



CITY OF BETHEL

P.O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559

543-2297—Area Code 907

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 1993

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Abrant called the August 4, 1993, regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: John Abrant, Peter Twitchell, Susan Rapoza
Absent: Sherron Smith, Gary Vanasse

APPROVAL/MINUTES M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Rapoza to approve the minutes of the June 2, 1993, meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/AGENDA M/M by Rapoza, 2nd by Twitchell to approve the agenda. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS
-Ms. Rapoza described a call she had received from a citizen concerning an incident of cruelty to a puppy. She stated that many community members want to know whether the police had pressed charges.
-Lt. Meece replied that to the best of his knowledge, charges were pressed against the man who beat the dog (who was not the animal's owner), but no charge seemed to fit against the dog or its owner for making the noise.
-Ms. Rapoza stated that in this type of incident, and other forms of cruelty to animals, the offenders should be prosecuted. She also suggested that an ordinance be created to require pet owners to be responsible for the noise their animals make.
-A general discussion followed about how other communities deal with the issue, and whether any existing laws or ordinances apply.

-Ms. Rapoza suggested that this animal control issue be added to a future agenda, and that the Animal Control Officer should be invited to attend.

-Mr. Twitchell stated that an additional problem in the incident was that the puppy's owners had called the police and received too slow of a response.

-Mr. Twitchell commented that a truck had been parked in front of his driveway, and it took 4-5 calls over a period of two days to get a response from the police department.

-Lt. Meece said that he was unaware of the two day lapse in response, but he has been working on the vehicle impound procedure. He described a property owner's right to impound a vehicle from his own driveway.

-Mr. Twitchell stated that the vehicle had been a nuisance, and a safety hazard (obstruction of vision to the road). He said that the police need to respond to calls more quickly.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD (none)

NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Fireworks

-Chairman Abrant read the fireworks ordinance as a prelude to discussion.

-Ms. Rapoza re-capped Chris Liu's reluctance to make the fireworks decision for the community. She agreed that the decision should not be made by one person, and asked for suggestions of who should be responsible.

-Mr. Twitchell likes the idea of a committee, with input from the public and the fire department.

-Mr. Young stated that he heard there were a lot of fireworks this year, despite the ban.

-Mr. Abrant stated that he would like to know how many citations were issued this year, and asked how well the Police Chief enforced his decision. Mr. Abrant said that he had also heard that there were a lot of fireworks.

-Mr. Young qualified that many people took their fireworks to safer areas, like the sand pits and the river.

-Mr. Abrant suggested the following for a

committee to make the fireworks decision: at least three (an odd number) of people, including the Chief of Police, Fire Chief, City Manager, with recommendations from the Public Safety Committee.

-Mr. Twitchell supported Abrant's proposal, and suggested that the next meeting of City Council include a public hearing to change ordinance 9.08.050.

motion

M/M by Rapoza, 2nd by Twitchell to change the fireworks ordinance 9.08.050 to hold a public hearing to add the Fire Chief and City Manager to the decision making process. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B: Police
Dept. Open House

-Connie Johnson reviewed the status of open house plans.

-Ms. Rapoza commented that the last open house was generally successful, but the Police Officers themselves were not very visible. She also stated that the Committee members should volunteer time and resources.

-General discussion followed in which all committee members volunteered resources and time, and made suggestions about the coordination of the project. All members showed interest and support for the open house, which is scheduled for August 15.

motion

M/M by Twitchell to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Rapoza. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

THE DATE AND TIME FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WAS NOT SET.

Connie Johnson
Police Department Admin. Asst.