

PORT COMMISSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 16, 2000

- CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairman DeSousa called the meeting to order at 7:43 PM.
- ROLL CALL:** Present were Commissioners DeSousa, Leary, Kreider & Rodgers, absent was Richardson. Also in attendance were Port Director Elliott & assistant Walsh.
- MINUTES:** Motion made by Rodgers and 2nd by Kreider to approve minutes of Sept 18, 2000 as is Motion passes unanimously.
- AGENDA:** Motion made by Rodgers and 2nd by Leary to approve agenda with no changes. Motion passed unanimously.
- PORT DIRECTOR:** Port Directors reports of 10/2/00 & 10/16/00 provided in commissioners packets, Mr. Elliott said there was nothing else to report.
Mr. DeSousa asked when the additional security cameras were to be installed. Mr. Elliott said he had some work to do to get the poles ready, and anticipated Guardian Security would be here to install the new cameras sometime between mid April and early May.
Mr. Rodgers wanted to know what hours the Port Attendant would be working this winter, per an earlier conversation with Jane at the City's main office, he will be working 20 hours per week at the port and 10 to 20 hours per week for the Utilities Dept. This should allow him time to open and close the front gates on the dock and do security checks as well as change the tapes on the current schedule. He will be under the direct supervision of City Manager Herron.
- COUNCIL REP:** Mr. Rodgers was elected as the new mayor for the City of Bethel, congratulations Mr. Rodgers. He will continue to be the Council Representative to the Port Commission. He has annual training this winter and has a very busy schedule.
Mr. Rodgers presented Mr. Elliott & Ms. Walsh with Plaques of appreciation for a job well done. Mr. Rodgers will work on getting a mandate from the City Council to have all outstanding service recognized.
- COMMISSIONERS:** Mr. Kreider – glad to see the last fuel barge here. He will be gone for a while.

Mr. Rodgers – is on the Board of Directors for Bethel Native Corporation, and was proud to announce he had been elected as the BNC representative to the AFN convention. He wanted to know if there was anything the port commission felt he should bring up at the convention?

Mr. DeSousa – has contacted Governor Knowles about the high fuel prices in Bethel, they are the highest in the state. The increased price in fuel and the resultant higher cost of freight will cause the cost of all goods and commodities in Bethel to go up. He is concerned about Northland Holding having a monopoly, now they have purchased Bethel Fuel Sales and they own Yukon Fuel, who delivers fuel to BFS, Northland also owns Yutana Barge Lines and several other companies related to the fuel and commodity transportation in the area. Apparently they are trying to purchase additional tank farms in the YK Delta.
The question is what can we do to alleviate the increased cost of living resulting from the fuel price increase.

A general discussion followed with ideas and suggestions forth coming from members of the commission. Mr. Elliott had been told Yutana Barge Lines may have to fly fuel to some villages they were not able to supply this summer.

Mr. Leary has heard fuel is actually cheaper if flown in bulk of at least 5,000 gal at a time from Anchorage. There was a question if the city would be entitled to thru put on fuel flown in to Bethel, especially if it was delivered BFS?

NEW BUSINESS:

LIGHTING ON DOCK

Mr. Leary – wanted to know if it was possible to get better lighting on the city dock, the streetlights currently in use do not provide enough light and do not always work. He stated the poor lighting is especially dangerous during the fall when barges are being unloaded. Currently people who are just sight seeing or are looking for goods which have come in on the barge, often drive on the dock around where heavy equipment is working, they do not watch for the equipment and cause a hazard to themselves and others. With the current lighting a heavy equipment operator may not be able to see a vehicle or a person who has gotten out of their vehicle and is walking around on the dock. Possibly stadium lights could be installed, even if they were only turned on when the barges were here.

Mr. Rodgers – How do we go about getting the better lighting.

Mr. Elliott – The city council would need to approve the cost in the budget. Mr. Elliott will check into the cost effectiveness of getting new better lights. Many of the new lights use less power and would provide better light for the barges when they unload and for the security cameras. Having better lights would reduce the possibility of accidents lowering the possible liability exposure for the city.

Once the city council has approved the budget expenditure an RFP would be needed.

Motion made by Mr. Rodgers directing the Port Director to check into the lighting effectiveness for the dock and small boat harbor. 2nd by Mr. Kreider – passed unanimously.

CLOSURE OF MAIN GATE ON DOCK

Mr. Leary requested the main gate on the dock be closed during the unloading of the barges, due to the problem of unauthorized persons on the dock at these times. People who want to watch the barge being unloaded or looking for freight brought in on the barge. Freight is not available until all unloading and sorting has been done. Mr. Elliott said next year he could station a Port Attendant at the closed gate when barges are being unloaded, this port attendant would only open the gate for persons who had authorization to be on the dock. Authorized personnel would be port employees, employees of the Barge Company and the barge company agent who is unloading the barge. This is important for security and liability purposes.

Motion made by Mr. Rodgers to have the main gate closed during the loading and unloading of the barges and to have a port attendant man the gate to restrict unauthorized persons from being on the dock at these times, 2nd by Mr. Leary and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Leary requested the cost effectiveness of getting remote control gate openers be looked into at the same time as the lighting. This could be used at all times deemed necessary and would limit access to persons having the remote gate openers. If it seems viable it could be done later.

TARIFF

Ms. Walsh asked if the port commission could review the tariff this winter for possible changes, there were some areas she had noticed that might be in need of updating. One of these being the tariff on outbound frozen fish, building supplies, pipe and steel are other areas of concern. Motion made by Mr. Leary and 2nd by Mr. Rodgers to have a work session this winter to review the Tariff and ordinances and make changes as appropriate. These will be sent to Mr. Elliott and Ms. Walsh before being submitted to the City council for approval. Motion passed unanimously. Thanks to Mr. Leary the port currently has a copy of the Bristol Bay tariff and he will get a tariff Nome and Dillingham for comparison.

Mr. DeSousa asked Mr. Elliott to make a list of anything he feels might need to be dealt with in a work session this winter, especially in regards to the small boat harbor or tariff.

Mr. Leary suggested that next year Mr. Elliott and Ms. Walsh should attend the Harbor Masters conference in Kodiak. This will require an approval for funds to do this in the budget.

Mr. Elliott – reported the current floats at the small boat harbor would not last much longer, next summer at best. He has submitted a letter to Mr. Steve Pannone with A. S. C. G. to have them write up the specification for the floats. Mr. Elliott has requested we add another 200' float for a total of 6 instead of the current 5. There was general discussion on the method of construction and construction materials. Mr. Elliott says he does not expect A. S. C. G. to have the specifications back to him before he leaves in November. This is another item that will need to be put in next year's budget prior to the RFP going out. Mr. Elliott stressed it is very important the design allow for the up and down motion of the floats due to tide and use. The Port Commission and Mr. Elliott check the specification prior to writing the RFP to make sure the design will work. The commission was very interested in making sure the RFP for the new floats be made available to local manufacturers, when possible the port prefers to use local contractors.

Mr. DeSousa – Mentioned there would not be a secretary this winter. Last year the city was not able to provide the minutes and agendas as needed. The commission requested Mr. Elliott talk to Mr. Herron and see if arrangements can be made for Port Commission meetings on a teleconference with Ms. Walsh. She will be able to do the agenda's, type the minutes, do the tariff changes etc. Mr. Elliott explained since we worked for several weeks short 2 port attendants, there should be money in the payroll account for this. Agenda's will be faxed to the port office, the port attendant should be able to make the appropriate number of copies and post them. Ms. Walsh will fax the minutes and other documents for the commission packets so the port attendant can make up the packets and deliver the to the commissioners.

There was a quick review of the accounts receivable and accounts that were sent to the attorney for collection.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to adjourn the meeting, motion was 2nd by Mr. Leary, and passed unanimously.