City of Bethel City Council Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2006 Special Meeting Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on September 19, 2006 at 6:30p, in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following were present:

Members present:
- Mayor R. Thor Williams
- Council Member Hugh Dyment
- Council Member Dave Trantham
- Vice Mayor Mary Kenick
- Council Member Tundy Rodgers

Members absent:
- Council Member Leinberger
- Council Member McGowan

Others present:
- Acting City Clerk Carolina Russell
- City Manager Wally Baird

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

1. None present.

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AND REGUALR AGENDA

MOVED:	Kenick	To approve the agenda for the September 19, 2006 Special City Council Meeting.
SECONDED:	Trantham	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Carried unanimously.	

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A- <u>Introduction Of Ordinance 06-12(C):</u> An Ordinance Of The Bethel City Council Amending The Adopted Annual FY 2006-07 Budget Establishing A Budget For Court Complex Expansion Capital Fund Project

MOVED:	Dyment	To adopt Ordinance 06-12: An Ordinance Of The Bethel City Council Amending The Adopted Annual FY 2006-07 Budget Establishing A Budget For Court Complex Expansion Capital Fund Project.
SECONDED:	Rodgers	
Debate: • It is a break even modification according to Councilmember Dyment - have to do to pay bills. • Mayor Williams doubts the correctness of the placement of the modification in the budget. He suggests moving the modification to the Enterprise Fund (Leased Property Court Complex 53-55) & suggests a budget line item in budget account In-Kind & Transfers 10-73 for In-Kind & Transfers. • City Manager Baird explains that the Capital project would be appropriately placed in capital projects fund. A revised lease agreement of the state revenues would be put in the enterprise fund according to municipal cost accounting. • This should be a Capital Projects Fund according to Council Member Rodgers and is what the Council directed Management to do.		
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	In favor of the introduction of the Ordinance 06-12 (C) An Ordinance Of The Bethel City Council Amending The Adopted Annual FY 2006-07 Budget Establishing A Budget For Court Complex Expansion Capital Fund Project.	
	Passes 4 to 1 (Voting against – Mayor Williams)	

Item B- PERS Rate Recommendation Review And Impact On City Finances

Discussion:

- Mayor Williams is concerned about the impact of PERS on City Finances. Council Member Trantham and City Manager Baird participated in state-wide teleconference including Senators, school board people, representatives etc. Outgoing Governor (which may not mean a lot since

there will have a new Governor in December) is proposing placing $504 million into next years' budget to cover additional cost. The City of Bethel's unfunded mandate/liability is little over $1 million. The City's new rate went up by 2%. The City's FY07 contribution rate is 15.08% (on each employee based on salary). On July 1 2007 it will go to 17.40%. For others around the state these increases are significantly higher. During the teleconference it became clear that (municipalities, boroughs etc) no one can afford this increase. One of the biggest reasons is not the retirement portion, but the health side. The actuary miscalculated "big time" over the years how much health insurance would cost, how long would people live and is a big reason for the indebtedness.

- City Manager Baird stated that during the teleconference it was roughly explained that there is a general liability that applies to everyone and another specific liability for each community depending upon how many employees they project will retire from that system. The total state-wide liability in both TRS & PERS is 6.9 billion. A problem is that there is no benefit to paying off indebtedness; the case of Soldotna which paid off a substantial amount, but at the time to receive assistance from the State they were forgotten. Also, on the unfunded balance the State charges 8.25% so every year this indebtedness increases until it is paid down. The City of Bethel has not even been paying as much as 15% as we have been "bailed out" the last few years, as they've covered the increases. Council Member Trantham suggests the Council should start planning for some revenues to cover the 160 thousand dollars which will be needed July 1 for the 08 budget. The AML has had some discussion to encourage council members to meet with local media and start asking candidates for state office questions.

Item C- Appointment Of A Committee To Celebrate The 50th Anniversary Of The City Of Bethel

Discussion:

- It was brought up that on Sep 12 of 1957 the City was started and the 50th anniversary is coming up in 2007.
- As an important milestone in the City's history it was discussed how to organize and coordinate the celebration. The City could possibly set up a committee to decide how to celebrate the occasion (like for the Moving Wall).
- A motion was initiated and later withdrawn. Instead there was a consensus that the process ought to get started and the council asked the City Manager to work with Janet Athanas, the Parks & Recreation Director on this issue. The City Manager agreed to put this on the agenda for the next Joint Task Force meeting with ONC.

Janet Athanas could bring up ideas to the next Joint Task Force Meeting.

- Important to incorporate the community as a whole. The council could be updated at every or every other council meeting.
- A decision will be needed with regards to the amount of funds estimated necessary for the celebrations.
- A public announcement to inform the community regarding the date of the anniversary and to seek input and volunteers from the community to serve in an Administrating committee was discussed.

Item D- Update On The Memorandum Of Agreement Between The City Of Bethel And The Korean Church On The Exchange Of The Boys Group Home For The Existing Korean Church Building

Discussion:

- The City Manager explained the MOA is a draft that the City Attorney and he negotiated with the representative from the Korean Church. They considered this important to be put before the council to receive input prior to becoming final.
- A verbal agreement between the City Attorney and City Manager and the representatives from the Korean church exist that if any work is being done it is at their own risk.

MOVED:	Trantham	Motion to suspend rules to allow the representative from the Korean Church to address council.
SECONDED:	Rodgers	

Discussion:

- Mr. Seo explains that they underestimated the costs. The building was in worse shape than anticipated. There is leveling and some others costs such as for electric repairs that will be needed. Item 5 on the MOA mentions that a residential rate in stead of a commercial rate would be nice to get if possible.
- The congregation has spent around 110 thousand dollars altogether.
- Mr. Seo mentioned they are trying to move in before Christmas.
- The City Manager mentioned other non-profits such as the Tundra Women's Center are charged a residential rate, while those that have a commercial license are charged a commercial rate.
- Mr. Seo stated he is not asking for 50 thousand dollar compensation.

MOVED:	Kenick	To approve the Memorandum Of Agreement between the City of Bethel and the Northwest District World Mission DBA: Bethel Korean Church as amended.
SECONDED:	Rodgers	

Debate:

- Council member Kenick & Dyment: "That the current lease comes to an end when the lease at 142 Atsaq begins."
- City manager Baird: "The church will continue to lease the existing site until it is vacated"

MOVED:	Rodgers	To amend the motion to have MOA between the City of Bethel and the Northwest District World Mission DBA: Bethel Korean Church as the city manager has described and the council has directed. (See main motion debate). And once it is written clear brought back to council for approval. "Management rewrites MOA for next council meeting for council to move or disapprove with council suggestions and management suggestions included. "
SECONDED:	Dyment	

Debate:

- Clarification by council members Trantham & Rodgers, the addition to the MOA is to be brought back to council on the 26th of this month.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Passed 5-0

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Item E- FY08 State Capital Budget City Council Priorities

Discussion: Mayor Williams brought this up to see what capital we would like to see from the state.

VI. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Public Safety & Transportation Commission: Council Member Dyment stated that the PS&T Commission will come to the council with a new recommended rate at second meeting in October. Drug policy for taxi drivers is being developed to be part of BMC, but at no cost to the city.

Parks & Recreation Committee: Vice-Mayor Kenick informed Council that the Parks & Recreation Committee has not met since the last City Council meeting. She will bring up the issue of the 50th Anniversary Celebration with the Committee.

Planning Commission: Council Member Rodgers stated the committee has met since the last City Council meeting; he did not attend. Steve Bush moved to Wasilla and does not know when he will be back.

MOVED:	Rodgers	To stop road maintenance on both sides of the allotment of Tundra Ridge Road
SECONDED:	Kenick	

MOVED:	Dyment	To amend the motion to include "when the City Managers feels it's appropriate"
SECONDED:	Rodgers	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Passed unanimously	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Passed unanimously

Council gave Direction to Administration to expedite proceedings.

Cemetery Committee: Council Member Trantham stated that the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

Alaska Municipal League: Council Member Trantham stated that the Board met and discussed the following:

- PERS & TERS
- Revenue Sharing
- Annual Meeting in Juneau in November

MOVED:	Rodgers	To move forward the date of submission items for packet until the City Clerk returns
SECONDED:	Dyment	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Motion passed unanimously.	

Port Commission: Mayor Williams informed Council that the Port Commission met and discussed the following:

- Review of outlying needs for structure and safety
- Safety ladders
- Fencing
- South cement launch ramp
- 2007 Denali projects

VII. MAYOR'S REPORT

- 25 mile sign to be put up
- cleaning up around dumpster in Akakeek
- Memo about BMC Title IV in title 29. The "7 of us supervise"; main issue was safeguards to protect all of us, not budget modifications. Every one is welcomed to call Mayor to discuss issues.
- Betty in AML "Our phone system stinks". We need live person to take messages. We have HR taking messages which is not necessarily adequate, and we have Customer Service.
- Would council approve Mayor trip to Talkeetna according to honorable invitation.

MOVED:	Kenick	To approve Mayor Williams travel to Talkeetna to attend the Transition Team Meeting.
SECONDED:	Rodgers	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Passed unanimously.	

VIII. MANAGER'S REPORT

Written report with action item and current status of the following:

- Money for City to receive $70000, most likely $35,000 for job done at Port.
- Move it up a notch in all city services
- Continued to work with ONC on
- Working up agreement for Car crasher, likely to be starting next week (Ordinance was passed years ago on agreement that was never reached).

IX. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

- City Clerk was not in attendance for comments

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Trantham stated that he had heard grumbles from the community that Council seems to be getting tired and grumpy and somewhat dysfunctional, however, he feels that tonight we have worked well together, let's continue with the flexibility which benefits the community.

Council Member Rodgers reported condolences to the family of Jerry Dementieff who recently lost his son and condolences to the Andrew David family, who recently passed away, so when I say, hug an elder, believe me; hug an elder.

Mayor Williams stated that he agrees with Mr. Trantham and thanked Council member Rodgers for recognizing elders in the community.

Vice-Mayor Kenick wished Mayor Williams a safe trip to Talkeetna and complimented the City Departments for all of their hard work, this town has never looked so good.

Council members Rodgers thanked City Manager Baird for the maintenance of his job, it's getting better and better and advised City Manager Baird to keep it up.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED:	Kenick	To adjourn meeting at 9:40.
SECONDED:	Rodgers	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Motion passes unanimously.	

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:40pm

APPROVED THIS 24th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2006.

Dan Leinberger, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carolina Russell, Acting City Clerk