

CITY COUNCIL
Kent Harding
Buford McComas
Tad Miller
Agnes Phillips
Ruth Richardson, Mayor
Stanley Rodgers
Wally Wallace



CITY MANAGER
Ken Weaver

CITY CLERK
L.J. Tanner

City of Bethel
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
May 14, 1996

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Richardson in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Dave Trantham, Bethel, mentioned that former Mayor Margaret Cooke had suffered a stroke and was at Providence Hospital in Anchorage. He suggested that the City send flowers. Mr. Trantham went on to discuss the Police Audit Report. He has information that he believes will reveal the person(s) who leaked and distributed the report. He would like to know the status of the City's investigation.

Mike Grant, Bethel, spoke about the petition he sent to the City regarding dust on Ptarmigan Road. Public Works Director Harry Parsi responded to Mr. Grant's complaints. Several options for keeping the dust down were discussed. The Council requested a status report on the problem at the May 28 regular meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Phillips asked that legislative bills be referred to by their description in addition to the number. "Senate Bill 280" (in the April 23 minutes) will be changed to read "Senate Bill 280 - Mandatory Borough Incorporation."

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by McComas to approve the minutes of the April 23, 1996, regular meeting and the May 1, 1996, special meeting as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Miller to amend the agenda by adding New Business Item E: Introduction of Ordinance #96-19 - Lease of City Property to an Entity providing a Necessary Public Service, and to approve the agenda as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Richardson announced that May 12-18 is FAS/FAE Awareness Week, sponsored by the Bethel FAS/FAE Task Force.

Mayor Richardson proclaimed May 18-25 is Clean-Up, Green-Up week in Bethel. The City will provide free pick-up service for large items such as appliances and cars. Another proclamation made by the Mayor was Safe Boating Week, also May 18-25. The Mayor urged everyone who boats to purchase and wear a life jacket.

Two Committee resignations were announced: Don Constantine from the Public Safety Commission, and Terry Mead from the Finance Committee. Two appointments were made by Mayor Richardson: Donald Tubbs to the Finance Committee and Harry Faulkner to Public Works. Both appointments were ratified unanimously by the Council. Mayor Richardson asked that letters of appreciation be sent to those people who had resigned their Committee appointments.

Mayor Richardson asked for the Council's opinion on the MOA with the Alaska DOT/PF for the Ridgecrest Drive improvements. The agreement provides for the State to pave Akakeek Street from Ridgecrest to Ptarmigan, if the City agrees to maintain that stretch at no cost to the State. Discussion followed on the ability of the Public Works Department to maintain an asphalt road, whether or not they have the necessary equipment and training, and if the agreement could be modified to stipulate that the DOT/PF would maintain the road, or let the City use the required equipment at no cost. Public Works Director Parsi was asked for his opinion on the City's ability to maintain the road, and he responded that it wouldn't be a problem. City Manager Weaver clarified that if the MOA were not signed, it would hold up the entire Ridgecrest improvement project, not just the Akakeek Street section of the project. Mr. Weaver further stated that if Council wished, the pavement of Akakeek street could be removed from the project specifications at a later time.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Harding, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the DOT/PF for the Ridgecrest Rehabilitation project.

vote Voice Vote, motion carried, 1 opposed (Wallace)

Mayor Richardson asked Council's approval on re-scheduling the following budget work sessions: Move Friday, May 17 to Wednesday, May 15; move Monday, May 27 to Friday, May 24th. Council approved.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Weaver referred Council to his written report on the following:

Police Department Update

Mr. Weaver informed the Council of the current status of the Police Department reorganization. Mayor Richardson asked Council Member Miller to re-state the motion he had made at the May 7, 1996 Budget Work Session, to authorize the City Manager to procure emergency services from Burton & Associates for management of the Police Department. Because the motion was made at a Work Session, it could not be considered an official action of the Council.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding, to authorize the City Manager to procure Police Department Management Services from Burton and Associates at a cost of \$75.00/hour.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Other items included in the Manager's report:

- RFP's for Enhanced 911 System: Information is being reviewed by the Purchasing Agent. An RFP was either issued within the last few days, or will be issued shortly. Council Member Miller asked that a discussion of this item be placed on the next Public Safety Commission agenda for discussion. Council Member Miller requested that an ordinance authorizing a surcharge for an enhanced 911 system be placed on the May 28 regular Council meeting agenda.

- RFP's for Voicemail System: One response was received, from GTE.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding, to authorize the City Manager to award the Voicemail contract to GTE, for \$10,250.00.

vote Roll Call vote. Motion carried, unanimously (McComas abstained due to his employment with GTE.)

- Update on the Bank Stabilization Project: City Manager Weaver recommended that the City wait, and find out if funding for the project will be approved by the Legislature, before implementing an increase on the fuel through-put fee. Mayor Richardson asked that the funding table, showing where moneys for the project have come from, be faxed to the House Finance Committee members.
- Public Meeting - Water/Sewer Facility Master Plan: A meeting will be held on May 21, 1996, 7:30 p.m., at the Log Cabin. This is the 95% submittal meeting of the master plan update being prepared by Dames & Moore. Public participation is encouraged.
- Pinky's Park Playground repairs: The Public Works Department does not have available manpower to perform the repairs. RFP's have been issued and responses received, but the cost has increased due to Davis Bacon wage regulations. The majority of repairs will come out of next year's budget.
- Tomaganok House Update: City Manager Weaver reported that Mr. Dean Pulchalski will move the house no later than June 30, 1996.

- **Weight Room Hours:** A meeting between the City and a local group of weight-lifters is scheduled for May 15, 5:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. At issue are the new weight-room hours, instituted because of concerns over liability. Mr. Weaver referred Council to a report in the packet from the City's liability insurer, AML/JIA, which recommended against unsupervised use of the weight room.
- **Landfill Hours:** City Manager Weaver referred Council to his memo listing the new Landfill Hours. Mayor Richardson commented that the hours should be established, posted, and left alone, to avoid confusion. People need to get used to one set of hours. The current hours of operation are: Monday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

motion M/M by Miller to approve the landfill hours as stated in Mr. Weaver's memo of February 15th (old hours.) Motion failed, no second.

Council Member Miller suggested that the landfill hours be discussed at the next Public Works Committee meeting. In the meantime, the current hours will be maintained.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES and COMMISSIONS

Finance Committee: Council Member Wallace announced that the next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16.

Planning: John Guinn, Planning Commission Chairman, was scheduled to give a report but was called out of town. Council Member McComas requested that a formal report from the Commission be scheduled for another Council meeting. Mr. McComas reported on the recent actions of the Commission, including variances granted and denied.

Public Safety Commission: Council Member Phillips reported that the Commission would like to give a report to Council. The City Clerk will schedule a report on an upcoming council meeting agenda, possibly in late June or July.

Public Works Committee: The next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 21st, in conjunction with the Water/Sewer Master Plan update meeting.

Senior Citizens: The Senior Advisory Board has changed their monthly meeting to the First Wednesday, same place, same time.

Transportation: A work session will be held on May 23rd, to review proposed changes to the Vehicle for Hire ordinances.

Youth Services: A quorum was obtained at the last meeting. They finalized a needs assessment survey, which will be delivered in the next week via a bulk mailing. There is growing interest in a Community Recreation Center. They are accepting applications for additional committee members. Their next meeting is June 6, 5:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin.

Mayor Richardson called a 5-minute break at 8:50 p.m. Upon returning from the break, Council Member Harding had a message from Representative Ivan's office, stating that a

consensus on the State's budget had not been reached, and the legislature has recessed until June 3, 1996.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Item A: Public Hearing - Ordinance #96-16- Modification to Title 15.08.040

Mayor Richardson opened the Public Hearing. Jay Barrett, KYUK, questioned if the word "floodplain," in the ordinance meant the "100 year floodplain." Planning Manager Hoppenworth responded that yes, it did. There being no further public comment, Mayor Richardson closed the Public Hearing.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by McComas to adopt Ordinance #96-16.

vote Roll call vote. Motion carried, 1 opposed (Phillips.)

Item B: Resolution #96-20 - Increase in Fuel Through-put Fees

Due to the controversy surrounding the proposed increase, Mayor Richardson allowed comments from the public.

Mike O'Brien, Bethel, requested that Council table the issue and explore other options. Dave Trantham, Bethel, asked the City Manager several questions, which were answered by Mr. Weaver. Mr. Trantham, speaking on behalf of the Bethel Chamber of Commerce, expressed opposition to the increase. Mayor Richardson also expressed her opposition.

motion M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Miller to "disapprove" of Resolution #96-20.

Discussion followed on ways to raise the funds needed for the seawall project, including revenue and general obligation bonds, borrowing money from the General Fund, low interest loans from the State, and further lobbying efforts in Juneau. Mr. Weaver reminded the Council that a \$700,000 payment is required on June 30. An ordinance will be introduced at the May 28 meeting to authorize the disbursement.

vote Roll Call vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item C: Selection of Legal Services Firm

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding, to retain the services of Hicks, Boyd, Chandler, and Falconer, the City's current legal firm.

vote Roll Call vote. Motion failed, 3-Yes, 3-No (McComas, Phillips, Wallace)

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Wallace, to retain the services of Preston, Gates and Ellis.

vote Roll Call vote. Motion failed, 3-Yes, 3-No (Harding, Miller, Richardson)

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by McComas, to table the Item until the May 28, 1996 meeting, and in the meantime, retain the services of Hicks, Boyd, Chandler, and Falconer, the City's current legal firm.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Introduction of Ordinance #96-17, Changes to the Transportation Commission's authorizing ordinance.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Wallace to introduce Ordinance #96-17.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B: Introduction of Ordinance #96-18, Council Appointed Officers.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Wallace to introduce Ordinance #96-18.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item C: Long-term Strategic Planning.

Council Member Miller explained the materials in the packet from Roberta McCreary, a consultant who specializes in strategic planning. He announced that the Bethel Long-term Strategic Planning committee will meet on May 20, at the Log Cabin, 5:30 p.m. Diane Carpenter will report on the recommendations of the Alternative Industries Focus Group.

Item D: Reduce Age for Senior Tax Exemption from 65 to 60

Council Member Phillips, who requested this agenda item, explained the reasons for reducing the age of senior eligibility for the tax exemption. Seniors aged 60 and above can purchase discounted meals at the Senior Center, and this has caused some confusion.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by McComas to reduce the age for Senior Citizen Tax exemption from 65 to 60.

vote Voice Vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

An ordinance will be introduced at the May 28 regular council meeting to effect this change in the Bethel Municipal Code.

Item E: Introduction of Ordinance #96-19, Lease of City Property to AVCP.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Wallace to introduce Ordinance #96-19.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Harding - Encouraged people to "adopt-a-dumpster" for Clean Up, Green Up week.

McComas - Apologized for his earlier comments to Mr. Trantham.

Miller - Wished his mother a Happy Mother's Day.

Phillips - Congratulated the graduating highschool students.

Richardson - no comment.

Rodgers - absent, no comment.

Wallace - Wished all mothers a Happy Mothers Day.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No materials on Crow vs. City of Bethel were received from City Attorney Chandler, and he could not be reached by telephone, so there was no Executive Session.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Richardson, 2nd by Harding to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

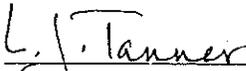
vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 28th DAY OF MAY, 1996.



Ruth M. Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



L.J. Tanner, City Clerk