

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ROLL CALL

Mayor Dave Cobb
Council member Karen Ables Council member Dorothy Moore
Council member Mike Wells Council member Joe Prax
Council member Sorum

Council member McCann was absent and excused.

Also Present:

John Hozey, City Manger
Sheri Pierce, City Clerk
Bill Walker, City Attorney

Members of staff and approximately 15 people in the audience.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF January 3, 2012, January 11, 2012, January 13, 2012 and January 17, 2012

The minutes of the regular meetings of January 3, 2012, January 11, 2012, January 13, 2012 and January 17, 2012 were approved as presented with one minor correction.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Wanda Clark, Valdez Senior Center Director, addressed the City Council regarding the carport at the Senior Center. She stated that though she realized the City had plans to begin the design process for the structure this year she hoped the entire project could be moved up and completed sooner. Ms. Clark presented pictures of the carport to the City Council demonstrating the need for immediate attention. She noted an area of particular concern where a crack in the sidewalk is about an inch and a half higher than the surrounding ground creating a very dangerous path for seniors. She asked that these issues be

considered and that the project be completed as soon as possible in order to provide a safer environment for the residents there.

Council member Ables asked Mr. Hozey where the project lies and stated that it would seem that nothing could be done until the snow melts this spring. Mr. Hozey replied in the affirmative and stated that is on their list for 2012. He indicated that they had asked for money from the state last year and that request was granted for the design of the project. He stated that it is on the work plan to have it designed this year. Mr. Hozey said that the City Council identified this project as a legislative priority and will ask the State for construction funding this year. He stated that they would know by June if they will receive that funding. Mr. Hozey explained that if funding is not received by the State the City can then look at funding it themselves. This would allow a timeline of putting it out to bid in the upcoming Fall or Winter with plans to begin construction in the summer of 2013. Mr. Hozey explained that accelerating the process to allow for construction to begin in the summer of 2012 would be challenging at this point considering that it is already February. A contributing factor to this process, he stated, is that the design and location of the carport must fit within the hospital master plan. He said that though they are not completely done with the master plan they are far enough in the process to know where the carport needs to go. Council member Wells asked if Building Maintenance could go and take a look at the current condition of the car port and possibly take care of some of the life safety issues as a temporary solution. Mr. Hozey replied in the affirmative. Mr. Hozey stated that he was not aware of all of the issues out there but agreed to get a structural engineer to investigate Ms. Clark's concerns.

Council member Moore asked that the electrical concerns be addressed as well. Ms. Clark indicated that many of the outlets were not working for residents to plug in their cars. An electrician came out and estimated that it would cost about \$5000 to bring the electricity up to proper standards. Council member Ables asked what the needs for electricity were in the carport. Ms. Clark responded that electricity is needed for lights, plugging in vehicles, and for plugging in equipment or tools in their sheds. Council member Ables asked about the ice in the stalls in one of the photos. Mr. Hozey explained that water runs into the stall and freezes creating a very slippery surface. Mr. Hozey stated that he met with Ms. Clark and members of the board to work out an agreement with the Senior Center regarding maintenance and the carport was included in that agreement. He indicated that responsibilities for both parties are now laid out much more clearly than it was before.

Council member Sorum stated that he felt they should push forward to have it built this year. He did not think it was unreasonable to get it finished in 2012 considering the small size of the job. Mr. Hozey stated that an issue is the new location of the carport, which may require land acquisition from the Department of Transportation (DOT). He indicated that presently the new carport is proposed

to be constructed to the south of the Senior Center building. The area the structure is presently located would be used for future expansion of the hospital long term care wing. If land acquisition is needed it will prove difficult to happen by the beginning of this construction season. Council member Wells asked if the process for obtaining the land has begun. Mr. Hozey replied in the negative stating that he wanted to first get an architect on board to survey the area to determine what the land requirements are going to be. Ms. Clark stated that the seniors are opposed to the proposed new location of the carport. She indicated that there are several issues with that new location and the majority of the seniors would prefer instead to simply move the carport diagonally at its current location. She stated that this would not require DOT land and would still allow for the expansion of long term care. Mr. Hozey stated that if this is what is desired it needs to be brought up during the task force meeting. Ms. Clark stated that it had been in fact brought up several times. Mr. Hozey replied that this discussion had not occurred at the Assisted Living Task Force meetings. He suggested that Ms. Clark bring her concerns to the next task force meeting for discussion by the group. Ms. Clark agreed and thanked the City Council for their time.

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

CITY MANAGER

Beautification Committee

Mr. Hozey explained that at the previous council meeting the idea of a "Welcome to Valdez" sign was presented to Council. At that time, they were also briefed on the current RFP that was issued to solicit assistance in the beautification process. Mr. Hozey reported that six firms had responded to the RFP and that the committee would be meeting this week to discuss those proposals.

Community Strategic Planning

Mr. Hozey stated that the cell meetings took place on January 28th which finalized the objectives. Those recommendations will now go to the core group for finalization on February 25th and 26th.

Airport Renovations

The tile and carpet are installed, Mr. Hozey reported, and the painting is being finished. He explained that when that part of the project is complete, the amount of money left over will determine if they are able to order the chairs. Mr. Hozey indicated that if more money is needed he will bring that request back to the Council for approval.

New Middle School Project

Mr. Hozey stated that the work session that evening went well and that the city will continue to be highly involved in the process.

Project Management Review

Mr. Hozey explained that he is initiating a new process for project management review within the City. He stated that ideas to help the flow of project management have been brought to his attention. A request for proposals was issued to assist the city with consolidating the ideas and improve the project management process. Six proposals have been received by the City. Mr. Hozey stated that he will begin reviewing the proposals as soon as possible and indicated that he would keep the Council informed of their progress.

Shop Ventilation

Mr. Hozey reported that the project is going well. The ventilation system has been installed and they are now working on sound proofing. The project is predicted to be finished by the end of the current week.

Civic Center Fire Alarm

The project started at the end of January and will be an ongoing project that will finish up in mid-March.

VCVB Task Force

The first meeting occurred on February 6th to review concerns brought up in 2011. Mr. Hozey reported that they did not have the best turn out that day but the group did begin processing ideas. They agreed to look at other communities to learn how other visitor bureaus are structured. The task force decided they must come up with a plan for exactly what they want to accomplish in the future prior to deciding how the organization should be structured. He indicated that he will continue to monitor the current VCVB financial activity.

Harbor Restroom Boiler Upgrades

Mr. Hozey reported that the boiler is complete and is working. The harbor restroom is still under construction but all should be completed by the end of March.

Sea Wall Upgrade and Kelsey Dock Waterline Project

Construction documents on both have been received and both are ready to go out to bid.

Salmonberry Ski Hill

After snow removal efforts were under control, work on the ski hill continued. One issue, Mr. Hozey explained, was that the hydraulic line on the groomer was broken and must be repaired. The groomer would be needed to dig out the cable which was five feet under the snow. Mr. Hozey said this was a tedious process but they hope to get it running by February 10th or 11th. Mr. Hozey announced a tentative plan to get the ski hill open for business by the weekend of February 18th.

Legislative Priorities

Mr. Hozey was able to get all projects uploaded into the legislative system and documents were created that he and the Mayor will take to Juneau to hand out.

Alaska Shield

Mr. Hozey announced that the City of Valdez would not be participating in this exercise this week since the recent snow event had been a good test of the City's emergency response skills.

Alpine Woods Dike System Project

Mr. Hozey stated that the residents at 10 mile have not provided feedback to Administration regarding the dike system. He stated that numerous requests have been made for the residents to discuss their drawing previously submitted to the Community Development department. Mr. Hozey stated that until the City is able to meet with the residents they are in a holding pattern with this project.

Snow Removal

Council member Sorum asked that city administration evaluate the act of dumping snow into the harbor. He explained that circulation in the harbor has always been an issue and adding snow which contains trash and debris makes the conditions in the harbor even worse. Also, by adding fresh water to the salt water it creates a problem with freezing.

Council member Prax asked Mr. Hozey about the follow up questions he submitted regarding the recent snow event. Mr. Hozey explained that a series of hot wash meetings took place and now he needs to act on the information

received from those meetings. He stated that he is working on a full report which will be submitted to Council including a brag sheet of what was accomplished.

CITY CLERK

Ms. Pierce explained that on February 3rd the Alaska Superior Court judge reached a decision on the 2011 lawsuit filed against the Alaska Redistricting Board. The decision was that House Districts 1, 2, 37 and 38 were remanded to the redistricting board to be re-drawn in harmony with the Alaska constitution. A meeting will be held by the Redistricting Board to discuss whether or not they will appeal that decision to the Supreme Court. Ms. Pierce stated that the audio on that meeting will be streamed on line and she will listen in on that meeting. Mr. Walker explained that if they move those districts around that Valdez will likely be affected. Mr. Walker also predicted that it will be appealed to the Supreme Court. He stated that if it goes to the Supreme Court the redrawing would be done based on the decision that is made there. Ms. Pierce stated that they would be monitoring that process very closely.

Ms. Pierce stated that she is continuing to work on the Coast Guard's Cities' program with the Coast Guard. She stated that she has sent off quite a few emails to her contact and is trying to move through their process.

CITY ATTORNEY

Mr. Walker announced that he has the annual report for the Alaska Gas Line Port Authority (AGPA) for 2011. He stated that the annual audit is complete and will be provided at the next City Council meeting.

Mr. Walker explained that House Bill #9 is a bill to pay attention to. The Alaska Gas line Development Corporation initiated this bill for the bullet line. Last year 200 million dollars was set aside and that this bill was the vehicle to take that money for the bullet line. He stated that the first hearing on HB9 occurred today. Mr. Walker stated there has been push back from other communities against the bullet line, and that he had been asked to give a community briefing in Glennallen on February 7th to let them know what is happening and what their options are.

Mr. Walker stated that the Port Authority has received a lot of attention around the world as far as companies contacting them about LNG coming out of Valdez. He was happy to report that on the market side a lot is stirring in Valdez's favor.

Council member Prax stated that he had been asked about the directors of the AGPA. Mayor Cobb stated that the Mayor appoints them and the Council verifies those appointments. Mayor Cobb stated that one of the appointments will be up at the next Council meeting. Council member Prax asked if a person could be a

Valdez representative of the AGPA and not live in Valdez. Mr. Walker replied in the affirmative stating that one of the original members was John Kelsey.

MAYOR

Mayor Cobb said that he had signed a letter to Representative Feige in regards to HB9 Bill Nine explaining that our Valdez legislative priorities supported All Alaska Gas Line, not the Bullet Line. Representative Feige responded that he supported the All Alaska Gas Line and would be putting forth an amendment to this piece of legislation. He said he would not pass the legislation out of his committee until the following week, allowing Valdez plenty of time to make a response.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Proclamation – Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
2. Approval of Appointment to City Position on VCVB Board
3. Approval to go into Executive Session Regarding TAPS Value/Litigation

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

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Council member McCann). Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointments to the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive Association Board of Directors

MOTION: Council member Moore moved, seconded by Council member Ables, to re-appoint Spike Gilson, Paula McCann, Gary Minish and Emmie Swanson to serve a three year term to expire January 31, 2015, and to appoint Michelle Cullen and Julie Farrell to fill vacancies due to resignation for terms which expire on January 31, 2014.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Council member McCann). Motion carried.

2. Approval of Contract Award to Harris Sand and Gravel for Construction of the SBH Launch Ramp Dock Upgrade in the Amount of \$1,039,425.86

MOTION: Council member Wells moved, seconded by Council member Moore to approve a contract award to Harris Sand & Gravel for

construction of the Small Boat Harbor Launch Ramp dock upgrade in the amount of \$1,039,425.86.

Council member Sorum stated that there is a great deal of congestion at the small boat harbor. However, Mr. Sorum said, when the price came in at \$1.2 million, it does not seem worth it to him. No matter what, it will still be a tight spot with little parking in the area. He stated that in talking with staff they would rather pursue the sea wall first which to him also makes more sense. Council member Sorum believed that money would be better spent for a new Harbor which would be a permanent fix to the problem. Mr. Hozey followed up on that thought stating that an additional launch ramp would be included in the plan for the new harbor.

Council member Wells stated that he would not be supporting this motion due to the high price of the project. He felt that waiting for the new harbor would be a better solution.

Council member Prax also did not support the project due to the price. He stated that the Harbor employees have done a very good job in mitigating the needs there. He stated that finding another place in the port for a new launch ramp would be an option to consider.

Mayor Cobb agreed that it is too much money to spend on a temporary solution and stated that a long term fix is what is ultimately needed.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 nays, 1 absent (Council member Prax). Motion failed.

3. Approval of Land Use Agreement Amendment No. 3 for 10 Acres within USS 439 with the Valdez Motor Sports Club (Valdez Snowmachine Club)

MOTION: Council member Sorum moved, seconded by Council member Moore, to approve land use agreement amendment #3 for 10 acres within USS439 with Valdez Motor Sports Club.

Council member Ables asked when the main races were held. Mayor Cobb and Mr. Hozey stated that they occurred in February and March. The Hill Climb, Mr. Hozey stated, is held in April.

Council member Moore stated that she hoped someone would put together some history on these events.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Council member McCann). Motion carried.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. #12-05 – Authorizing a One-Year Extension of the Land Use Permit for a Portion of Blocks 7 & 8, Valdez Townsite with Harris Sand & Gravel

MOTION: Council member Wells moved, seconded by Council member Ables, to approve Resolution No. 12-05.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Council member McCann). Motion carried.

2. #12-06 – Naming the Upper Access Road in USS 5670 / Robe Lake Wilderness Subdivision “Lake View Drive” and the Lower Access Road “Dunning Drive”

MOTION: Council member Wells moved, seconded by Council member Ables, to approve Resolution No. 12-06.

Council member Moore asked for clarification of the resolution. Laura Robertson, Community Development Acting Director, explained that the roads are existing access roads. Ms. Robertson stated that USS 5670 was previously subdivided without a road improvement and that the old Lake House Road sign was put there informally. Ms. Robertson stated that when Robe Lake Wilderness Estates was subdivided, the roads within were all platted as official roads. Now, it is very confusing to address the already existing access roads which intersect with Cummings Way. Council member Moore asked if this is just cleaning up what is already unofficially being used as roads. Ms. Robertson replied in the affirmative.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 6 yeas, 1 absent (Council member McCann). Motion carried.

3. #12-07 – Amending the 2012 City Budget in the Capital Facilities Fund by Transferring \$160,000 from the Meals Hill Project to the SBH Launch Ramp Upgrades Project and Authorizing the Expenditure

Due to lack of a motion Resolution No. 12-07 died.

X. REPORTS

1. Health Fund Report
2. Valdez Small Boat Harbor 2011 Year End Report
3. Pioneer Field Airport Terminal Building 2011 Year End Report
4. Fire Hydrant Report

Fire Chief Keeney reported that after the snow event they kept on approximately 16 people to shovel out fire hydrants. They were all opened up but Chief Keeney wanted to report that they use “water on wheels” to fight fires during the winter. Chief Keeney stated that most residential fires in Valdez use less than 500 gallons of water per fire. He stated that his tanker trucks carry 3600 gallons on wheels and that backup tankers are available at each station.

Council member Moore stated that she appreciated the report but also liked the effort of shoveling out the fire hydrants. Chief Keeney said that in the event of a fire he will task two to three people to shovel out the fire hydrants if they are buried, just in case the need for more water becomes necessary. He indicated that he always checks the availability of fire hydrants when arriving at a fire.

Council member Sorum stated that he noticed people were filling the hydrants back up with snow after they were dug out. Chief Keeney confirmed that this was happening in some neighborhoods. The hydrants were cleared out and then contractors and residents filled the space back up with snow. Chief Keeney strongly discouraged this and asked people to use appropriate snow lots to store snow.

Council member Prax stated that he tries to keep his hydrants dug out and feels that perhaps this information could be communicated to the public.

Council member Wells stated that there have been many issues with vents and wood stove stacks that are bent and broken. Chief Keeney stated that it is imperative to keep vents cleared and stacks standing upright. If the stack bends it needs to be put back in place immediately. If there are any cracks the house and the ceiling will fill with smoke which can be very dangerous. He encouraged everyone to make sure that stacks are upright, the vents clear, and the chimney is covered.

5. Coastal Zone Management Ballot Initiative Update Report

Mayor Cobb thanked Laura Robertson, Acting Community Development Director, for her effort in getting this accomplished.

XI. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

COUNCIL MEMBER MOORE

Council member Moore asked Ms. Pierce to forward the RCAC meeting summation to Council that was sent to her via email. Ms. Pierce agreed to this request.

COUNCIL MEMBER ABLES

Council member Ables asked if progress had been made on credit card use at the City. Walter Sapp, Finance Director, stated that he is currently reviewing two proposals for companies who wish to support us on this endeavor. After he finishes that review he will contact our bank about the possibility of using a third party vendor for credit card processes. He stated that he hoped to have something back to the City Manager during the next few weeks.

COUNCIL MEMBER WELLS

Council member Wells congratulated Coach Lyons and the Valdez Lady Buccaneers for the first place finish at the Seward Seahawk Basketball tournament. He reminded everyone that the Elks Basketball tournament will take place this weekend at the high school. He encouraged everyone to get out and support local sports.

COUNCIL MEMBER SORUM

Council member Sorum asked that the idea of using a postmark to determine an on-time payment for City tax payments be revisited. He asked that a policy be developed to support this, allowing residents a little more flexibility in getting their payments in on time without harsh penalties.

Council member Sorum asked about the current status of the Three Bears building that recently collapsed, stating his concern that the structure could become a liability issue if it does not get cleaned up. Mr. Hozey stated that this was private property and therefore the city had very little involvement in this, but he had been told that structural engineers were in town last week to assess the building. Mr. Hozey said the City had restricted public access to the area due to safety concerns.

Laura Roberts, Community Development Acting Director, stated that Larry Reynolds has hired Harris Sand and Gravel to do the demolition of the building. She said that they plan to start immediately, however they are working with Community Development to develop a demolition plan, so that the grounds do not become an unattractive public nuisance. She stated that the owner will probably construct snow berms around the entire property. Ms. Robertson concluded that they are waiting to test for asbestos as well. Once the asbestos testing is concluded, a decision will be made regarding the disposal of materials into the construction pit at the landfill.

MAYOR COBB

Mayor Cobb stated that during the snow event City employees missed a planned holiday because of the incredible work load they faced at that time. Mayor Cobb asked for the Council's permission to grant another holiday for all City employees on March 12, 2012. Mayor Cobb stated that this would be an appropriate way to show their appreciation for all of their hard work. The City Council agreed to this request.

Mr. Hozey passed out a letter from Prince William Sound Community College requesting that the City pay for costs the college incurred during the recent snow event. Mr. Desorcie stated in his letter that because the City did not declare a state of emergency, the college will not be able to apply for reimbursement through the State disaster process. They are therefore asking that the City pay these costs.

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

There being no further business, Mayor Cobb adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.