



CITY OF BETHEL

P.O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 1994

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Abrant called the April 6, 1994, regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 12:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Rapoza, Gregory, Tubbs, Abrant, Vanasse, Wallace

Absent: Twitchell (excused)

APPROVAL/MINUTES M/M by Tubbs to approve the minutes of the March 2, 1994, meeting as presented. Motion passed by acclamation.

APPROVAL/AGENDA M/M to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed by acclamation.

CHIEFS' REPORTS -Chief Liu stated that he is leaving for training on April 9, 1994. Liu advised that Lt. Meece will be the Acting Chief of Police, and that Liu will be available by phone in case of significant emergencies.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS -Mr. Wallace requested a copy of the Fire Department's budget. Wallace also stated that he continues to be deeply concerned about bootlegging in the community.

-Mr. Gregory echoed concern about bootlegging, and added that he wants to reduce the number of water related accidents that occur each spring/summer.

-Chairman Abrant stated that he would support a one year term for the Chairman's position on the committee. He feels that if all the positions had two year terms, it might be difficult to keep them filled. Abrant announced that he will likely be transferred out of Bethel before August of this year.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD (none)

OLD BUSINESS

Item A: Off-Road
Vehicle Ordinance

-Chief Liu reviewed the purpose of the agenda item: to re-evaluate the existing laws pertaining to youth operating off-road vehicles.

-Mr. Vanasse pointed out that a committee can only make recommendations, and cannot draft ordinances. Vanasse explained that a city ordinance could only effect the city roads, not the state roads. He stated that he did not support an ordinance permitting off-road vehicles on city roads, since the city's police and fire departments oppose it.

-Mr. Wallace suggested a registration process, similar to the one for boats in the harbor, and that routes be established for off-road vehicles. Wallace explained that registration would facilitate identification of vehicles that were breaking laws, and expedite the recovery of stolen vehicles.

-Ms. Rapoza felt that registration was a topic for the transportation commission. She also stated that the potential liability to the city and to individuals was much too high to allow off-road vehicles on city or state roads.

-Vanasse pointed out that statewide registration is already available. He also explained that boats register with the city to contribute to the expense of maintaining the boat harbor. Unless the registration of off-road vehicles contributed to street maintenance, it is not an equitable comparison.

motion

M/M by Gregory, 2nd by Wallace to submit an off road vehicle ordinance to city council.

Roll call:

Wallace - y	Rapoza - n
Tubbs - n	Vanasse - n
Gregory - y	Abrant - n

2 affirm, 4 oppose. Motion failed.

Item B:
Terms for
Committee Members

-Mr. Vanasse supports terms so that committee members can choose to resign or renew commitment, and new people have a chance to join the committee. He stated that experienced members might be retained if they are still interested, as appointment to a committee is at the discretion of the mayor, with the approval of city council. Vanasse proposes 3 odd year terms, and 4 even year terms, similar to the city council terms.
-Mr. Tubbs described the advantages of long terms of service: the members are familiar with the city issues and procedures, and can provide leadership. Tubbs stated that members are always free to resign when they choose.
-Mr. Vanasse stated that committees and commissions are the backbone of city government, and as such it is a disservice to the community not to have a mechanism for integrating new people and new ideas. Vanasse reminded the committee that Mr. Twitchell had expressed support for terms.

motion

M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Rapoza to approve of terms for committee members, the schedule for which to be further discussed upon passage of this motion.

Roll call:

Wallace - n	Rapoza - y
Tubbs - n	Vanasse - y
Gregory - y	Abrant - y

4 affirm, 2 oppose. Motion passed. Members agreed to propose specific terms at the next meeting.

motion

M/M by Wallace to establish two year terms based on the effective date of the member's appointment. No 2nd. Wallace withdrew motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Public
Safety Budget

-Chief Liu stated that he welcomes comments or questions about the submitted police

- Proposals budget proposal.
-Mr. Wallace sought clarification about the Bethel Youth Services Program's relation to the police department.
-Chief Liu responded that Paula Stybor manages the program, which has a separate budget and its own committee.
-Mr. Tubbs further clarified that Youth Services may be weaned off the city's budget altogether, with the program gaining increasing independence over the next six years.
- motion M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Wallace that the Public Safety Committee hold a work session on Wednesday, April 27, 1994, at 6:00 p.m. in the police department conference room to review the public safety departments' budget proposals. Motion passed by acclamation.
- Item B:
Additional Police Officer Position -Mr. Vanasse asked why this is still an issue after the city council rejected it. He asked for clarification whether the additional position would be for Fiscal Year 1995.
-Chief Liu recapped the history of this issue, and stated that the council would consider it during the FY95 budget process.
-Mr. Tubbs advised that the committee should make a recommendation to council.
- motion M/M by Rapoza, 2nd by Wallace to discuss the additional police officer position at the work session on April 27, 1994. Motion passed by acclamation.
- motion M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Rapoza to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by acclamation.
Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WILL OCCUR ON
MAY 4, 1994, 12:00 P.M., AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.



Connie Johnson
Police Department Admin. Asst.