

---

---

# City of Bethel, Alaska

## City Council Minutes

---

---

September 23, 2003

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

---

### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on September 23, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

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

### ROLL CALL

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

David Trantham  
Joy Shantz  
Carl Berger  
Jerry Drake

Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers  
Andrei Jacobs

Excused absence(s):

Unexcused absence(s): Mayor Short

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager  
Amanda Roudebush, City Clerk

### PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Willie Keppel voiced his opinion on the City of Bethel buying Yukon Fuel Company to make it a non-profit organization to save the people of Bethel money on the cost of fuel.

Cindy Andrecheck wanted to thank the Council for their concerns on the trees that were destroyed for no reason. She said that city workers had showed up to help her plant new trees and wanted to express her appreciation for their actions.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Drake	To approve the amended minutes from 8-26-03 meeting
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Rodgers	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Drake	To approve the regular amended agenda
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Jacobs	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

## MAYORS REPORT

- Joint Legislative Salmon Task Force Reorganizes Sub-Committees and Adds Three New Members
- Weekly update from Gov Murkowski
- Letter from Senator Lyda Green
- 2003 Municipal Fiscal Conditions Survey
- Alaska Energy Policy Meeting
- Northern Mgmt training available
- Letter from Sourdough Trading Post
- Notice of Entitlement from FY 04 Fiscal Relief Program
- Proclamation from Fire Department
- Chauffeur's License Appeal update
- AML Board Resignation
- Letter from President of AML Fay Gemmingen
- PILT FY 04 Letter about Resolution
- William Nettles Application for Finance Committee
- Letter from National Association of Cities
- Letter announcing AML dates
- Letter from Alaska Marine Conservation Council
- Access to the Future Status Report

## COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Jacobs asked about the legality of the appeal to the Transportation Committee for the gentleman trying to retake his driving test due to language barrier. He was answered by Council Member Berger saying that he had already appealed to the Council, and the Council told him to go to the Transportation Committee.

Council Member Trantham referred to the handout of the letter to the DOT about the changing STIP. He has concerns about the mathematics that are in the letter. He was reassured that someone will check on the math and get back to him by the City Manager.

## MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORTS

City Manager Herron called on Fire Chief George Young to speak to Council. The Fire Chief requested the Council to agree to let the Fire Department donate surplus fire equipment to Pilot Station. He was asked by Council member Shantz what the estimated cost of the equipment was. He said roughly a couple hundred dollars. Council Member Jacobs wanted to know who was going to pay for the shipment of the donations. Fire Chief Young replied that he would let them know as soon as they figured it out.

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Jacobs	To approve the Fire Department equipment surplus donation to Pilot Station Fire Department
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Trantham	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

City Manager Herron called on Janet Athanas to speak to Council. The Parks and Recreation Director requested that the Council pass Resolution #03-28, Support of the Recreational Trails Grant Application. She explained that this grant will allow upgrades to snow machine and dog sled team crossings through Pinky's park.

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Jacobs	To approve Resolution #03-28 Support of the Recreational Trails Grant Application
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Rodgers	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

City Manager Herron's report included the following:

- Vacancies, New Employees, and Terminations for City of Bethel
- Ridgecrest Rd. closure on October 7, 2003 due to sewer line road crossing placement.
- AML conference in Nome – as soon as possible please advise City Clerk if you wish to attend
- Future Travel Plans – Including Homeland Security Workshop in Anchorage on October 6-8

### **Council Member Comments**

Council Member Trantham inquired about the vacancy at the Recycling Center. City Manager Herron replied to inquiry that Jill Maynard has applied and accepted the position.

Council Member Berger asked about any responses to the RFP for DOT planning. City Manager Herron replied to Council that he would need to talk with the finance department and will report back as soon as he can. Council Member Rodgers also asked about the boxes on the side of citizens houses for the piped water and sewer systems. He wanted to know about the boxes being insulated and how they are going to be insulated. City Manager Herron said that he would ask Lee Olson, of CRW Engineering, to respond.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **Port Commission**

Council Member Rodgers reported that the scheduled meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. The meeting was rescheduled for September 22, 2003 and did have a quorum. They discussed the Bethel Utilities power line permit, and decided that it would be supported by the Port Commission. There was an update on the Crow Property Purchase. They also discussed the Yukon Fuel sale to Crowley. The new light towers have arrived, and the Port trucks have been winterized. There was a new bathymetric survey on the waterfront, and all is fine.

#### **Public Works Committee**

Council Member Trantham reported that the Committee met on September 16, 2003. They discussed the Sanitation Utility Business Plan. They also discussed concerns with the Public Works Director, Greg Sargent, about the conditions of roads. He also commended Public Works on the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave upgrades. The next scheduled meeting is October 23, 2003. Council Member Trantham requested a new commission/committee assignment due to complaint about him.

#### **Public Safety and Transportation Commission**

Council Member Drake reported that the Commission met on September 3, 2003. They discussed the three way stop at QFC 1 and Ridgecrest Drive. The appeal for the re-take of driver's license test for a taxi cab driver was postponed until September 4, 2003 due to time restraints. At that time, the Commission then decided to grant the appeal. The next meeting will be October 3, 2003.

### **Planning Commission**

Council Member Shantz reported that the September 11, 2003 was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. She wanted to thank the Commission for great attendance to the meetings through out the year. She gave special thanks to Commissioners John Hamilton, Brian Glasheen, Pat Jennings, and Mark Charlie. She also wanted to thank Chairman John Guinn for his leadership as well. She reminded the public that there is a seat on the Planning Commission available.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Council Member Jacobs reported that the Committee met on September 17, 2003. They discussed improvements that are in progress for Pinky's Park Baseball field. They ordered new bleachers and benches. The Public Works department has enough fences to upgrade the field as well. The youth center is averaging 75 youth daily, enrollment is at 165. Family night starts September 23, 2003 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Punt Pass and Kick is October 11, 2003 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bethel high school. Garden Harvest is later this month of September. He also thanked Janet Athanas for the Parks and Recreation report.

### **Senior Advisory Board**

Council Member Berger reported that the Board met on September 16, 2003. He reported that the Senior Center now has a covered parking area and walkway. New siding will be here this spring. The Senior Center was also awarded \$25,000.00 for the green room to be changed into an exercise room. In August 2003, the Senior Center served 917 meals at the Center. 799 meals were delivered. Council Member Berger also urged citizens of Bethel to donate traditional meats such as moose and caribou. The Senior Center has plenty of fish and berries. He also announced that flu shots are going to be coming up in early October. He gave his condolences to the families of Mrs. Celia Oscar and Mr. Moses Mojin, they will be greatly missed.

*BREAK FROM 7:35 TO 7:45*

*City Clerk left the meeting to travel to Anchorage for a training conference on Wednesday, September 24, 2003.*

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Item A – Ordinance #03-08(a): A Ordinance of the Bethel City Council Amending the Adopted Annual FY 2003-2004 Budget**

City Manager Herron shared information from the auditor. There is concern about appropriation coming out of funds for Port. He referred Council to handout of last audit, specifically the balance of the audit. He explained how the money is divided, the money will not change retained earnings because the city is trading cash for real property. Mr. Herron responded to Council Member Trantham by saying that the money is coming from retained earnings.

Council Member Trantham referred back to Ordinance #02-39. He states that Council approved spending Dock monies. He recommends that the City take the money from the retained earnings now and follow the same format as stipulated in Ordinance #02-39. He believes the wording is much clearer in that ordinance. He states that he is not comfortable taking money from the Seawall Maintenance Fund, incase of a major disaster.

Council Member Jacobs replied to Council Member Trantham's concerns. He states that the money is coming from the retained earnings; it's just that it is implied in this ordinance. He voiced his approval for this ordinance.

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Jacobs	To amend Ordinance #03-08(A) to clearly state money coming out of retained earnings fund
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Shantz	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Drake	To adopt Amended Ordinance #03-08(A): Amending the FY 2003-2004 Budget
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Rodgers	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item A – Feasibility Study in Kasayuli Sub Division Discussion**

Council Member Rodgers states that he got calls from concerned citizens about the feasibility study in Kasayuli Subdivision for a new pump house. The citizens want to know why YKHC has no fire truck stationed up there. He asked Fire Chief Young to respond.

Fire Chief George Young replied to Council Member Rodgers concerns about a water truck stationed in Kasayuli Subdivision. He states that from the fire station it is 15 minutes or more to the closest point of the subdivision. This time is outside of the mileage limit making some Kasayuli Subdivision residents pay more for their insurance out there because of safety reasons. He also voiced the support of YKHC engineers to work with the fire department to accomplish an arrangement for the city and the hospital.

City Manager Herron announces that a good time to bring up these concerns will be on September 25, 2003, when the engineer will open the floor to public opinion and response. He asks the Fire Chief to make inquiries to DOT.

**Item B – Crowley and Yukon Fuel Merger Discussion**

City Manager Herron states that on September 8, 2003 Mark Smith of Yukon Fuel and Bruce Barto, Vice President to Crowley Corp., called to say that rumors are true. They have been in negotiations for close to six months. At the Port Commission meeting there was a motion opposing the merger of the two companies. Ed Sniffen, Attorney General, indicated that because of confidentiality concerns he could not comment on the particulars, but did say that the State of Alaska is aware of the possibility of the merger, and is investigating accordingly. Mr. Herron recommends that that the City discuss merger ramifications. The city should start formulating a Resolution. October 2, 2003 is the date that Crowley board of Directors will decide their future plans.

Council Member Rodgers said that the City’s port depends on fuel. If Crowley and Yukon Fuel do merge, and a monopoly is formed, then prices will sky-rocket. The citizens can not afford it. Port money will go down; he agrees that the city need to prepare for the possibility.

Council Member Jacobs wants to know if the city is just going to sit back and wait until the October 2, 2003 meeting, and only work on building the Resolution? He also wants to know if there is going

to be a Federal Trade Commission looking into antitrust, as well. City Manager Herron responded that because of the size of the acquisition that the Securities Exchange Commission will be involved.

Council Member Berger wants to go ahead and send a message to Crowley voicing the City's opinion, instead of waiting until they make up their minds.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Council Member Trantham** states that he does not understand the new government. He thinks that the position of Mayor and Council Member need to be restated. He wants them more clearly defined. Government reform is going to be his goal for the upcoming year. He plans to improve communications between Council Members and citizens. He thanked Council, Commissions, and Committees for serving. He would like to work closer with ONC in the next year. He talked about voting turnouts, and encouraged citizens to be sure to vote.

**Council Member Rodgers** thanked Joy Shantz for her service in the last year. He gave his personal appreciation to Police Chief Morris and Bethel Police Department for a great job. He stated that he would sign a Certificate of Appreciation for the Police Department and requested it for the next council meeting. He expressed his appreciation to Council Member Jacobs for the great job on the Strategic Plan. He also encouraged citizens to vote, and to hug an elder. He expressed his condolences to the Mojin family and the Oscar family for their loss.

**Council Member Berger** thanked Joy Shantz for her service as Council Member for the last year. He reminded the public to vote and announced that absentee voting is now open. He would like to see a better turnout this year at the polls.

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Jacobs	To adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Drake	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

**APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2003.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Roudebush, City Clerk