
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

October 8, 2002

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on October 8, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

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

ROLL CALL

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

Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers	Jerry Drake
Dario Notti	Sue Trantham
Gary Vanasse	
Hugh Short, Jr.	
Carl Berger	

Excused absence(s): none

Unexcused absence(s): none

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Janette Persinger, City Clerk

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item A – Resolution #02-26: Certifying City Election

The precinct tallies as recorded by the Canvass Board are as follows:

CITY COUNCIL	
(Two 3-year terms)	
(One 2-year term)	
(One 1-year term)	
Whitney, Eric G.....	171
Trantham, David E. Jr.	295
Jones, Hal L.....	112
Jacobs, Andrei K.	337
Rodgers, Stanley "Tundy"	284
Leary, Brandon.	260
Notti, Dario A.....	268
Blakesley, Roger K.	74
Shantz, Joy E.....	429
Grams, Ricky... ..	27
Williams, Thor	269
Write - in.....	19

MOVED BY:	Vanasse	To accept the results of the canvass board
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

Joy Shantz having the most number of votes cast chose a one year term.

Andrei Jacobs having the second most number of votes cast chose a three year term.

David Trantham, Jr. having the third most number of votes cast chose a two year term.

Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers having the fourth most number of votes cast chose a three year term.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

Item B – Oath administered to newly elected City Council members

Item C – Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor

MOVED BY:	Berger	To approve the election of mayor and vice-mayor
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

M/M by Jacobs. The nomination of Hugh Short, Jr. for mayor.
2nd by Berger.

M/M by Trantham. The nomination of Dave Trantham for mayor.
2nd by Shantz.

M/M by Drake. Nominations for mayor be closed.
2nd by Short. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Hugh Short, Jr. was elected mayor by a vote of 4 – 3.

M/M by Jacobs. The nomination of Carl Berger for vice mayor.
2nd by Rodgers.

M/M by Rodgers. Nominations for vice-mayor be closed.
2nd by Trantham. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Unanimous consent was called for. **The council was unanimous in its decision to elect Carl Berger as vice mayor.**

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

Item D – Assignment of committees/commissions

Council Member Rodgers assigned to the Port Commission.

Council Member Berger assigned to the Senior Advisory Board.

Council Member Drake assigned to the Public Safety and Transportation Commission.

Mayor Short assigned to the Finance Committee.

Council Member Shantz assigned to the Planning Commission.

Council Member Jacobs assigned to the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Council Member Trantham assigned to the Public Works Committee.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Colleen Soberay, Deputy City Manager updated the council and members of the public on the progress of the Community Strategic Plan project and gave an overview of the first meeting planned for October 10, 2002 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The meeting will be located at the Cultural Center. Deputy City Manager Soberay went on to clarify that the Community Strategic Plan is a community plan and that the Comprehensive Plan that was completed in 1997 was primarily land use and was not community driven. The Comprehensive Plan will be included under the land use issues in the Community Strategic Plan. Any person or entity can use the Community Strategic Plan to secure funding. She further stated that steering committee is not setting the priorities of the plan – the community will. Deputy City Manager Soberay asked that all seven members of council attend the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Berger	To approve the minutes of the 9-24-02 regular minutes
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Due to illness, Council Member Drake's absence from the previous council meeting was changed from unexcused to excused.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by voice vote of 6 – 1 (Trantham).
-----------------------	---

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the agenda as amended
SECONDED BY:	Berger	

Removal of item A and B off the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Short provided his agenda of priorities. Among those priorities:

- Citizen led committee to prioritize roads in Bethel
- The strict enforcement of the curfew law
- Community led effort to bring a new facility to Bethel that would house recreational activities
- Equitable water and sewer rates. Equalization between hauled and piped water. Possible use of meters and water districts
- Implementation of community policing program
- A partnership between private and public sectors to encourage land development and the construction of affordable housing in Bethel
- Increased lobbying for Village Safe Water funds and road construction funds in Bethel

Items included in the Mayor's report:

- Proclamation proclaiming October 6 – 12, 2002 as Fire Prevention Week
- Registration form for Alaska Native Education Summit to held December 9 – 10, 2002 at the Egan Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska
- Letter from the Alaska State Legislature re: Joint legislative salmon industry task force public hearings
- Nomination form for Municipal Official of the Year Award
- Letter and nomination forms from Alaska Municipal League re: Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool Board of Directors
- Press release from Governor Knowles office re: the signing of the Rural Construction Administrative Order

- Press Release from Department of Labor and Workforce Development re: Alaskans living in rental homes
- Press release from Governor Knowles office re: this years permanent fund dividend
- Recommendation from Public Works Committee re: water and sewer cancellation policy
- Recommendation from Public Works Committee re: utility services consolidation
- Recommendation from Public Works Committee re: service change fees
- Recommendation from Public Works Committee re: the paying of water and sewer bill by usage

A brief discussion of the consolidation of utility services ensued with the result of the item being placed on the October 22, 2002 agenda.

MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT

City Manager Herron's report included the following:

- Announcement that all scheduled road projects have been completed
- The announcement that Fran Ulmer will be in Bethel on Wednesday, October 09, 2002. An invitation was extended to all members of council to join Fran at the senior center for lunch at 12:00 noon.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Advisory Board

Council Member Berger reported that the senior advisory board has a meeting scheduled on Friday, October 11, 2002 at 10:30 a.m. Council Member Berger also gave an update on the progress of the repairs to the facility.

Parks and Recreation Committee

The minutes and agenda were not made available for the meeting.

Planning Commission

The October 10, 2002 meeting has been postponed so that members may attend the Community Strategic Plan meeting.

Port Commission

Mayor Rodgers reported that the Port Commission had not met.

Public Works Committee

Former Council Member Vanasse reported that the Public Works Committee discussed the water and sewer cancellation policy.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission

Council Member Drake reported that there was a discussion of the headlight ordinance and the renewal process for taxi chauffeurs.

Finance Committee

Robert Strahan, Finance Director reported that there was a discussion of the checks being written out of the general fund. Also, a discussion of ordinance #02-31 was held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A – Public Hearing – Ordinance #02-28: Amending chapter 9.20 of the Bethel Municipal Code regarding offenses by or against minors – curfew law

Mayor Short opened public hearing.

Tom Hildreth stated that he was a member of the Public Safety & Transportation Commission when the curfew law was first enacted. Mr. Hildreth provided for council the history of the original ordinance. Mr. Hildreth further stated that there has been a sharp increase in the amount of juvenile crime and recommends the adoption of the curfew ordinance with the amendment stating that the restricted age should be eighteen (18) years of age and younger.

City Manager Herron added the recommendations of the Chief of Police Butch Morris. Chief Morris strongly recommended that the language be changed eighteen (18) years of age and younger.

Mayor Short closed public hearing.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve ordinance #02-28 as amended
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

M/M by Berger. Amend the language to read seventeen (17) years of age and younger.
2nd by Jacobs. Motion passes with a roll call vote of 6 – 1 (Trantham).

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
-----------------------	---

Item B – Public Hearing – Ordinance #02-31: Amending sections of chapters 13.04, 13.08, 13.12 and 13.16 of the Bethel Municipal Code regarding water and sewer service

Mayor Short opened public hearing.

Tom Hildreth voiced his concerns about the decreased level of service language in the ordinance. Mr. Hildreth felt that to have a customer pay an outstanding balance before allowing them to have a decrease in service is counter productive to the solution.

Gary Vanasse encouraged the council to reject the ordinance. He concurred with Mr. Hildreth regarding the decreased level of service. Mr. Vanasse stated his objection with the amount of cancellations allowed by the ordinance. He felt that in essence he would be paying for something that he would not be receiving. Mr. Vanasse stated that the water and sewer enterprise fund has been making money for the general fund and that the intention of the enterprise fund was not to fund the general fund but to pay for itself. If it is found that the enterprise fund is not paying for itself, Mr. Vanasse suggested that a rate study be done to see if a raise in the rates is necessary. Mr. Vanasse stated that the water and sewer enterprise fund pays out \$600,000.00 for department overhead.

Rob Lewis voiced his objection to the ordinance. He further stated that does not want pay for water and service when he is not using it. He also stated his objection to section 13.04.120 (B).

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt ordinance #02-31
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Council Member Drake requested that Finance Director Robert Strahan give a history of the ordinance and the policies of the finance department. Mr. Strahan also spoke to the issues raised by Mr. Vanasse, Hildreth, and Lewis. Mr. Strahan stated that at the next meeting he provide for council a complete report of the enterprise fund.

M/M by Drake. To set for another public hearing ordinance #02-31.
2nd by Jacobs. Motion passed unanimously.

VOTE ON MOTION	
-----------------------	--

Item C – Public Hearing – Ordinance #02-32: Authorizing a lease agreement with Northern Contracting Service for office space for the public boardwalk reconstruction project

Mayor Short opened public hearing. There were no members of the public to be heard. Mayor Short closed public hearing.

MOVED BY:	Berger	To adopt ordinance #02-32
SECONDED BY:	Drake	
City Manager Herron explained the history of the ordinance, as well as the need for the ordinance.		
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.	

NEW BUSINESS

Item A – Resolution #02-30: Supporting efforts to secure grant funding for professional services for the community priorities and economic development strategic planning project

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt resolution #02-30
SECONDED BY:	Berger	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.	

Item B – Introduction – Ordinance #02-33: An ordinance authorizing the disposal of a ten acre parcel within the surface estate of the southwest quarter of section 8, range 71 west, township 8 north, seward meridian, to Yuut Elitnaurviat-People’s Learning Center, Inc.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To introduce ordinance #02-33 and set for public hearing at the October 22, 2002 meeting
SECONDED BY:	Berger	

City Manager Herron presented a map of the land, and provided the history and value of the land. It is the recommendation of City Manager Herron that a public hearing be held at the next meeting; after which, the information will then be sent to the Planning Commission for a public hearing to be held by the Planning Commission.

A brief discussion ensued.

Council Member Trantham requested that the ordinance be referred to the Finance Committee and Planning Commission.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
-----------------------	---

Item C – Discussion item – Alaska Public Entity Insurance Board of Directors’ Election

MOVED BY:	Berger	To vote by proxy for Brian M. Henry for the Alaska Public Entity Insurance Board of Directors
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

City Manager Herron stated that he currently sits on the Alaska Public Entity Insurance board and that either candidate (Richard J. Anderson from Delta Greely or Brian M. Henry from the Yupiit School District) would be a good recommendation.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

Item D – Discussion Item – Identification of third City property site for cemetery burials

MOVED BY:	Drake	To direct administration to draft an ordinance establishing site as a cemetery
SECONDED BY:	Berger	

City Manager Herron explained the site located near Kasuylie Subdivision. He further explained that the site was examined by the Clergy board. The ministers found the site to be promising.

Discussion ensued regarding the trenching of the Ptarmigan cemetery, the previous site selected by BNC, and soil testing.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Berger thanked the previous council members for their service and welcomed the new members of council.

Council Member Shantz thanked all of the voters for their support and stated that she was happy to be on the council and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Mayor Short stated that he was honored to serve as mayor. He further stated that he could be reached at any time with questions, concerns, and comments.

Council Member Jacobs encouraged all young voters to vote in the November election. Council Member Jacobs thanked all of the voters and stated that he looked forward to serving the citizens of Bethel.

Council Member Drake thanked all past council members and encouraged the new council members to attend the newly elected officials training in Valdez.

Council Member Trantham thanked the people who took the time to vote.

MOVED BY:	Trantham	To request the City Manager to provide for council a by-weekly written report of his activities
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Council Member Drake stated that he did not feel it was necessary to make a motion to request information from the City Manager. He further continued that the City Manager when asked could, and would provide the requested information.

Council Member Jacobs stated that he felt that there was enough information provided in the council packet that it was unnecessary to request a written report from the City Manager.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion failed by roll call vote of 2 – 5 (Trantham, Rodgers).
-----------------------	---

Council Member Rodgers congratulated Mayor Short and encouraged the citizens of Bethel to vote in the upcoming election. He also advised those riding four wheelers to use extreme caution when riding.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adjourn the meeting
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

APPROVED THIS 22nd day of October 2002.

ATTEST:



Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

Janette Persinger, City Clerk