

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 12, 1973

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Councilmen Connick at 7:45 p.m., KVNA Building.

ROLL CALL

Present: Connick, Hoffman, Murphy, Romer
Absent: Cooke, Gregory, Guinn

READING OF MINUTES

Minutes of the last meeting 2-26-73 were read by the City Clerk and John Shuler. After the reading of the minutes Connick brought out that there was a change under Old Business. Councilman Murphy's name was included in the vote on Brown Slough, since it had been omitted. The minutes were then accepted as read.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Commissioner Chapple - I. D. System

Shuler at this time read a letter that he had received from Commissioner Emery Chapple. In the letter it stated that the State would possibly provide identification services for citizens.

2. Representative Letters

Enclosed were letters from Morris and Senator Ted Stevens and both were very much in favor of a local hire for a BIA Superintendent for the Bethel area.

MANAGERS REPORT

Shuler reported that he and Lyman had finished the financial status report for the City. In his report Shuler reported that the City would have a \$13,000 deficit by July 1, 1973. The City will have the sanitation and water schedule operating by the 1st of April. The City has approximately \$25,000 in outstanding bills for water, sanitation and garbage. People owing over \$75.00 on their utility accounts have been cut off for water and garbage. He also reported that he had written letters to some businesses in the City of Bethel regarding Sales Tax and that if they failed to pay City Sales Tax by March 15th he would bring them to court.

Many Saturday water, sanitation and garbage scheduled for other days since Saturday schedules are over loaded at this time. Shuler informed Bethel citizens to watch their water schedules and to call the City Office if they are being missed on the schedule. Shuler stated that no bids were received for the Jeep. AVCP had requested that the Liquor Store be closed the latter part of the week since they were holding an important meeting on the 15th, 16th, and 17th of March. Shuler stated he had reviewed the Sales Tax Ordinance and found that any and all people from villages are required to pay Sales Tax within the City limits of Bethel. This is only when they come into town to buy groceries, oil, etc. He also found out from the Bureau of Land Management that the land at the city dump was reserved for the City. He introduced Trudy LaVigne and Marie Mahnke from the Public Employment Program who were here to answer any questions concerning the program.

Time sheets were ordered for the City employees and these are now being used. He wrote a letter to the Postmaster in Anchorage regarding the city's interest in submitting a bid to provide a facility for the Bethel Post Office.

MAYORS REPORT

No report was heard. Connick stated he very much appreciated the attendance of people at this meeting. Paul Gregory translated.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD AND COMMENTS

Hoffman suggested that the closing of the Liquor Store be put on the agenda for tonight's discussion. Murphy suggested it being put under new business.

At this time Paul Gregory stated that he has been getting quite a few comments from the village people and the residents of Bethel showing their appreciation of having any interest discussed during council meetings and translated over the air.

Mrs. LaVigne at this time stated that she represented PEP and briefly explained the program. Mary Gregory questioned what the status of the funds were. Mrs. LaVigne stated that the cut off date was the 30th of April but they hoped that it would be extended.

Murphy stated that at the last council meeting it was decided that discussion of the Motor Musers and the City Cemetery were to be on tonight's agenda and wanted to know why they weren't. Shuler replied that he had talked to Terry Yager and he requested that they not be put on the agenda since problems were pretty well straightened out now.

The discussion of the U. S. Post Office was put on the agenda under New Business. It was suggested that the discussion of the water rates be put on the agenda for the next council meeting.

Hoffman stated that he suggested to Shuler not to have the discussion of the new cemetery on tonight's agenda but wanted it put on the agenda for the next regular council meeting.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Murphy stated that he had people talk to him about dog control. His suggestion was that they hire some boys from the dormitory at \$3.00 an hour and a \$1.00 bonus for any additional dogs they catch. These boys could work once a month, 4 hours for the afternoon. He also suggested that the dogs not be shot at all but put them in the dog pound.

Hoffman read a letter from Sig Strandsberg with the office of Community of Regional Affairs, regarding the Alaska Municipal Code.

Tom Anderson reported that the Fire Codes Committees' first meeting had been held with Savaria, Baxter, Guinn, Murphy and himself attending that meeting. In that meeting they reviewed various codes and ordinances regarding fire codes. It was discovered by Rae Baxter that the council had adopted Ordinance #42 regarding building, codes, and nothing has been done to enforce this ordinance. He had sent a letter to the City Manager listing the fee schedules, zoning of areas, etc.

OLD BUSINESS1. Ordinance 51 - Civil Defense Public Hearing

Shuler stated that this had been presented at the last regular Council Meeting. The municipal Code requires that any ordinance be read or handed out to all present. This ordinance has been posted and sent to the Kuskokwim Kronicle. He then read the ordinance.

Shuler stated that this ordinance defines what the City's responsibilities are in case of disaster.

M/M Romer, Murphy, I move that we accept the Civil Defense Ordinance #51 as read. This was a roll call vote with Connick, Hoffman, Murphy and Romer all voting yes and this passed unanimously.

2. Moving Old City Office Building - Lease Violation

Shuler said that in his mailings to the council members he had included a copy of a letter from Bud Jepson, Branch Manager of Northern Commercial. In this letter Jepson pointed out that another party was renting the old office building and this was violating a City lease agreement with N. C.. In the letter it stated that the City move the building from its present location by March 31st since this is on N. C. property. Jepson also requested information as to the City's plans on the usage of the Old City Jail. M/M Murphy, Connick, I move that the Department of Public Works be given the responsibility of moving the old city office building to a new location no later than March 31st. Voice vote and this carried unanimously.

Murphy stated that bids be put out on moving the museum to the City complex.

Connick also brought out that there were no bids received on the jeep. It was decided to bid the jeep with no minimum price established.

Paul Gregory translated.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance

Shuler requested that a hearing date be set to discuss the Taxi Ordinance #52. At this hearing it can be determined whether to adopt the Ordinance, the number of permits, who gets permits, how much to charge for permits, etc.

It was suggested that March 26th be set as hearing date for the Taxi Ordinance, for public review and council action. It was also suggested that March 19th be set as hearing date for the Community Wide Planning Ordinance and the Acquisition/Disposal of City Land Ordinance.

M/M Murphy, Romer, I move that the hearing date for the Taxi Ordinance be held at the next regular council meeting and the hearing date for the Community Wide Planning Ordinance and the Acquisition/Disposal of City Land Ordinance be held on the 19th of March. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. Liquor Store/City Relationship

Shuler stated that he had mailed a packet to Council members regarding the relationship of the City and the Liquor Store. His recommendations were that: Community Liquor Sales comply with their Articles of Incorporation and that money received from the Liquor Store over and above expenses be turned over monthly to the City. This would include any and all savings, time deposits, checking accounts surpluses, etc.

Hoffman at this time requested that the City close the Liquor Store in the 15th, 16th, and 17th, during the upcoming AVCP meeting since this is a very important meeting. He brought out that people come to Bethel to conduct business and not to drink. He had asked Harold Napoleon to talk to the bar managers regarding opening bars at a later hour. Attending guest at the Council Meeting, Bud Riley stated that he felt the Council should not close the bars and Liquor Store.

Paul Gregory translated.

Romer stated that he was in favor of Hoffman's suggestions. He also suggested that a letter be written to the AVCP members and in that letter stress the importance of that upcoming meeting.

M/M Murphy, Hoffman, I move that the 2 bars be closed on Thursday & Friday until 5:00 p.m. and Saturday until 4:00 p.m., and that the Liquor Store be closed on Thursday and Friday and open on Saturday from 4-7 p.m.

During the discussion of the motion various people brought out that these people should not be treated like children but as adults. It was brought that the villages send in people who will represent their villages during meetings.

Murphy brought out that we have the same problem with people who are sent into Anchorage and other places who are supposed to be representing the City of Bethel during meetings. M/M Romer, Connick, I move that we continue the meeting past 10 p.m. Voice vote carried.

Main motion was put to vote and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Murphy suggested that Shuler meet with the Liquor Board to discuss this on Thursday or Friday. It was decided that the Liquor Store Board would meet with the Council and Asst City Manager the 21st.

3. Sea Wall Status

Shuler stated that Hohman had said that any part of the balance of the \$235,000 from the Brown Slough/Emergency Repair Grant could be used for the Sea Wall Repair if necessary. \$200,000 was intended for Brown Slough relocation of families but boundary changes have been made along the channel thus not receiving the whole amount. \$15,000 have been used from the original \$50,000 for the Sea Wall. Hohman had suggested that the bids be advertised as Silides had prepared them.

Fulton asked who owned the \$250,000 and Shuler replied that this is taken out of the Brown Slough/Emergency Repair fund. Hohman had said the council could use part of or all of the Brown Slough funds for the Sea Wall repair.

Connick suggested that the City use every means to get the emergency repair done on the Sea Wall.

Butch Laroux stated that the City should have more input from the citizens of Bethel. He said that the Council should get ideas from the people of Bethel before acting on this. James Hoffman suggested that the City advertise for bids to have the Sea Wall repaired. Councilman Hoffman at this time stated that the Council in the bid ask that the asphalt be moved to this side of town across the old airport and that this be done during winter time.

Connick asked that the Sea Wall Status be put on the agenda for the regular council meeting on March 19th. Connick then appointed a committee to have reports and plans for discussion at the next council meeting. The following people were appointed to be on the committee: Ed Hoffman, James Hoffman, Kevin Murphy, Butch Laroux, Bud Jepson, Terry Yager and Roy Longbotham. Hoffman requested to have this committee meet on Sunday, March 18th and all interested persons attend.

At this time Harold Napoleon, Director for AVCP, was given an opportunity to speak. Napoleon stated that he wasn't in favor of having the 2 bars and the Liquor Store being closed during the AVCP Meetings. He said that these people who come in are

able to take care of themselves while in Bethel for the meetings.

4. AVEC Request for Land

It was brought out that AVEC had requested for land along the highway. AVCP had passed a resolution giving the City 300 feet of land along the highway, but this land deed can not be located. Thus no land exists to give AVEC.

5. Post Office

Shuler said that he had written a letter to the Postmaster in Anchorage expressing the City's desire to bid for space.

Connick brought out that the expenses for the Braund Building are quite high within one month's period. He stated that the building should be utilized and that part of it should be rented or leased out to help pay for the building.

Shuler also stated that it costs the City \$1,000 a month for electricity alone.

A suggestion was brought out why not use the space available for recreation center for young and old people alike? It was brought out that there are 3 City buildings now being used for youth recreation centers.

6. Dog Control

M/M Murphy, Hoffman, I move this be on a trial basis and hire 3 dog kids at \$3.00 a hour and a \$1.00 bonus be given for each additional dog they catch for 1 day a month.

During the discussion of the motion it was brought out that in the past dogs had been shot. It was brought out that these dogs not be shot but put in the pound and if owners failed to pick up dogs then shoot them.

Motion was put to vote and it passed unanimously with a voice vote.

M/M Romer, Connick, I move that we adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

I hereby certify these minutes to be true and correct to the best of knowledge.


Carrie Kashatok, City Clerk


Margaret Cooke, Mayor