

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL

N.C. THEATER

8 PM

NOVEMBER 8, 1965

The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m.

Present: T. Christiansen, E. Hoffman, J. Hoffman, H. Elliott, R. Miller, T. Samuelson, and A. Nicholson.

The minutes for the meetings of October 25 and November 1 were read and accepted as read.

Committee reports -

Liquor: T. Samuelson reported that the Liquor Board would like an accounting of the \$20,000 given to the city. He also reported that Kevin Murphy suggested that the city purchase a bus for the children living across the slough.

M/M J. Hoffman made the motion, seconded by H. Elliott, that the city council give an accounting to the members of Bethel Sales as to how the monies turned over to the city by Bethel Sales has been spent. Motion passed unanimously.

M/M R. Miller made a motion, seconded by J. Hoffman, that the purchasing of a school bus for the children living across the slough be opened for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

M/M T. Christiansen made the motion, seconded by E. Hoffman, that discussion be open to the floor. Ayes 4 Nays 2. T. Christiansen, yes. E. Hoffman, yes. T. Samuelson, yes, R. Miller, yes. H. Elliott, no. J. Hoffman, no. Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 2. Discussion was heard from the floor.

Mr. Nicholson appointed a committee consisting of T. Christiansen, as chairman, John Shively, Julie Davis, Mike Rowan, Joan Notti, Dewey Baxter and Julius Sirilo; to make further investigation as to how many children would be involved, what period of time would the service be supplied, and some cost estimate of what it would be to the city. Committee to report at the next regular council meeting.

Special Committee: appointed to study the question as to whether Bethel should continue to retain Mr. Beckman in the filing of a protest with the CAB. Mr. Elliott reported the action taken of the city in retaining an attorney was directed primarily in protecting a vital economy of the city. He stated that if Ray Christiansen can improve the service over that of NCA so greatly with his limited facilities and financing, then this council is to be commended for taking the action against NCA and should recommend to the CAB that the NCA certificate in question be revoked and the certificate be turned over to Christiansens Air Service or another qualified air taxi operator with all of the subsidy monies then remaining in Bethel. Several questions were prepared by the committee which were carried to the latter part of the meeting.

Correspondence -

Mr. Nicholson read the Bethel Womens Club letter of October 20, 1965, which asked the city for immediate planning and action to alleviate the sad condition of the roads of Bethel.

Old Business -

Salary for mayor and/or councilmen.

Mr. Nicholson read the city attorneys, McNealy and Merdes, letter of October 18, 1965 in its entirety. In essence the letter stated that in the opinion of Merdes and McNealy it is legal for a fourth class city to pay its mayor and/or councilmen monies for those specific duties of their office.

M/M H. Elliott made the motion, seconded by E. Hoffman, that the city have a salary for a mayor on a part time basis with the salary being \$600 and that there will not be a salaried mayor or a city manager at the same time. T. Christiansen, no. E. Hoffman, yes. T. Samuelson, yes. R. Miller, yes. H. Elliott, yes. J. Hoffman, yes. Motion carried by a vote of 5 to 1.

Selection of council president for the coming year.

J. Hoffman declined the nomination for president of council made by T. Christiansen's motion of October 11.

M/M J. Hoffman reiterated his nomination of October 11, which stated that A. Nicholson be elected as president of the council. A poll vote was taken. Mr. Nicholson was elected as council president for this year on a part time salary basis unanimously.

New Business -

Transfer of Cowan Hut.

Mr. Mulcahy stated that he did not have the legal authority to transfer the Cowan Hut to the city since there is no active body of the Chamber of Commerce. It was mentioned that since there is no revenues to pay the bills, the city should resume responsibility of the building.

M/M R. Miller made the motion, seconded by J. Hoffman, that the city take over the obligation to pay the bills for lights, heat and maintenance and that the city would also handle the monies coming in. Motion passed unanimously.

J. Hoffman asked that a letter be written to the attorney concerning insurance for the building.

Sanitation wages by Guthrie Pratt.

Mr. Pratt's letter of October 31, 1965, was read in its entirety. In essence the letter stated that he was hired to drive the sanitation truck, not to pick up dead dogs or trash. He mentioned that he was hired at a salary of \$750 per month and has only been paid \$600 a month. He presented a court summons issued by the city which had been voided due to lack of date as to when he should appear in court. He also presented a check in the amount of \$40 as payment to his sanitation service account.

Mr. Nicholson explained that Mr. Pratt was not hired at a salary of \$750 since the council by a poll vote had approved a salary of \$600 a month. It was stated that unless Mr. Pratt properly perform the duties of the job, he would be dismissed.

T. Christiansen asked that Mr. Nicholson draw up a job description for all city employees so that there would be no further misunderstanding with the city employees.

Tumbling mats for tots and supervisor.

M/M E. Hoffman made the motion, seconded by H. Elliott, that the city purchase 3 tumbling mats.

M/M J. Hoffman, seconded by H. Elliott, that the motion be tabled for a future meeting and requested that Mrs. Tew appear to give more information.

Change of city accountants.

Mr. Elliott suggested that the city change accountants so that there would be a quarterly check on the city books rather than the one year audit.

M/M R. Miller made the motion, seconded by H. Elliott, that the city approach Mr. Dick Jones in the possibility of taking care of the books, ask his cost estimate, and have information available to the council members as to what the present accountant is costing the city. Passed unanimously.

M/M J. Hoffman, seconded by T. Christiansen, that the council continue business after 10 o'clock. Passed unanimously.

Resolution - filling of vacant council seats.

T. Christiansen presented a petition requested by some 150 residents that the city council adopt the resolution as to the manner in which vacant council seats would be filled.

M/M T. Christiansen, seconded by H. Elliott, that this resolution be accepted in the first reading. Passed by a vote of 5 to 1.

M/M T. Christiansen, seconded by H. Elliott, that this resolution be accepted for the second reading. Passed unanimously.

M/M T. Christiansen, seconded by T. Samuelson, that discussion be open to the floor. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Nicholson suggested that the resolution be put on the ballot for the next year so that all the residents of Bethel can be represented in adopting the resolution.

M/M R. Miller, seconded by H. Elliott, that the resolution be followed until the next general election of council members.

Second reading of the resolution was read by Mr. Nicholson.

The council accepted, unanimously, the resolution presented by T. Christiansen.

Northern Consolidated Airlines Presentation.

Mr. Nicholson conducted a question and answer session with Mr. Fitzhugh on the questions prepared by the Special Committee. Discussion was heard from the floor.

Mr. Fitzhugh complimented the Bethel Volunteer Fire Department, the FAA personnel, and the Weather Bureau personnel on the assistance they gave to the NCA fire of November 3, 1965. He also requested that the city of Bethel withdraw its protest against NCA.

Mr. Ray Christiansen spoke on the efficiency of his competency to operate on the air taxi service. He stated that he is flying legally, his maintenance is adequate, and that his absence for legislative duties would not interfere with the normal operation of his business. He requested that the city of Bethel withdraw its protest.

The members in the audience by a show of hands favored the withdrawal of the protest by the City.

Withdrawal of city protest.

T. Christiansen's motion of October 25, which requested that the city withdraw its protest to the attorney and that no more funds be spent was passed by the council with a vote of 5 to 1.

M/M T. Christian, seconded by T. Samuelson, meeting be adjourned was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45.

Art Nicholson