
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

April 9, 2002

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on April 9, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Rodgers called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Stanley Rodgers	Jerry Drake
Sue Trantham	Dario Notti
Hugh Short, Jr.	Gary Vanasse
Carl Berger— <i>via teleconference</i>	

Also in attendance were the following:

Robert Herron, City Manager
Laurie Walters, Acting City Clerk

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Proclamation congratulating the JROTC Drill Team for their performance in the State Championship

Mayor Rodgers read a proclamation recognizing National Telecommunicators week. Council recognized the Police Department's public safety dispatchers present at the meeting.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

John Wallace, Bethel resident, said he is sorry that it always seems like he complains to Council, but said he has contributed many times. He added that he is now tired of the problems. Mr. Wallace presented pictures to Council of his property in Quivik. He explained he spends a lot of time trying to improve his property, but last week a City grader mowed down every tree in the neighborhood. He said the City has lost touch with the community. Mr. Wallace said not one grader operator in Tundra Ridge is neighborly. Mr. Wallace continued that no one listens to the public. He continued that he would present to Council again as a representative of Dust Busters because he cares about the community. Mr. Wallace requested that these problems be addressed by the City.

Mayor Rodgers requested the City Manager to investigate the property the trees were located on and why the trees were cut down.

Council member Vanasse recommended this issue be referred to the Public Works Committee for discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the minutes of the March 19, 2002 special meeting
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

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

MOVED BY:	Vanasse	To approve the regular agenda and consent agenda after adding old business item D. Lease agreement with BNC; and moving executive session item B to new business item E.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

Council member Vanasse requested a copy of the Open Meetings Act and recommended Council have a work session on the subject.

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

The Mayor's Report included the following:

- Letter from the City Planner — *Re:* Lot 3, Block 4, City Subdivision
- Press Release from Senator Hoffman — *Re:* Variety of issues being worked on by Senator Hoffman's office
- Press Release from Senator Hoffman — *Re:* Power Cost Equalization
- Newsletter from Representative Kapsner
- Press Release — *Re:* Alaska Alcohol Tax Burden Nation's Lowest—Excise tax is only one of several taxes imposed by other states
- Alaska State Legislature — Bills on the Move
- Governor Talking Points for the week of April 1, 2002

Mayor Rodgers requested City Administration to research the easement with BNC that is supposedly not recorded. Mayor Rodgers also said, as Mayor, he was the last to know Lt. Governor Ulmer was in town, as he would have like to given her his support.

Mayor's Appointment(s)

MOVED BY:	Vanasse	To appoint Thor Williams to the Finance Committee
SECONDED BY:	Short	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT

City Manager Herron noted the management reports included in Council packets.

- Provided an up-date on the Alaska Airlines issue in regard to cancellations of flights out of Bethel due to cargo/passenger restrictions since Sept. 11, 2001. Alaska Airlines is working on receiving an exemption status for the cargo/passenger flights.

- Police chief applicants — Two viable applicants coming to Bethel for an interview. Requesting a member of the public to participate in the interview process. Reviewed the interview team for police chief.

Mayor Rodgers asked how much gravel the City has readily available. Manager Herron said he was not sure.

Council member Drake said the financial reports look great in regard to delinquencies. He reiterated he would like to see reports on sales tax audits.

Council member Vanasse said, in the future, he would like to review brief written travel reports for the city manager and the council.

Council member Vanasse asked if there is anything the City Council should be doing that it is not doing now. City manager Herron responded that the delegation is good and the City has a great lobbyist. He explained Council met with the leadership of the Finance Committee in Juneau, and said these people assured the City that its projects are relatively safe.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Advisory Board

Council member Berger said the Board is expected to meet the week of April 15.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Council member Trantham said the committee is scheduled to meet April 17. Ms. Trantham reviewed the minutes from the previous committee meeting.

Planning Commission

Council member Notti said the commission is scheduled to meet April 11 and reviewed the agenda. He explained there will be a public hearing to make recommendations regarding the ordinance that requires new subdivisions to be constructed with piped water/sewer infrastructure.

Port Commission

Mayor Rodgers said the commission is scheduled to meet April 15. Mayor Rodgers reviewed the agenda, which included "Kids Don't Float" program; Corps of Engineers re: Brown Slough; maritime security; and ordinance and resolution reviews.

Public Works Committee

Council member Vanasse said the committee hasn't met since the last meeting. He said the next meeting is scheduled for April 16.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission

Council member Drake said the Commission met April 1. He explained the commission discussed a dispatch permit appeal, which was acted upon. Mr. Drake said other items discussed included an update on Yukon Fuel trucks in regard to the parking situation in the old Mark Air parking lot. He said the problem has been rectified.

Finance Committee

Council member Short said the committee met March 28. Mr. Short said the committee discussed Ordinance 02-09 and agreed the ordinance should clearly have a timeline included in regard to payments past due. He said the committee also agreed the terminology regarding positive growth should be stricken. Council member Short also reported that the committee discussed City legal fees

and said the committee passed a motion requesting authorization to review the City's billing for legal expenses paid. Council member Short said the committee discussed the FY03 budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A — Resolution #02-12: Supporting Bethel's Recycling Project

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt Res. #02-12
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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NEW BUSINESS

Item A — Introduction: Ordinance #02-13: Amending Council procedures for filling Council vacancies

MOVED BY:	Short	To introduce Ord. #02-13
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item B — Resolution #02-13: FY03 Alaska Safe Communities Program

Resolution #02-13 passed under the consent agenda.

Item C — Resolution #02-14: Support for Senate Bill 111

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt Res. #02-14
SECONDED BY:	Short	

Council member Notti said he remembers being told the City already owns the port facilities. City manager Herron explained that the City doesn't have title, but has been maintaining the port for years.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item D — Discussion Item: Lease agreement with Bethel Native Corporation (BNC)/Orutsararmuit Native Council (ONC)

Manager Herron provided Council with a copy of ONC's letter dated April 8, 2002 requesting a 20-year assignable lease for the portion of land under which ONC's building and Rippie Palace is located. Manager Herron explained ONC plans to acquire additional office space that requires private-sector financing, but needs a long term assignable lease agreement before moving forward. Manager Herron asked Council for direction to start the lease process.

Council member Short said he would support directing the City Manager to proceed with the lease agreement. Council member Vanasse said he would like to see this referred to the Planning Commission for recommendations.

Manager Herron explained he already discussed this with the Planning Director and they agreed there is not a role in this for the Planning Commission. Manager Herron explained this lease should be done through the disposal process in accordance with the BMC.

Council member Notti said because of the vital role ONC has in the community, he would like to see a lease below fair market value.

Manager Herron explained Council would need to exempt themselves from the BMC specific to what Council desires for a lease.

Council member Drake said he would like this explored neutrally. He also said Bethel Native Corporation and ONC should work some of these issues out.

Council member Vanasse asked if the City receives money now from ONC. Manager Herron responded no. Council member Vanasse agreed with Council member Drake. Council directed Administration to proceed with the process.

Item E — Discussion Item: Regarding a council member

MOVED BY:	Short	To postpone this discussion until the next council meeting
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Berger an Alaska Airlines representative is scheduled to attend the Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Mr. Berger said everyone is welcome to attend and ask questions regarding the flight cancellations.

Council Member Trantham — no comment.

Council Member Drake explained that he spent an intense two days in Juneau for the AML Legislative conference. Mr. Drake reviewed the activities during his visit to Juneau for AML.

Council Member Rodgers said he enjoyed the Cama-I festival. He cautioned the public to be careful on the river.

Council Member Notti thanked all of the volunteers for the Cama-I festival. Mr. Notti clarified a statement that was made by him in the Anchorage Daily News.

Council Member Vanasse congratulated Council member Drake for his seat on the AML Board of Directors. He asked the city manager if there were applicants for the city clerk position. City manager Herron responded he was unaware of any applicants.

Council Member Short explained that 200 kites were given out to children April 6. He said the event took place on the riverbank below the Lion's Club. Mr. Short reported the trip to Juneau was an eye-opener. He further explained he made himself clear in Juneau that the City of Bethel is not in favor of a sales tax, but would rather see an income tax or other "sin" taxes before implementing a sales tax.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED BY:	Drake	To go into executive session to discuss A: Union employees labor negotiations
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Notti	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Vanasse	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF MAY 2002.

ATTEST:

Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers, Mayor

Colleen Soberay, City Clerk