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# City of Bethel, Alaska

## City Council Minutes

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November 7, 2003

Special Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

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### CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on November 7, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Short called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

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

Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers	R. Thor Williams
Dave Trantham	Hugh Dymant
Hugh Short, Jr.	Andrei Jacobs

Excused absence(s): none

Unexcused absence(s): Dario Notti

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager  
Amanda Roudebush, City Clerk

### PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

#### 1. Gloria Simeon – Representative of ONC

Ms. Simeon addressed the following items:

- Offered her support of Dario Notti as the Alaska Municipal League (AML) nominee for the Board of Directors Seat from the Orutsararmiut Native Council (ONC); and
- Encouraged the City Council to vote in favor of Council Member Notti.

Council discussion ensued regarding ONC's assistance in funding Council Member Notti's travel to AML meetings.

#### 2. Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers – Utility Costs

Speaking as a citizen, Mr. Rodgers addressed the following concerns:

- Increased costs of his water and sewer bills; and
- The increased costs of the new system water system versus the old system.

Council discussion ensued regarding the billing process and how to better effectively communicate with the public.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Item A – Selection of Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors Nominations

Council Member Jacobs apologized for any miscommunication with the selection process and commented of the process of nominations.

Council Member Williams commented on the previous and current nomination process.

Council Member Dymant commented on public perception, stating the importance of ensuring that all legal guidelines are met.

Council Member Trantham voiced his reasons for previously nominating Council Member Jacobs and gave an explanation of his new nomination.

*Council Members Trantham and Notti received nominations to serve the region on the AML board.*

Council Member Trantham gave a description of his experiences in Western Alaska and encouraged the council to vote for his representation on the board.

Council Member Notti was unable to attend the meeting.

***By a roll call vote of 4-2 (Short, Jacobs), Council Member Trantham was elected as Bethel City Council's representative for the AML board.***

### **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Council member Dymant** spoke of forward thinking, working together and ethical behavior.

**Council Member Jacobs** congratulated Council Member Trantham. He voiced his desire to move customer service to a higher level and allow for greater utilization of the City of Bethel website.

**Council Member Williams** had no comment.

**Council Member Trantham** thanked the Council for electing him as the AML board representative and spoke of his up-coming travel itinerary to the AML meetings in Nome. Council Member Trantham requested that the council address the concern of piped water and sewer billing. Council Member Trantham announced that on November 18, 2003, Crowley will be present to answer questions and receive comments about the possible acquisition of Yukon Fuel. He extended an invitation to the public to attend.

**Council Member Rodgers** commented on the costs of the new piped water and sewer system.

**Mayor Short** addressed the question raised by Council Member Trantham regarding the sales tax owned to the City of Bethel by himself. Mayor Short stated that he felt that he was being personally attacked by Council Member Trantham and further stated his desire for the public to freely ask any questions of him.

**Council Member Williams** informed the Council that he and Council Member Dymant were responsible for speaking to the Finance Director about Mayor Short's sales tax.

**Council Member Dymant** agreed that the issue should not have been approached in the manner that it was and stated that he felt the situation should have been handled outside of council chambers.

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Jacobs	To adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Trantham	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	The motion was withdrawn by Council Member Jacobs
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<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Rodger	To suspend the Rules and allow for additional People to be Heard
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Williams	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**1. Joan Hamilton – Council Behavior**

Ms. Hamilton addressed the Council regarding her concerns over the council conduct. She stated that she felt the manner in which Council Member Trantham asked the Mayor of his personal affairs was inappropriate. She also stated that she felt embarrassed about the situation and requested that council consider the consequences of their actions before acting in the same manner.

**ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Jacobs	To adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Rodgers	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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**APPROVED THIS \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2003.**

ATTEST:

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Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

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Amanda Roudebush, City Clerk