

City of Bethel
City Council

Regular Meeting of February 22, 1994

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:30 PM by Mayor Chris in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chris, Jones, Miller, Trantham,
Wintersteen
Absent: Metcalfe, Tubbs

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

There were no people to speak under this portion of the meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Trantham to approve the minutes of the February 8, 1994, regular meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/REGULAR AGENDA

Councilmembers Trantham Miller requested New Business Items B (Ordinance #94-07) and C (Resolution #94-09), respectively, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

motion M/M by Trantham, 2nd by Wintersteen to approve by consent, Items A, and C under New Business. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Wintersteen, 2nd by Miller to approve the regular agenda. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chris referred Council to the letter from the Cultural Center User Committee requesting donations for the purchase of chairs for the Cultural Center. Councilmember Trantham suggested a donation of \$1,500. Councilmember Jones spoke in opposition to donating City monies for this project. Mr. Trantham requested that the item be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. In addition, Councilmember Wintersteen pointed out that Governor Hickel had vetoed the operating budget

for the Cultural Center. It was the consensus of the Council to go on record to request that the Governor put back funding for the operation of the Center. Mayor Chris agreed to write a letter to Governor Hickel advising him of the Council's position on this matter.

Mayor Chris advised Council that she and the City Manager would be out of town on March 8, the date of the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. Council members agreed to postpone the March 8 meeting to Monday, March 14, 1994.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Hunter reviewed his written report with Council. Mr. Hunter announced that the City's application for a Community Development Block Grant for sanitation improvements was approved for funding not to exceed \$200,000. The grant agreement would be negotiated and brought before Council for approval.

City Manager Hunter requested direction on the following items:

1. Investigation of Ordinance for Off-Road Vehicles

motion Miller/Trantham to direct City Administration to investigate through the Public Safety Committee the feasibility of establishing an ordinance for off-road vehicles. Voice vote. Motion carried 4-yes (Chris, Miller, Trantham, Wintersteen; 1-no (Jones).

Councilmember Miller commented that the City needed to establish a mechanism that would allow off-road vehicles to operate legally. Councilmember Jones pointed out that the State of Alaska would not recognize City ordinances as there are State statutes that regulate off-road vehicles. Regarding the question of liability to the City, Councilmember Jones requested an opinion from the City Attorney.

2. Sand Purchase

City Manager Hunter advised Council that he had been contacted by the Department of Transportation regarding the purchase of sand from the City for the Bethel Airport Project and that a draft contract had been submitted by DOT. A brief discussion followed. Harry Faulkner stated that he had not been contacted by an engineer from DOT for these services. Finance Director Elam pointed out that the 1990 agreement for the purchase of sand provided for payment of \$1.12 per cubic yard, while the draft contract as presented provided for payment of \$1.00 per cubic yard.

motion M/M by Trantham, 2nd by Jones to approve the material sale agreement between the City of Bethel and the Department of Transportation for 40,000 cubic yards of material to be used for the construction of the Bethel Airport Runway Stabilization project at a price negotiated by the City Manager, providing that the sand from the City's sandpit is the only available source of material that meets the required specifications of the Department of Transportation in the immediate area.

Informational Items/Discussion on the City Manager's Report:

1. City Manager Hunter introduced Harry Parsi, the new Public Works Director.
2. City Manager Hunter advised Council that he had met briefly with Steve Eng of Village Safe Water. Mr. Hunter discussed with Mr. Eng the shortfall the City was experiencing as a result of the cost overruns on the lagoon project, and how the City was going to cover these additional costs.
3. Regarding Mr. Hunter's request for comments or concerns with respect to the CH2M Hill Draft Report, Councilmember Trantham stated that he was still receiving comments from the public, and that he would provide these comments to the City Manager.
4. Councilmember Trantham requested the City obtain a final report on the completion of Phase I of the sewer lagoon project from the Project Manager, Jordan Suhr, and certification that the project at this stage met the required specifications. Mayor Chris asked Mr. Trantham to meet with both the City Manager and Mr. Parsi and provide details of his recommendations.
5. Councilmember Miller requested the City Manager and the Public Works Director to evaluate the concern expressed by Charles Wade, Acting Director, KUC, in his letter to the City regarding a major leak from the sewer line that passes through the College's lift station. City Manager stated that this matter would be addressed during the budgeting process and pointed out the need for a five-year capital improvements budget that would provide for on-going maintenance for the sewer system.
6. Mayor Chris addressed the letter to Robert Graham regarding the installation of a honeypot by Mr. Graham for his tenants. Mayor Chris stated that she was not aware of a municipal ordinance that required a landlord to install water and sewer facilities in rental properties. City Manager Hunter stated

that a meeting between he and Mr. Graham had been scheduled and that he would provide the Mayor and City Council with a full report on the results of that meeting.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Scheduled dates of upcoming Committee/Commission meetings were announced.

Councilmember Jones reported that the Finance Committee met on February 17, 1994, and referred Council to the minutes. Items discussed included: 1) The City make every effort possible to buy locally and that a preference be given to local merchants up to a difference of 5%; 2) the intent of the sales tax exemption of senior citizens is to exempt all persons over 65 from payment of sales tax for all their transactions; 3) the recycling program -- The Finance Committee recommended to the City Council that City participation in the recycling program be halted until the required reports from the Can Man are submitted.

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Miller to direct City departments to purchase materials/supplies locally if the price is within 5% of prices charges by out of city merchants including postage and freight. Motion was withdrawn.

Councilmember Trantham stated that he did not believe the City's purchasing ordinance provided for this type of stipulation. Council requested review of the purchasing ordinance to consider a local preference for purchasing and placement of this question on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

motion M/M by Jones to halt all City participation in the recycling program until the City Manager receives complete and current financial reports from the Recycling Program Coordinator. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Mr. Glasheen advised Council that he would provide a current report at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Councilmember Miller spoke in opposition to a proposal to convert Youth Services to a non-profit organization to include withdrawal of city support. For the record, Mr. Miller, advised Council that during the budget process he would make Youth Services the top priority. Councilmember Jones pointed out that the proposal was only in the investigative stage and that it included a phase out over a five year period.

Councilmember Trantham reported that the Transportation Commission

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
PAGE 5
FEBRUARY 22, 1994

was tentatively scheduled for March 9 to hear an appeal of the denial of a chauffeur's permit tentatively scheduled for March 9th.

On Youth Services, Mr. Trantham reported that the Youth Services Committee was investigating the possibility of phasing out the Youth Services Program as grant funds are readily available to non-profit youth organizations while they are not generally available to city-operated youth organizations. Because of the severe decline in State revenue sharing and municipal assistance over the last several years and project in the future, the Youth Services Committee recognizes that it may become necessary to cut some City programs and services. A gradual phase out of a city-operated youth services program to a non-profit youth program may be a way of preventing the demise of the program altogether.

Council broke at 9:15 p.m. for a short recess. At 9:25 p.m., Mayor Chris called the meeting back to order.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

ITEM A: Public Hearing: Ordinance #94-05: An Ordinance Amending FY 94 Budget

Mayor Chris opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak.

Finance Director Elam advised Council that a correction to Item B, Solid Waste Revenue was necessary in order to balance the funds. The figure of \$60,000 should be changed to a negative dollar amount.

Mayor Chris asked if anyone else wished to speak. There was no one and she closed the public hearing.

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Trantham to approve Ordinance #94-05.

With the approval of the second, Mr. Jones asked that the motion be withdrawn. The motion was withdrawn.

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Miller to amend Ordinance #94-05 to include the addition of two police officers to the budget and the deletion of a community service officer.

Mr. Jones referred Council to a financial impact statement. A copy of that statement is enclosed as part of these official minutes. A lengthy discussion which included comments from Police Chief Liu and City Manager Hunter followed. Mayor Chris and Councilmember Wintersteen stated that would like to see the City Manager more

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
PAGE 6
FEBRUARY 22, 1994

involved in this process and, specifically, how the proposal ties in with the needs of the City.

With the approval of the second, Mr. Jones asked that the motion be withdrawn. The motion was withdrawn.

motion M/M by Trantham, 2nd by Wintersteen to approve Ordinance #94-05, amending the FY 94 budget with the correction to change \$60,000 to (\$60,000), a negative amount, effective February 22, 1994. Poll vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Trantham, 2nd by Jones to continue the meeting past 10:00 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A: Introduction of Ordinance #94-06: An Ordinance for Disposal/Sale of City Property to an Entity Providing a Necessary Public Service--Federal Aviation Authority

Approved under Consent Agenda for Public Hearing,

ITEM B: Introduction of Ordinance #94-07: An Ordinance Amending Title 8 by Adding Section 8.16 Requiring All Businesses in Bethel to Have Functioning Water, Solid Waste and Sewer Facilities

Councilmember Trantham stated that he felt the ordinance as it was written was weak and needed some revision, specifically, that 1) the ordinance perpetuated the use of honeybuckets; and 2) that the ordinance should indicate that the leasing of rental units be considered a business. Mr. Trantham stated that the city should have a mechanism to require landlords to install water/sewer tanks in their rental units.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Trantham to table Ordinance #94-07, an ordinance amending Title 8 by Adding Section 8.16 to March 14, 1994. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM C: Resolution #94-09: A Resolution Opposing Trapping Within Bethel City Limits and Authorizing the City to Submit a Proposal for Closing the City of Bethel to Trapping to the State of Alaska Board of Fish and Game

Councilmember Miller advised Council that he wanted to revise Resolution #94-09 and would like to postpone it to a later date.

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
PAGE 7
FEBRUARY 22, 1994

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Jones to postpone Resolution #94-09, a resolution opposing trapping within the Bethel city limits to March 22, 1994. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM D: Gaming Permit Applications -- APRN & VFW

Approved under Consent Agenda

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Trantham stated that he was opposed to reducing the Community Service Officer position as these officers acquire experience and on the job training which helps prepare them for the police officer positions.

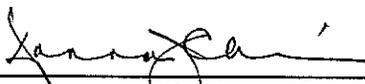
Councilmember Miller stated again that he was willing to paint over the obscenities that have defaced a number of buildings in Bethel if the City would provide the tools and the paints.

Mayor Chris stated that the Youth Services Committee was still recruiting for members, and urged those people who were interested in serving the youth of the community to advise members of the Council or city administration of their interest.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

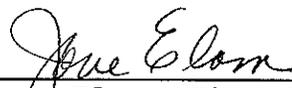
motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 PM. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF March, 1994.



Donna J. Chris, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jane Elam, City Clerk