

CITY COUNCIL
Kent Harding
Buford McComas
Tad Miller
Agnes Phillips
Ruth Richardson, Mayor
Stanley Rodgers
Wally Wallace



CITY MANAGER
Ken Weaver

CITY CLERK
L.J. Tanner

City of Bethel
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
April 9, 1996

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Richardson in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Harding, McComas, Miller, Richardson, Rodgers, Wallace
Absent: Phillips (Excused)

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Chris Liu, Police Chief, announced his request for a voluntary demotion to Patrolman, effective July 8, 1996. He will complete the Police Department's budget, and also take some leave between now and July 8th. Council Member Miller expressed gratitude to Chief Liu for his efforts.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Rodgers to approve the minutes of the March 26, 1996 regular meeting as presented.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Richardson had a question about Council Member Miller's agenda item, "Bake Sale Fundraiser for the Bank Stabilization Project." Mr. Miller questioned whether the Council was ready to discuss the Executive Session item, "Andrew Scheall vs. City of Bethel." Mayor Richardson responded that new information has been provided.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Miller to approve the agenda.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Richardson read an invitation she received to the National Guard Armory Change in Command Ceremony, for Saturday, April 13th. All council members are welcome to attend.

Mayor Richardson discussed the Alaska Municipal League/Alaska Conference of Mayors conference coming up in Juneau, April 18-19th. She asked for a council member to volunteer to attend. Council member Miller said that he would check his work schedule to see if he could go.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Rodgers, to authorize Mr. Miller to attend the AML/ACoM Conference in Juneau.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Council member McComas suggested that Mr. Miller schedule a meeting with Mr. Greg Capito with the Village Safe Water program while he is in Juneau.

Discussion followed on the Police Chief Position. Council member McComas suggested that the City get the Public Safety Commission involved in developing selection criteria, as well as ONC, AVCP, BNC, etc.

Mayor Richardson announced that several people have asked her why Council member Phillips has not attended any Council meetings since her appointment to fill Mary Pavil's seat. Ms. Richardson explained that, prior to being appointed to the Council, Ms. Phillips had been scheduled for ear surgery in Anchorage. Typically, after an ear surgery, a patient cannot fly for at least three weeks, so Ms. Phillips has had to stay in Anchorage. She will attend the April 23rd Council meeting.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Weaver referred Council to his written report on the following:

FAA Sewer Extension

Mr. Weaver informed Council that a recommendation has been made to award the bid for the Sewer Extension project to the low bidder, Dames & Moore.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Wallace, to have the City Manager award the bid to Dames & Moore, whose bid came in at \$1,461,550.87.

vote Roll call vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Council Member Miller issued a directive to the City Manager to stipulate that the City would prefer that Dames & Moore hire local workers.

CBDG Honeybucket Grant - The grant proposal has been submitted. Mr. Miller again requested that the City specify local hires where possible.

Other items included in the Manager's report:

- Handouts from the Leading Communities Training attended by the City Manager.
- Letter from the State DOT/PF, regarding funding for Ports and Harbors.
- Draft copy of Senate Bill 256, which would allow for the at large election of Mayor.
- Memo regarding speed limit for Public Works Trucks

City Manager Weaver mentioned that the copy of his memo regarding speed limits for Public Works trucks was a draft that has since been modified. He does not propose that Public Works trucks travel at 25 mph on the State Highway. Council Member Miller added that it was never his intention to have Public Works trucks traveling at 25 mph on the State Highway, only on the City maintained roads.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES and COMMISSIONS

Report from the Transportation Commission

Mr. Thor Williams, Chairman of the Transportation Commission, gave the report, then fielded questions from the Council. Mr. Williams notified the Council that there are currently 69 permitted taxis in the City, with at least twice that number of Chauffeur's Licenses issued. The taxicab industry is one of the largest in the City, and enforcement of the taxicab codes takes a lot of Police Department time. Currently, many taxi drivers are upset about the condition of Bethel's roads, and the damage it causes to their vehicles. Mr. Williams would like to schedule a joint meeting of the Transportation Commission and Public Works Committee. Council Member Miller requested the Mr. Williams place a discussion of the new "4 strikes and you're out" law on the next Commission agenda.

Other Committee/Commission Reports

Finance Committee: Council Member Wallace reported that minutes from the last meeting are in the Council packets. Mayor Richardson questioned an item in the minutes, and received an explanation from Finance Director Bonnie Duke.

Planning: Council Member McComas was unable to attend the last meeting.

Port Commission: Council Member Rodgers noted that the next meeting is on April 15th.

Public Safety Commission: Mayor Richardson was unable to attend the last Public Safety Commission meeting.

Public Works Committee: Council Member Miller reported that there was no quorum at the last meeting, since several committee members were out of town.

Senior Citizens: No Council Member assigned, no report given.

Youth Services: Council Member Harding reported that once again, they did not have a quorum at the last meeting. Their next meeting is on May 2nd. Mayor Richardson stated that she would support reducing the size of the Committee to five members.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - There was no Old Business to be addressed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Resolution #96-13: A Resolution supporting KYUK/ARCS

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Rodgers to adopt Resolution #96-13.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B: Discussion Item - Community Work Service for Public Projects

Council Member Miller stated that he requested this agenda item, because it would provide valuable services to the city, such as snow shoveling, spreading gravel, picking up trash, etc. while providing jail inmates a chance to do something productive. It was agreed that Mr. Miller would work with the City Manager to develop a proposal and/or draft ordinance outlining how this would work. Mayor Richardson stressed that any plan should also include people who are not in jail, but have been assigned community work service as part of their sentence. Council Member Miller said that any inmate wishing to comment could call him at home.

Item C: Review of Legal Services RFP responses.

City Manager Weaver pointed out that each Council Member has received copies of the legal firm's responses to the RFP. Mayor Richardson pointed out that Brooks Chandler, of the City's currently retained legal firm, Hicks, Boyd, Chandler, and Falconer, was present at the meeting.

Council Member McComas stated that some type of matrix for rating the responses is needed. A Special Meeting to review and rate the responses will be scheduled. The City Clerk will develop a rating matrix.

Item D: Resolution #96-14 - Supporting expansion of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center.

Council Member McComas read Resolution 96-14, and explained that Senate Bill 306, which the Resolution supports, would provide for the expansion of Bethel's local prison. He believes that the ability of families to visit their incarcerated relatives is important to the rehabilitation process. Governor Knowles supports this bill, but it will be difficult to pass against another bill being considered, which calls for a regional prison in Anchorage.

motion M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Rodgers to adopt Resolution #96-14.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item E: Resolution #96-15 - requesting inclusion of the original Hately property in the Bank Stabilization project.

City Manager Weaver stated that this Resolution expresses the decision made by Council several months ago, to include Mr. Hately's property in the project. The Resolution is needed to send to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Wallace to adopt Resolution #96-15.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item F: Discussion Item - Bake Sale Fundraiser for the Bank Stabilization Project.

Council Member Miller explained that this tongue-in-cheek agenda item is meant to express a serious point, that something must be done to address the lack of funding for the City's local match of \$1.7 million. Mayor Richardson stressed that anyone can send a POM (Public Opinion Message) from the Legislative Information Office, free of charge. She encouraged all citizens to use this public service to express their opinion on any issue to the legislature.

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Harding Thanked the citizens who attend City Council and other local government meetings.

McComas Stressed again his support for expansion of the YKCC, and thanked Chris Liu for handling the situation respectfully.

Miller Glad that the uproar over the Police Chief is over, would like to see the dust settle. Wished the Mayor a happy birthday.

Richardson Thanked the Council for their comments about the Police Chief. Expressed gratitude that he will stay through the budget process.

Rodgers Thanked Chris Liu for doing the right thing.

Wallace No comments. Asked to be excused from the meeting. Permission granted.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Rodgers to adjourn the regular meeting and enter Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing settlement

offers in the following legal matters: Crow vs. City of Bethel, Andrew Scheall vs. City of Bethel, and the APEA Union Negotiation Agreement.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by Rodgers to come out of executive session at 9:30 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Rodgers to proceed with the directions given to the City Attorney on the Crow vs. City of Bethel matter, as discussed in Executive Session.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Miller to extend a partial settlement offer to Andrew Scheall, for \$6,013.30 as agreed to in Executive Session.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by McComas to return to executive session at 9:35 p.m. to discuss the APEA Union Agreement.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to come out of executive session at 10:30 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

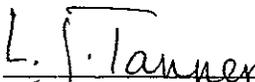
motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF APRIL, 1996.


Ruth M. Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


L. J. Tanner, City Clerk