

Public Works Committee Minutes
Regular Scheduled Meeting April 20, 1999

CITY SHOP, CONFERENCE ROOM

7:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Interim Chairman Harry Faulkner at 7:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Faulkner, Murphy, Tarr, M. O'Brien, and P. O'Brien.

Absent: Vanasse

Others Present: Clair Grifka, Public Works Director, and John Wallace

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/M Faulkner/Murphy to approve minutes. Motion approved- unanimous

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/M Faulkner/Mike O'Brien to approve agenda. Motion approved- unanimous.

V. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

John Wallace commented on the condition of the roads in Uiviq subdivision. The roads are terrible and gravel needs to be put down. He also said that the asphalt needs to be re-done, because it has deteriorated.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman will hold any comments until Member comments.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director mentioned that the Budgets have been presented to Stu Robinson, City Finance Director, for review. The projects for the new and old Water Treatment Plants are going as planned, with the new Water Treatment Plant being close to

finished. The Director also mentioned that the pre-bid opening would be taking place for the renovation of the Braund Building.

The Director also mentioned that the new water trucks will be arriving shortly and will go over that in more detail later in the meeting. The Director also knows that the roads this year are in terrible condition, but the Road Maintenance Department has been doing their best to keep them from completely falling apart. This past winter was extremely hard on the roads and come break-up; the department will do their best to get them in shape for the summer.

The Director also notified the Committee that the City Landfill permit is due and in the process of being renewed. The department is also working on obtaining a permit that will allow the City to accept and treat contaminated soil. The Director also informed the Committee that the City would be cleaning out the FAA sewer line sometime this summer.

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Murphy: Asked that the City do its best to maintain and improve road conditions.

Mr. M. O'Brien: Made mention that Budget sessions have started and will take a while to complete. He reported to the Committee and to the Director specifically, that the better the documentation for a particular item to be added to the Budget the better the chance the department has of receiving money for that expense.

Mr. Tarr: Wanted a response regarding the Laundromat. He had heard that the City was supposedly hiking up the cost of water and whether or not that would affect the rates for laundry. He also wanted to inform the Committee that the City of Bethel Utility bills for Water and Sewer look very similar to Bethel Utilities Corp. invoices.

Mr. Faulkner: Mentioned that in his opinion that the culverts did not get thawed out in time and wanted to know if the labor for this could be used more effectively. He also voiced a couple of solutions to these and other labor related issues. The first was to have the City look into rental rates for snow-removal and the steaming of culverts or to possibly utilize Community Service Workers from the Tundra Center.

Mr. P. O'Brien: Expressed his thoughts on the conditions of the roads. In his opinion, they are a mess. He also mentioned the idea of having the City go around town and provide the seeding, fertilizing, and mulching of residents sand pads for a fee. As for the enforcement of seeding sand pads, Paul believes that Mike Burley should be the person responsible for the enforcement.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A: THE PURCHASE OF (3) NEW WATER TRUCKS BY THE CITY.

ITEM B: REQUIREMENT OF ADDING SEEDING TO SAND PADS ON ALL RESIDENTIAL SITE PLAN APPLICATIONS TO HELP IN THE REDUCTION OF DUST.

Mike O'Brien thinks that it should be function of the Planning Department to regulate and enforce the seeding of sand pads and the installation of culverts.

Harry thinks that the seeding of sand pads is not the solution to the problem. He believes that it will help somewhat, but what needs to be done is to have the roads paved with asphalt. He also supports the enforcement of sand pad seeding, but does not think it will be all that successful.

Kevin Murphy thinks that seeding sand pads should be a requirement.

Paul O'Brien brought up his idea of having the City perform the hydra seeding to residents for a fee.

Mike O'Brien agrees with this and thinks it should be done in the fall sometime.

Glen Tarr mentioned that the City could set up a waiver system to allow residents the option of having their sand pad seeded or not.

Paul disagrees with this option because he feels that if seeding is required it should be done and not give residents the chance to get out of not seeding their sand pads.

Harry mentioned that during the inspection for water and sewer, the inspector can check and see if seeding was done or not. He also believes that the City should handle the situation just like they handled the honeybucket issue. In other words, give residents a timeframe in, which to not only get their sand pad seeded, but to also install culverts and thaw tubes for the culverts.

Clair Grifka then notified the Committee that the City would not be able go around town and hydra-seed sand pads for a fee.

Harry then brought up the idea that ONC might be willing to purchase a hydra-seeding unit to assist the City with this project.

Mike O'Brien thinks that the department should also begin a campaign of Public Awareness through the use of Public Service Announcements on Cable and with KYUK.

After discussion was finished, the recommendation of the Committee was to start enforcement of seeding, culvert installation, and to amend the ordinance for thaw tubes starting this season.

X ADJOURNMENT

M/M Murphy/Faulkner to adjourn. Motion approved- unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Nick Hively, Public Works Department Administrative Assistant
Posted May 26, 1999: A.C. Value Center, ANICA Family Store,
Swanson's, and Bethel City Offices