



# CITY OF BETHEL

P.O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559

543-2297—Area Code 907

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 1993

- CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Abrant called the November 3, 1993, regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 12:19 p.m.
- ROLL CALL** Present: Abrant, Twitchell, Tubbs  
Absent: Susan Rapoza (excused), Sherron Smith
- APPROVAL/MINUTES** M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Tubbs to approve the minutes of the August 4, 1993, meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.
- APPROVAL/AGENDA** M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Tubbs to amend the agenda to include Item D: Amendment to Animal Control Ordinance #177. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.
- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**  
-Mr. Twitchell stated that it is good to see the police department hiring natives.  
-Mr. Tubbs announced that he is glad to be on the committee, and hopes for regular attendance of all members in order to effectively address issues.  
-Chairman Abrant questioned the vacancy of Sherron Smith's seat. He suggested that the committee should wait thirty days for notification from Sherron, and place the item on the agenda for the next meeting.  
-Chief Liu pointed out that the committee vacancy has already been announced on cable.
- PEOPLE TO BE HEARD** (none)
- NEW BUSINESS**  
Item A: Department Head -Chief Young summarized the success of the Fire Prevention activities in October,

Reports

including school visitation and the department open house. He stated that the free smoke detector tests yielded 22 defective smoke detectors, and that between 600 and 700 children visited the Fire Station in October. Young welcomed Mr. Tubbs to the committee.

-Chief Liu described personnel vacancies including two police officer positions and one drug investigator position. CSO Anthony Olick will be promoted to Police Officer in December. Liu described the recent shooting incident, and thanked the various departments and agencies who participated. He mentioned several areas of training that the department is currently involved in. Liu stated that he and Sgt. Short would be covering all calls on Nov. 8-10 while officers attend Reid Technique training in interviewing, which will be held at the fire department.

Item B:  
Installing Street  
Lights/Caution  
Lights

-Mr. Tubbs stated that City Council had approved yellow flashing lights at school crossings, and wanted to cooperate in the implementation of the school guard program. He explained that the city is seeking resources to pay for additional street lights. Tubbs stated that it is impossible to see children waiting at bus stops because of inadequate lighting, and questioned whether the Fire Department could distribute reflective tape.

-Chief Young advised that there is already free reflective tape available through YKHC's Accident and Injury Prevention department.

-Chairman Abrant added that YKHC has been at M.E. and Kilbuck, ironing on a lot of reflective tape. He then expressed concern that the public safety committee should avoid redundancy with the Bethel Advisory School Board (ASB). The two entities should either work together on the issues, or separately pursue different aspects of the problem. Abrant also stated that the ASB thinks Nate Brown should move the bus stops to existing lighted areas.

-Chief Liu stated that Kilbuck and M.E. are

willing to put floodlights on school grounds. He described the availability of a grant for up to \$5,000 for safety equipment. Liu asserted that the community needs to pitch in, rather than just leaving it to the city to take care of. Liu recommended a joint sub-committee of the School Board and the Public Safety Committee.

-Mr. Twitchell stated that it is important to send Council the message that the schools are working on the problem.

motion

M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Tubbs: The Public Safety Committee recommends Councilman Tubbs to coordinate efforts with the Bethel Advisory School Board and the Lower Kuskokwim School District concerning traffic hazards within school zones and the safety of school children. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C: Crossing  
Guard Program

-Chief Liu stated that at the ASB meeting, he urged parents, teachers, the school board, and the city to work together to implement a crossing guard program. He described how high school students might be used as crossing guards to meet their community service requirement. Liu outlined the necessary steps to be taken: Obtain grant for equipment, compile a list of volunteers, make a schedule, and provide training. Liu relayed Rex Lauber's willingness to provide training through the YKHC.

-General discussion revealed a consensus to work with the ASB on the crossing guard program.

Item D: Amendment  
to Animal Control

-Animal Control Officer Mike Burley explained that the Alaska Statute permits each city to define its own "disturbance of the peace" laws. He stated that Bethel Ordinances do not include noise/nuisance situations. The problem in enforcing animal control is that there is no law there to enforce. Burley reports that when talking to the pet owner doesn't work, the problem can lead civil litigation or physical harm to the animal. ACO Burley read ordinance 6.04.020, and

proposed to change item D to read, "An owner shall prevent the dog from engaging in the following activities: barking, whining, or howling in an excessive, continuous, or untimely fashion," and move the prior item D to make it item E. Burley reported that he has contacted several other communities to compare animal control laws, and that he has tried to write an amendment that would not immediately put a large number of pet owners in violation. Burley requested a second amendment, that the word "shall" be changed to "may" in 6.04.090, to allow the animal control officer some discretion in issuing citations. He stated that often the owner shows responsibility simply by paying impound or licensing fees, rather than by paying a fine for a citation.

-Chief Liu supported the amendments, and assured the committee that changing "shall" to "may" will allow for warnings, but the law will be enforced in a consistent manner according to departmental policy.

motion

M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Tubbs, to request a public hearing for the proposed amendments to Ordinance 177, Sections 6.04.020 and 6.04.090. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Items Proposed For  
Next Agenda:

A: Report from Mr. Tubbs on Coordination with Bethel Advisory School Board

motion

M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Tubbs to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WILL OCCUR ON  
DECEMBER 6, 1993, 12:00 P.M., AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

  

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Connie Johnson  
Police Department Admin. Asst.