

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NORTHERN COMMERCIAL THEATRE

January 18, 1965

8:00 P.M.

Present: Mandola, Schirmer, E. Hoffman, J. Hoffman, Elliott. Absent: Sallison.

The minutes of December 14 were read and approved as read.

A bill from Earth Moving and Construction Co. in the amount of \$187.14, (\$107.14 for repairs on the garbage truck and \$80.00 for pushing back the dump) was presented for payment.

MM Elliott/ E. Hoffman that the bill be paid. Mendola, Schirmer, E. Hoffman, J. Hoffman in favor. MC

Bills totaling \$467.15 was presented from the Bethel Fire department for reimbursement. The bills were studied by the Council.

MM Elliott/ J. Hoffman that the fire department be reimbursed for the expenditures. Mendola, Schirmer, E. Hoffman, J. Hoffman Elliott. MC

A bill from the Northern Commercial Co. was presented. The estimates for lights at Mission and Honey Bucket lakes at a previous meeting was \$100.00 per pole, plus \$65.00 for the light fixtures and bulbs. The expenditures at Mission Lake were \$146.61 above the authorized amount and since there were no poles to be installed at Honey Bucket Lake the expenditures were \$155.81 above the authorized amount. The bills and invoices were studied by the Council.

MM J. Hoffman/ Schirmer that the Northern Commercial bill in the amount of \$827.42 be paid. Mendola, Schirmer, E. Hoffman, J. Hoffman Elliott. MC.

The Committee reports and other business was deleted in order to hear a report from Bart Graves and Pete Reader, representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The report was on the Community Action program.

A discussion on the possibilities of the program ensued. Reports were heard from Dr. Schirmer and the Mental Health ~~Program~~ that is meeting in Bethel. Exerpts from the reports and discussion are attached.

MM Elliott/ E. Hoffman that the meeting be adjourned (10:00) MC

Bart Graves opened the discussion by giving some of the details about VISTA and CAP. Reports has been submitted to the Council and invited guests prior to tonights meeting. (Reports attached).

Mr. Graves told the council and spectators that there are nine indexes of poverty and that Bethel could rank at the top of the "yardstick". Under the Community Action Program, the seats of poverty can obtain up to 90% of the necessary funds from the Federal Government to develop programs to combat this poverty.

The Council was told that in order to qualify for this program, the community, as a whole, would have to get involved and "--work harder than they have ever worked on any project". Bethel would have to "sell" Washington that the community has a need for this program and will work very hard to obtain it.

Dr. Schirmer spoke on the Mental Health project now under way. The bill, one that was a Kennedy "pet" provides for the Governor to have a survey to determine the mental health needs of the area. The committee members ( Nora Guinn, Max Fancher, Fr. Mueller, Trooper Tew, Dr. Schirmer) is trying to get information--not only about patients in the hospital, but on those people who are having trouble with the law, in their homes, etc.

The "Half-Way-House" would be a place for people who do not need hospitalization, but need more care than could be had in the average small villages. It is hoped that the "half-way-house" could eventually be supervised by local people. It was suggested that perhaps the VISTA Personnel could train these people for supervision of the home. The Doctor also hopes for a place to house expectant mothers while they are waiting for the delivery of their babies and that this project could be worked along with the "half-way-house."

Dr. Schirmer pointed out that many of the proposed projects such as a recreation center, adult education, arts and crafts, etc., would be a big step toward preventative mental health. She stresses, in the event that a recreation center should materialize, that it be supervised by a full time employee. She also pointed out that the center could be utilized as a meeting place for adult education classes when the young people are in school.

Pete Reader, of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, states that "community action" is not just a phrase, but has a meaning. The program's basic purpose is to identify and eliminate some of the causes of poverty. He stresses community involvement "--We cannot expect Washington to come in and tell us what is wrong with Bethel--". "The people must live with the rproblems and pinpoint why they exist." Mr. Reader suggests a committee to try to determine why the poverty exists and how to combat it.

Mayor Nicholson feels that Bethel can show as great a need as any community in the U.S., and we are in a good position because of the

available funds from Bethel Sales, Inc.. He mentioned that the "up to 90%" is for an approximate two year period then the government would slowly withdraw it's aid. He suggests not going over our heads and seeking a project that the city could not maintain after the withdrawal of the government aid.

When asked if the government would erect a building, Bart Graves stated that this would not be done unless there was no other way in which the objective could be reached, and there was no building available.

Mayor Nicholson feels that a letter should be written to the OEO, requesting assistance in drawing up a program and, if possible, the designing of a building.

Bob Mulcahy suggested that the committee and council get all the facts straight before taking too many steps. He cited as an example, two years ago the city was working hard on one of the economic aid programs. Several members of the community, as well as Mr. O'Brien and Mr Hollingsworth of the BIA had spent many hours and dollars, only to have someone from Juneau come out and tell them they had interpreted the manual wrong.

Max Fancher states that he thinks it would be foolish not to explore and try every means to be a part of the program, but some caution should be used.

The Mayor then asked Jimmy Hoffman to chairman the committee to be set up. Mr. Hoffman declined on the grounds of having too many other things to do. Max Fancher was then asked to chairman the committee, but Mr. Fancher said he will do anything he can to help, but he feels the chairman should be a member of the council and that all actions should be channeled through the council and the City clerk.

The Mayor asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. Nora Guinn, Pete Reader and Bart Graves volunteered. The mayor then called on members of the audience. Reverend Gamble,; yes; Marie Swanson, yes; Father Mueller, no; Jack Weise, yes (if he doesn't have to be chairman) Bill Mailer, yes; Bob Mulcahy, yes; Trooper Tew, yes;

Jimmy Hoffman accepted the position of chairman when asked again. He suggested the committee meet Tuesday, January 19 at the library at 8:00 P.M. Marie Swanson was asked to serve as secretary. She accepted.

*G. L. S.*