
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

September 26, 2000

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on September 26, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor O'Brien	Dario Notti	Karol Sanchez-Pobrislo
Jerry Drake	Joerene Hout	Agnes Phillips
Tundy Rodgers		

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Colleen Soberay, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Ron Irwin, writer for the Tundra Drums newspaper, announced he was leaving Bethel to move to Anchorage. He reminisced about his time spent in Bethel and about what it meant to him to write about Bethel for the Tundra Drums. He thanked the Bethel community for its hospitality and kindness.

Bruce Perry, Bethel Fire Department, spoke about Fire Prevention Week—October 8-14, 2000. He discussed the Fire Prevention program. He asked that everyone be careful on Halloween. He said the Fire Department will hand out glow sticks and reflective silver bags to children under 13 for Halloween. He also expressed his appreciation for the many volunteers who have helped with Fire Prevention programs. He thanked community businesses and Council for their support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved By:	Pobrislo	To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 29, 2000 and the special meeting of September 8, 2000.
Seconded By:	Drake	

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

Moved By:	Drake	To approve the agenda with the addition of new business item J—Family Clinic Debt
Seconded By:	Pobrislo	

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

Mayor O'Brien announced the following:

- Governor's Talking Points for the weeks of September 4, 11 and 18, 2000
- Letter from the Office of the Governor—Mail delivery via hovercraft; Proposed Director-Level Consistency Finding
- Alaska Housing Finance Corp.—*News Release*: Northern Tobacco Securitization Corp. to Issue Bonds on Behalf of the State of Alaska
- Letter from Human Rights Commission—*Re*: Fair Housing in Alaska
- Letter from Human Rights Commission—*Re*: Fair Housing in Alaska workshop
- Letter from Snake River Campaign—*Re*: Endorsing retirement of four Lower Snake River dams and related news clip
- Letter from AK Dept. of Community and Economic Development—*Re*: Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program
- Letter from a support group of Alaskan rural villages—*Re*: 2000 Chum Salmon run and fundraiser notice to support villages in need
- Resource Development Council—Requesting participation and support of RDC
- AK Dept. of Fish and Game Federal Subsistence Board—*News Release*: Yukon River Subsistence Fisheries
- Alaska Housing Finance Corp.—*News Release*: AHFC to Actively Promote Production of Special Needs Housing
- BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.—*News Release*: Environmental Performance, Alaska Production Plans Drive BP Alaska Tanker Purchase, Ship Delivery Dates
- AK Resource Development Council—Progressive Technology Project (PTP) Announces Fall 2000 Grant Pool; PTP provides capacity building grants and technical assistance in the use of information technology
- Letter from Americans Digital Bridge—*Re*: Requesting support to speed enactment by Congress of the Broadband Internet Act of 2000 (S.2698) and information related to this Act
- Alaska Municipal League—2000 Municipal Awards Program and nomination form

Council Member Notti addressed three of the items in the Mayor's report—Snake River dams, Americans Digital Bridge and RDC. The Council briefly discussed supporting these three items, but agreed that they need more information.

Council agreed to put Lower Snake River dams, Americans Digital Bridge and RDC on the next Council meeting's agenda as a discussion item.

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Bob Herron noted the management reports included in the packet, and reviewed the following items with Council:

1. DOT—Manager Herron recommended taking over the paved portion of BIA Road. He also recommended Council get comments from the Public Works Committee.
2. Trees donated; five transplanted so far.
3. Manager Herron said the Area Planner requested Council meet in chambers on October 3 for a workshop and Council input.
4. Announced a going-away party for Elaine Tompkins.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Advisory Committee

Council Member Hout reported that during last week's meeting the committee's main topic of discussion was about an election board and that a nominating committee was set up. She said it was a good meeting.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti announced that due to a lack of quorum, the meeting scheduled for September 14 was cancelled.

Port Commission

Council Member Rodgers reported that the commission met on September 18, had full attendance and was a great meeting. He said they discussed putting in a phone booth at the Port office. Camera warranties were also discussed by the commission. Mr. Rodgers commented on committee and commission attendance in that it needs to be taken more seriously.

Public Works Committee

Council Member Drake reported that the Public Works committee met last week and discussed Anchorage ordinances and how they relate to Bethel, long range planning for Bethel's landfill and solid waste management plan. He also said the Technology committee met and discussed finalizing the Strategic Plan for Computers and Networking for the City.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission

Mayor O'Brien reported that the commission met on September 11. The main topic of discussion was Mr. Miller's case and the Transportation Inspector's appeal of the

decision by the Transportation Commission. The Transportation Commission's decision was overturned by a vote of 6-to-1.

Finance Committee

Council Member Phillips said the next meeting is scheduled for October 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Council Member Pobrislo reported that the committee met on September 20. Ms. Pobrislo read a letter, written by Rick Robb, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, making a formal request for the City to discuss possibly making additional ice skating areas for this winter. Council agreed to discuss this issue at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. Ms. Pobrislo also commented on the high traffic next to Owl Park and asked that the City post signs to slow traffic down.

OLD BUSINESS

Item A — Public Hearing on Ordinance #00-24: Budget Modification

Mayor O'Brien opened the Public Hearing. Manager Herron explained the budget modification and recommended Council approve.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt Ordinance #00-24
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Seeing no one to speak, he closed the Public Hearing.

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

Item H — Discussion Item: HP Digital Village Program RFP

Council and the City Clerk discussed the HP Digital Village Program and the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Council gave their support to the City Clerk to coordinate with members of the community to work on the RFP.

Item I — Discussion Item: Sponsorship of the Bethel Airport

Council Member Drake asked that Mr. Malone, City Planner, look into this to help determine if owning the Bethel airport is economically feasible and if it could be a revenue generator for the City of Bethel. He also recommended looking into how other cities have benefited from owning their own airport and doing a cost-benefit analysis. Drake said it would be worthwhile to start seriously discussing this issue.

Council discussed taking ownership of the airport. Council agreed it is definitely worthwhile to research and discuss the sponsorship of the Bethel airport.

Manager Herron said this might be a good litmus test of whether or not Bethel should form its own borough. He said he plans to start studying the process of forming a Borough and said he plans to meet with the boundary commission in Juneau to start the process, which could run parallel with a study on the sponsorship of the Bethel Airport. He said most of the communities who own their own airport are Boroughs. He said the City should protect itself within a Borough.

The Mayor commented that both the sponsorship of the Bethel Airport and forming a Borough have been a topic of discussion for about two years. He agrees that the City should seriously consider sponsoring the airport and that it would be a first step in forming a Borough.

Manager Herron and Council further discussed the importance of forming a Borough.

Item J — Discussion Item: Family Clinic Debt Forgiveness

Jane Conard, acting chair for the Family Clinic Board of Directors, read a letter to Council asking for debt forgiveness. Ms. Bernard explained the Clinic's financial situation and goals. She said that the clinic is trying to apply for grants, but that the debt owed by the Clinic hinders their chances of receiving grants. She also said that by forgiving this debt, Council is showing its support for the Family Clinic which will look good on the Clinic's grant applications.

Manager Herron said the administration will support Council's decision on this issue, but recommended that Council take this issue up as a formal resolution at the next Council meeting.

The Council discussed this issue and agreed to give their support with a resolution at the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To support a resolution of debt forgiveness for the Family Clinic.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

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

Council Member Hout thanked everyone and said she would continue to actively support Bethel. Wished a speedy recovery to Fred Pete. Wished daughter, Jennifer, a happy birthday.

Council Member Pobrislo reviewed the questions on the October 3, 2000 ballot. Pobrislo encouraged Bethel residents to think about each question and to vote. She also thanked Council Member Hout and said it's been a pleasure serving next to her.

Council member Notti wished Fred Pete a speedy recovery and gave his condolences to the Hines family. He also recommended that Council think about nominating an employee of the year. He thanked Council Member Hout for serving on Council.

Mayor O'Brien wished Council Member Hout all the best and said he appreciated her service on the Council. He also acknowledged the hard work of Howard Elliot and Joanne Walsh. With concurrence of Council, he directed that a letter of appreciation be written to both Howard and Joanne.

Council Member Drake wished get well to his mother-in-law. He also wished his 2-year-old grandson a happy birthday.

Council Member Rodgers wished Fred Pete a speedy recovery. Also recommended Council acknowledge Howard Elliott's and Joanne Walsh's hard work.

Council Member Phillips thanked the medical staff for caring for her father.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no business to be discussed in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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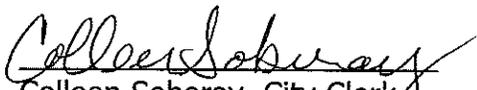
With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2000.

ATTEST:



Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers, Mayor


Colleen Soberay, City Clerk