City of Bethel, Alaska
City Council Minutes

November 16, 2004 Special Meeting Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on November 16, 2004, at 6:32 p.m., in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Dyment called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Tundy Rodgers (6:37 PM)	Dave Trantham
Yolanda Jorgensen	Hugh Dyment
R. Thor Williams	Dan Leinberger
Andy McGowan	

Also in attendance were the following:

Robert Herron, City Manager
Selena Malone, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

1. Eric Olson
   - Read memo from March 1, 2000 regarding City Administration being good role models

2. Loren Bradbury
   - Requested on the status of his request to exempt churches from sales taxes and business garbage fees

Council Member Rodgers arrived at 6:37 PM.

Council Members discussed adding an agenda item.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Leinberger	To approve agenda for November 16, 2004, Special Meeting.
SECONDED BY:	McGowan	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Item A - Discussion of Possible Common Goals of the Bethel City Council for 2004 – 2005

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To suspend the rules to make the November 16, 2004, Special Meeting an open planning meeting where the Council can give direction to Administration.
SECONDED BY:	Leinberger	

MOVED BY:	Williams	That Council Members give timelines to the Administration, appoint Council Members to lead the issue, and decide which committee to assign an issue to.
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

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Council Member Leinberger stated that his primary goal for Bethel is a road through the donut hole. Mr. Leinberger's stated that his additional goals were that he would like to see a revision in the water/sewer plan. That a fiscal note is attached to each ordinance, and that all ordinances are reviewed by the appropriate committee/commission that it would pertain to. To outsource the Finance Department's tasks.

Council Member was excused from the meeting , time 7:15 p.m.

Council Member Jorgensen stated that her primary goal is opening a community recreation center for Bethel and the surrounding villages.

Council Member McGowan stated that his primary goal is to extract money from alcohol without opening a liquor store.

Council Member Rodgers stated that his primary goal is to utilize City property.

Council Member Trantham stated that his goal is to rebuild the trust between the Council and the citizens of Bethel.

Council Member Williams stated that his primary goal is a port authority.

Mayor Dyment stated that his primary goal is to keep up with the Council's goals and see that the goals of the Council move forward.

1. Donut Hole
   - Council Member Rodgers stated that there is a Planning Commission meeting on December 9, 2004 to address the road through the donut hole, and that all parties involved have been invited.
   - Council Member Leinberger stated that the road through the donut hole would encourage land development by the land owners of that area.

- Council Member Rodgers stated that Bethel Native Corporation (BNC) and the City could work together and split the hauling of dirt from their dirt pits to reduce the cost of the development.
- Council Member Jorgensen stated that she feels the road is need and agreed that the road would relieve congestion.
- Council Member McGowan suggested that the City proceed with harmony with the private land owners and BNC and that we develop a financial plan to address the cost of developing the road.
- Council Member Williams agreed that the Council go forward with the goal to develop a land through the donut hole.
- Council Member Trantham agreed that the Council proceed with the goal to develop a road in an honest manner, and that the road would alleviate the congestion.
- Council Member Rodgers asked that Willie Keppel be invited to the planning of the donut hole.
- Mayor Dyment received Council concurrence to invite Willie Keppel to the planning of the development.

Council Members discussed how the road would be paid for and discussed ways to fund the road development.

City Manager Herron stated that any discussion is done in parallel with BNC.

Council Members concurred that the Administration direct the Planning Commission meeting on December 6, 2004 meeting be moved to the City Hall.

Council Members discussed permitting and the environmental issues that need to be addressed in order to proceed with the donut hole road plan.

A break was taken from 7:45 PM until 7:55 PM.

2. Community Recreation Center
   - Council Member Jorgensen stated that the people of Bethel and the surrounding villages need a positive outlet. Ms. Jorgensen stated that the recreation center house a swimming pool, movie theatre, gym, and museum.
   - John Sargent gave a brief on the grant for the plan of a multi-use recreation center. And stated that there needs to be a plan, design, and development.
   - Council Member Williams suggested that the recreation center move forward, but in pieces with intentions of adding upon generation of revenue. Council Member Williams also suggested that the City of Nome be contacted to get information on their recreation center.
   - Janet Athanas identified other Bethel entities that expressed interest in participating in the development of the recreation center. Ms. Athanas stated that the key thing to the development was that it be a multi-use center to involve other agencies.

3. Obtaining revenue from alcohol without opening a liquor store.
   - Council Members discussed various options for creating revenue without opening a liquor store, along with opening a liquor store without keeping liquor on the shelves.
   - Direct the City Clerk to research the numbers needed for a ballot measure.

4. Utilizing City Property
   - Council Member Rodgers suggested using City lands such as the Bethel Group Home site for City production. Mr. Rodgers suggested using City land for an impound site and/or recreation facility.

- Council Member Jorgensen stated that she is for recycling City property for development.

Council Member Rodgers was excused at 9:10 PM.

A break was taken from 9:19 PM until 9:29 PM

5. Rebuilding trust between the Council and the community
   - Council Members discussed the need for the Council to work together to move forward to earn the trust of the community to be productive.

6. Port Authority
   - Council Members discussed establishing a port authority to create revenue and addressed the need to go to the legislature to go forward.
   - Council concurred to have the City Manager and Council Member Williams attend the port authority meeting.

Item B - Discussion of the City's Legislative Priorities for Senator Lyman Hoffman and Representative Mary Kapsner and the 2005 Alaska Legislature

Council Member Trantham stated that the Council needs to establish a list of priorities for Bethel's capitol budget and to have that list ready by the November 30th Council meeting.

Council Members agreed to have administration invite Representative Kapsner and Senator Hoffman to the November 30th Council Meeting, and for Administration to prepare a list of priorities.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Dyment
- Recapped the events of the meeting.

Council Member Rodgers
- Was not present for comments.

Council Member Trantham
- Thank the City of Bethel for nominating him to the second Vice-President on the Alaska Municipal League (AML).
- Thanked the Denali Commission for supporting four of the villages in Region IX to go to the AML conference.
- Stated that the Lt. Governor will be here on the December 9th.

Council Member Williams
- Spoke of politics and the process which politicians take to get business done.
- Announced the November 30th Council Meeting.

Council Member McGowan
- Had no comments.

Council Member Leinberger
- Was not present for comments.

Council Member Jorgensen

- Expressed her delight in the meeting and the importance of kind gestures.
- Stated that she learned a lot from attending the AML conference.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	McGowan	To adjourn the meeting at 10:29 p.m.
SECONDED BY:	Williams	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote 5-0

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 16th DAY OF November, 2004.

ATTEST:

Hugh Dyment, Mayor

Selena Malone, City Clerk