

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 Joe Prax
Council member Karen Ables	Council member Alan Sorum
Council member Mike Wells	Council member Dorothy Moore
Council member Steve McCann	

Also Present:

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

Members of staff and approximately 20 people in the audience.

IV. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sheri Pierce, City Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Council member Dorothy M. Moore, Council member Karen Ables and Council member Mike Wells.

V. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

**MOTION: Council member Ables moved, seconded by Council member Wells to appoint Council member Moore to the position of Mayor Pro-Tempore.**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION: 7 yeas. Motion carried.**

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF October 3, 2011

Council member Moore stated that there was no summary of why the City was in litigation with Sea Hawk as stated by the City Attorney.

The City Clerk stated the minutes would be corrected.

VII. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Alan Crume - 10 Mile Resident

Mr. Crume asked the status of the education specs and design of the middle school. He asked when this process would be completed. Mr. Hozey responded that the City, School District and other participants involved in the Ed Spec process are continuing to meet and move forward on this project.

Mr. Crume asked about the additional launch ramp at the harbor. Mr. Hozey responded that this is an ongoing process and that the city has just recently received cost estimates. Mr. Hozey said he would be discussing this project with the city council during the CIP portion of the budget work sessions.

Hedy Sarney

Ms. Sarney stated that she was concerned about the damage that the rabbits are doing to her flower garden located in the front of her business on North Harbor Drive. She stated that they continue to eat the leaves and roots of her poppy plants. Ms. Sarney said that she has spoken to the animal control officer and the police department about the problem. Ms. Sarney compared the rabbits to wild dogs because they are not owned by anyone. Mr. Hozey responded that this was a difficult thing to address as the residents would most likely not favor the total eradication of the rabbits. Council member Ables stated that the rabbits ate her flowers this year, but that she still loved them. She suggested that a few people could volunteer to help Ms. Sarney rabbit proof her garden. Mayor Cobb stated that there are just as many people who love the rabbits as there are people who want to eradicate them. Mayor Cobb said he thought there could be things done to help Ms. Sarney to help solve her problem. Council member Prax said he agreed with Ms. Sarney that the rabbits should be classified as an uncontrolled nuisance and should be dealt with appropriately.

VIII. CITY MANAGER/CITY CLERK/CITY ATTORNEY/MAYOR REPORT

CITY MANAGER

Assisted Care Living Task Force

The sub-committee of the Task Force is meeting on a regular basis with the consultants to validate the costs.

Salmonberry Ski Hill

The small warming hut is completed and the larger hut is under construction. Dean and Karen Cummings have donated a large amount of gravel which has been applied to the approach path. A large volunteer effort took place at the ski hill last weekend. They helped to clear brush and performed other tasks needed to facilitate the opening of the ski hill. Mr. Hozey thanked them for their efforts.

#### Middle School

The project consultants were recently in Valdez to begin the process of establishing the education specifications. They conducted a number of evening labs with people. Council member Sorum said he would like to see the schedule for any upcoming meetings. He said he hoped the process would continue on schedule so that the city can conduct a special bond election in April of 2012. Mr. Hozey replied that the current contract was just to develop the education specifications. He stated that he believed an April time frame to conduct an election was very aggressive. Mr. Hozey said he was not ruling out an election in April or May, but that he believed any potential bond proposition would very likely not be ready until the regular municipal election ballot in October of 2012.

#### Community Strategic Planning

Mr. Hozey said the process is moving forward and that he was thrilled with the participation by community members.

#### Library Elevator

Council member Ables stated that the library elevator had been shut down. She asked if there was a problem. Mr. Jack McCay, Capital Facilities Director, replied that the State elevator inspector had conducted his inspection at the facility and discovered problems, therefore he red-tagged the elevator until repairs can be completed.

#### CITY ATTORNEY

Mr. Walker reported on the Alaska Gasline Port Authority. He stated that the Wood McKenzie report is receiving a great deal of attention and feedback. The next report to be issued will be the in-state gas study on the benefits of providing energy to rural Alaska from a gas line to Valdez. The report should be available in early November. The McDowell Group is currently working on a comparison of the various gas line options and proposals such as the bullet line, the LNG to Valdez project and the gas line into Canada. Mr. Walker said he had received requests for this type of report from various legislators.

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Mr. Walker said he had received a number of inquiries about the LNG project since his recent presentation in Washington D.C. Mr. Walker said he will be in attendance at the upcoming Alaska Municipal League Conference in November to speak about the gas line.

MAYOR

Mayor Cobb asked Council member Sorum to give a brief report about the Marine Firefighting Symposium recently held in Valdez. Council member Sorum stated that the Regional Citizen's Advisory Council (RCAC) is responsible for bringing this event to Valdez. The symposium was very successful, with 65 to 75 coastal firefighter participants, Coast Guard and industry members. Many organizations provided funding or in-kind services. Polar Tanker provided an oil tanker for the training exercise which was extremely valuable. Council member Sorum thanked the City of Valdez and all of the sponsors for their generous contributions to the symposium.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Appointment to Parks and Recreation Commission
2. Appointment to Permanent Fund Committee
3. Appointment to Library Board
4. Approval to go into Executive Session
  - a. TAPS Valuation/Litigation

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

**VOTE ON THE MOTION: 7 yeas. Motion carried.**

X. RESOLUTIONS

1. #11-66 - Amending the 2011 City Budget by Accepting Grant Funds in the Amount of \$5,000 to the Valdez Consortium Library and Authorizing its Expenditure for a Digital Pipeline Training and Outreach Program

**MOTION: Council member Ables moved, seconded by Council member Moore, to approve Resolution No. 11-66.**

**VOTE ON THE MOTION: 7 yeas. Motion carried.**

XI. REPORTS

1. Valdez Energy Assistance Report

2. Building Permit & Inspection Reports
3. ACO Report

Council member Prax pointed out that the Friends of the Animal Shelter volunteers are a model for many other city departments to use in the development of volunteer groups and services. He stated that in harder times the city may have to look at recruiting more volunteers.

4. Feasibility and Resource Analysis for Relocating the Home Port of the CDQ Fishing Fleet

Council member Wells stated that he was disappointed in the results of the report, however he believed the report provided a valuable gap analysis, which will be an asset to the city regarding future port and harbor development projects. Council member Wells said he was baffled by the statement in the report that the price of marine diesel fuel is cheaper in Kodiak, Dutch Harbor and Seward than it is in Valdez. Mayor Cobb stated that while Seward is interested in becoming a CDQ home port, the CDQ group was not going to invest any of their own funds into the project. Council member Moore said she was interested by the recommendation that Valdez zero in on the medium and smaller size boats. She stated that Seattle and the Pacific Northwest in general was far ahead of any coastal Alaska city in the availability of resources for repairing fishing vessels. She urged the city to continue to look for a niche in this industry. Mayor Cobb stated that the State of Washington was very upset that the State of Alaska was trying to lure the CDQ fishing fleet back to Alaska.

## XII. COUNCIL BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

### Council Member Moore

Council member Moore asked that the City Clerk forward information regarding invasive species in the next council agenda packet.

Council member Moore said she was pleased with the beginning of the city strategic planning sessions.

### Council member Prax

Council member Prax stated that he attended the recent volunteer brush clearing event at the ski hill. The event attracted 45 to 50 volunteers who worked very hard to move the project forward for opening on Thanksgiving weekend.

Council member Ables

Council member Ables thanked the citizens of Valdez for re-electing her to the city council. She promised to work hard over her next two years in office.

Council member McCann

Council member McCann expressed his gratitude to the citizens who have volunteered to serve as members of the team in the City Strategic Planning process.

Council Member Sorum

Council member Sorum stated that he recently attended the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators conference in Homer, Alaska. Council member Sorum announced that the City of Valdez will be hosting the conference in 2013. Council member Sorum said one of the topics of discussion at the meeting was the disposal of derelict vessels. The harbor association is pushing to tighten laws which would make it easier for municipalities to dispose of vessels and avoid costly situations such as the millions of dollars which the City of Cordova has had to incur to remove a derelict vessel which sank in their harbor. He suggested that the Alaska Municipal League assist municipalities with this problem by making it a legislative priority.

Mayor Cobb

Mayor Cobb stated that he would not be present at the first budget work session. The City Clerk reminded the council that the first council meeting in November has been moved to Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, due to attendance by the Mayor and Council at the Alaska Municipal League conference.

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

There being no further business, Mayor Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

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David C. Cobb, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk