
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

December 10, 2002

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on December 10, 2002, 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:

Hugh Short, Jr.	Andrei Jacobs
David Trantham	Jerry Drake
Carl Berger	

Excused absence(s): Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers
Joy Shantz

Unexcused absence(s): none

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Janette Persinger, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

A. Janelle Vanasse: Rasmuson Funding

Ms. Vanasse:

- Announced the receipt of funding from the Rasmuson Foundation to further the Yuut Elitnaurviat project

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To approve the amended minutes of the 11-26-02 regular minutes
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

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

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To approve the agenda
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

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

Items included in the Mayor's report:

- Letter from State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation regarding grant offer for Kasayuli Subdivision Water and Sewer Feasibility Study

MOVED BY:	Drake	To accept the grant offer from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
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- Letter from the City of Nome regarding the North and Northwest Mayor's Conference
- Letter from Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development re: Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Mayor's Conference
- Preston Gates & Ellis attorney fee's and costs
- Public notice of vacancies on committees/commissions

Mayor's Appointment:

Robin Thompson to the Finance Committee- *postponed until December 17, 2002*
Tae Hwa Chung to the Public Safety and Transportation Commission

MOVED BY:	Berger	To appoint Tae Hwa Chung to the Public and Safety Transportation Commission
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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In order to allow existing members of committees and commissions to turn in their applications, all further Mayor's appointments will be made on December 17, 2002.

MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT

City Manager Herron's report included the following:

- Comments from the Murkowski Transition Public Hearing on December 3, 2002
- Notice of a presentation that will be made by the Department of Transportation on December 17, 2002 regarding the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- Update and recommendation regarding the proposed utility services consolidation
- Transmittal of transportation needs to Denali Commission
- Update on personnel matters
- Update on travel status

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Advisory Board

Council Member Berger reported that the senior advisory board had not met and reviewed the Senior Center Director's report.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Council Member Jacobs reported that due to a lack of quorum the Parks and Recreation Committee did not meet.

Planning Commission

Council Member Shantz was not present.

Port Commission

Council Member Rodgers was not present.

Public Works Committee

Council Member Trantham did not attend the previous meeting.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission

Council Member Drake reviewed the agenda items of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission held on December 2, 2002.

Finance Committee

Mayor Short stated that the next Finance Committee meeting will be held on January 23, 2003.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A – Public Hearing – Ordinance #02-33: An ordinance authorizing the disposal of a ten acre parcel within the surface estate of the southwest quarter of section 8, range 71 west, township 8 north, seward meridian, to Yuut Elitnaurviat-People’s Learning Center, Inc.

Mayor Short opened public hearing.

Janelle Vanasse voiced her support for the ordinance and stated that by the Rasmussen Foundation providing funding for the Yuut Elitnaurviat project, their trust was being placed in the City of Bethel and the project.

John Dickens read his written testimony in support of the ordinance.

Gerri Sumpter stated that she was representing Bob Medinger, Director of KUC who could not be in attendance. Ms. Sumpter voiced Bob Medinger’s support of the ordinance.

Hugh Dimont voiced his support for the ordinance and stated that the Bethel area is in a social crisis.

Agnes Phillips voiced her support of the ordinance.

Cliff Andrews voiced his support of the ordinance.

Mayor Short read letters of support from the following:

- Joe Killeen, Development Director of AVCP Regional Housing Authority
- Sharon John
- Laurie O’Brien
- Ron Hoffman, Executive Director of AVCP Regional Housing Authority

Mayor Short closed public hearing.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To set for public hearing on January 14, 2003 with the intent of taking action on the ordinance on January 14, 2003
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item B – Public Hearing – Ordinance #02-35: Designating approximately 9.5 acres of the area commonly known as the “sand pit” as a third City cemetery site and relating to the process for surveying City cemeteries

Mayor Short opened public hearing.

Resolution #02-12-17 from Orutsararmuit Native Council was read by Council Member Berger. The resolution supports the third cemetery site.

Mayor Short closed public hearing.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt ordinance #02-35
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
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NEW BUSINESS

Item A – Discussion Item – City of Bethel travel policy

City Manager Herron highlighted the City of Bethel travel policy and explained that the council’s travel policy is determined by council year to year.

Discussion over the current per diem ensued.

Item B – Discussion item – Main Lift Station

City Manager Herron gave an explanation of the feasibility study by CH2M Hill and the monies allocated for the main lift station.

Discussion moved to the council regarding the needs of the community.

Item C – Discussion item – Council Member Committee/Commission Assignments

MOVED BY:	Drake	To suspend the rules to allow Rob Lewis, Finance Committee Chairperson to speak
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

Mr. Lewis stated his disagreement with Council Member Trantham’s removal from the Finance Committee.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MOVED BY:	Drake	To remove Mr. Trantham from the Finance Committee and reappoint him to the Public Works Committee
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by 4 – 1 roll call vote (Trantham).
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Item D – Discussion item – Staff accountant salary range

MOVED BY:	Trantham	To increase the salary range for the staff accountant to ranges 8 – 9
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

Discussion ensued regarding the inability to hire a staff accountant at the current salary range.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
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Item E – Introduction – Ordinance #02-36: An ordinance amending Bethel Municipal code section 5.40.020 to change the requirements for written and driving tests for renewal applicants

Ordinance #02-36 was introduced under the consent agenda and set for public hearing on January 14, 2003

Item F – Introduction – Ordinance #02-37: Authorizing the acquisition of land from Omni Enterprises, Inc.

Item G – Introduction – Ordinance #02-38: Appropriating three hundred and seventy five thousand dollars from the City’s general fund to acquire land from Omni Enterprises, Inc.

MOVED BY:	Berger	To introduce and set for public hearing on January 14, 2003 ordinances #02-37 and #02-38
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by 4 – 1 roll call vote (Trantham).
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Item H – Resolution #02-33: A resolution approving amendment no. 1 to the bank stabilization agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army and authorizing the Mayor to enter into the same amendment no. 1

Resolution #02-33 was adopted the consent agenda

Item I – Introduction – Ordinance #02-39: Appropriating seven hundred and seventy thousand dollars from the City’s designated retained earnings for seawall maintenance in the municipal dock fund to meet the City’s local match obligation provided for in amendment no. 1 to the bank stabilization agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army

Ordinance #02-39 was introduced under the consent agenda and set for public hearing on January 14, 2002.

Item J – Resolution #02-34: A resolution supporting and authorizing participation in the EPA’s Brownfields clean-up grant program

Resolution #02-34 was adopted under the consent agenda

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Berger thanked the City of Bethel employees and wished everyone happy holidays.

Council Member Shantz was not present.

Mayor Short gave the following as his vision of projects for the council:

- A decrease in traffic congestion
- Development of the “donut hole” near City Subdivision for housing
- More efforts to create transportation by-passes
- Establish Boys & Girls Club
- Build a recreational facility
- Build a budget based on need

Council Member Jacobs thanked Council Member Trantham for his service and encouraged members of the community to attend the Community Strategic Planning meeting on January 30, 2003.

Council Member Drake thanked Yukon Fuel for their help with the oil spill clean-up and wished everyone happy holidays.

Council Member Trantham stated that he encourages public participation and wished everyone happy holidays.

Council Member Rodgers was not present.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adjourn the meeting
SECONDED BY:	Berger	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

APPROVED THIS 14th day of January 2003.

ATTEST:

Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

Janette Persinger, City Clerk