

**City of Bethel
City Council
Special Meeting of May 4, 1995**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM by Mayor Wintersteen in the City Offices Conference Room, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chris, Harding, McComas, Wintersteen

Absent: Miller, Swanson, Tubbs

III. Public Hearing--City Manager's Recommended FY1995-96 Annual Budget; Topics: General Comments, City Clerk's Office

Mayor Wintersteen briefly explained the format for this Public Hearing and for the remaining budget meetings. After determining the number of people who wished to speak, Mayor Wintersteen set the time limit for each speaker at five minutes.

Blanche White, Library Advisory Committee Chair, addressed the Council and introduced the other members of the Library Committee present: Mike Martz, Mark Jenkins, Ingrid , and Teddy Wintersteen. Ms. White expressed her gratitude for the inclusion of the library in the recommended budget and distributed information regarding the use of the proposed appropriation, which is attached as part of these official minutes. Mr. Martz then reviewed the statistics on the number of people in the community that use the library. Mrs. Wintersteen reviewed the allocation of the proposed appropriation for the library programs and distributed information regarding the per capita expenditure for communities throughout Alaska, which is also attached as part of these official minutes. Ms. White then asked Council to consider an additional match of \$2 for every \$1 raised by the Library Committee, up to an additional \$10,000 to help with material and utilities costs.

Steve Weisner, Public Works Department, spoke against no salary increases being included in the recommended budget. Mr. Weisner also questioned the rationale behind creating a Utilities Superintendent position, and stated that he did not want to see someone put in the position that had no experience working in the utilities functions.

Allen Glore, Bethel, questioned the Council on the need for proposed Special Projects, specifically citing the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Plan. Mr. Glore stated a Comprehensive Plan had been completed approximately ten years ago and never used. Mr. Glore also questioned the need to move the Bus Barn to the City Shop, and the need for an impound yard. Mr. Glore suggested using the Dock Warehouse as an impound facility . Mr. Glore then spoke in support of the animal control officer position, adding that he would not like to have a community service officer handling animals and then handling people.

Peter Jacobs, Public Works Department, spoke to the Council, stating that he had worked for the City for 35 years and that he hoped to work one more year and then retire.

Bruce Perry, Fire Department, addressed the Council as Acting Chair of the Employees' Union.

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Mr. Perry stated that he was not happy with the proposed cuts in positions, pointing out that the positions scheduled for elimination were held by employees with 5-35 years of experience with the City. Mr. Perry asked the Council to consider alternatives. Mr. Perry also asked for specific numbers and explanations of the assertions by the City Manager in his transmittal memo, budget message and financial trends analysis. Mr. Perry disputed the assertion that local governments in surrounding villages had dissolved due to financial management, contending that the governments had dissolved because they were unhappy with the State government and wanted to go on their own. Mr. Perry asked the City Manager provide documentation for the position cuts, and asked the Council to determine how much coordination between the City Manager and Department Heads occurred in developing the budget. Mr. Perry concluded by expressing his sincere level of concern regarding the proposed position eliminations.

Mike Burley, Animal Control Officer, told Council he would be addressing them more in depth at the scheduled meeting for his department, but wanted to urge Council members to seek out information about his position and his duties so they would be able to make an informed decision. Mr. Burley stated he recognized Council's role in making decisions regarding the budget and invited members to contact him anytime. Mr. Burley then thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak.

Council member Chris asked that the City Manager provide descriptions of each position deleted in the proposed budget and general descriptions of the proposed new positions. Mrs. Chris asked that the descriptions be more than job descriptions, clarifying what exactly the position entails.

Mayor Wintersteen suggested Mr. Burley prepare a description of his position and include statistics to assist the Council.

Mr. Perry offered to help with the descriptions, and Mrs. Chris suggested he coordinate with the City Manager. Mayor Wintersteen also suggested Mr. Perry prepare a list of the items he would like further documentation of and present it to Council.

George Young, Fire Chief, spoke as a resident of Bethel and from a Public Safety viewpoint, and voiced his strong support of retaining the Animal Control Officer Position, and suggested including a half-time position to assist the Officer.

Discussion followed on the fee structure for impounded animals.

There being no one else who wished to speak, Mayor Wintersteen closed the Public Hearing.

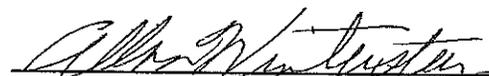
IV. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Chris, 2nd by Harding to adjourn the Public Hearing and convene into a work session at 8:00 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF MAY, 1995.

ATTEST:


Connie Tucker, City Clerk


Allan Wintersteen, Mayor