

**CITY COUNCIL**  
*Tad Miller*  
*Dario Notti*  
*Mike O'Brien*  
*Agnes Phillips, Mayor*  
*Ruth Richardson*  
*Stanley Rodgers*  
*Thor Williams*



**CITY MANAGER**  
*Ken Weaver*

**CITY CLERK**  
*L.J. Warren*

**City of Bethel**  
**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
**August 26, 1997**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: O'Brien, Phillips, Richardson, Rodgers, Williams

Absent: Miller (excused), Notti (excused)

Also present: City Manager Ken Weaver, City Clerk L.J. Warren, 11 in the audience.

**III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

There were no people to be heard.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

**motion** M/M by Richardson, 2nd by Williams to approve the minutes of the August 12, 1997 regular meeting, and the August 21, 1997 special meeting, as presented.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council member O'Brien asked to table Old Business Item E, Uniform Building Codes.

**motion** M/M by Richardson, 2nd by Rodgers to approve the agenda as amended.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Phillips reported on her attendance at the dedication of the new AVCPRHA housing subdivision, and the World Walk for Breastfeeding.

Mayor Phillips reminded Council members about the special meeting scheduled for August 28, 6:30 p.m. to discuss legislative priorities with the city lobbyist, Paul Richards. Ms. Phillips also noted the Seawall dedication ceremony, and 40th municipal birthday celebration, on Friday, August 29.

## VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Weaver referred Council to the written reports, and discussed the following:

- Dumpsters at Trailer Court: The current plan is to move the existing dumpsters east, to a new location on the same side of the highway, and to provide additional dumpsters directly within the Trailer Court. This will accomplish two things: it will help reduce the use of the existing dumpsters by Trailer Court residents, and it will improve access to the Pit Lake Park, which was cleaned up and improved by the City, last summer.
- Ambulance Billing Contract: Mr. Weaver noted that additional information has been provided by City staff, per the Council's request at the August 12 meeting.
- New Cemetery: The Public Works Department has begun to fill and level the new cemetery site. The City has constructed a culvert over the utility pipes leading into the new AVCPRHA subdivision. The City hopes to recoup the cost of the culvert from AVCPRHA.
- Constituency Contact and Response System: Mr. Weaver pointed out that the City has implemented a new computer system to track suggestions and complaints. The first report from the system is included in the packet.
- Complaint about boardwalk behind Moravian Church: The boardwalk has been improved and signs will be erected in the near future advising people not to ride bikes, skateboards, or roller-blades on the boardwalk.

## VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES and COMMISSIONS

There were no recommendations.

*Finance Committee*: Mayor Phillips reported that the Finance Committee canceled their scheduled meeting due to travel by Committee members.

*Planning Commission*: Council member Notti was absent, no report.

*Port Commission*: Council member Rodgers reported that the Commission did not have a quorum for the August meeting. The next meeting will not be until next quarter, unless called by the chairman or 3 commissioners.

*Public Works Committee*: Council member O'Brien stated that he was unable to attend the August 19 meeting. Acting Public Works Director, Clair Grifka, reported that the Committee viewed a tape on the product "Soil Sement", and has requested further information from the manufacturer. They discussed the need for an updated snow removal plan, and tabled discussion on privatization of city services and honeybucket waivers.

*Public Safety Commission*: Council member Richardson reported that there has not been another Commission meeting since the last Council meeting.

*Transportation Commission*: The regular August meeting of the Commission was canceled, due to no quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for September 4th.

*Youth Services Committee*: Council member Miller was absent, no report.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

**Item A: Public Hearing on Ordinance #97-19, Amending the FY98 Budget**

Mayor Phillips opened the Public Hearing. Seeing and hearing no one to speak, Mayor Phillips closed the Public Hearing, and asked for Council comment.

Council member Richardson stated that she was satisfied with the justification presented by Acting Finance Director Stuart Robinson for continuing the services provided by CLAIMPAY, even at an increased cost. Council member Williams questioned where the additional funds would come from, and expressed concern that the Council was using too much of the City's fund balance. Council member Rodgers noted that cost savings in other areas, and additional revenues, such as from the City surplus sale, would hopefully offset the increased expenditures.

**motion** M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Richardson to adopt Ordinance #97-19.

**vote** Roll call vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Item B: Public Hearing on Ordinance #97-20, Purchasing Agent (O'Brien)**

Mayor Phillips opened the Public Hearing. Seeing and hearing no one to speak, Mayor Phillips closed the Public Hearing, and asked for Council comment.

Council member Richardson stated that she would like input from City Manager Weaver on the proposed change. Mr. Weaver stated that he had discussed the issue with former Finance Director Bonnie Duke, and was not opposed to moving the position of Purchasing Agent back into the Finance Department.

**motion** M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by O'Brien, to adopt Ordinance #97-20.

**vote** Roll call vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Item C: Public Hearing on Ordinance #97-21, Dedicating a Public Park (Richardson)**

Mayor Phillips opened the Public Hearing. Cynthia Andrecheck and Kathy Gross expressed their concerns over the proposed park, including lack of supervision, location next to a busy road, previous problems with juvenile vandalism in the area, long-term park maintenance, snow removal, and dust. Tom Hildreth, Intake Manager for AVCPRHA, spoke in favor of the park, and expressed hope that AVCPRHA could address the valid concerns raised by Ms. Andrecheck and Ms. Gross. Mr. Hildreth also noted that the park will be for all city residents, not just AVCP housing residents. Millie Bentley suggested that the City, or AVCPRHA, hire a paid recreation supervisor. Seeing and hearing no one else to speak, Mayor Phillips closed the Public Hearing, and asked for Council comment.

Council member Richardson stated that the concerns raised were important and need to be addressed. She does support the park and AVCPRHA's plans to implement it, and hopes that better curfew enforcement by the Police Department would help reduce problems. Council member Rodgers suggested that a local community watch program could be developed to help watch the park. Police Chief Gary Eilers supported the idea, and noted that his department has recently received training on how to organize a community watch program.

**motion** M/M by Richardson, 2nd by Williams, to adopt Ordinance #97-21.

**vote** Roll Call vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Item D: Discussion - Update on fines for dumping graywater (Williams)**

Council member Williams, who requested the agenda item, stated that he would like an update on the City's efforts to enforce the graywater laws. City Manager Weaver noted that the original, proposed deadline of August 15, 1997, has been extended to August 15, 1998. However, the City has stated its right to enforce the law, and is working with homeowners to persuade them to upgrade their sewage systems. There are currently 200-300 violations in the City, and each situation is unique. Council member Rodgers noted that the City really needs to push people to make the upgrades, or eventually DEC will cite the city for not enforcing its own laws. Council member Richardson asked to have CSO Burley make a report to the Council, detailing his enforcement efforts. Acting Public Works Director, Clair Grifka, noted that since the original letter (with the August 15, 1997 deadline) was made public, a number of homes have come into compliance. Mayor Phillips noted that many more applications for the CDBG grant have been received by the City.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item A. Introduction of Ordinance #97-22, Transient Lodging Business Fee**

Mayor Phillips noted that two people had signed up to speak on this topic. Millie Bentley, owner of Bentley's Porter House B&B, expressed disagreement with the proposed ordinance. Most of her B&B customers are local social service or state agencies. Increased rates won't help promote tourism. Diane Carpenter, owner of the Pacifica Guest House, also expressed opposition to the ordinance. Ms. Carpenter wondered what the purpose of the fee is, and how the money would be spent by the City. She suggested that the Council consider a bed tax, which would require voter approval.

The Ordinance was referred to the Finance Committee for review, and scheduled to come back to Council, with the Finance Committee's recommendations, at the September 23 regular meeting.

**Item B: Introduction of Ordinance #97-23, Removing PATC Advisory Board from the BMC (O'Brien).**

**motion** M/M by Williams, 2nd by Rodgers, to introduce Ordinance #97-23.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Item C: Introduction of Ordinance #97-24, Regarding private sewage hauling (Weaver)**

City Manager Weaver discussed his ideas and concerns about eventual privatization of city services. Council member Richardson, noting the late completion of the draft ordinance, suggested that the City Manager be given more time, after returning from sick leave, to review the ordinance. Further discussion followed. The ordinance was referred to the Public Works Committee, and scheduled to come back to Council at the October 14 regular meeting.

**Item D: Introduction of Ordinance #97-25, Amending the FY98 budget (Phillips)**

**motion** M/M by Richardson, 2nd by Rodgers, to introduce Ordinance #97-25.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Item E: Introduction of Ordinance #97-26, Amending the Classification Plan (Phillips)**

**motion** M/M by O'Brien, 2nd by Williams, to introduce Ordinance #97-26.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Item F: Introduction of Ordinance #97-27, Regarding smoking in public buildings (Phillips)**

The City Clerk explained that the draft ordinance has not been received from the City Attorney. The item was tabled until the September 9 regular meeting.

**Item G: Discussion, Police Department vehicle Take-home policy (Miller)**

Council member Miller, who requested the agenda item, was not present. Police Chief Eilers, at Mayor Phillips invitation, explained his request to implement a vehicle take-home policy. The advantages of such a policy have been proven in other communities, and are described in a memo from Lt. R.J. Ely, in the Council packet. Council members Williams and O'Brien stated their support for the proposed policy. Council member Rodgers noted that he also supports the policy, but would like assurances that the department is following a prescribed schedule of preventative maintenance. Chief Eilers, addressing Mr. Rodgers' concern, noted that Sgt. Jim Brogdan is in charge of the department's preventative maintenance program, and it is followed.

**motion** M/M Richardson, 2nd by Rodgers, to move forward in concept, with a draft policy, to be brought back to Council for further discussion.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Item H: Bethel Community Services, Norma Jean Day Care Center.**

Steve O'Brien, chairman of the board of BCS, addressed the Council. Mr. O'Brien stated that the Day Care Center has been subsidized by BCS's other programs for years, but that cannot be allowed to continue. If substantial funding is not received from outside contributors, the center will have to close effective January 1, 1998. Council discussed the day care center's value to the community, and made several suggestions to Mr. O'Brien about how the center might raise money. Council member Richardson pointed out that the City has no funds available to donate.

**XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Miller** - Absent, no comment.

**Notti** - Absent, no comment.

**O'Brien** - Congratulated Mayor Phillips on her new job as the Healthy Families Program Coordinator.

**Phillips** - Welcomed the City Manager back on the job. Thanked BCS Director Dr. Zod Osuji for his efforts to keep the Norma Jean Day Care Center open. Thanked Acting Public Works Director, Clair Grifka, for his hard work.

**Richardson** - Commented on the attorney's opinion on moorage grace periods, and asked the City Manager to consider granting grace periods to tender boat operators, in light of the fisheries disaster in the region.

**Rodgers** - Wished people good luck with the hunting season.

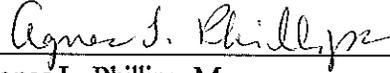
**Williams** - Noted that many tourists simply pass through Bethel on their way to the Kanektok River near Quinhagak. Would like to find some way to encourage tourists to spend some time in Bethel before moving on to outlying areas.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

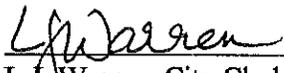
**motion** M/M by Richardson, 2nd by Williams to adjourn the meeting, at 9:15 p.m.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1997.**

  
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Agnes L. Phillips, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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L.J. Warren, City Clerk