
City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

June 7, 2016

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on June 7th, 2016 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Eileen Henrikson *Vice Chair*
Chuck Herman *Council Representative*
Julene Webber
Daniel Maczynski
Ted Meyer *Planning Director*

Absent:

Joan Dewey *Chair*
Naim Shabani

Ex-Officio Present:

Andre Achee *Chief of Police*
Bill Howell *Fire Chief*
Christina Him *Recorder and Transportation Inspector Designee*

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Frank Mazzaro – Has an issue with the new city ordinance #15-21 requiring all taxicabs to have a video surveillance system. Feels that the camera system and the fees/citations associated it with costs a lot of money and feels he doesn't want to be a cab driver anymore. Feels that it is pointless, what if there is maintenance required for his cab, and if he has to disconnect his camera for purposes as these, he would be in violation of the ordinance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to approve the agenda.
SECONDED:	Webber	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of April 5 th , 2016 and May 3 rd , 2016
SECONDED:	Webber	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

VI. CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Chief Bill Howell - *See Report in Commission Packet*

Chief Andre Achee

The police department has tentatively accepted the increase in wages for current existing police officers. The Police and Fire departments came up with a reclassification, public safety classification and if everything goes through by the final ratification, existing officers will get between a 20-25% increase in their base pay. New employees coming in will be compensated in that level that is competitive with the market in Bethel. If everything goes through, we will have another officer back in Bethel by the end of next week, as he is scheduled to graduate from the Academy this Friday.

For the last couple of months, we have been working on our enhanced 9-1-1 system for dispatch. We are implementing an enhanced 9-1-1 system, which will give us (on landlines only right now), the names, addresses, and locations of where the call is calling from. The equipment is being shipped out today; it was received in Anchorage a couple of days ago at the barge and should be delivered tomorrow morning in Bethel. The E9-1-1 crew will come out and hook it up once it is here. We don't have full geo maps yet, but we are working with the Planning department to get the current existing geo map so that it will blend in with the program. We are tentatively looking at getting the system up and operational by July 1st. During that time, there will be specialized training for dispatchers and admin personnel for the utilization of that equipment. The second phase of the new system upgrade will happen sometime next year, it is called Phase 2 and is specifically for cell phones. Currently 9-1-1 calls from cell phones are not able to be located. We applied for a license from the FCC (Federal Communications Commission), however it takes one year for the company (GCI) to be in compliance. The second phase of this enhancement allows us to find out not only who is calling, but also their location from a cell phone if they dial 9-1-1. Right now, only the Bethel hub will get this enhancement for this region. Dispatch is excited about this new upgrade. Additionally, for those that are TTY, the new 9-1-1 system will eliminate a separate keyboard, and everything will be computerized so it is basically voice to text to make it easier for members who need that extra support.

We wrapped up a couple of burglary cases, we had good leads/assistance from the public and we sent out a Press Release. The PD's official Facebook account was launched since our last meeting, and it has been very popular. There was some misconception that Council banded social media, but we do have a social media policy in place. The Council did pass the social media policy. We are compliant with the records aspect of this, as we have a third party vendor that maintains all of the records for us as required since we are a government agency. We are getting very good feedback, and Christina and Natalie are our two primary administrators on our Facebook account. We are also putting out our press release out there, which gives us the

opportunity to put out information faster including our stats. We have profanity filters set up on our site, which allows us to censor certain types of remarks, however, the comments/remarks are still captured by our social media archiving system and it is still part of public record. In 2 weeks, we had 1,000 likes, and we have had over 3,000-4,000 "hits" on some of our press releases that we published on our account. On Mondays we do a "weekend wrap-up", Tuesdays are "Trivia Tuesday", Wednesdays are "Warrant Wednesdays" for outstanding warrants, and Saturdays are "Safety Tip Saturday." We have done that (Warrant Wednesdays) for two weeks, and the public (including villages and local calls) has assisted us in helping locate these individuals, whom were remanded within 3 hours of our post being published on Facebook. It helps us promote our public relations within the community, and puts out information out there as well as linking the public to other sites for informational matters.

We appreciate PSTC's support, as well as Chuck's support on the Council for our budget. We are coming close to the end of the fiscal budget and we are trying to get more equipment needed for the department. Our biggest issue is that pretty much half of our patrol fleet is down, as V&E does not have enough mechanics. However, we have received authorization to get our vehicles serviced at private sectors.

We are assisting AST's WAANT (Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team) unit with the best that we can, however it is their case (in reference to the recent busts). WAANT has received assistance from several different task forces in Alaska to close out their cases. This is an on-going investigation, the WAANT or State Troopers may be putting out a press release soon about what is going on.

We are wrapping up a least 10 residential and business burglaries where a lot of stolen item/equipment was seized, including firearms. The WAANT unit also assisted us with that operation as well as federal authorities because the U.S. Fish & Wildlife was broken into and some of their equipment was taken.

It is great that Council is supporting us with the reclassification/pay range of officers, but we still have to hire some more officers. Sergeant Gwen Drake's last day is the 19th of the month, and we are still down officers. I have been talking to the City Manager about emergency hires, which we are authorized to do per ordinance and possibly to do temporary assignments to supplement existing staff otherwise by July 1st, there will be only one officer on each shift, which will be very dangerous. I have employees that have changed their leaves several times to accommodate the department but I can't do it again, as their personal lives will be devastated. Right now, I have three officers committed that are retired, but still certified, and that has worked in Bethel to help us out. I am hoping that the emergency hires will go through next week, so that we have at least one officer with boots on the ground, especially during the 4th of July weekend. The Fire department has been great in assisting us with alcohol related calls.

VII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

See Report in Commission Packet

VIII. COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Council Member Herman – *I think everyone knows, but I've submitted my letter of resignation, it will be effective on the 15th of this month, so I will no longer be on Council or on this commission. You will be assigned a new council member on this commission; it is possible that it could be a new person. I have no idea who that is going to be, but you will have a new person hopefully by the next meeting. Beyond that, Chief has already covered kind of the main budget stuff that has gone on. We have had about 8 budget meetings so far and a grand total of 0 people that have actually come in to talk about the budget. Other than that, I don't really have anything else to say, if anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.*

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PSTC's Recommendation to increase Police Officer Pay upon Academy Completion

Passed by Council, addressed in Council Packet.

B. Traffic Impact Analysis of the YKHC's Hospital Expansion Project and Ayaprun Elitnaurvik's relocation to the Kipusvik Building (Ted Meyer, City Planning Director)

Discussed, no action taken.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amending BMC Title 5 _ Removing Buses (Council Member Herman)

Requested to be removed by Chief Achee, as this topic has been addressed in the Council Packet.

B. Consideration of a "Neighborhood Watch" Program (Commission Member Maczynski)

Discussed, no action taken.

XI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Julene Webber – I just want to reiterate, thank you Council Member Herman. I wish you well on your endeavors and safe travels. I appreciate the neighborhood watch. I appreciate both Chiefs, always our recorder and Miss Eileen for heading our meeting and being very active in this community.

Chief Andre Achee – Thanks everyone, thank you Chuck. I appreciate you being on the commission as well as on Council, and for having 3 daughters that went to or still in high school; I appreciate you for being at the high school.

Chuck Herman - Thank you all for being on this commission and helping out. It has been pretty cool. I think we've been kind of the most (from my view) productive, effective commission, even though they didn't always listen to us. With the big increase, feels like we

have managed to meet at least the majority of the time we are suppose to and get stuff through, so that was pretty cool.

Daniel Maczynski – I wish I was able to come in sooner, you and my brother kind of inspired me to kind of be more involved in the community. Hope to see you come back. I went to school with you, and you both kind of inspired me to help with the City and be more involved.

Chief Bill Howell – Thank you all for you service on a day like today. Thank you Chuck, it's been a joy working with you.

Christina Him – Best of luck Chuck, thanks everybody for showing up and being active participants, and for running a tight ship here thank you Eileen.

Eileen Henrikson – Again, thank you Chuck for everything, and for your help even not on the commission and city council, you helped me in April.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

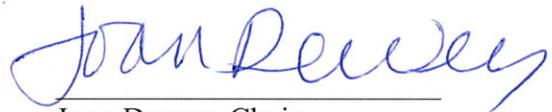
MOVED:	Webber	Motion to adjourn.
SECONDED:	Herman	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

APPROVED THIS 7th DAY OF September, 2016.



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan Dewey, Chair