
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

July 13, 1999

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on July 13, 1999, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lions Club, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Agnes Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Mayor Agnes Phillips
Antone Anvil
Joerene Hout

Dario Notti
Mike O'Brien
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers

comprising a quorum of the Council.

Absent:

Karol Pobrislo (excused)

Also in attendance were:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk
Louann Cutler, City Attorney

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Jim Clark, General Manager, WAVE Wholesale Company, presented an architect's rendering of the new WAVE Center to be constructed in Bethel. He said a sign has been erected at the location of the new facility on the State Highway. Their site analysis has been completed and this site is acceptable for their proposed two-story complex. He stated that 7500 sq. feet of the 157,000 sq. foot complex will be the WAVE retail/wholesale center. He pointed out the circular format of the complex will be the food court. On the upper floor they expect to have a fitness center, a 2 screen theater, arcade, office and a child care center. In one of the two outer buildings, they expect to have a convenience store, video rental, gas station and car wash. WAVE is hoping to have a swimming pool, quality restaurant, or something similar in the second building. WAVE is going to propose that a portion of their 17-acre site be used as the site of the new post office facility. The complex will have a paved, lighted lot with designated spots for snowmachines. Mr. Clark said this site is central to most Bethel residents and the project cost is between \$20,000,000 and 30,000,000. He noted other ancillary buildings will contain auto parts store, a lube shop, truck rental, etc. He advised that WAVE had taken a survey in Bethel and surrounding villages to find out what residents would like included in this complex. The survey resulted in (1) swimming pool, (2) movie theater, (3) a quality restaurant, (4) children's play center/day care, (5) pharmacy, (6) fitness center, (7) food court/snack shops, (8) book store, (9) dental office, (10) coffee shop, and so on.

In response to a question by Council Member Notti, Mr. Clark stated that only 7500 sq. feet of the main building will be used for WAVE sales. The remainder of that building would be leased to non-WAVE merchants.

In response to further questioning, Mr. Clark said that WAVE intends to hire locally for this project.

Janet Athanas, Parks & Recreation Director, introduced James and Nora, the chaperones for the young people with the World Horizon Group currently in Bethel. These young people have come from New York City, Washington, DC, San Diego, Woodbury, CT, and St Louis to intern in various offices in Bethel for a month. They are working in such places as KYUK Radio, the Police Department, the Senior Center, the Clerk's Office/Cemetery, the museum and the Youth Center. Ms. Athanas noted how great it was to have these young people help clean up Pinky's Park after the July 4 festivities. The park was immaculately clean in just a couple of hours.

Council Member O'Brien stated how nice it was to see young people who are willing to give of their time and energy and travel far from home to be a part of a project like this.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To approve the minutes of June 22, 1999.
SECONDED BY:	Hout	

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

Mayor Phillips noted that a discussion of Haroldsen Subdivision would be added to New Business as Item C. She also stated there would be an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

She then read the items listed on the consent agenda:

Resolution #99-15: Requesting Grant Funding Under AS 37.06 for Municipal Capital Projects, and Agreeing to Pay the Local Share for Those Projects (City Manager)

Resolution #99-16: Adopting a Policy Regarding Misuse of Alcohol and Use of Controlled Substances for Drivers Holding a Commercial Driver's License (City Manager)

MOVED BY:	Notti	To approve the consent agenda and agenda as amended.
SECONDED BY:	Anvil	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to approve the consent agenda and agenda carried by unanimous consent.
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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Phillips announced the following:

- She said she had been a guest of Alaska Airlines at the Chamber of Commerce and also attended the following week when Representative Mary Kapsner was speaking.
- The Mayor noted that Council Member Pobrislo was out of town until August 9..
- She thanked the City Clerk for reminding the Council Members that the filing period for candidates for council seats would open on August 5 and close on August 20. Seats currently held by Council Members Notti, Anvil, Pobrislo and Rodgers would be on the ballot in October.
- She had received an invitation to a function honoring Walter Hickel as Outstanding Leader.
- She noted that each Council Member had received an AML Conference Planner and asked them to complete the form and return to AML.
- The Mayor also noted that the AML Board of Director and the Alaska Conference of Mayors would be meeting in Homer on August 30-31. She noted that she would not be in attendance, but Council Member O'Brien would attend.
- Mayor Phillips noted the receipt of \$178,955 from the state for revenue sharing. This is a reduction of 33% over the previous year.
- She pointed out information from the Governor regarding the special election to be held September 14.
- She also noted the Governor's Talking Points and notices from Alaska Housing Finance Corp.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Herron relayed the following information:

- He noted the Department Head reports included in the packets.
- He informed the Council that union representatives and the City negotiators would be returning to the negotiating table the following day.
- The City Manager noted that the Haroldsen Subdivision was still being researched. He said the city attorney was present to listen/participate in the discussion later on the agenda.
- Mr. Herron stated that regarding the land beneath the Crowley office building at the port, the city may purchase the land and lease another spot to them. The crane has been appraised and will be forwarded to the council when received.
- He announced that new entrance/exit signs would be erected in the parking lot of AC and the post office with permission from the managers of those buildings and BNC.
- He noted that a report from Carl Berger regarding the recent travel group to Bethel was attached to his report.
- Mr. Herron advised the Council that it was time for the city employees to move out of the Braund Building. He said the noise and dust from the remodeling was becoming too much for them to handle. He noted that he and his assistants would be moving into office space near the dock. He felt that the City Clerk and part of the Finance Dept. could be moved to the Log Cabin and part of the Finance Dept. into the Police Station. He requested approval for this move and also for the Council to rent the Lions Club for their meetings until spring 2000.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To approve moving city employees into other office space during the remodeling of the Braund Bldg. and for the rental of the Lions Club for Council meetings during the same period of time.
SECONDED BY:	O'Brien	

City Clerk Vaughan noted that she had spoken with Jim Blake of the Lions Club, who indicated the cost for use of the Lions Club would be \$50/per evening.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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- Lastly, the city manager announced that the asphalt project of the basketball court at Pinky's Park had started that day.

In response to questioning about the renovation of the Braund Bldg., Mr. Herron noted that the project is ahead of schedule. He further stated that construction materials had been received on a barge ahead of schedule also.

Once again, Mayor Phillips thanked the Parks & Recreation Dept. for their hard work on the 4th of July.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Mayor Phillips noted there are vacancies on the Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Port and Public Works Commissions/Committees.

Transportation Commission

Council Member Hout stated the Commission would meet on Thursday, July 15.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti stated the Commission had a quorum at its last meeting and taken care of three month's worth of business. The Commission had been given a packet of recommended ordinance changes which had come from the new comprehensive plan. The next meeting would be August 12.

Parks & Recreation Committee

Council Member Pobrislo was not present to give a report.

Finance Committee

Mayor Phillips stated the July Committee meeting had been canceled and they would meet next on August 12.

Port Committee

Council Member stated the next meeting would be July 19.

Public Works Committee

Council member O'Brien stated the committee would be meeting on July 20.

Public Safety Commission

Council Member O'Brien stated that the next meeting would be August 2. He noted the Commission had been presented with proposed changes to the curfew ordinance at its June meeting.

Senior Citizens' Advisory Board

Council Member Anvil noted that the board was not meeting during the summer.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance #99-13: Establishing The Braund Building Enterprise; Authorizing, Confirming And Ratifying Leases Of Braund Building Space; Approving The Essential Terms And Conditions Of A Loan From National Bank Of Alaska To The City In An Amount Not To Exceed \$1,700,000 For The Purpose Of Paying A Part Of The Costs Of Remodeling The Braund Building; Authorizing The Assignment Of Braund Building Rents And The Execution Of A Deed Of Trust Or Other Interest In The Braund Building To Secure The Loan; And Authorizing The Manager To Execute Such Assignments, Notes, Leases, Bonds And Other Documents As May Be Necessary To Complete The Loan (City Manager Herron) (Public Hearing 7/13/99)

Mayor Phillips called for public testimony. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To adopt Ordinance #99-13
SECONDED BY:	O'Brien	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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ANVIL Yes	HOUT Yes	NOTTI Yes	O'BRIEN Yes
PHILLIPS Yes	RODGERS Yes	SANCHEZ-POBRISLO Absent	6 YES 0 NO

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Item –Haroldsen Subdivision

Council Member Notti noted that some residents of the subdivision were present to hear what the city attorney had to say.

Louann Cutler stated the city records are difficult to locate. There are policy questions which need to be addressed such as what city services are to be provided since the subdivision was never approved. She noted that court cases have concluded that services do not need to be provided, but there are other cases in which the judge has said the services needed to be provided. None of these previous cases has involved exactly the same circumstances.

Jeff Adams and Tom McCallson addressed the expansion of the landfill. They noted that a fire truck came when a house in the subdivision was on fire even though they had been requested not to come.

City Manager Herron said the current landfill is filling up fast. He said a new cell will be expanded south of the current landfill. He noted that the road to Haroldsen Sub. would not be closed.

Mr. McCallson asked for continued access and that the city be fair knowing that ownership of the road is in question.

Discussion Item – City Employees serving on Commissions/Committees

City Clerk Vaughan stated she placed this on the agenda as a city employee has asked if she was eligible to serve on the committee which deals with issues from the department in which she works.

Council Member O'Brien felt employees should be allowed to serve on the committee or commission as they would be able to give needed information and/or background to the committee. He noted that people involved in the taxi industry are members on the Transportation Commission.

The City Clerk pointed out that there is a provision in the code for the city manager to provide each committee/commission with staff from that department.

Council Member Notti stated there is a difference between owners of businesses and city employees. He asked if there was anything regarding conflict of interest which would prevent employees from serving on committees/commissions.

Ms. Vaughan replied that there was no provision for that.

City Attorney Louann Cutler stated there could be a conflict of interest with the collective bargaining unit agreement.

Council Member Hout stated that people working for the department should be giving input. She also felt that this was different then people from community businesses serving on a committee.

Council Member Notti felt there could be a potential conflict of interest and suggested that this be brought back to the Council.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member O'Brien wished his oldest grandchild a happy birthday. He turned 12 the previous day.

Council Member Rodgers noted that his sisters and families were visiting him.

Council Member Anvil asked the City Manager about the summer paving projects to which Mr. Herron replied that Knik had been awarded the bid.

Mr. Anvil stated he wanted a good job done since the City was to take over the maintenance of those roads.

Mayor Phillips stated she appreciated all the hard work of the Parks & Recreation employees for the July 4 activities.

Council Member Notti wished his #2 daughter a happy sweet sixteen birthday, also on the previous day. He noted that she was very interested in the new WAVE Center and would like to be one of the first tenants in it. Putting on his Knik hat, he said the project is only as good as the specifications written for it. Knik had followed the state's specs for paving Main Street the previous year.

Council Member Hout expressed her appreciation to Grant Aviation for their consideration and caring for an elder who had to be brought into Bethel for medical attention.

Mayor Phillips recessed the meeting prior to the Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED BY:	Hout	To recess into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF AUGUST, 1999.

ATTEST:

Agnes L. Phillips, City Mayor

Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk