



# CITY of BETHEL

P. O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559

543-2297 — Area Code 907

## MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES DECEMBER 17, 1979

### COUNCIL CHAMBERS

5:00 p.m.

Mayor Guinn called the Council meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and called for the roll call. Present: Charles, Twitchell, Elliott, B. Hoffman, Carpenter, E. Hoffman, and Guinn. Quorum.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Guinn asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of December 10, 1979.

Carpenter stated that the minutes should reflect that she brought up the subjects of street crossings and snowmachine safety and using flags to mark sewer pipes might be used. Both of these issues were referred to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

Charles further clarified a state make at the December 10th meeting. It should read "any major suggestions made at Council Meetings - - any major points of dissent should be noted so they can be recalled."

M/M by Elliott/2nd by Carpenter to accept the minutes of December 10, 1979 as amended. Voice vote. Motion carried.

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

E. Hoffman requested to add Licensing of Snowmachines under New Business, Item A.

Manager Hoffman asked to add two items to the agenda under New Business as items B and C, respectively. They are: The revision of the Guinn Lumber Lease, a South portion of Block 1, Lot 4 of US 870 and 10,087 sq. ft. of the Southwest portion of Block 1, Lot 3 of Bethel, Alaska, and; Transfer of approximately 21,800 sq. ft. of the North portion of Block 1 of Lot 4 of US 870 to the State of Alaska.

M/M by Charles/2nd by Elliott to accept the Agenda of December 17, 1979 as amended. Voice vote. Motion carried.

### IV. COMMUNICATIONS

Manager Hoffman stated that there are not communications.

### V. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Hoffman's report to Council covered the following topics:

*"Deep Sea Port and Transportation Center of the Kuskokwim"*

- A. Sale of the 20' ft. section of Tundra Lane. This must be advertised once again.
- B. A work session to be held after New Years Day with Senator Hohman.
- C. The fire equipment situation.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

None

VII. REPORT'S OF STANDING COMMITTEE'S

Chief Campbell attended the meeting and gave a report. He stated that members of the Department have recently attended three-day workshops on homicide and the Criminal Code. He is presently working with the Fire Department to coordinate a seminar in dispatching. He gave a brief report on the recent escape from the jail. He also stated that he is presently have staffing problems because the salaries paid to employees is low, and he is having a high rate of turnover. Also, there are problems with the jail facility. He feels that Bethel has outgrown this facility. A year end report will be presented at the January Council meeting.

General discussion followed his report with questions about the crime rate in Bethel, the current Judicial System and what might be done about the Police Department situation.

VIII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Jackie Rhuman of Tundra Women's Coalition asked the City Council to proclaim the Month of February as Rape Prevention Month. She stated that last month there were a record number of cases reported to TWC. She feels that if the subject was made public and people are educated that maybe the incidents will not happen as often, and when they do, women will know what to do.

Mayor Guinn proclaimed the month of February as Rape Prevention Month because of statistics brought before the Council by T.W.C. showing an increase in the number of rape cases and that this be properly advertised on the radio and television.

No objection from Council.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM A. PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE 115, THE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAX

Manager Hoffman introduced this item. He stated that this was defeated last year and he was asked by the Finance Committee to reintroduce this.

Mayor Guinn opened the Public Hearing.

Comments are summarized by individuals as follows:

James Hoffman, United Transportation: He stated that he is not opposed to repairing and maintaining the roads, however he felt other ways of taxation should be explored. He stated that it would be a burden to his company and other large companies to pay this tax and that they would, in turn, pass this along to the consumer.

Bruce Crow, J.B. Crow and Sons, Inc.: He stated that he feels that the tax will not bring in enough revenue to do much good.

Chet Adkins, Adkins Steel: He expressed concern about companies coming to Bethel from the outside and bidding on jobs, and not paying the tax. This might cause local companies to lose bids.

Rosie Porter, Tundra Drums: She agreed with Bruce Crow in that the revenue raised would not be enough to do much good. She also stated that she feels that the City of Bethel should seriously consider becoming a first class city as an alternative to its revenue problems.

Don Elliott, Council member: He suggested raising the sales tax. Manager Hoffman responded that this is set according to State Statute.

Peter Twitchell, Council member: He expressed concern about people living on a fixed income, should the increase be passed on to the consumer.

Ed Hoffman, Council member: He stated that this tax will only burden the larger companies. He further stated that if the larger companies have to pay this tax, they will have to raise their prices in order to pay it.

Diane Carpenter, Council member: She stated that the Finance Committee has researched the taxation situation several times. She stated that this tax is an equitable tax, and good for the Administration as it is collected by the State. She also reported that the Cab Companies said that improved roads would decrease the wear and tear on their vehicles and probably save them money in the long run.

There was more general discussion on this item.

Mayor Guinn closed the public hearing.

M/M by Carpenter/2nd by Charles to adopt Ordinance #115, an ordinance whereby the City of Bethel elects to come under the provisions of applicable state law authorizing the levy of a motor vehicle registration tax. Poll vote taken, Yeas: Charles, B. Hoffman, Carpenter and Guinn. Nays: E. Hoffman, Elliott and Twitchell. Motion carried and in effect in 1981.

X. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A. SNOWMACHINE REGISTRATION

E. Hoffman asked to table this item until the next meeting.

ITEM B. REVISION OF THE GUINN LUMBER LEASE

Manager Hoffman introduced this item.

M/M by B. Hoffman/2nd by Elliott to approve the introduction of the revision of the Guinn Lumber Lease and set a Public Hearing for January 28, 1980. Voice vote. Motion carried.

ITEM C. TRANSFER OF A PORTION OF THE NORTH PORTION OF BLOCK 1 OF LOT 4  
US 870 TO THE STATE OF ALASKA.

Manager Hoffman introduced this item.

M/M by Twitchell/2nd by Elliott to approve the introduction of the transfer of a portion of the North portion of Block 1 of Lot 4, USS 870 to the State of Alaska and set a Public Hearing for January 28, 1980. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Carpenter asked to be excused for the January 14th meeting as she will be in Mexico.

M/M by Charles/2nd by Elliott to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.