
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

August 27, 2002

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on August 27, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

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

ROLL CALL

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

Jerry Drake	Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers
Dario Notti	Sue Trantham
Gary Vanasse	
Hugh Short, Jr.	
Carl Berger – by telephone	

Excused absence(s): none

Unexcused absence(s): none

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Colleen Soberay, Acting City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Kim Borke, Junior Achievement Coordinator explained the Junior Achievement program and its benefits. She stated that the program educates and inspires young people to value free enterprise, business, and economics to improve the quality of their lives. Volunteers would teach lessons with plans that are available for students from kindergarten through the high school level. Ms. Borke explained the need to establish a committee of five to launch Junior Achievement in the area.

Willy Keppel representative of Knik Construction explained the process and benefits of constructing roadways using hot injection oil. Mr. Keppel stated that as a representative of Knik Construction he proposes that Knik pave Akakeek for \$80,000.00. He further stated that the paving would begin as soon as Knik finishes its job in Red Dog. Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility and costs. City Manager Herron stated that he would have further information regarding the operation during his report.

John Wallace stated that he was addressing the council out of frustration. He explained that his road becomes almost impassible during the winter and spring months and would like an explanation as to how the roads that are currently being maintained are chosen for the maintenance. Mr. Wallace stated that currently the manner in which the roads are chosen is subjective and unfair. He recommended that the City use a mini-STIP program to rate the roads.

MOVED BY:	Vanasse	To direct Administration to direct the Public Works department to upgrade Ququyk Street and 6 th Avenue from Main Street to the end of 6 th Avenue with sand and gravel
SECONDED BY:	Short	

City Manager Herron stated that the public works department has been working on 6th Avenue this summer. He stated that there is a need for installation of culverts. Currently there are some property owners that are encroached onto 6th Avenue. The public works department is working with those owners to handle the encroachment issue. City Manager Herron further stated that it has always been the intent of the City to upgrade 6th Avenue. City Manager Herron stated that to upgrade both 6th avenue and Ququyk St. that there would be a cost to the motion. He also informed council to expect a mid-year budget modification.

Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of the work, equipment, and the hastiness of a motion being presented under people to be heard.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 – 2 (Drake, Notti).
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Allison Graham, Student Body President at Bethel Regional High School addressed the council concerning a letter written by the Social Chair. The letter provided information regarding Alaska Association of Student Government (AASG). AASG will be holding a fall conference in Anchorage. Ms. Graham requested a donation from council of \$330.00 to purchase eleven hooded sweatshirts. The sweatshirts would be a representation of Bethel and Bethel Regional High School.

Council Member Notti suggested that there were enough people in the council chambers that if everyone contributed \$30.00, the money would not have to come out of the city budget. Council Member Notti began by donating the first \$30.00. Donated funds were collected by members of council and the audience to cover the cost of the sweatshirts.

Mayor Rodgers read the Proclamation of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Day – September 9, 2002

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the minutes of the August 13, 2002 meeting
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

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

MOVED BY:	Notti	To approve the agenda as amended
SECONDED BY:	Short	

Deleted from the agenda – executive session and item D under new business. Removed from the consent agenda – resolution’s #02-22 and #02-24

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

The Mayor’s Report included the following:

- Proclamation and letter re: International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day – September 9, 2002
- Press release from the City Clerk’s office re: 11 candidates vying for the four Bethel City Council seats
- Press Release from the City of Bethel Parks & Recreation Department re: fall cleanup

- Announcement from Kevin Ritchie, Executive Director of Alaska Municipal League re: 2002 Alaska Community Awards of Excellence nominations
- Letter from State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation re: payment on the state grant for the Bethel Piped Water and Sewer Improvements
- Press Release from Governor Tony Knowles office re: the State of Alaska receiving \$7.5 million for rural internet access
- Letter and press release from Government Finance re: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting received by the City of Bethel Finance Department

MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT

City Manager Herron's report included the following:

- Governor Knowles withdrew his promise to sign the Force Accounting Law on Labor Day. Governor Knowles stated that he is willing to listen to the concerns of rural municipalities.
- Testing on H-Marker Lake for conditions of swimming would be conducted on August 30, 2002.
- The used oil behind Public Works has been placed in the appropriate container and is being removed from Bethel.
- A firm offer from Knik Construction has not been received by the City of Bethel. Discussions regarding using the experimental procedure on Standard Oil Road were discussed.
- The state statue on litter is very broad – prohibits littering on both private and public land and provides for a fine of up to \$1,000.00.
- State statue governing graffiti – currently there is not one in place.
- On Wednesday, August 28, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. there will be a gathering of people to discuss what should be done to commemorate September 11. The public is invited.
- Youth Center vans targeted by vandalism. Replacement of all of the windows would be over \$5,000.00. Recommendation was made to replace windows in one of the vans and use the other van as a parts van and continue to use the repaired van for as long as possible. Considerations were made regarding bringing the van located in the lower 48 to Bethel to be used by the Parks & Recreation Department.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Advisory Board

Council Member Berger reported that the senior advisory board had not met.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Council Member Trantham reported that the Parks & Recreation Committee met on August 21, 2002. Ms. Trantham reviewed the minutes of that meeting.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti reported that there was not a meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

Port Commission

Mayor Rodgers reported on the Port Commission's minutes and the Port Director's report.

Public Works Committee

Council Member Vanasse highlighted the public works committee minutes. A brief discussion of the cemetery ensued.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission

Council Member Drake reported that the Public Safety & Transportation Commission has not held a meeting since the previous council meeting. Council Member Drake reported on the Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors meeting held in Pelican, AK.

Finance Committee

Council Member Short highlighted the finance committee meeting minutes held on August 22, 2002.

MOVED BY:	Short	To direct Administration to draft an ordinance eliminating the existing vacation water/sewer practice and replace it with the provision of up to two free changes in level of service per calendar year to customers in good standing. A twenty-five dollar fee per change would be applicable thereafter. One free reconnection after a disconnection to an existing customer in good standing per calendar year. All reconNECTIONS thereafter would require a fifty dollar fee.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

Discussion ensued regarding the motion.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried with a voice vote of 6 – 1 (Vanasse).
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A – Public Hearing – Ordinance #02-09: an ordinance amending chapter 2.52 of the Bethel Municipal Code relating to boards, commissions and committees

Mayor Rodgers opened public hearing. There were no members of the public to speak to this ordinance.

Mayor Rodgers closed public hearing.

MOVED BY:	Berger	To adopt ordinance #02-09 as amended
SECONDED BY:	Short	

M/M by Vanasse: To amend ordinance #02-09 by striking "or promptly after" under 2.52.070 Vacancies – section B and setting for public hearing on September 24, 2002.

2nd by Notti. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 6 – 1 (Rodgers).

M/M by Short: To delete section 2.52.025 Purpose.

2nd by Vanasse.

Discussion ensued regarding the subjectivity of the section.

Motion failed with a roll call vote of 0 – 7.

VOTE ON MOTION	
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Item – B – Discussion Item – Boys and Girls Club

City Manager Herron gave council information regarding a training workshop, a book and video which Council Member Berger received via the internet.

Council Member Drake gave his positive opinion of the Boys & Girls Club program. He expressed his desire for the City to move forward to bring the program to Bethel. Council Member Drake proposed that the City work together to form a consortium with ONC, AVCP housing, and YKHC to bring

needed resources together. He further stated that Boys & Girls Club would not replace the current programs offered by Parks & Recreation Department but would serve as an enhancement to them.

Council Member Short stated his desire to see the program brought to Bethel as well. He agreed with Council Member Drake that a consortium would be in order. Council Member Short suggested two of the council members with the greatest interest in the program to move forward to work with the other agencies.

Council Member Vanasse stated his desire to see the arrival of the Boys & Girls Club in Bethel and questioned what the next move of the City should be.

City Manager Herron stated that Deputy City Manager Soberay has been in contact with ONC and will continue to work with them. City Manager Herron stated that there is a possibility that with the purchase of the Crow property, the building on the property could be used as a Boys & Girls Club center.

Council Member Trantham stated that she spoke with a person at the college who started the Boys & Girls Club in Kenai. The originator of the Kenai center explained how funding was obtained for that center. Council Member Trantham stated that she liked the Youth Tribal Court which was held in one of the centers in Anchorage. She also stated that she liked the community effort that was put into the Mountain View center.

Robert Dillon, Tundra Drums stated that he felt that there was a lack of concrete facts regarding the Boys & Girls Club. He said that it would appropriate for the City to give the public a dollar figure of what the actual cost would be to open a Boys & Girls Club center and to continue to run the program.

Council Member Drake stated that with direction from council that administration would begin to address the issues brought up by Mr. Dillon.

Janet Athenas, Director of the Parks & Recreation Department stated that the Boys & Girls Club is community driven. Ms. Athenas stated that she and Betty Twitchell will be touring Boys & Girls Clubs in rural Alaska and offered her support of Boys & Girls Club.

Council Member Notti also gave his positive comments regarding the Boys & Girls Club. He stated that he would like to see the merger of the 4-H program and the Boys & Girls Club. Council Member Notti gave his full support of the program.

Dave Trantham toured the Boys & Girls Club facilities with Council Member's Trantham and Notti and gave explanation of his observations. Mr. Trantham stated that the program is corporate and community based.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To continue the meeting past 10:00 p.m. for 15 minutes to address resolution's #02-22 and #02-24
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.
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NEW BUSINESS

Item A – Resolution #02-22: Requesting capital funding through the State of Alaska, Village Safe Water Program

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt resolution #02-22
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SECONDED BY:	Notti	
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City Manager Herron explained the need for resolution #02-22 and what the funding would encompass.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.	
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Item B – Resolution #02-23: Requesting FY03 payment in lieu of taxes funding from the Department of Community and Economic Development

Resolution #02-23 was passed under the consent agenda

Item C – Resolution #02-24: Requesting capital funding through the State of Alaska, Village Safe Water Program

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt resolution #02-24
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

City Manager Herron explained the need for resolution #02-24 and what the funding would encompass.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.	
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Item D – Deleted

Item E – Introduction – Ordinance #02-28: Amending chapter 9.20 of the Bethel Municipal Code regarding offenses by or against minors – curfew law

MOVED BY:	Short	To introduce and set for public hearing ordinance #02-28
SECONDED BY:	Vanasse	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.	
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Item F – Introduction – Ordinance #02-29: Amending chapter 4.16 of the Bethel Municipal Code regarding the sales tax exemption for real property sales and rentals

Introduction of ordinance #02-29 was introduced and set for public hearing on September 24, 2002 under the consent agenda

Item G – Introduction – Ordinance #02-30: Amending chapter 5.20.080 of the Bethel Municipal Code regarding use of headlights by taxicabs

Introduction of ordinance #02-30 was introduced and set for public hearing on September 24, 2002 under the consent agenda

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Berger wished everyone safe hunting.

Council Member Trantham – no comment.

Council Member Notti explained that there would be a poker run sponsored by AVCP Social Services on Saturday, August 31, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. Council Member Notti gave an description of the poker run.

Mayor Rodgers commented on the blind corners caused by tree growth and asked that the corners be identified and taken care of. Mayor Rodgers asked that everyone wear their PFD's, not to travel with a loaded weapon, and to not shoot a cow moose.

Council Member Drake – no comment.

Council Member Vanasse stated that there is a large section of Ptarmigan road that is without street lights and asked that Administration investigate the issue to see if street lights can be added. Council Member Vanasse further asked about land fill closure costs. City Manager Herron stated that he would have the Finance Director contact him directly regarding the matter. City Manager Herron stated that he would review the pole line on Ptarmigan and determine if the additional street lights are necessary.

Council Member Short commented on the curfew ordinance and explained the need to protect the community.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Short	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.

APPROVED THIS 24th of September 2002.

ATTEST:

Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers, Mayor

Janette Persinger, City Clerk