
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

January 30, 2001

Special Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on January 30, 2001, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Rodgers called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Rodgers	Carl Berger— <i>via teleconference</i>
Karol Pobrislo	Mike O'Brien— <i>via teleconference</i>
Agnes Phillips	Dario Notti— <i>via teleconference</i>

Also in attendance were the following:

Colleen Soberay, City Clerk
Stuart Robinson, Finance Director
Laurie Walters, Assistant Finance Director
Clair Grifka, Public Works Director

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Item A — Possible purchase of 1997 Ford LT8000; Water-Utility Truck for the City

Stuart Robinson, City Finance Director, gave a brief presentation in regard to the opportunity for the City to purchase a used water-utility truck for the City. Mr. Robinson explained that by purchasing this used truck, the City would realize a savings of \$50,000 in the next fiscal year. He also explained the need of the truck and City water-truck situation. He reviewed the cost of the truck—cab and chassis. He said the price is \$43,925, but does not include the tank which would be purchased out of next fiscal year's budget. Mr. Robinson also explained the funding basis by using existing appropriations. He said the Public Works Department identified monies within the department's current budget that could be used towards the purchase of this truck.

Mr. Robinson said the truck has been physically inspected by the Port Director, Howard Elliot, and by Gookie Alexie, Vehicle and Equipment Foreman. He briefly reviewed the funding needed and availability of funds for the purchase of the truck.

Laurie Walters, Assistant Finance Director, explained how the department was able to move monies around in Public Work Department's budget to come up with \$23,000 to put towards the purchase of the truck.

Mr. Robinson said unscheduled revenues could also be used towards the purchase, such as approximately \$30,000 in unanticipated revenues in hauled-water services provided to YKHC.

Council member Pobrislo asked how much the completed truck, including assembly and delivery, will cost, as the \$44,925 is only for the cab and chassis. She also asked when the truck would be ready and delivered to Bethel.

Clair Grifka, Public Works Director, said the tank needed would cost about \$30,000 and the assembly would be done in Arizona, but he wasn't sure how much the assembly would cost.

Ms. Walters said the \$30,000 needed for the tank would be budgeted for in the FY02 budget. She pointed out that the City purchased three completely assembled water trucks in the past at \$150,000 each. Mr. Robinson and Ms. Walters agreed shipping would cost between \$4,500 and \$5,500.

Council member Pobrislo asked Mr. Robinson to explain the gains vs. losses page in his presentation. Mr. Robinson said the truck purchased reduces replacement planning for FY02 by \$50,000 and the future need to replace sewer trucks is enhanced by one unit one year earlier, if needed.

Council member O'Brien asked Mr. Grifka questions in regard to using money appropriated for goods and services in FY01 and what if the Public Works Department ends up needing the money it gave up for the purchase of this truck, such as for training.

Mr. Grifka explained the need for training and how it would be covered. He also explained that due to the weather this year, money has been saved that would have otherwise been spent on equipment for a harsh winter such as snow chains, tires and wheels.

Council member O'Brien said that Mr. Grifka and his department would need to be acutely aware that the department, as a whole, would be required to bear the repercussions of this purchase, such as not coming back to Council for more money because the original money appropriated was used towards the purchase of this truck. He also said he doesn't doubt Mr. Grifka's word on the matter and believes in the idea behind it.

Council member Berger asked if the two water-utility vehicles in poor condition are operable. Mr. Robinson said the trucks have a leak in their tank, so are not used in the winter because it will cause hazardous road conditions.

Council member Berger asked if the new truck is purchased, when would it arrive and be ready to be put to work.

Council and staff discussed the purchase of a tank and the arrival of barges and agreed the truck would be ready around August.

Council member Berger asked about the bidding process in regard to the need to exempt this purchase from the bidding process. Ms. Walters explained the bidding process in that purchases over \$20,000 need to go through the bidding process. She said only sole procurements and

emergency procurements are exempt, but also said the purchase in question is neither a sole procurement or an emergency procurement.

Council member Berger asked what the justification was for the exemption. Council briefly reviewed the funding again.

Council member Berger said Council is being asked to circumvent the bidding process while at the same time Council is unclear about the bidding process. He said Council is being asked to buy a truck and exempt itself from the bidding process, but the truck won't be ready until August and the City will have to make due anyway until August.

Mr. Robinson explained the savings associated with the purchase of this truck and said it's a great deal for the City.

Council member Pobrislo said, in regard to Mr. Berger's concern of circumventing the bidding process, the City Attorney should be contacted. She asked if this is a one-time purchase opportunity for the City. Mr. Robinson said it is unlikely the City will get another opportunity like this in the near future.

Council member Pobrislo requested the City Attorney be contacted. She said the savings is not worth running into legal problems.

Council member Notti said he is in favor of the purchase pending a legal opinion.

MOVED BY:	Berger	To purchase the 1997 Ford LTS8000 water truck for the City provided there is no legal issue with circumventing of the bidding process.
SECONDED BY:	O'Brien	

Council directed the Finance Director to contact the City Attorney for legal advice and assistance.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	O'Brien	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF February, 2001.

ATTEST:

Colleen Soberay
Colleen Soberay, City Clerk

Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers
for Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers, Mayor