
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

May 11, 2004

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on May 11, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Short called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following were present:

Hugh Short, Jr.	Hugh Dyment
Dave Trantham	Andrei Jacobs
R. Thor Williams	

Excused absence(s): Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers – via telephone until 7:00 pm.

Unexcused absence(s):

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Amanda Byington, City Clerk

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Council appointment to fill a vacancy

Mayor Short gave each person 5 minutes to address the Council

5 minutes break to go over the candidate's letters of interest

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| 1. Ed Pironti | 7. Kent Harding |
| 2. Agnes Phillips | 8. John Dickens |
| 3. Paul Alfonse | 9. Dan Leinberger |
| 4. Yolanda Jorgenson | 10. Carl Berger |
| 5. Ap'a (David) Bonaud | 11. Sherry Neth - not present |
| 6. Michael O'Brien | 12. Joan Hamilton – not present |

Council then used a point system to determine three candidates to move on to the interview stage.

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| 1. Michael O'Brien | 2. Kent Harding | 3. Dan Leinberger |
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Questions were then asked of each candidate from each Council Member on various issues concerning the community. Some were given scenarios, and asked to respond with their best judgment.

Another vote was taken.

1. Michael O'Brien
2. Dan Leinberger

Another round of questions were asked and the last vote to choose the person to fill the vacancy

1. Michael O'Brien – 3
2. Dan Leinberger – 2

5-minute break

Council then took another round of voting

1. Michael O'Brien-4
2. Dan Leinberger-1

Michael O'Brien took his oath of office and then joined the other members on the bench.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Curtis Neck – donation request follow-up

- Goal is 16,000 – have received 11,000
- Last year Council gave the Spanish group 2,000 for their trip

Mayor Short responded that this issue will be brought up during budget work sessions and will get back to them.

Debra Thompson – Library funding

- Thanks for time to speak
- Reminded everyone of the impact of the library on this community
- Have applied for grants and have received some small grants to add 75 new books to the library
- Need source of funding that is recurring and will match the rising costs
- Asking for a 4% increase of the library, and retro-active to 1996
- Is working on setting up a Friends of the Library and other fundraising stuff
- The increase would equal 2,600-ultimate of the retro-active is 13,000

Agnes Phillips

- Liquor store issues
- Will support a city owned liquor store
- ONC recognizes her with her work with elders and teaching of traditional dance
- Nominate her father, Fred Pete Sr., for honorary boat harbor person to replace Datu Sameulson
- Gave background of her fathers experiences

Helen Bush – Finance Committee Chairperson

- She mentioned all the people who volunteer on this committee
- Committee works well together and are optimistic
- Revenue generation is a goal of the committee
 - Meters on trucks
- Unanimously supported two Resolutions: 04-01 Water and Sewer Equalization, and 04-02: Repealing Ordinance 04-03- Dumpster Ordinance.

Motion made on 5-25-04 to record the conversation between Vice-Mayor Williams and Helen Bush verbatim from this point forward.

Williams: I am trying to figure out what came to the finance committee concerning Ordinance 04-03 and what was stated to the committee about that ordinance. and what was the intent of the Council to the finance committee about Ordinance 04-03.

Bush: Your going to have to forgive me, the last two meetings I have been absent. As vice-pres for AVCP, we are heading towards an audit. I remember briefly discussing the ordinance coming up and having a discussion on the impact to the various consumers and businessmen, and that where we left it. We would hope that at some point we would have some advice that would have an impact on future ordinance. Some of the questions that came up were about the BNC complex, and I think as it reads and correct me if I am wrong “every business has to have a dumpster” No. Okay. That was one of the questions that came up. I did not get a chance to read the ordinance that night. I think we just wanted clarification. We want to discuss it, to bring some light not only to our committee but also to the community as far as a revenue generation goes, people have discussed this with me and questioned it, I am not informed enough to give them answers. I think this would give me an opportunity to buy into it, and then be able to inform other people with in the community.

Williams: Because part of this ordinance was given back to Finance to improve not to repeal. It was to improve that or ordinance, and if your committee has not read the ordinance or understand the ordinance or contacted me who introduced that ordinance. or the administration to get clarification of what the ordinance was suppose to be and then you come back to Council and say the only ordinance that has passed Council since I have been on Council to generate revenues doesn't need to happen I am concerned about the process.

Bush: I have been gone the last two meeting. I support my committee and the Finance Director. Please forgive me for not being as prepared as I need to be. Don't misunderstand that as maybe the committee is not knowledgeable on this ordinance and hasn't come to a decision that they feel fit.

Mary Gregory – Vice-Chair of the Senior Advisory Board

- The board has unanimously passed a Resolution in support of full funding for the Center which will be addressed by their Representative Dave Trantham later in the meeting
- She then read a petition into record
- She spoke on behalf of the ONC council which she is apart of too. She reported that ONC is looking forward to the transfer of the Senior Services

Katie Albright

- Spoke about going to the Senior Center and how the elders enjoy it
- Spoke about how they cook for her so she don't have too
- She then spoke about all the help that ONC has given her

Yolanda Jorgenson

- Spoke about smoking in non-smoking areas
- Spoke about the ordinance dealing with smoking in public
- Asked Council who enforces the ordinance?
- Spoke about maybe forming a group of citizens to enforce the ordinance.
- Spoke about wanting a woman to serve on Council
- Garbage issues, plastic bags

MOVED BY:	Williams	To suspend the rules to go past 10:00 pm
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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- Encouraged everyone to get out and take part in Green-up Clean-up.
- Suggested to extend Clean-up Green-up through the fall
- Community recreation center is a topic of concern for her
- She gave some examples of how to achieve a new recreation center, impound lot and a police station

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To approve the minutes of the 4-27-04 meeting as amended
SECONDED BY:	O'Brien	

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VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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APPROVAL OF CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Williams	To approve the agenda as amended
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

Move item A of New Business to the next order of business, eliminate item B unfinished, removing Resolution #04-12-lack of Public Works giving recommendation to Council as re requested, remove item D from consent agenda Resolution 04-10, remove Sales Tax Audit discussion

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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5-minute break

Matthew Nicholai-President of Calista Corporation presentation to Council

- Regional Energy Plan
- Regional Economic Development Corporation
- Borough Study
- Donlin Creek Exploration Project

MOVED BY:	Williams	To recess the rest of the agenda until May 12, 2004 due to the late hour
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes 5-1 (Short)
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MOVED BY:	Dymment	To recess at 12:00 am.
SECONDED BY:	Williams	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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Approved this 8th day of June 2004.

ATTEST:

Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

Amanda Byington, City Clerk