
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

May 11, 1999

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on May 11, 1999, at 6:30 p.m. in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Agnes Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Mayor Agnes Phillips	Mike O'Brien
Antone Anvil	Karol Pobrislo
Joerene Hout (6:35 p.m.)	Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers
Dario Notti (6:37 p.m.)	

comprising a quorum of the Council.

Also in attendance were:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Robin Bronen, spoke about Kosovo refugees coming to Bethel. They are relatives of the half-dozen families already living here. The refugees will not have any resources and will need assistance in getting settled. She was not sure when they will arrive in Bethel, but they should be in Anchorage within the next couple of weeks.

Clerk's Note: Council Members Hout and Notti arrived at the meeting.

Nadine Griffin, Business Administrator for Bethel Community Services, stated she was about nine months late in coming before the Council to speak about sales tax. She said the changes made by the Council in eliminating non-profits from being exempt from sales tax has made a tremendous impact on BCS, although she does agree that the city needs the extra revenue. BCS will now be looking at doing bulk purchasing outside the city. She asked the Council to review taxing the residents of Batista, Malone and Camai Homes. These people receive about \$850 per month of which they pay \$799 per month for room and board. If these people now have to pay 5% tax on top of the \$799, that leaves them very little spending money for the month. She asked for an amendment exempting babysitting and adult day care. She also asked for Council to consider exempting sales tax on rent paid by disabled persons.

City Manager Herron suggested that Ms. Griffin have the BCS attorney write a letter so there is a written trail. The City Attorney and Council could then review the request.

In response to questions of Council members, Ms. Griffin stated that BCS is now paying sales tax on the rent and utilities on their buildings. Sales tax will be paid to the city twice on the building rent. First by the clients living in the homes and, second, by BCS to the Foundation which owns the buildings.

Brian Glasheen, Bethel Recycling, reporting on the garbage/recycle pick-up project. He spoke in favor of privatization of the solid waste program.

In response to questions, Mr. Glasheen stated that Bethel Recycling would be interested in being the solid waste contractor. In further response, he noted that over 100 van loads of cardboard from local stores have been sent to the landfill rather than being recycled. Further, he said they would need a newer truck to provide the service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	O'Brien	To approve the minutes of May 11, 1999.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

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

Mayor Phillips stated that Ordinance #99-06 would be postponed to the next regular meeting.

The Mayor read the items listed on the consent agenda:

Ordinance #99-08: Amending the Adopted FY 1998-99 Budget (City Manager Herron) (Public Hearing set for 5/25/99)

Vacation Request (City Clerk)

City Manager Herron requested that union negotiations and financial matters regarding the bid for renovation of the Braund Building be discussed in Executive Session.

MOVED BY:	O'Brien	To approve the consent agenda and agenda.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to approve the consent agenda and agenda carried by unanimous consent.
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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Phillips announced the following:

She had participated in a Mayors' teleconference earlier in the day. Cuts to municipal assistance and revenue sharing were discussed.

The Mayor had also participated in a Smart Start teleconference. Others from the city had also attended.

She had received a call from Red Boucher regarding a forum to be held in Bethel to discuss Y2K in the delta area. The forum should be held sometime between June 7 – 11.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

City Manager Herron announced:

He noted that he would review the ongoing union negotiations in Executive Session. He stated that the bids for the Braund Building had been opened and the low bidder was Collins Construction. He wanted to discuss the financial implications of the bid with the council in Executive Session prior to award. Mr. Herron pointed out a letter from the Corps of Engineers regarding the sunken boat “Zydell”. The City Manager recommended that the Council bring the issue of an Alcohol Delivery Site to the public for a debate. Regarding a water/sewer rate study, he will give the Council a status report at the next meeting. He met with the senior citizens and they endorsed the concept of having a rate study done and postponing the ordinance which would give them a larger discount on water and sewer bills. Mr. Herron noted that the ACLU has threatened to challenge the City’s curfew ordinance. Legal counsel has recommended that the ordinance be amended and will send us a draft. He pointed out a letter from the Parks and Recreation Committee requesting permission to solicit names for the various parks around town. He referred the Council to an attachment to his report concerning delinquent dock accounts. The City Manager went on to recommend that the City lease/purchase a new 163H Cat grader for \$206,616. After five years’ of payments at \$1,912 per month, the Cat can be purchased for \$145,000 or traded in for a new one. Mr. Herron advised Council that two of the Police Suburbans are down, one for electric wiring and the other needed a front-end rebuild. He recommended that the City purchase two new Ford Explorers for \$60,000 landed in Bethel. After two years, the Explorers can be sold and two new vehicles purchased. Each year, two new vehicles will be bought and two 2-year old vehicles will be sold.

Council Member Rodgers inquired about a letter from Rhonda Peltola, to which Mr. Herron replied that the issue is being handled by the Police Department.

Council Member Rodgers asked if the City Manager had thought about rotating vehicles in other departments in the same manner as proposed for the police vehicles.

A discussion ensued regarding the vehicles to be purchased for the Police Dept.

MOVED BY:	O’Brien	To authorize the city manager to purchase two new Ford Explorers for the police department.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To authorize the city manager to purchase a new Cat now from FY 00 budget.
SECONDED BY:	Anvil	

VOTE MOTION	ON	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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City Manager Herron noted that DOT would conduct a hearing on Thursday, May 13, at 6:00 p.m. just prior to the Planning Commission meeting regarding the proposed pathway from the airport to the high school. The state has proposed to make it a boardwalk, which Mr. Herron felt would be a disastrous way to go.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Mayor Phillips noted there are vacancies on the Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Port and Public Works Commissions/Committees.

Public Works Committee

Council member O'Brien stated the Committee had not met the previous week.

Public Safety Commission

Council Member O'Brien stated the Commission had met and reviewed the budgets for the Fire and Police Departments.

Port Committee

Council Member Rodgers stated the Committee had not met. The next scheduled meeting will be on May 17 at the Port offices.

Senior Citizens' Advisory Board

Council Member Anvil advised that he had been out of town during the last meeting. He noted that minutes of that meeting were in the Council members' packets. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2 at 10:30 a.m. He also requested an excused absence from the next meeting as he would be in Texas attending his grandson's graduation.

Finance Committee

Mayor Phillips stated the Finance Committee would meet on May 13.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti was out of town during the last Planning Commission meeting. He noted that the next meeting will be Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Committee

Council Member Pobrislo stated the Committee was scheduled to meet May 4 but had been rescheduled for May 18. She noted that "CleanUp GreenUp" had started. She also noted that the "adopt a dumpster" program was going on.

Transportation Commission

Council Member Hout noted that the Commission meeting had been postponed from May 6 to May 20.

NEW BUSINESS

Bid Award – Braund Building (City Manager Herron)

City Manager Herron stated he wanted to discuss the bids in Executive Session with Council prior to the award of the bid.

Discussion Item – Sales Tax on Pull Tabs (Council Member Notti)

Council Member Notti did not think sales tax should have to be paid on the gross from a box of pull tabs when so much of it is paid out in winnings.

City Manager Herron noted that one pull tab operator in town collects 5% only from winners of \$50 or over.

Discussion continued regarding sales tax on pull tabs.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Hout said she would like to see the weather get warmer.

Council Member Pobrislo congratulated the 1999 graduates.

Council Member Notti said he had a good vacation.

Mayor Phillips wished a belated Happy Mothers’ Day to everyone. She said she and her family had camped out and had the best ever.

Council Member Anvil said he was glad the roads were getting better. He hoped the roads would be worked on during the summer.

Council Member Rodgers also wished everyone a Happy Mothers’ Day and congratulated the Jr. ROTC member on receiving awards.

Council Member O'Brien stated that approximately \$50-60,000 in scholarships were given to graduating seniors by the Lions, chamber, VFW, etc. He added that we have so many things to be thankful for which are not covered in the news.

The City Council took a short break prior to going into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To recess into Executive Session to discuss Braund Bldg. bids and APEA contract negotiations.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Mayor Phillips left the Executive Session during the APEA negotiation discussion due to a conflict of interest and returned when the discussion was concluded.

Mayor Phillips called the meeting back to order at 8:45 p.m.

The Mayor then recessed the meeting until Noon the following day.

CALL TO ORDER

The Reconvened Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on May 12, 1999, at Noon in the Conference Room of the City Offices, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Agnes Phillips called the meeting to order at 12: 17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Mayor Agnes Phillips	Karol Pobrislo
Antone Anvil	Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers
Joerene Hout	

comprising a quorum of the Council.

Absent:

Mike O'Brien – unexcused
Dario Notti - excused

Also in attendance were:

Stuart Robinson, Finance Director
Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk

MOVED BY:	Hout	To award bid to Collins Construction for base bid of Braund
SECONDED BY:	Anvil	Building renovation in an amount not to exceed \$4,135,000.

In response to a question by Council Member Pobrislo, Mr. Robinson stated that the City has acquired twenty-year leases from the court system. The building will be paid for in fifteen years, then the building will belong to the City. This is a long-term investment for the City.

In response to further questions, Mr. Robinson stated that if the City lends itself \$1,000,000 for this project, there will still be approximately \$3,000,000 left in budget reserves. The city will still be in a good position unless there is a disaster of some sort. If the Braund Bldg. project is not done at this point, approximately \$600,000 would have to be returned to the state.

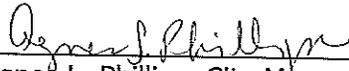
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried 4 yes, 1 no
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ANVIL Yes	HOUT Yes	NOTTI Absent	O'BRIEN Absent
PHILLIPS Yes	RODGERS Yes	SANCHEZ-POBRISLO No	4 YES 1 NO

ADJOURNMENT

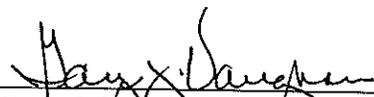
With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 25TH DAY OF MAY, 1999.



Agnes L. Phillips, City Mayor

ATTEST:



Gaye J. Vaughan, City Clerk