

CALL TO ORDER

City Manager Hoffman called the regular meeting of Bethel City Council to order at 7.35 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Binkley, Hoffman, Sullivan, Twitchell  
Veit  
Absent: Buttane (business travel), Guinn  
(business travel)

motion

City Manager Hoffman accepted nominations for acting Mayor. M/M by Sullivan, 2nd by Hoffman nominating John Binkley for acting Mayor. There were no other nominations. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously. John Binkley served as acting Mayor for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion

M/M by Hoffman, 2nd by Sullivan to accept the 4/5/84 Council minutes as presented. Voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Veit to accept the minutes of the 4/10/84 Council meeting as presented. Voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

motion

M/M by Sullivan, 2nd by Twitchell to approve the agenda with the following changes and additions:  
1. add People to be Heard to the agenda after Reports of Standing Committees  
2. add the following items to New Business:  
Item B: Summer Youth Employment  
Item C: Bethel Family Health Clinic Request  
Item D: River Patrol  
Item E: Dogs  
Item F: City Manager/Council (Executive Session)  
Voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

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City Manager Hoffman reported on the following items:

1. the Association of Stranded Rural Alaskans will hold a crime prevention workshop at the KVNA Building at 8 pm on May 8;
2. Council needs to set a date for a work session on the personnel classification system;
- c. 1000 trees have been adopted under the City's adopt-a-tree program.

MAYOR'S REPORT

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There was no Mayor's Report.

REPORTS OF STANDING  
COMMITTEES

motion

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

M/M by Sullivan, 2nd by Hoffman to accept as presented the minutes of the 3/29/84 and 4/5/84 Port Commission meetings and the 4/2/84 Planning Commission meeting. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Councilmember Hoffman reported to Council that Senator Sackett has indicated that the Brown Slough funding request stands a good chance for passage this session.

Councilmember Veit asked that the Bethel ordinance code be updated as soon as possible. Mr. Veit also suggested that the City hire an attorney from Bethel to serve as the City Attorney.

Councilmember Sullivan requested that the Administration contact the State concerning an encroachment problem along 1st Avenue.

Antone Anvil inquired as to the status of the bike path program for Bethel. City Manager Hoffman reported to Council that the 21 Acre Park - ASHA Housing bike intertie project is underway and that work will begin this summer on the walkways at Watson's and Turner's Corners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CATHOLIC CHURCH LAND REQUEST

Item A: Catholic  
Church Land Request

City Manager Hoffman reviewed for Council the land request by the Catholic Church informing Council that the parcel of land requested (Lot B near 21 Acre Park) has a native allotment claim pending against it and that the Planning Commission has recommended that Lot A in Ptarmigan Subdivision be considered as a possible site for a new Catholic Church building. The City Manager noted that the pending native allotment claim tends to cloud title to Lot B and may take 5 or more years to settle.

Kevin Murphy reviewed the history of the Catholic Church's request for land from the City. Mr. Murphy indicated that the preference of the Church remained Lot B and that the Church would be willing to wait, for up to two years, for the settlement of the title question surrounding Lot B if the Church had a commitment from the Council for use of Lot B once the title question is resolved.

Councilmember Sullivan and Planning Commission members Porter and Charles urged Council to accept the Planning Commission recommendation of Lot A, Ptarmigan Subdivision, as a possible church site.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
CONTINUED

Councilmember Sullivan informed Council that the Planning Commission had voted 3-1 in favor of the Ptarmigan site (Tract A) but that the vote was not binding requiring 4 votes for action; however, Mr. Sullivan indicated that the vote did represent the thinking of the Planning Commission with respect to the leasing of Tract B to the Catholic Church.

City Planner Stigall reviewed for Council the position of the Planning Department concerning the need to develop and dispose of City land within the framework of the City Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Hoffman stated that the vote by the Planning Commission was inconclusive and that the City Council has the final say on any matter relating to the disposal of City land.

Councilmember Veit asked why the City is giving away its land; did the City know exactly how much land it has received under 14(c)(3); should the City be disposing of land without first having established a policy for land disposal.

City Planner Stigall indicated that the City has approximately 1500 acres of land and that as much as 45% of that land is usable.

City Manager Hoffman reminded Council that the City is revising its land use policy and that the revision should be completed within the year. Mr. Hoffman recommended that the City wait at least 18 months before disposing of any land at which time revision of the Comprehensive Plan will be complete and certain title questions can be clarified.

Councilmember Binkley recommended if title to Tract B can be cleared in one year and if the proposed use by the Church is within the scope of the City Comprehensive Plan then the Catholic Church could make its request for Tract B at that time; if the above conditions have not been met, then the Church should pursue a site location elsewhere, such as Tract A as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Sullivan urged Council to recommend to the Church to pursue Tract A rather than to wait for questions surrounding Tract B to be answered.

Councilmember Veit urged Council to establish a land disposal policy before disposing of any more City land. Mr. Veit recommended that City Planning and the Administration make an exact determination of the amount of City owned land, establish a City land use policy, and set criteria for the disposal of City land.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
CONT

motion

M/M by Veit, 2nd by Sullivan to table for not more than 3 months the Catholic Church land request and for the City Administration and Planning Commission to develop during the 3 month period a City policy concerning the lease of City land. Councilmembers Binkley and Twitchell spoke in opposition to the motion. Poll vote, 2 yes, 3 no, motion failed.

motion

M/M by Sullivan, 2nd by Twitchell to table the Catholic Church request for Site B pending title clarification of the requested land and to recommend that the Catholic Church consider Lot A, Ptarmigan Subdivision, as a site location of a new church. Councilmember Veit opposed the motion and abstained from voting citing the unclear nature of motion. Poll vote, 4 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention; motion carried.

Councilmember Sullivan suggested that Council and the Planning Commission hold a joint work session on the leasing of City land at the next Planning Commission meeting scheduled for May 7; Council concurrence in the suggestion.

Council recessed from 9.15 to 9.25 pm.

Item B: Public  
Hearing Sales Tax  
Revision

PUBLIC HEARING SALES TAX REVISION

Public hearing from 9.30 - 9.52 pm.

Councilmember Veit stated that the present sales tax system is a regressive tax and recommended that the City look at other options for sources of revenue.

City Manager Hoffman concurred that the City needs to look elsewhere for sources of revenue.

John Hastie requested that professional services not be taxed, especially services offered in the area of public safety.

Councilmember Hoffman requested that the City review tax policy concerning taxation of purchases by villagers while in Bethel.

Joe Hildreth inquired if businesses were audited by the City.

City Manager Hoffman reported that the City is planning an audit of the sales tax system.

Council recommended that a schedule be established for hearings on the proposed sales tax revisions and be publicly advertised. (referred to Administration)

NEW BUSINESS

BETHEL ORDINANCE CODE MODIFICATION

- Item A: Bethel Ordinance Code
- motion M/M by Sullivan, 2nd by Veit to introduce Amendment 1, Ordinance 92 and to set the amendment for a public hearing in 30 days. Voice vote, motion carried. (Day Care Facilities)
- motion M/M by Sullivan, 2nd by Veit to introduce Amendment 1, Ordinance 39 and to set the amendment for a public hearing in 30 days. Voice vote, motion carried. (Municipal Budget)
- motion M/M by Sullivan, 2nd by Veit to introduce Amendment 1, Ordinance 46 and to set the amendment for a public hearing in 30 days. Voice vote, motion carried. (Elections)
- motion M/M by Sullivan, 2nd by Twitchell to introduce Ordinance 148 and to set the ordinance for a public hearing in 30 days. Voice vote, motion carried. (repeal of 14.04 Bethel Code - Uniform Codes)
- motion M/M by Sullivan, 2nd by Twitchell to go past 10 pm. Voice vote, motion carried.

Item B: Youth Employment Funding

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT FUNDING

City Manager Hoffman revealed for Council the proposed Summer Youth Employment program.

Councilmember Veit spoke in favor of the program if funds are available. Mr. Veit suggested that the City should seek to maintain a fund balance in the area of 15% of the City budget and that any funding of new programs not deplete the 15% fund balance.

City Manager Hoffman recommended that the Council refer the question of the fund balance to the Finance Committee for review and that the Summer Youth Employment program be considered along with the Finance Committee recommendations concerning the proposed fund balance.

- motion M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Sullivan to introduce Amendment 3 to Ordinance 146 and to set the Amendment for a public hearing in 30 days. Voice vote, motion carried. Councilmember Binkley expressed his concern that the wages paid under the program not compete with local businesses for youth hire.

NEW BUSINESS CONT

BETHEL HEALTH CARE FACILITY REQUEST

Item C: Bethel  
Health Care  
Facility Request

Louise Charles, boardmember of the Bethel Family Health Clinic, addressed Council concerning a request by the Family Health Clinic for a grant of \$50,000.00 from the City to the Clinic. Ms. Charles indicated that the Clinic presently had a cash flow shortage and faced eviction on May 1 if payments on back due rent were not made prior to that date.

Councilmembers Veit and Binkley requested a more complete financial statement from the Clinic before approving any assistance.

City Manager Hoffman suggested that the Council approve an emergency appropriation for the back due rent payments and that the Finance Committee review the request for the remainder of the assistance asked for by the Clinic.

Council recommended a joint Council-Finance Committee meeting for noon, Thursday, May 26 to review the request and to hold a Special Council meeting on Friday, May 27 to take action on the matter. The recommendation was approved by Council by acclamation.

Item D: River  
Patrol

RIVER PATROL

John Hastie of Neighborhood Ranger Inc. presented to Council a proposal to assume operation of the river patrol. The matter was referred to the Finance and Public Safety Committees for review and recommendations.

Item E: Dogs

DOGS

Councilmember Hoffman requested that the police department step up dog patrols in the East Addition. The matter was referred to Administration for action.

Item F: Manager/  
Council Executive  
Session

M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Sullivan to go into executive session concerning City Manger/Council relationship. Voice vote, motion carried. Executive session from 11.18 - 11.29 pm. Rosie Porter of the Tundra Drums objected to the executive session.

motion

ADJOURNMENT

M/M by Sullivan to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11.30 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF *May*

1984  
  
John Guinn, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Wayne J. Maier, City Clerk  
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