City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

January 27, 1999 | Regular Meeting | Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

The rescheduled Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on January 27, 1999, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Conference Room, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Agnes Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. The meeting had been postponed from the previous evening due to weather.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Mayor Agnes Phillips
Antone Anvil
Joerene Hout
Dario Notti
Mike O'Brien
Karol Pobrislo
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers

comprising a quorum of the Council.

Also in attendance were:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Mayor Phillips asked if anyone wished to address the Council. No one stepped forward to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections were noted to the minutes of January 12, 1999.

MOVED BY:	O'Brien	To approve the minutes as corrected.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

At the request of the City Manager, Mayor Phillips added 1998 Audit as Item B under New Business and Water Trucks as Item C under New Business.

Also at the request of City Manager Herron, the Mayor announced there would be an Executive Session regarding the APEA negotiations. She noted that she would excuse herself from the executive session as her husband is a member of APEA.

At the request of the Mayor, City Clerk Vaughan read the consent agenda items by title only.

Ordinance #99-01: Amending the Sales Tax Code to Provide an Exemption for Senior Citizens (City Manager Herron and Finance Committee) (Public Hearing 2/09/99)

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

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to approve agenda and consent agenda carried by unanimous consent.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Phillips stated she would like to reappoint Louis Andrew to the Planning Commission and John Hastie and Bruce Day to the Public Safety Commission for three-year terms.

MOVED BY:	O'Brien	To confirm the reappointments of Louis Andrew, John Hastie and Bruce Day.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to confirm reappointments.

Mayor Phillips announced the following:

She thanked the City Clerk for giving Tony Vaska a copy of Resolution #99-03 Supporting Census 2000.
Calista Corp. has made a request for time for a presentation to the City Council at a future meeting. She asked the City Clerk to contact them.
The Mayor noted receipt of a letter from Sister Cities International. It was noted that the City of Bethel used to belong and had a Sister City.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To approve joining Sister Cities International and paying dues of $200.
SECONDED BY:	O'Brien	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to approve carried by unanimous consent.

Ms. Phillips noted that she had received a coupon for reduced travel to Juneau and stated she would use it to help reduce costs of travel for city business.
Also, received was the agenda for the Alaska Conference of Mayors meeting to be held in Juneau, February 11-12. She noted that Council Member O'Brien would be attending the AML Board of Directors meeting at the same time. She said she would wait until the April AML Legislative Conference to go to Juneau. City Manager Herron stated it would be good for a City Council member to be in Juneau while the City Clerk was there, February 6-12. Council Member Hout stated she would be in Juneau February 5-8.
She thanked Council Members Notti and Pobrislo, City Manager Herron and City Clerk Vaughan for attending the Kuskokwim 300 award ceremony on the previous night.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Herron noted that department head reports were included in the council packets.

He spoke about the senior citizens' sales tax exemption and that the ordinance was introduced tonight.

He noted that the ground rules are being established with APEA for contract negotiations and he will update the Council on that during the Executive Session.

City Manager Herron stated he was working with Brandon Leary, Brian Glasheen, and the City Public Works Dept. to relocate the "Snowball" from the recycling center to an area near the animal shelter. He responded to questions, by stating that Police Chief Bob Petitt is currently attending a conference in Oregon about planning police stations. The current recycling center behind the Braund Building has been selected as the site of a possible new police station.

Mr. Herron advised the council that he has requested the attorney to draft an ordinance banning the sale of laser pointers to minors in the city. He has also advised the Youth Center to prohibit them from that facility. He felt it was important for the community to at least discuss this issue.

He also noted that he had directed the city's engineer to develop draft road specifications which will be reviewed by the city's commissions and committees prior to the upcoming construction season.

Council Member Pobrislo questioned if the roads which the state surfaced this past summer were approved by the city. She also asked what had happened to the specifications in order for previously paved roads to be built to "specs".

City Manager Herron replied that the state built the state highway to their specs which are different than local, secondary road specs. He added that Main Street was not approved by the city and the state has indicated that it would be reworked this summer.

Council Member Hout pointed out that Anchorage roads have gravel beds and no permafrost and specs in Anchorage will not work for Bethel.

Council Member Anvil asked about a bike trail, noting that Senator Hoffman and Representative Ivan had indicated there was money for the project. Mr. Herron replied that the allocation is there, the project is scheduled for 2001 if the legislature funds it.

Council Member Hout noted that the boardwalk from the hospital to KUC is seeing quite a bit of snowmobile use. She would like word to get out that the boardwalks are not for snowmobiles.

STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Planning Commission
Council Member Notti stated the Planning Commission had met on January 14, and all members were present. He said they approved a resolution regarding the land for the Owl Street park, renamed Beans Way to Jacobs Way and had tabled three other items. He noted the minutes from the meeting were in the Council members' folders.

Transportation Commission
As Council Member Hout stated that she had missed the meeting, but the minutes were also in the folders. She noted the Commission had discussed the number of cab permits and trail markers.

Council Member Rodgers asked Police Lt. Crum about a snowmobile driver receiving a ticket for driving on the shoulder of the road yet others ride in the middle of the road and don't get ticketed. He felt that snowmobile drivers should be ticketed for not using marked trails.

Council Member Notti said the trails should be used when the snow is good, but when the river is bad, the police should have some leniency.

City Manager Herron stated that he and the Police Chief have discussed the issuance of citations to snowmobile drivers.

Council Member Pobrislo stated that Bethel has grown and she would like to see trails marked.

A discussion on trails continued.

Parks & Recreation Committee
Council Member Pobrislo stated the Committee had a meeting scheduled for this very night but had canceled due to the Council meeting. They would be meeting next on February 16 at 6 p.m.

Finance Committee
Mayor Phillips stated that after the last meeting's discussion about removing commission/committee members for three unexcused consecutive absences she had requested the Clerk to draft an ordinance setting out three unexcused absences in a year as a reason for a person's dismissal. She also reviewed the Committee's recommended amendments to the senior citizens' sales tax exemption ordinance.

Senior Citizens' Advisory Board
Council Member Anvil stated that the SCAB had not met since the last Council meeting. They will next meet on February 3 at 10:30 a.m. He noted that several senior citizens have spoken with him about the Senior Services Director position. They have expressed a desire for a local, Yupik speaking person.

Mayor Phillips stated the City Manager has to take the complexity of the position into consideration.

Council Member Anvil added that he wanted the senior citizens treated well and to be given respect.

Port Commission
Council Member Rodgers stated that the Commission met on January 18. He noted that Donna Chris had resigned from the Commission. They had tabled election of officers and discussed dock improvements, port director position, the Crowley Building, the sunken barge and boats left in the parking lot. They indicated to the City Manager that they would like to see a resume from the firm doing the dock improvements. They also discussed the Crowley crane. The city has first right of refusal, but the city does not want it.

City Manager Herron stated that the owner of one boat has been identified and a letter sent to him. That particular boat will be moved.

Public Works Committee
Council Member O'Brien stated the Committee did not have a quorum for its January meeting, but those present had discussed used water trucks.

Public Safety Commission
Council Member O'Brien stated the Commission will meet on February 1.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

1998 Audit and Management Letter

City Manager Herron noted the Audit and Management letter had been provided to every council member. He noted that although the management letter was dated September 18, 1998, the city had not received it until January 18.

Mayor Phillips noted this was the second year for a clean audit. She thanked Finance Director, Stuart Robinson, and his staff for their hard work.

Council Member Rodgers expressed his appreciation to Joyce Quirion for her work at the city and wished her will in her future endeavors.

Discussion Item - Water Trucks

City Manager Herron passed around pictures of used water trucks he has located in Texas. He and Gookie Alexie will travel to see these trucks on February 10. The new truck should be on the last barge of the coming summer. This truck cost $150,000. He thought the city could obtain one of these used truck for about $80,000. He felt the city should buy the three remaining trucks.

A discussion ensued regarding the truck and the planned Dallas trip.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Notti expressed his condolences to the Kasayuli family and noted the river can be very hazardous. He noted that the K-300 was a lot of fun this year.

Council Member Hout congratulated the K-300 committee for a successful race. She also expressed condolences to the Kasayuli family in Kwethluck.

Council Member Pobrislo stated she had never seen so many people work on one event as she saw for the K-300. She also noted that homecoming had been a success and that the Bethel girls had won their game against Barrow.

Mayor Phillips thanked Beverly and John McDonald for a well run K-300. She expressed appreciation to the Police Dept. for their hard work, especially now in dealing with a death investigation.

Council Member Anvil noted that there are a great number of accidents and deaths in Bethel. He also noted that campaign signs from last fall have not been taken down yet. He said he would be taking some of them down.

Council Member Rodgers also expressed his sympathy to the bereaved families. He offered his best wished to Mr. Sergei who was medivaced to Anchorage for hypothermia and Carl Kawagley who suffered a stroke.

Council Member O'Brien congratulated the Kusko 300 Committee and the mushers who participated in the races.

The Council recessed for a break prior to an Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. Mayor Phillips excused herself from the Executive Session as her husband is employed by the city and is an APEA member.

The Council meeting was reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

MOVED BY:	Pobrislo	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1999.

Agnes L. Phillips, City Mayor

ATTEST:

Gaye J. Vaughan, City Clerk