
City of Bethel, Alaska

--- Planning Commission Minutes

April 10, 2008

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel Planning Commission was held on April 14, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 1st Floor City Hall, Bethel, Alaska.

John Guinn called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, the following were present:

Mike Walter Hugh Dymont
Joy Shantz John Guinn

Excused absence(s): Sharon Lindley
Unexcused absence(s): Thor Williams

Also in attendance were the following:
City Planner Richard Abboud
Planning Clerk Betsy Jumper

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD – none

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Hugh Dymont	To approve the agenda for the April 10, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Joy Shantz	
VOTE ON MOTION	4 yes 0 no motion carried	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Joy Shantz	To approve the minutes from the Mar. 13, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting as amended.
SECONDED BY:	Mike Walter	
VOTE ON MOTION	4 yes 0 no motion carried	

COMMUNICATIONS- none

PLANNERS REPORT:

From: Rick Abboud, Planning Director

Date: April 7, 2008

Alaska Coastal Management Program: HB 243, which has been designed to coincide with SB 161, is now being heard in House Resources Committee. This bill would establish or rather re-establish an Alaska Coastal Policy Board. This board, among other things, would be able to hear appeals to decisions rendered by DNR's Division of Coastal and Ocean Management. I believe that this would present an alternative form of dispute resolution that is not currently available.

Code Enforcement Activity: A plan to cure the zoning violations found on the AVCP property has been noticed as requested by the City Council. Notice of the Planning Commission's recommendation to the City Council will be completed just prior to the May 13th regularly scheduled Council meeting.

The City is continuing to pursue the prosecution of tickets issued to those that continue to be found in violation of the Bethel Municipal Code.

Vehicle left in the rights-of-ways have been more numerous as of the last snow storm. The Code Enforcement Officer has made several contacts to encourage people to move vehicles from the rights-of-way for snow removal activities.

The code enforcement officer has been taking on duties as the safety officer and has been and will be less active with code enforcement.

Hazard Mitigation: The Hazard Mitigation Plan has been resubmitted to the regional FEMA office with some requested corrections. We hope to gain their approval shortly.

Indian Reservation Roads (IRR): An amended list of roads to add to the IRR inventory has been submitted to BIA.

Recreation Center: We are still working on the proposed design of the building along with the identification of other goals and objectives. Several priorities have been identified for the committee work, including plans to gain support of community organizations. All are invited to attend. We meet from 5:15 – 6:15 on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month in the City Council chambers.

Site Plans: Information requests and actual plans have started to come into the office. We have been working with those that wish to get started with projects after break-up.

Transportation Plan: We are working with ASCG/WH Pacific and ONC finalizing the scope of work for the project. Our contractor has been particularly amenable to proposed adjustment in the scope. Our project should be in full swing shortly. We have been lining up and investigating several issues related to road rights-of-way. Several old right-of-way issues are quite problematic and really need to be addressed, especially those that exist on currently utilized routes. Some of property that needs to be gained could possibly be exchange for existing city property. Other properties may have to be purchased. In any event, we need to identify resources that can be used to further solutions. If City Council were to allow for the purchase of City land, I would suggest that all, or at least some, of the proceeds be put into a special development account that could be used for such things as appraisals, survey's, right-of-way purchase, engineering and etcetera related to development of City property and plans. When such an account is created or resources dedicated, plans would have a much better chance to become reality.

Water Source Protection: We did not hold a meeting in January and have not heard from our contact, as of late.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Joy Shantz: Dismayed about the Code Enforcement/Safety position; looks like it's in danger – I think that our City really needs the position for safety issues. I hope that we can maintain it and carry on with the job that's been happening so we can maintain the public safety. Concerned for public safety.

Mike Walter- I got a few things; really wished Thor was here. Severely disappointed in his representation of the Planning Commission to the Council and our discussion in relating them to the Council. This deal with AVCP has turned into something that if he had spoke his mind and relayed what everyone on this Commission talked about, and the reasons why we voted the way we did, then the AVCP deal would be done and everybody would be happy, instead of taking on a personal agenda and a different direction. I'd like to hear from him and see what his reasoning was and what he believes his duties as a Planning Commissioner representative to the Council are.

Hugh Dymant – Wished he had heard the comments at the meeting and is curious to hear from Thor too. I am concerned about the administration telling you don't make it a priority (code enforcement), I mean, it can be reasonable, but, that bothers me quite a bit, because there's individuals in this town on the Council who try to use the rules as a weapon against anyone they don't like, but then don't understand why the rules apply to them as well. It bothers me ethically. And there's a lot of people, I believe in this, there's some people in this community at least, who receive the benefits of living in the community; food, stores, hospital, etc. but they want to pretend they don't, that they live on the Holitna and can do exactly what they want, but they don't, they live in a community. There are lots of people who abuse the community by spreading thousands of gallons of sewage on their property and draining 50 gallon drums, etc. And that bothers me lot when people abuse the community and they don't need to. That's why the Code Enforcement position is important if gently and compently done and not poorly.

John Guinn – I'm worried about the Code Enforcement and Safety Officer position and I don't like being told to make it a low priority. That job inherently will piss some people off who don't want to go along with what's supposed to be done. That goes with the job. I don't want to go back to where we were before, that was way worse, everyone dumping honeybuckets behind their houses and everything else. So I agree with you.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-none

NEW BUSINESS:

Item A: A generalized discussion of possible long range priorities for undeveloped Bethel City owned land, core township, and growth issues ensued.

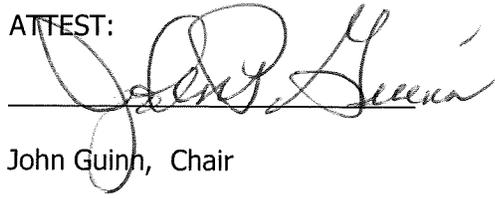
ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Joy Shantz	To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm., April 10, 2008.
SECONDED BY:	Mike Walter	

VOTE ON MOTION	4 Yes 0 No Meeting Adjourned
-----------------------	------------------------------

APPROVED THIS ____ day of _____ 2008.

ATTEST:



John Guinn, Chair