
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

April 11, 2000

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

The Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on April 11, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lions Club, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Mike O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Clerk's Note: There is no recording of this meeting due to equipment failure.

There were present:

Mike O'Brien, Mayor	Agnes Phillips
Jerry Drake	Karol Sanchez-Pobrislo
Joerene Hout	Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers
Dario Notti	

comprising a quorum of the Council.

Also in attendance were:

George Young, Acting City Manager
Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

No one stepped forward to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the minutes of the regular meetings of March 14 and 28, 2000, and the special meeting of March 27, 2000.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Copies having been made available to the public, Mayor O'Brien noted by title only the single item on the consent agenda.

Resolution #00-04: Supporting The Conservation And Reinvestment Act Of 1999: H.R. 701 And S. 2123 (Mayor O'Brien)

Ordinance #00-10: Establishing A Local Delivery Site System For Alcoholic Beverages Brought Into The City Of Bethel and Placing the Issue on the October 3, 2000 Ballot (Mayor O'Brien) (Public Hearing April 25, 2000)

Ordinance #00-11: Amending the Operations of Pawnbrokers (City Manager Herron) (Public Hearing April 25, 2000)

Request for Vacation (City Clerk Vaughan)

Request from Parks & Recreation Dept. for authorization to proceed with grant applications.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the agenda and consent agenda.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Brien announced the following information included in the agenda packets:

- Governor's Talking Points for April 3 and 10, 2000
- News from Rep. Mary Kapsner – March 24, 2000 and April 3, 2000
- Copy of letter from Governor's Office, Division of Governmental Coordination, re Hovercraft Project, dated March 29, 2000
- Fax alert from AML dated March 30, 2000, Support Revenue Sharing and Capital Matching Grants
- Letter from U.S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, dated March 28, 2000, re Federal Register Notice detailing the implementation of the Protocols to the Migratory Bird Treaties with Canada and Mexico
- Governor's Report, Business Edition, Spring 2000
- Letter from Alaska Division of Emergency Services dated April 4, 2000, re breakup monitoring of rivers
- State of Alaska Rural Issues White Paper, Telecommunications Partnering Project
- Fax Alert from AML dated April 10, 2000, re Leadership Communications Institute
- Letter and survey from Advisory Bd. On Alcoholism and Drug Abuse dated April 3, 2000, re Survey of Service Delivery Priorities

The Mayor noted that Joan Hamilton and James Blake had applied for reappointment to the Planning Commission. Mr. Willy Keppel wants to be appointed to the Commission, but has no application on file with the City Clerk as he removed it from the Clerk's Office a couple of weeks ago.

A discussion ensued regarding appointment procedures.

Council Member Drake apologized for any miscommunication with Mr. Keppel. He did not mean for Mr. Keppel to pull his application from the Clerk's Office, but he did ask Mr. Keppel for a copy of his application.

Mayor O'Brien asked for concurrence in his reappointment of Joan Hamilton and appointment of Willy Keppel to the Planning Commission.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To concur with the reappointment of Joan Hamilton and appointment of Willy Keppel to the Planning Commission.
SECONDED BY:	Phillips	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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The Mayor noted the resignation of Richard Russell from the Public Safety Commission.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Young relayed the following information:

- Department Head reports were included in the agenda packets.
- The City Engineer, Steve Pannone, has inspected the impacted area upriver of Brown Slough. He visited with staff and several community members whose past experience in the construction of the seawall proved invaluable. A repair design is complete and is on a fast-track local bid process for completion before breakup.
- The RPF for gravel is out for bid.
- Two home-delivery lunches from the Senior Citizen Center were discovered to have beading needles in them. A department investigation was immediately started with a strictly observed food safety program implemented as well. Due to the potential consequences, the report was turned over to the Bethel Police Dept. Currently, there is a criminal investigation underway. All questions are being deferred to Chief Bob Petitt.

Mayor O'Brien noted that the maintenance of the seawall is the City's responsibility, but wondered about the rock.

Mr. Young replied that the rock is the responsibility of the Corps of Engineers.

The Mayor asked about a green pick up truck seen around town with City logo on the sides.

City Clerk Vaughan stated she had inquired about the truck on the request of the Mayor and found out it was purchased used and from funds in the Public Works Dept. budget.

City Finance Director Stu Robinson added that Public Works had money in their capital outlay line item which was used to purchase the truck.

Council Member Hout stated there is always discussion at Council meetings about vehicles and equipment. She asked the Acting City Manager for a list of all the vehicles and equipment owned by the City.

Mr. Robinson stated that would be easy to provide since he has just completed an inventory for insurance purposes. He will provide the list to the Council in his next management report.

Council Member Drake questioned using funds from one account for something other than what was budgeted for.

Council Member Rodgers spoke about take-home vehicles. He requested a cost analysis of the take-home vehicles.

Council Member Hout added to her request a list of how each vehicle is being used.

A discussion ensued regarding vehicles and budgets.

Council Member Notti noted that water and sewer truck drivers have a three-strike rule. If they fail to check the fluids in their trucks three times, they are out of a job. He thought it was a good rule to apply to other employees. He added that a City mechanic had told him about a vehicle in which the transmission fluid had not been checked.

Council Member Rodgers said that he has given the administration a copy of a military vehicle checklist. He felt the administration should institute the checklist for preventative maintenance.

Council Member Drake changed the subject and stated there was a breakdown between administration and the Clerk regarding procedures for commissions and committees. He would like to see a procedure manual regarding meetings, agendas, minutes, open meetings, etc. written and provided to each department head.

Speaking to the Acting City Manager, Mayor O'Brien requested that the computer technician visit the Clerk's Office the following day as the Clerk is having major problems with her computer.

The Mayor asked if a letter regarding the Kasayalie Spur Rd. had been written and sent to DOT.

Council Member Hout stated that the road is still on the State's list. She added that a planner was in Bethel from DOT and review the point system with her. Ms. Hout knows that some of the points for Ptarmigan and Tundra Ridge can be increased.

Mayor O'Brien stated that it is a state-wide competition for road maintenance funding.

Acting City Manager Young understood that neither Ptarmigan nor Tundra Ridge were on the list currently.

Council Member Hout stated that those roads are on the list for future years. She went on to speak about lots being combined near YKHC for a shop. The Inhalant Center will also be built adjacent to the hospital. She felt the Council needed to talk about access to the hospital and the administration building as traffic is backed up now with people turning into either one.

Council Member Pobrislo stated she would like the letter to go to DOT within 72 hours.

Mayor O'Brien concurred that the letter should be sent within 72 hours.

On another note, Council Member Hout stated that Bethel isn't seen as a friendly place to villagers coming into town for Camaj, shopping, or other reasons.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Citizen Advisory Board and Transportation Commission

Council Member Hout noted that neither had met since the last Council meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Council Member Pobrislo noted that the Committee will meet on April 19 with a full roster. They will have election of officers and set goals and objectives for the coming year.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti noted that the Commission would meet on April 13. The Commission has final approval for the new Post Office subdivision on its agenda as well as other items.

Public Safety Commission

Mayor O'Brien expressed his regret over the resignations of four of the Commission members stating he was sorry they had made that decision.

Public Works Committee

Council Member Drake stated the Committee wanted to know if they should work with the final acceptance of the Kasayulie Subdivision roads. The Committee had spent several meetings discussing the recycling center and looking at city owned property. Logic took them back to the landfill site. The Committee will talk to ONC and BNC prior to making a recommendation to the Council. He also discussed the snow removal plan developed by the Committee.

Mr. Drake continued by reporting on the task force on computers. They had a meeting the previous week and met with many informed and knowledgeable people. He noted that the city's computer technician is making up an inventory list by department. He also thanked the Public Safety Commission member who had resigned. He thought this might be a good time to combine Public Safety and the Transportation Commissions. He would introduce an ordinance at the next meeting.

Port Committee

Council Member Rodgers stated the Committee will met on April 17. He was glad to hear the hole in the seawall will be fixed. The ice in the river should be moving soon.

Finance Committee

Council Member Phillips stated the Committee will meet on April 13 at the new City Hall.

The Mayor encouraged all Council members to attend the task force on computers.

A discussion ensued regarding computers and a web site.

OLD BUSINESS

***Ordinance #00-08: Amending The Adopted Annual FY 1999-2000 Budget
(City Manager Herron)***

Mayor O'Brien open the floor to public hearing. As no one stepped forward to speak, the public hearing was closed.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To enact Ordinance #00-08.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

Council Member Drake noted that this was a transfer of funds within the Public Works Dept. and has no new money in it.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to enact carried by a unanimous voice vote.
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Ordinance #00-09: Amending Chapter 3.029, Classification Plan, By Adding An Administrative Assistant (City Manager Herron)

Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to public testimony. As no one stepped forward to speak, public hearing was closed.

MOVED BY:	Pobrislo	To enact Ordinance #00-09.
SECONDED BY:	Phillips	

VOTE ON MOTION:	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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NEW BUSINESS

All items listed on the agenda under New Business were unanimously adopted on the consent agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Phillips thanked all the people who were involved with Camai, the dancers and Linda Curda, the Chair of the event.

Council Member Rodgers stated that Camai was very impressive this year. He thanked Public Works for their work on the roads.

Council Member Drake wanted to ensure everyone read the letter from Emergency Preparedness regarding possible flooding.

Mayor O'Brien thanked those who organized and volunteered for Camai. The opportunities to show off Bethel are few and far between. He noted that cars are still driving the river and lakes. No one lost a life during the fall and winter. He hoped the trend stayed the same for the spring.

Council Member Notti thanked all the volunteers at Camai. It showed how citizens feel about the Camai Festival. He also thanked Public Works employees. He noted that there are some rough spots on the roads, but people can get through on every road. Its spring and the roads are in good condition. The money the City has spent on the roads has been used well. He offered his condolences to the Anvil family.

Council Member Pobrislo commended everyone for the great Camai Festival. She noted that the high school is used as a community center and was used for Camai at a greatly reduced price. The high school may not hold the festival in the not-too-distant future as it draws so many people. Bethel may have to think about a community center at some point. Its great to see how the community comes together for lots of activities.

Council Member Hout also offered her condolences to Moses Anvil's family. She congratulated Lucy Beaver for her award and the Camai committee. The festival is such a big part of the community. She noted that John Active did wonderful interviews of the older women who were dancing. She expressed her concern about parking water and sewer trucks side by side in the

shop. She spoke about the Council reviewing all current City ordinances and that maybe the subdivision ordinance was the place to start.

In further comments, Council Member Pobrislo also thanked the teachers of the high school for opening up their space for Camai.

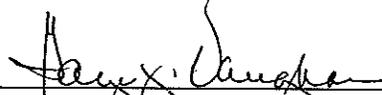
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 25th DAY OF APRIL, 2000.

ATTEST:


Mike O'Brien, Mayor


Gaye J. Vaughan, City Clerk