
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

June 15, 2004

Special Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on June 15, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Short called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

R. Thor Williams	Michael O'Brien
Dave Trantham	Hugh Dymont
Hugh Short, Jr.	Andrei Jacobs
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers	

Excused absence(s):

Unexcused absence(s):

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Amanda Byington, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

No one was present for comment

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To approve the June 15 meeting agenda
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A – Public Hearing – Ordinance #04-09: An Ordinance establishing the City of Bethel Budget for FY05

1. Bill Howell
 - Stated to council that the proposed loss of the merit increase system will demoralize City of Bethel employees.
 - Expressed his concern regarding the downward trend of percentage of merit increases.

- Explained that merit increases are incentive for employees to excel in their positions.
 - Expressed concern regarding the problems of employee retention and recruiting which could result from the proposed cuts.
 - Stated that cutting the merit increase system is not a solution and believes that the council should use the budget reserve for shortfalls
2. Dan Leinberger
- Stated that he felt the council was acting unethically for making changes to agreements made by the council, one month ago, regarding cuts to employee wages.
3. Ray Watson
- Appeared on behalf of ONC and presented a resolution, read by the former City Clerk, opposing the City of Bethel's proposed water and sewer rate increases.
 - Stated that many citizens of Bethel are experiencing hardships
 - Suggests increasing other areas and talking to citizens.
4. Willy Keppel
- Stated the budget has not changed, that the City of Bethel does not have any money, and suggested that the budget be amended.
5. Helen Bush
- Thanked council for considering information from the Finance Committee and explained that she will stay on that committee because she wants to make a difference.
6. John Wallace
- Expressed his concern as a resident and small business owner regarding the proposed increases in water and sewer services
 - Acknowledges that something needs to be done, but advises the council to take cautious steps and suggests that a surcharge may be good.
 - Advises council to think of the working class citizens of Bethel who are on a fixed income.

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To adopt Ordinance #04-09
SECONDED BY:	Dyment	

NO DISCUSSION – NO AMENDMENTS

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes 4 – 3 (no – Trantham, Williams, Rodgers)
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MOVED BY:	O'Brien	To suspend the rules to allow for public comments on Ordinance #04-09
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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Council Member Rodgers left the Council meeting

Close of Public Hearing

MOVED BY:	Williams	To go into executive session for discussion on the City Clerk's performance
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes 5 – 1 (Trantham)
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Council Chambers was cleared of all community members and City staff.

Upon returning to public session, time not noted

MOVED BY:	Williams	To terminate the contract of the City Clerk, Amanda Byington
SECONDED BY:	Dyment	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes 5 – 1 (Trantham)
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MOVED BY:	Williams	To amend the main motion for an immediate effective date
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes 5 – 1 (Trantham)
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All council members, with the exception of Council Member Trantham and Council Member Rodgers, agreed that the decision to terminate Ms. Byington's contract was a professional decision, not a personal one.

Council Member O'Brien suggested that the council give some thought to the coverage of the City Clerk position immediately to avoid any lapse of service.

Manager Herron explained that his staff and Laurie Walter's staff would provide temporary coverage during the vacancy.

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To adjourn the meeting, time not noted.
SECONDED BY:	O'Brien	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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APPROVED THIS 13th day of July 2004.

ATTEST:

Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

Selena Malone, Acting City Clerk