
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

February 10, 2004

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on February 10, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Vice Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

R. Thor Williams
Hugh Dymont
Andrei Jacobs

Dave Trantham
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers

Excused absence(s):

Unexcused absence(s): Hugh Short, Jr., Dario Notti

Also in attendance were the following:

Amanda Roudebush, City Clerk

Dario Notti arrived 6:40 P.M.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Bethel Police Chief Morris award presentation

- Rodger Vercelline
- Dennis Benn
- Joseph Hames

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Ed Pironti – Chairman Runaway Task Force

- Mr. Pironti spoke about the history of the Runaway Task Force
- He addressed the issues of treatment options for runaways and their families
- He also requested any kind of assistance that the City could help with to get funding in place for the future.

Pam Bumstead

- Ms. Bumstead spoke in support of Ordinance #04-02
- She also addressed snow machines driving too fast
- She also spoke about a Senior Citizens rate for transportation

Kyla Hagan – Injury Epidemiologist YKHC

- spoke in favor of Ordinance #04-02
- Read letter from Danna Hall in to record in support Ordinance #04-02

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD CONTINUED...

Paul Gregory, Sr. – Bethel Citizen

- Excess noise in subdivision
- Curfew enforcement
- He requested rerouting snow machines trails around subdivisions
- Thanked the Council for listening

Joan Hamilton

- Comments about the City Clerk and how well she has been doing in her position

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To approve the minutes from the 1-13-04 as amended
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

Add more information on the discussions, PG's 5-Water&Sewer,G,H

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Trantham	To approve the consent agenda and regular agenda as amended
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

Remove items B,C,D,G from consent agenda

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

VICE-MAYOR'S REPORT

Vice-Mayor William's report included the following:

- Letter from the Native Village of Kwinhagak support local alcohol delivery site in Bethel
- Letter from Kinguliamta Ciunerkaat supporting the local alcohol delivery site in Bethel
- Letter from Akiachak Native Community supporting the local delivery site in Bethel
- Letter from Representative John Harris regarding Natural Gas
- Resolution from ONC supporting reinstatement of the Longevity Bonus
- Resolution from ONC supporting the proposal to allow local tribal governments to be members of the Alaska Municipal League
- Letter from the Director of Senior Services Louise Charles, supporting the reinstatement of the longevity bonus to seniors.
- Announcement from TWC about annual dinner/award
- Report from Senator Lyman Hoffman
- Report from Representative Mary Kapsner
- Building the Future – weekly update from Governor Frank Murkowski
- Update from the Senate – discussing a railroad connection from Alaska to Canada
- Legislature report about the Bradfield Road Overview
- Joint Legislative Salmon Industry Task Force update
- Senate News – update about the bill for Gas Pipeline
- Anchorage Caucus – Legislative Priorities
- Bill to expand the ANGDA scope
- 2004 Legislative Forum – date and information
- 2004 Rural Energy Conference
- US Department of Commerce updates
- FY'05 Population Determination
- Recommendation from the Public Works Committee asking for removal of Council men Notti

VICE-MAYOR'S REPORT CONT...

Vice-Mayor Williams appointed Mark Charlie to the Planning Commission and Allen DeSousa to the Port Commission

- Application for the Planning Committee Vacancy

MOVED BY:	Trantham	To appoint Mark Charlie to the Planning Commission
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion Passes 5-1 (Rodgers)
-----------------------	-----------------------------

- Application for the Port Commission

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To appoint Allen DeSousa to the Port Commission
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion Passes Unanimous
-----------------------	-------------------------

Discussion ensued about absences of Council Member Notti on the Public Works Committee as well as City Council. The Council addressed the recommendation from Public Works Committee to remove Council Member Notti as representative to the Committee due to a lack of his attendance. A decision was unanimously made to direct the City Manager to research and review this topic with the Public Works Committee and report back to Council with findings.

MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT

City Manager Herron's report included the following:

- Court Expansion Project
- Potential Transfer of the Senior Center to a third party
- Draft Port expansion Resolution
- Draft Parks & Recreation Committee Resolution
- City Lobbyist, Paul Richards, report
- Alcohol delivery site concept
- Review of BNC's 12-15-03 letter
- Regional Economic Workforce Development Council
- Conference of Alaskans Agenda
- ESGR Boss lift
- Personnel Matters – vacancies, hires, terminations
- City Manager Travel Itinerary

Comments

Discussion ensued about the City Manager going to Juneau to lobby for the City of Bethel. Suggestions included meeting with a Council Member before going, or for him to be accompanied by a Council Member while lobbying in Juneau. There was unanimous consent to grant the City Manager's leave and to go to Juneau for lobbying purposes in late March.

There was direction given to the City Manager to look into getting gas cards for the City of Bethel. The Council gave unanimous consent authorizing the City Manager to take part in ESGR Boss lift.

Discussion then ensued about the YKHC donation of a Quonset Hut. The Council gave direction to the City Manager to design a business plan and cost analysis of moving the Quonset Hut and report back with findings. He was also directed to get a local community member to estimate the cost of moving the building due to safety issues.

Direction was given to the City Clerk to write up a Certificate of Appreciation, to get signatures, and to thank the people at St. Sophia's for giving Slavic to the elders at the Senior Center.

10 MINUTE BREAK

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Advisory Board – Council Member Trantham reported that the Senior Advisory Board met today 2-10-04, and had no quorum. He spoke about improvements to the Senior Center that have been scheduled for this Spring with the grant monies that have already been approved. He also acknowledged Kevin Murphy for his volunteering and contributions to the Senior Center.

Unanimous Consent to direct the City Clerk to make a Certificate of Recognition for Mr. Kevin Murphy for his Volunteer work for the Senior Center.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Council Member Jacobs reported that there are about 85 students at the teen center daily. He and Council Member Dymont looked at the Bowling Alley building and discussed the size and being able to accommodate that number plus and he will be going to discuss this option at the next meeting.

Planning Commission – Council Member Rodgers reported that the Planning Commission had not met, and that the last meeting was cancelled. He requested training for the Commission by the City Clerk on procedure and protocol.

Port Commission – Council member Williams reported that the last meeting was 1-19-04. He stated that the next meeting will be 2-17-04 due to holiday. He announced that stevedoring issues will be discussed and invited public to attend. The Commission elected Buster Richardson as Chair and Allen DeSousa as V-Chair. They also had discussion on the Quonset Hut 3-1 thru 3-5-04 deadline for moving the building, and about a new Bldg for the port office complex. He also reported that the Commission is looking at the Denali fund to help with an erosion report for near future.

Public Works Committee – Council Member Rodgers reported that there were no minutes available for him. He stated that the Committee is distraught because of Council Member Notti's absence. They discussed Water Sewer issues. They had a harsh discussion about the lack of involvement with their Council Representative. There were also concerns that the chairman is the only one putting anything into the packets and taking all the credit for Public Work actions. They also requested more communication between themselves and Council.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission – Council Member Dymont reported that the last meeting was held on 2-3-04. The Commission elected John Hastie as Chairman, and John Dickens as Vice Chairman. They spoke to a DEC employee and found that their loosing funding was only a rumor. He reported that there may be someone in the private sector who can provide an impound lot privately. The Commission is also concerned of loosing money for the Bethel Police and Fire Departments; they requested some kind of reassurance from the City Council on this matter.

Finance Committee – Rob Strahan, Finance Director, reported that the last meeting was held on 1-29-04. They elected Helen Venes as Chairman and William Nettles as Vice Chairman. The next scheduled meeting is on 2-26-04. The Committee discussed Water and Sewer Rate Stabilizations, and Annual Review of prices. They also discussed that the City should consider a Consumer Price Index. Council Dymont asked Mr. Strahan about the proposal to increase the water and sewer rates and he wanted to know the timeline for when the proposal will be finished. The response was from the City Manager that 3-6 months would be a good estimate.

Council Member Rodgers was excused from the meeting for medical reasons at 9:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A – Public Hearing of Ordinance #03-21S: A substitute Ordinance authorizing the acquisition and/or exchange of interests in land between the City of Bethel and owners of property in City Subdivision for utility easements; authorizing vacation and rededication of drainage easement; and authorizing the adjustment of boundaries of the preservation district T – P district.

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To approve Ordinance #03-21S: A substitute Ordinance authorizing the acquisition and/or exchange of interests in land between the City of Bethel and owners of property in City Subdivision for utility easements; authorizing vacation and rededication of drainage easement; and authorizing the adjustment of boundaries of the preservation district T – P district.
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

Discussions ensued. There was an update to the easement list. Discussions on the intended use of the Ordinance. It was explained that this Ordinance is addressing stages B and C of Water and Sewer plan.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimous
-----------------------	-------------------------

Item B – Public Hearing of Ordinance # 03-22: Amending sections 2.04.050 and 2.12.010 of the Bethel Municipal Code regarding the deadline for submission of materials for the council packets.

MOVED BY:	Trantham	To postpone Ordinance #03-22 until the next City Council meeting on February 24, 2004 and set the Public Hearing for that time.
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passed unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

NEW BUSINESS

Item A – *Resolution #04-03: A resolution of the Bethel City Council supporting the Bethel Fire Department in their efforts to seek grant monies from the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

MOVED BY:		To approve Resolution #04-03: A resolution of the Bethel City Council supporting the Bethel Fire Department in their efforts to seek grant monies from the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.
SECONDED BY:		

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed Consent Agenda
-----------------------	-----------------------

Item B – *Introduction of Ordinance #03-08 (A): An Ordinance of the Bethel City Council amending the adopted Annual FY 2003-04 Budget.

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To introduce Ordinance #03-08 (A): An Ordinance of the Bethel City Council amending the adopted Annual FY 2003-04 Budget and set Public Hearing Date for 2-24-04 and to set for public hearing on 2-24-04.
SECONDED BY:		

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion dies no second
-----------------------	-----------------------

Item C – *Introduction of Ordinance #03-08 (B): An Ordinance of the Bethel City Council amending the adopted Annual FY 2003-04 Budget. (Williams)

MOVED BY:	Trantham	To suspend the rules to allow discussion of Ordinance #03-08(B) before introducing it.
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

Discussion ensued about postponing both Ordinances #03-08(A) and (B) to be discussed at a work session on 2-18-04

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

The Council gave unanimous consent to set a work session date for 2-18-04 for purposes of discussing Ordinances #03-08(A) and #03-08(B)

Item D – *Introduction of Ordinance #04-02: An Ordinance adding Bethel Municipal Code Chapter 8.15, Entitled Vehicle Helmets, that requires minors under eighteen years old to wear a properly fitted and fastened certified protective helmets while riding bicycles and other similar vehicles on public access areas, and imposes a fine for violation of these requirements.

MOVED BY:	Dyment	To suspend the rules and allow public testimony about Ordinance #04-02.
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

VOTE ON MOTION	Passed Unanimously
-----------------------	--------------------

Chief Butch Morris, Bethel Police Department

- Chief Morris spoke in favor of Ordinance #04-02.
- The Public Safety and Transportation Commission has reviewed several communities similar Ordinances across the state and have had the attorney to write this Ordinance.
- The Bethel Police Department feels that this Ordinance could greatly benefit the community.
- The Commission wants the parents of the minors jointly responsible for enforcement.
- He also made an amendment to this Ordinance to take out some verbiage.

Tom Fazzini – Community Member

- Injury problems with numbers
- Packets presented to Council
- Support of Ordinance #04-02 with blessing to let the Bethel Police enforce it.

Bill O'Brien – YKHC –Emergency Services Department

- Read article from Journal of Emergency Medical Service

MOVED BY:	Dyment	To amend Ordinance #04-02 by taking out the words sled and sledding throughout the document.
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

MOVED BY:	Dyment	To introduce, as amended, Ordinance #04-02: An
------------------	--------	--

SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	Ordinance adding Bethel Municipal Code Chapter 8.15, Entitled Vehicle Helmets, that requires minors under eighteen years old to wear a properly fitted and fastened certified protective helmets while riding bicycles and other similar vehicles on public access areas, and imposes a fine for violation of these requirements and to set Public Hearing for 2-24-04.
---------------------	--------	---

Amend to remove the words sled

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

Item E - Report on upcoming PERS increase

- City Manager leads the discussion of the possible 5% increase
- \$1,000.00 per employee will be the cost for the City Of Bethel contribution
- Not to increase for the employee
- Explanation of what PERS is in comparison to a 401(K) and similar retirement plans

MOVED BY:	Trantham	To suspend the rule to go past 10:00 p.m.
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Unanimous
-----------------------	-----------

The Council unanimously consented to direct the City Manager to research the possible PERS Premium increase to employees to report back to Council at the next meeting on 2-24-04.

MOVED BY:	Notti	To suspend the rules to skip Item F and move to Item H and request to come back to Item F at a later time in the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Passes unanimously
-----------------------	--------------------

Item F - Report by the Animal Control Officer

- Moved to after Item H

Item G - Discussion of City of Bethel Newsletter

- Removed from Agenda by Council Member Dyment

Item H - Discussion of possible Bethel Police Department Personnel

- **Butch Morris – Bethel Police Chief**
 - Chief Morris spoke about the new position
 - He also discussed totally 100% funded by Therapeutic Court.
 - He stated that this is originally a three year position, depending on grant monies
- **Sally Russell, Project Coordinator Therapeutic Courts**
 - Ms. Russell spoke in support of a new investigator and why he is needed
 - She spoke about the Therapeutic Court being a Bethel based only program

MOVED BY:	Notti	To create a new investigator position inside the City of Bethel Police Department
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion Passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

MOVED BY:	Notti	To draft a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Bethel, Bethel Therapeutic Court, and Bethel Superior Court System and to support a Bethel Policeman to become an investigator for the Therapeutic Court
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

- **Police Chief Morris**

- Chief Morris gave presentation to Council on more funding for the Police Department from TSA to pay for an extra officer to be at every jet landing at the Bethel Airport

MOVED BY:	Dyment	To direct the City Manager to draft a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Bethel Police Department and TSA to pay for two extra officers to be at the airport at jet landings
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

Discussions ensued.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

- **Police Chief Morris**

- Chief Morris spoke to Council about funding for an extra dispatcher due to 128 hours a week of State Trooper dispatching already being done by the Bethel Police Department Dispatcher
- He spoke about the City of Bethel never receiving funding from the State Troopers before
- He spoke with Director of AST about funding an entry level dispatching position
- Chief Morris also spoke about 100% funding for the new dispatch position by AST

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To direct the City Administration to request the Legislative Delegation to look into allocating funds for the development of AST funding an entry level dispatching position at the Bethel Police Department
SECONDED BY:	Dyment	

Discussion ensued.

VOTE ON MOTION	Passes unanimously
-----------------------	--------------------

Item F - Report by the Animal Control Officer

- Mike Burley - Animal Control Officer for the City of Bethel
 - Officer Burley gave numbers of how many estimated animals are in Bethel.
 - He spoke of reports to the City Of Bethel citizens through the newspapers
 - He also spoke about the current needs and future needs of Animal Control

Item I - Discussion of work session scheduling

- Discussion to schedule budget revisions for sooner rather than later
- Council decided to hold the revision in a special work session on Wednesday at 6:30 in Council Chambers on the 18th of February to discuss Mid-Year Budget Modifications

MOVED BY:	Dyment	To set a Special Meeting for February 18, 2004 in Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m.
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

Item J - Discussion of Alaska Municipal League

- Discussion lead by Vice Mayor Williams referring to the information he provided in packet
- He spoke about the recent meeting in Juneau with emphasis on major issues discussed at the meeting
- Council Member Trantham thanked the community for their support, and gave his report on major discussion items.

MOVED BY:	Dyment	To suspend the rules and go past 11:00 p.m.
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion Passes Unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

- Letter read into record by the Representative Richard Foster read by Vice Mayor Williams.
- Council Member Trantham spoke in depth about meeting that took place during the AML conference in Juneau.

MOVED BY:	Dyment	To go into Executive Session
SECONDED BY:		

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion Dies due to no second
-----------------------	------------------------------

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To suspend the rules and allow Council Member Comments before going into Executive Session
SECONDED BY:	Dyment	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

Council Member Comments

Council Member Dyment commented on the great job the Police Chief Morris is doing.

Council Member Jacobs commented on the innovation and great ideas from the Police Chief. He thanked him for all the hard work. He then welcomed the new Grant Writer. Congrats to board of directors new nominee was his final comment.

Council Member Notti spoke about the privatization of City Services, and reminded the City Of Bethel citizens to keep in mind not only the rates but the workers who deliver the services.

Council Member Trantham had no comment.

Vice Mayor Williams welcomed back Council Member Notti and all his support. Bethel has great ways to make it self better. Welcome to new grant writer.

Executive Session

MOVED BY:	Dyment	To go into Executive Session, at 10:50 p.m., to complete the City Clerk 6 month evaluation to include both positive and negative job performance.
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

Council came out of Executive Session at 11:15 p.m.

MOVED BY:	Dyment	To go into a Special Meeting on 2-18-04 Wednesday, to finish Clerk Evaluation in Executive Session immediately following the scheduled work session no later than 8:30 p.m.
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

Amended by Jacobs to include an Executive Session for Clerk Evaluation continued immediately following the scheduled work session

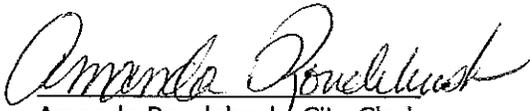
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
-----------------------	---------------------------

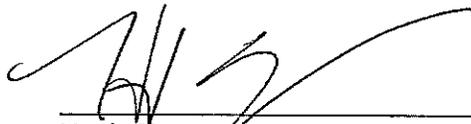
MOVED BY:	Notti	To adjourn the meeting at 11:45 p.m.
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion unanimous
-----------------------	------------------

APPROVED THIS 24th day of February 2004.

ATTEST:


Amanda Roudebsuly, City Clerk


Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor