
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

May 9, 2000

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on May 9, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Mike O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Mike O'Brien, Mayor	Dario Notti
Jerry Drake	Agnes Phillips (Arrived @ 7:50 p.m.)
Joerene Hout	Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers

comprising a quorum of the Council.

Absent: Karol Sanchez-Pobrislo (Excused)

Also in attendance were:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

George Young, introduced the members of Webelo Cub Scout Pack 556. The Scouts presented Janet Athanas, Parks & Recreation Director, with a sign to be hung at the Youth Center. It is divided into four sections showing the four levels of Cub Scouts; Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelo.

Janet Athanas then presented a patch to each of the boys promoting them to rank of Boy Scout.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Members noted minor errors in the minutes.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 25, 2000.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

At the request of Council Member Drake, Resolution #00-08 was removed from the consent agenda.

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

Resolution #00-07: Establishing A Deferred Compensation Plan For The City of Bethel (City Manager Herron)

Resolution #00-09: Requesting the State of Alaska DOT/PF Convert Watson's Corner to an All-Way Stop Sign Intersection (City Manager Herron)

Ordinance #00-14: Amending the Business Licensing Code (City Manager Herron) (Public Hearing May 23, 2000)

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

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor O'Brien announced the following:

1. Governor's Talking Points for April 24, May 1 and May 8, 2000, and Special Legislative Session Edition, May 4, 2000
2. Rural Development News, Spring 2000
3. Email from AML dated May 4, 2000, regarding Legislative Wrap-up and Status
4. Notice of upcoming conference - Small Utilities Management and Sanitation Planning for Small Communities, June 6-8, 2000, Sitka, Alaska
5. There will be a meeting on May 17 at the BCS Building regarding the possible transfer of the senior center from the City to a social service agency.
6. The Mayor will hold off on the names submitted for appointment to the Transportation and Public Safety Commissions until the outcome of Ordinance #00-12 is known.
7. He offered his thanks to the employees who have worked so hard on getting City Hall renovated.
8. He and the City Manager had taken a tour of the roads in Kasayulie Subdivision. YKHC and the contractor are aware of the things yet to be done prior to the City accepting the roads for maintenance.

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Herron relayed the following information:

- The Mayor and Council Members were welcomed to their new Chambers.

- Department Head reports were included in the agenda packets.
- The City Manager has contacted Dean Swope to photograph all former mayors for posterity. If anyone knows how to contact any former mayor who no longer lives in Bethel, please let him know so a photograph can be acquired.
- There is an equipment incompatibility between the mixer and the gooseneck microphones. The mixer will be returned for a different one. Joe Seibert and KYUK came through and the system is ready to go tonight. Many thanks to Joe and crew.
- Crowley Building – The old office building on the dock is ready for the steel beams that are being prepared. The contractor informed the City Manager that the building is expected to be moved within a week.
- Seawall – The contractor has straightened the seawall section upriver of Brown Slough. The tie-backs should arrive this week to complete the repair project.
- Gravel Bid – The dealing for bids is May 17.
- "Needle" Incident – The City Manager has read the redacted version of the investigative report and it is his intention to release the report to the public the following day after a review by City Council in executive session this evening.
- Proposed FY 2001 Budget – The Mayor and Council Members were given a copy of the proposed budget. The City Manager has proposed a balanced general fund budget for operating and debt expenditures. Capital expenditures will require use of the fund balance.

After some discussion, the first work session was set for the following evening. The budget will be presented to the Finance Committee at their Thursday evening meeting. Other work sessions were set for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the following week.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mayor O'Brien noted there were vacancies on the Port Commission.

Port Commission

Council Member Rodgers reported that the Port Director has returned to Bethel. Mr. Rodgers has inspected the hole in the seawall. The Commission will meet on May 15.

Public Works Committee

Council Member Drake reported that the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting. He noted that the Technical Committee will be meeting this week and they will send out a survey to each employee asking what type of equipment they need. They also hope to finalize the existing equipment list.

Public Safety Commission

Mayor O'Brien stated the Commission has not met.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti announced that the Commission will meet next on May 11.

Senior Citizens' Advisory Board

Council Member Hout stated that the Advisory Board had met two weeks ago. They had approved the by-laws which will now be presented to the Council for approval.

Transportation Commission

Council Member Hout stated there had not been a meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance #00-12: Repealing Chapters 2.25 and 2.28 of the BMC Relating to the Transportation Commission and the Public Safety Commission; Reenacting Chapter 2.25 of the BMC, Establishing a Public Safety and Transportation Commission; and Making Conforming Changes to the BMC (Council Member Drake)

MOVED BY:	Drake	To enact Ordinance #00-12.
SECONDED BY:	Hout	

Mayor O'Brien opened the ordinance for public testimony. As no one stepped forward, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Drake stated he would like to see the membership of the Commission increased to nine.

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To amend Ordinance #00-12 by changing seven members to nine in §2.25.030.
SECONDED BY:	Hout	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

Council Member Drake also said the Commission should elect officers at their January meeting.

City Clerk Vaughan noted that appointments might not be made to seats with expiring terms in time for the January meeting. She recommended that the language say they shall elect officers after appointments have been made.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To amend Ordinance #00-12 to add "A chairman and vice-chairman shall be elected by the membership at the organizational meeting, then annually at the January meeting."
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

VOTE ON MOTION TO ENACT AS AMENDED	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
---	---

Ordinance #00-13: Amending 5.20.110 of the BMC Relating to Taxi Fees (Transportation Commission)

Mayor O'Brien opened the public hearing.

Ben Barnes, stated he has driven cab in Bethel since 1971 and he does not make \$50-60,000 a year. He said the fee is in lieu of sales tax. He does not mind paying 5% of his gross income, but noted that he is lower middle class, not upper.

Jim Levy, stated he has been driving in Bethel for eleven years. He appreciates the work done by the Council and the City Manager and the changes for the good that have come about in the City. He questioned the legality of an increase of 150%. This ordinance assumes every car grosses \$5,000 per month. He said, in reality, it is about \$130 a shift and take home pay on a driver/owner split would be about \$45. He noted that gas prices may hit \$3/gallon soon and owners may be faced with a \$500 a year increase in insurance. He said is he \$1400 in arrears for the current month. With limited auto mechanics in town, he has to make an appointment for repairs a month in advance. The proposed increase does not take into consideration when a driver might be sick or an owner cannot find a driver to fill a shift. He questioned what the taxi owners and drivers would receive for this ordinance. He would agree to a \$25/month increase.

Mefali Kadrioski, owner of Kusko Cab for 22 years, stated that he has trouble finding and keeping drivers. He currently pays \$1000 every month and almost the same amount goes into repairs every other month. He asked the Council to have mercy on the drivers.

Hugh Short, a cab driver for 30 years, felt that the fares should be doubled if this fee is raised.

Police Chief Bob Pettitt, stated it was good to see this number of people at a meeting and it was too bad it takes a controversy to bring people out. He noted that in a Los Angeles newspaper there is an ad for cab drivers to come to Bethel to drive for \$4-5,000 a month. He said 150% increase may be excessive, but \$100 isn't enough. He said over the last year and a half the Police Department has requested the dispatch records. The number of cabs in Bethel has been reduced from 90 to about 75 and may be continued to be reduced. He encouraged those in the industry to come to the Transportation Commission meeting.

Doreen O'Brien, stated was a past member of the Transportation Commission and had served for a number of years. When she was on the Commission, they had very good cooperation from the drivers when they reviewed the fees and fares. She felt there should be more work sessions with input from the drivers.

Frank Lazaro, asked why must drivers renew their chauffeurs license every year.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To enact Ordinance #00-13.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

MOVED BY:	Notti	To postpone Ordinance #00-13 until the second meeting of December.
SECONDED BY:		

MOTION TO AMEND DIED	Lack of second.
-----------------------------	-----------------

MOVED BY:	Drake	To refer Ordinance #00-13 back to Transportation Commission for further review.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

Mayor O'Brien stated that if someone raised his tax by 150% he would pass that increase on to the consumer.

Council Member Rodgers also spoke against the increase.

Clerk's Note: Council Member Phillips arrived at the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To suspend the rules in order to reconsider Ordinance #00-12.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

MOVED BY:	Hout	To reconsider Ordinance #00-12.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

MOVED BY:	Hout	To amend Ordinance #00-12 by changing effective date to June 1, 2000.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Mayor O'Brien noted that this will allow the existing Transportation Committee to hold a meeting later in the week. It will also allow a transition period for an organizational meeting to be called.

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
--------------------------------	---

VOTE ON MOTION TO ADOPT AS AMENDED	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
---	---

The Council discussed the composition of the new PSTC.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To appoint the current members to the new PSTC and to appoint Jim Blake and Tae Hwa Chung.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by voice vote of 5 yes, 1 no.
-----------------------	--

DRAKE Yes	HOUT Yes	NOTTI Yes	O'BRIEN Yes
PHILLIPS Yes	RODGERS No	SANCHEZ-POBRISLO Absent	5 YES 1 NO

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #00-08: Postponing the Acceptance of Maintenance Responsibility for the BIA Road (City Manager Herron)

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt Resolution #00-08.
SECONDED BY:	Hout	

The Council and City Manager discussed the resolution noting that with adoption, the City would not be taking over the maintenance of the BIA road.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	--

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Hout noted that the March of Dimes walk had been held the previous weekend at which over \$3500 was raised. She congratulated the graduates of KUC especially McKenzie Sumpter.

Council Member Notti congratulated the JrROTC members for the award and promotions they received. He noted that the first coat of paint has been applied to the high school gym and the second coat will be put on soon. The women's basketball league was doing the work.

Mayor O'Brien thanked Ms. Hout for her work with the March of Dimes. He also congratulated the Cub Scouts who were in attendance earlier in the meeting. He further congratulated Katie Roll who, at age 65, got her degree at KUC.

Council Member Drake noted that the Finance Director's report did not contain the amount of funds owed to the City which were included in the previous report.

Council Member Rodgers sent his condolences to the Pavil family. He noted that the ice is about ready to go out and there is currently no ice in Aniak. He hope for a safe boating season.

Council Member Phillips sent congratulations to Seth ____, Randy Nicholson and Robert Griffith. She also thanked all of the agencies in Bethel who support college students.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED BY:	Drake	To recess to Executive Session to discuss the Manager's contract, the City Clerk's performance evaluation, and the report on the needle incident.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

The meeting recessed at 8:24 p.m. and reconvened at 10:30 p.m.

Clerk's Note: Council Member Phillips and Rodgers left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the City Manager's contract for a three year period.
SECONDED BY:	Hout	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

MOVED BY:	Drake	To re-evaluate the City Clerk in 90 days.
SECONDED BY:	Hout	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
-----------------------	---

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF JUNE, 2000.

ATTEST:


Mike O'Brien, Mayor

Gaye J. Vaughan, City Clerk