

CITY COUNCIL

Kent Harding
Buford McComas
Tad Miller
Mary Pavil
Ruth Richardson, Mayor
Stanley Rodgers
Wally Wallace



CITY MANAGER

Ken Weaver

CITY CLERK

L.J. Tanner

City of Bethel
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 9, 1996

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richardson in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Harding, Pavil, Richardson, Rodgers, Wallace
Absent: McComas, Miller (both Excused)

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Mike O'Brien, Bethel, referred to a request made by Council Member McComas, at the December 12, 1995 Council Meeting. Mr. McComas had requested that the City Clerk look into whether Mr. O'Brien stated that he heard a council member say that the Council had nothing to do with the budget. Mr. O'Brien said yes, he did indeed say that. Mr. O'Brien added that ironically, it was Mr. McComas who had made the original comment.

Mr. O'Brien remarked upon comments printed in last week's newspaper that were attributed to a member of the Council. Mr. O'Brien questioned whether the council member who made the remarks, gave thought to the fact that the Public Works department is working with a much decreased budget. Mr. O'Brien stated that, because the prior administration totally re-organized the Public Works department, there is now one man trying to do the job previously done by 4 or 5 people. Mayor Richardson asked if Mr. O'Brien were speaking as Chair of the Public Works Committee. Mr. O'Brien answered that he was speaking as a private citizen. Mr. O'Brien suggested, that if Public Works does request funding for new equipment, Council should keep in mind that the City is constantly growing.

Mr. Dave Trantham, Bethel, announced that a Town Meeting, "Walk your Talk," will be held on January 17th, 7:00 p.m., at the Cultural Center. The entire community is invited to attend, the purpose of the meeting is to discuss alcohol related problems. The meeting is the 2nd in a series.

Mr. Trantham then mentioned that MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) will conduct a campaign in Bethel. Mr. Trantham stated that he is a member because he has lost a daughter. He hopes that Council will do whatever they can to support MADD.

Mr. Trantham closed his remarks with the statement that a person can determine the reflection of their values by simply looking in the mirror.

Mayor Richardson responded that she will attend the Town Meeting, she thanked Mr. Trantham for the announcement about MADD, and she added that she valued his comments on values.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by Pavil, 2nd by Harding to approve the minutes of the December 12, 1995, regular meeting, the December 14 Special Meeting, and the January 2nd Special Meeting as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by Wallace to amend the agenda by removing Item A from the Executive Session.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by Wallace to approve the agenda as amended.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Richardson introduced the new City Clerk, Linda "L.J." Tanner. Mayor Richardson thanked Ms. Adams for stepping in and taking on the responsibility of Acting City Clerk.

Mayor Richardson wished everyone in Bethel and the Council a Happy New Year. She would like to see 1996 as a year when we can all make a difference, both in the community and in our work.

Mayor Richardson informed Council that the Statewide Chamber of Commerce will visit Bethel. A group of 25-30 people will arrive in Bethel on January 24th and have a community meeting at the Pacifica at 8 a.m.. They want to see what's happening in bush Alaska, so that they can help villages lobby on state or federal issues. They will break into groups of five and travel to the villages of Chevak, Kipnuk, St. Mary's, Emmonek, and Aniak, spend the night, and return to Bethel on the 25th. They will have a round table discussion about their trip on the 25th, and return to Anchorage on the evening flight. The Council is invited to meet with them on the 24th. The Mayor requested that Kent Harding attend the meetings on January 24th and 25th.

Mayor Richardson stated that Council Member Harding has declined the appointment to the Public Safety Commission, so she attended the January Public Safety Commission meeting. The Mayor stated that the meeting went well; the Police Department Audit Team was in attendance and they answered questions and explained their role in the audit. The final report should be back by mid-February.

Mayor Richardson noted from the last Council Meeting minutes that there were several items slated for discussion at the January Public Safety Commission meeting, that were not on the PSC agenda. She would like to make sure these items are placed on the agenda for the next PSC meeting.

Mayor Richardson discussed a recommendation made by Doreen O'Brien that the Committee and Commission Chairpersons should meet and exchange thoughts about strategic planning. The Mayor stated that she fully supports this idea and requested that the City Manager plan such a meeting when the city begins strategic planning.

Mayor Richardson informed Council that, if there are no objections, she would still like to change the Council Meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and that she would like the process for amending the ordinance to be placed on the next council meeting agenda.

Mayor Richardson stated that she will be unable to attend the next Council Meeting and would like Kent Harding to serve as Acting Mayor at that time. Council member Harding agreed.

Appointments to Committees and Commissions by Mayor Richardson

Mayor Richardson made the following Commission appointments:

Transportation Commission	James Bock
Planning Commission	Bob Herron, and Louie Andrew (re-appointed)
Public Safety Commission	Don Constantine

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Pavil to approve the commission appointments made by Mayor Richardson.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Incoming Correspondence

Mayor Richardson received an invitation to the 7th Northern Inter-city Conference of Mayors, from Winnipeg, Canada Mayor Susan Thompson. Mayor Richardson stated that, due to the expense, she will not attend the conference.

Mayor Richardson reviewed correspondence she has received from:

- Byung Hak Min, Korean Consul General.
- Annalee McConnell, Director, Governor's Office of Management and Budget
- Geri Sumpter, Continuing Education Coordinator, UAF-Kuskokwim Campus
- Gloria Simeon, Executive Director, Calista Elders Council
- George Owletuck, Program Director, Cenaliulriit

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Weaver referred Council to his written report and requested direction on the following items:

Ambulance Billing

City Manager Weaver reviewed the process used to choose an Ambulance Billing service provider. A committee made up of Finance Director Duke, Accounts Receivable Clerk Takumjenak, and Fire Chief Young opened bidding for the contract, then rated each response. After reviewing the three bids received, the committee recommended CLAIMPAY, a company located in Anchorage. No local proposals were received. Mayor Richardson asked Council if there were any questions.

Council Member Wallace asked if the services provided were collections. Mr. Weaver answered that CLAIMPAY would provide both billing and collection services. Discussion followed on whether the City should still be in the ambulance business, since YKHC now has an ambulance. Mayor Richardson, speaking as a YKHC employee, stated that YKHC's ambulance is used for transporting patients to and from the airport and hospital.

Council Member Harding questioned the duration of the contract. Finance Director Duke explained that the term of the contract is subject to negotiation. Mayor Richardson then suggested that Council review the contract before making a decision. It was agreed that Mr. Weaver would provide further information to the Council, and this item would be discussed at the next council meeting.

Employee Group Benefits Proposal

City Manager Weaver stated that a committee, with representatives from the city employee's union, city management, YKHC, City Council, and the city Finance Committee, evaluated proposals received for Employee Group Benefits. Of the four proposals submitted, the committee unanimously agreed that the David Frazier & Associates proposal was far superior. Mr. Weaver asked Finance Director Duke to address the Council with details on the selection.

Ms. Duke explained that the recommended plan is self-funded with stop losses. The first stop loss, of \$20,000 at the employee level, means, if an employee has claims in excess of \$20,000 during a plan year, the City would pay the first \$20,000 and the stop loss carrier would pay the remainder. In addition to the individual stop loss, the plan includes an aggregate stop loss.

Ms. Duke noted that the City had budgeted for a 15% increase in ATIP premiums, but the actual increase turned out to be significantly higher. The David Frazier & Associates plan will provide reasonable cost protection to the City. Ms. Duke stated that changing plans now will probably help the City meet the budget this year, as well as save money in future years.

Discussion followed on the additional person needed to process claims under the David Frazier & Associates plan. Ms. Duke said that the anticipated savings does include the cost of an additional person. She also suggested that this function could be combined with another anticipated position in the Finance Department for Sales Tax Collection.

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by Wallace to accept the proposal from David Frazier & Associates, withdraw from ATIP, and authorize the creation of the new position at the 6-month budget revision session. Council Member Pavil stated that because she is on the board of directors of ATIP, she would abstain from voting on this measure.

Poll vote. Motion carried, 4-yes, 0-no.

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

City Manager Weaver referred to the Council's request for information concerning the status of the fees for private dumping. The City has a copy of the contract, but no evidence that the contract was ratified by the City Council. Mr. Weaver recommended that the City use the results of the upcoming VSW cost study to develop an updated fee schedule, and then adopt that schedule by ordinance.

Mr. Weaver notified Council that he has authorized a disbursement of \$600,000 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers per the City's contract agreement.

Mayor Richardson added that at the Public Safety Commission meeting, the Police Department presented the Reserve Officer's Program. She commended the Police Department for the work they do, with the citizens group, "Citizen's Police Academy," and the Reserve Officer program.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Scheduled dates for upcoming Committee/Commission meetings were announced.

Youth Services Committee: Kent Harding reported that a meeting was held on December 19, 1995, but a quorum was not present. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 1996. The committee discussed after-school fees, a heating upgrade to the old Library building, and the artroom and snack-bar carpentry. No action has taken place on the Library upgrade as the committee is awaiting a report from Paula Stybor.

Finance Committee: Wally Wallace reported that the last Finance Committee meeting was canceled. A combined Finance/Public Works meeting is scheduled for January 18, at 7:00 p.m., at the Public Works Shop.

Senior Citizens: Mary Pavil stated that there was no quorum, no meeting

Port Commission: Stanley Rodgers stated that there was no meeting due to no quorum

Transportation: Wally Richardson reported that they had a quorum at the last meeting. It was suggested that a plaque be presented to Johnnie Watts for his many years of service on the committee. The City Clerk will determine when Mr. Watts was first appointed to the committee and provide this information to Kathy Coker of the Police Department.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was discussed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Introduction of Ordinance #96-1: An Ordinance to establish a department of Port and Harbor.

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Wallace to introduce Ordinance #96-1, an Ordinance to establish a department of Port and Harbor.
Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B: Resolution #96-1: Support Tundra Women's Coalition application for grant.

City Manager Weaver read the resolution out loud, as requested by Mayor Richardson.

motion M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Pavil to adopt Resolution #96-1.
Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Rodgers had no comments.

Council Member Pavil wished everyone in Bethel a happy and successful New Year.

Council Member Harding had no comments.

Council Member Wallace wished the Council a happy New Year.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item B: Legal Strategy--Wolvik v. City of Bethel

motion M/M by Pavil, 2nd by Rodgers to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Item B: Wolvik v. City of Bethel.
Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Pavil, 2nd by Rodgers, to come out of Executive Session.
Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Pavil, 2nd by Rodgers to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.
Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF JANUARY, 1996.


Buford McComas, Acting Mayor

ATTEST:


L.J. Tanner, City Clerk