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XIV. RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XV. COUNCIL TRAVEL
- XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Cobb adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.