
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

January 11, 2000

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on January 11, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lions Club, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Mike O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Mike O'Brien, Mayor	Agnes Phillips
Jerry Drake	Karol Pobrislo
Joerene Hout	Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers
Dario Notti	

comprising a quorum of the Council.

Also in attendance were:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

David Trantham, offered his congratulations to the new mayor, the new council member and those council members who were re-elected. He said he previously came before the council with a list of questions but without a knowledge of council policies. He apologized for his lack of the knowledge. This evening he wanted to speak about the senior program. He obtained a copy of the latest audit report and read about the discrepancies and possible loss of grants to the senior center. He saw a need to strengthen the Senior Advisory Board. He noted the board should have had an election of board members in September and that was not done. He expressed his deep concern over the findings of the audit. Without state and federal grants, he believed the city could not operate the senior program. The senior program is a good one and is needed in Bethel. He hoped the deficiencies would be corrected. He also talked about the repairs needed for the Chrissy Shantz bus and noted that there is not enough money in the budget to cover the extensive repairs needed. He said he had been informed that a new bus has not been ordered. A new bus is badly needed and it will be six months before a new one could get here. He asked the Council to do what they can to get a new bus in Bethel. On behalf of the seniors, he asked that they be of assistance in the upcoming budget preparation. He felt the Council and the SAB should be on a parallel track. He reiterated that the seniors would be lost without this program.

Myron Angstman, noted that he had offered to purchase a piece of city land. His offer went through the Planning Commission with no problems, but was defeated by the Council. He was told it had been defeated due to his not being at the meeting. He explained the lot has little or

no value, but he does own the two adjoining lots. He has no intention of using it for anything. He requested the Council to reconsider its previous action.

Council Member Pobrislo asked if he would pay more than \$1,000 for the lot. He said he would even though it was not worth more.

Council Member Drake stated he would sponsor the ordinance and asked for it to be placed on the next agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections and typographical errors were noted by Council members.

MOVED BY:	Phillips	To approve the corrected minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 1999, and special meetings of November 8 and December 20, 1999.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

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

Copies having been made available to the public, Mayor O'Brien noted by title only the single item on the consent agenda.

Ordinance #00-01: Amending Chapter 3.029, Classification Plan, By Adding An Oiler (City Manager) (Public Hearing 1/25/00)

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

City Manager Herron requested an Executive Session be held at the end of the meeting to discuss the laundromat sale.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Brien announced the following:

Governor's Talking Points for December 27, 1999 and January 3, 2000
Reminder for ACoM and AML Strategy Meeting, January 26-27, 2000
Letter from Dr. Kenneth Prewitt regarding Census 2000 "How America Knows What America Needs" '90 Plus Five component
Letter and info folder from Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
Letter from AML/JIA re FY2001 Dividend Distribution and Renewal Commitment
Credit.

Mayor O'Brien spoke of a teleconference in which he had participated along with City Manager Herron and Police Chief Pettitt and representatives of the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. He added that this is a much needed service and the city is in the best position to provide the services.

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Herron relayed the following information:

Department Head reports were included in the agenda packets.

Tentative plans are for the court system to move into the new courthouse in mid-February.

His recommendation is that the discussion of a city-operated motor vehicle office be re-opened.

The contractor plowed an ice road through to Kwethluk and Akiachak the previous day and one below Bethel this day. Tuluksak is low on heating fuel (3-week supply) and the contractor will work on the Akiachak to Tuluksak portion starting the following day.

Department heads may submit budget modifications for Council approval at the next meeting. The modifications will show dollars moved around within departments, but no requests for new money.

Information was provided on the American Marshall Fund which sends young leaders from business, journalism, government/politics and the non-profit sector on a 3-week study tour of Europe. The City Manager's recommendation was to nominate a councilmember.

Information was also provided regarding the state law on towing vehicles.

Council Member Rodgers commented about the overtime reported in the Police Chief's report and how the department can get by without new money being appropriated.

Council Member Drake noted that at a special council meeting on December 20, the council said to let the motor vehicle office go to another agency. He questioned why it is still being pursued. He also asked about the inspection of the Braund Building.

City Manager Herron replied that he, the Mayor and Police Chief had basically forgotten about the Council's action of December 20 and that they are now at the same point as they were before that decision was made.

Council Member Pobrislo felt the council's action at that time was just a direction not a mandate. She noted that there are currently unfilled positions in the Police Department so the budgeted funds are used for overtime.

City Manager Herron reiterated that the departments will work within their budgets and he will not be asking for any new money.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Senior Citizens' Advisory Board

Council Member Hout stated that the commission had met prior to the last Council meeting.

Transportation Commission

Council Member Hout stated there had not been a quorum at the last meeting.

Parks & Recreation Committee

Council Member Pobrislo noted that the committee has not met and that the meeting scheduled for the following day was also cancelled. She reiterated her opinion that the committee should be disbanded and task forces set up on an as-needed basis.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti stated the Commission would meet this week on Thursday. The only agenda item will be the Corps of Engineers reviewing the biannual permit for filling in wetlands. This permit must be renewed every two years.

Finance Committee

Council Member Phillips stated that she had not attended the last committee meeting and asked Stuart Robinson, Finance Director, to give the report.

Mr. Robinson reviewed the discussion held on sales tax and sales tax exemptions. The committee had also discussed the annual audit and the proposed alcohol delivery site ordinance. The committee's January meeting was re-scheduled to January 20 in order to obtain more information.

Port Commission

Council Member Rodgers reported that the Commission did not have a quorum on December 20 and the next meeting is scheduled for January 17.

Public Works Committee

Council Member Drake reported that the committee has not met. He reiterated his previous comments about the council conducting a work session to review committees and commissions.

Mayor O'Brien stated he would like the committee to review solid waste management in addition to recycling.

A work session was scheduled for Noon on Monday, January 17, with the location to be announced.

Public Safety Commission

Mayor O'Brien stated the Commission met on January 3, but he was unable to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Award of RFP for local sales tax audits (City Manager Herron)

City Manager Herron recommended that the contract be awarded to Mikundra Cottrell as they were the low bidder and have a local office.

MOVED BY:	Phillips	To award contract for local sales tax audits to Mikundra Cottrell.
SECONDED BY:	Hout	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Request from Kusko 300 for donation for fireworks

City Manager Herron noted that due to the bomb scare in Anchorage on New Year's Eve, Anchorage had a large quantity of unused fireworks that the Kusko committee is able to buy for a very good price. They have \$5,000 and are seeking another \$5,000.

Council Member Notti said that Bethel was probably the only city which did not have a millennium celebration.

MOVED BY:	Notti	To donate \$300 to the Kusko 300 for fireworks.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

Council Member Pobrislo stated the city should donate more as this is a one-time celebration for the new millennium.

MOVED BY:	Phillips	To amend the motion to \$500.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

Council Member Drake pondered what the Council would give to another group if they give Kusko 300 the \$500.

Mayor O'Brien stated the Council receives many requests for donations and historically does not give anything.

Council Member Pobrislo asked the City Manager what the City could afford to give, to which Mr. Herron replied that there was approximately \$750 in 'Donations' in the Clerk's budget. He recommended the City donate \$1,000 with the remainder to come from the Manager's budget.

MOVED BY:	Pobrislo	To amend the amendment to \$1,000.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to amend the amendment carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Clerk's Note: Since the amendment to the amendment passed, a vote on the main motion and the amendment were unnecessary.

Maintenance Easement (Council Member Notti)

Council Member Notti left his Council seat and took the podium. He stated he does not own the land on which the easement would be placed. He proceeded to describe how an easement would ease the degradation to Ptarmigan Road.

City Manager Herron recommended the City Planner work with Mr. Notti on a resolution for Council approval.

Council Member Notti thought it would cost the city three pieces of seawall for the culvert.

Council Member Hout noted that the idea made sense.

It was noted that this will also be sent to the Public Works Committee and the Planning Commission for review and approval.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Phillips sent her condolences to the family of Evan Green and thanked the Senior Center employees for holding the feast.

Council Member Rodgers offered his condolences to those who had lost loved ones over the past month.

Council Member Drake stated reminded everyone to support the Warrior's basketball team.

Mayor O'Brien wished everyone a Happy Salvic. He noted that the holidays had been very calm and quiet.

Council Member Notti also expressed his condolences to the Green family and his compliments to the Search and Rescue team for going out in the bitter cold looking for two bodies. He wished for warm weather for the upcoming Salvic.

Council Member Pobrislo also sent her condolences. She noted that she was very upset with the Public Works road crew for making the roads passable so that she would have to go to work.

Council Member Hout also offered her condolences and wished everyone well for Slavic. She noted that the city needs volunteers to serve on various committees.

City Clerk Vaughan spoke of the need for applicants for census jobs. She noted that Tony Vaska, Census Partnership Specialist, has indicated that not nearly enough people are applying and being tested for the jobs in this area. If Bethel does not produce enough workers, people will be brought in from other areas of the state. Ms. Vaughan also noted the Complete Count Committee has met several times but without much community interest.

The Council took a brief recess at 8:15 p.m. prior to going into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED BY:	Notti	To recess into Executive Session.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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The Council reconvened the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

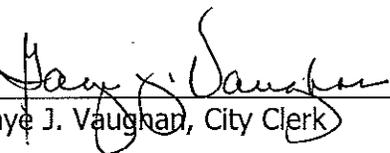
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 24th DAY OF JANUARY, 2000.

ATTEST:


Mike O'Brien, Mayor


Gaye J. Vaughan, City Clerk