
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

May 8, 2001

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on May 8, 2001, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

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

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Rodgers	Agnes Phillips
Karol Pobrislo	Dario Notti
Carl Berger	Jerry Drake

Also in attendance were the following:

George Young, Acting City Manager
Colleen Soberay, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Willy Keppel, explained he intended to submit an application for petition for a local option initiative. Mr. Keppel asked council if they would act on his request by calling a special election themselves rather than a petition being circulated. He said he spoke to the city attorney who told him council could call a special election if they chose to do so. Mr. Keppel said a city-owned liquor store makes sense because the city will make a lot of money that would be well spent on the needs of the city. After council would not agree to call a special election, Mr. Keppel officially submitted his application for a petition to call a special election for a local option initiative. Council member Pobrislo asked Mr. Keppel who authorized him to contact the city attorney at the City's expense. Mr. Keppel said Mayor Rodgers authorized him to contact the city attorney.. Mr. Keppel said he is not opposed to paying the city attorney for her time.

Mr. Keppel also noted Council member O'Brien's absence and asked council to address the issue. He said Mr. O'Brien is out of town a lot and said he didn't feel Mr. O'Brien could represent the city if he is not present. Mr. Keppel said he would be willing to take Mr. O'Brien's seat on council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Pobrislo	To approve the minutes of the Apr. 24 regular meeting
SECONDED BY:	Berger	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the consent agenda with the removal of executive session and the addition of discussion item: redistricting
SECONDED BY:	Phillips	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's Report included the following:

- Governor's Talking Points for the week of April 30, 2001
- USPS Disposal Announcement — USPS Mail Processing Annex—*With no objections, the Mayor directed the city manager to respond to the announcement in favor of purchasing the annex. Council member Phillips abstained.*
- Letter from City of St. Mary's City Manager — *Re: Resolution #01-03, thanking the City of Bethel for its support*
- Alaska Housing News Release—*Re: Survey shows building-material costs higher in rural Alaska—"residents in rural areas of Alaska continue to pay two to three times as much for construction materials as those in urban areas"*
- Alaska Housing News Release—*Re: Overall rates of violence against Alaska's homeless declines; Half of homeless women with disabilities still victims*
- Fax Alert — *Re: End of session municipal priorities; Public encouraged to contact your Legislators.*
- Executive Proclamation by Governor Tony Knowles — "Nobody Gets Hurt Month," additional information attached to proclamation
- Alaska Coastal Management Program Public Notice — *Re: Installation of a Medium-Intensity Approach Lighting System with Runway Indicator Lights (MALSR) at the Bethel airport; Deadline for written comments is June 4, 2001*
- Letter from a KUC student — *Re: Request for monetary donation to the Humanities 101 class—Mayor Rodgers said council cannot make any donations that are not appropriated for, especially because the City is now in budget season for FY02. He said if individual departments have donation monies available, the departments could contribute.*

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

MOVED BY:	Drake	To appoint Robert Lewis to the Finance Committee
SECONDED BY:	Phillips	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Young, noted the management reports included in council packets and reviewed the following items with council:

- Memorandum from City Manager Herron to Marc Stemp in regard to the possibility of a second fuel tank farm in Bethel and the land in question

The city clerk said the DOT tentatively scheduled a meeting for May 22 at the city office for public review of the Y-K Delta transportation plan. The city clerk also said the time has not been set, but more information will be provided as it becomes available.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Advisory Board

Council member Berger said the SAB met May 8. He said the SAB discussed the Senior Center budget and the hardware in the center's kitchen. He said a lot of the hardware in the kitchen is out-dated and not energy efficient. Mr. Berger asked if an energy study is planned.

Planning Commission

Council member Notti said the commission is scheduled to meet May 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Port Commission

Mayor Rodgers said the commission is scheduled to Meet May 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Public Works Committee

Council member Drake said the committee is still working on cardboard baling and at the next meeting the committee will discuss water and sewer services.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission

Council member Drake reported the PSTC met May 7 to discuss taxicab issues with the new ordinance. Mr. Drake reviewed the items that will be forwarded to the city attorney for follow-up or correction. Mr. Drake explained the industry was upset that the new ordinance prohibited them to dispatch out of their cabs. He explained the PSTC did not intend for it to be left in the ordinance and it was perhaps an oversight. Mr. Drake also said the PSTC said they do not like the road conditions.

Finance Committee

Council member Phillips said the committee is scheduled to meet May 24 at the city offices.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Council member Pobrislo said the committee is scheduled to meet May 16 at the Youth Center.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A — Public Hearing on Ordinance #01-15: Lion's Club Lease

Mayor Rodgers opened the public hearing. There was no one from the public to be heard.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt Ordinance #01-15
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote
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Item B — Public Hearing on Ordinance 01-17: Prohibiting certain uses of plastic bags and establishing penalties for violations

Mayor Rodgers opened the public hearing.

Mayor Rodgers and Council member Drake thanked the Public Works committee for working on this ordinance. Council member Berger pointed out to the public that this ordinance prohibits the use plastic bags to be discarded at the city dump. Council member Drake defined plastic bags, reiterating shopping bags, not regular garbage bags. Council member Pobrislo noted the effective date. Council member Notti said the effective date should be 1,080 days from the enactment date. Council agreed to 180 days after the enactment date. Discussion ensued.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt Ord. 01-17 with an amendment changing the
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	effective date to 180 days after the enactment date

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by a unanimous roll-call vote
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Item C — Public Hearing on Ordinance 01-16: Police department budget modification

Council member Berger asked why the police department is requesting an appropriation for two new vehicles at this time when council is just starting the FY02 budget cycle.

Council member Drake recalled these vehicles were appropriated for in the FY01 budget. The finance director, Stuart Robinson explained there is money available in the police department budget from the salaries and the police department hopes to have these vehicles shipped on the first barge. Mr. Robinson said the police department is not requesting additional money, but are requesting that council approve moving salary money to another account in the police department’s budget.

Mr. Berger said he thinks the first barge has already left, so getting the vehicles on the first barge isn’t an issue.

Council member Drake asked if these two vehicles were initially financed through a vehicle long-term lease? Mr. Robinson explained that on further consideration it was agreed between city manager and finance director that it would be better to purchase the vehicles.

Council member Berger asked if there is anything to justify the need for two new vehicles? Mr. Robinson explained the high cost associated with repairing the vehicles and the need to eliminate maintenance costs. Mr. Robinson suggested rotating two vehicles every year. He said the plan would be proposed to council that every four years two vehicles rotate out of the city fleet, which will eliminate high-cost of maintenance.

Mayor Rodgers commented on the current vehicles in the police department. He asked how big of a fleet does the police department want. He said it doesn’t make sense to keep adding to the fleet if the police department doesn’t get rid of the old vehicles.

Council member Drake said the issue is moving money to another line-item account, that the money has already been appropriated to the police department. He asked if council wants to purchase the vehicles.

Mr. Robinson explained the money in question was appropriated for police salaries and because that money wasn’t spent on salaries, the police department is asking to move the money from salaries to purchases.

Council member Pobrislo said council appropriated this money for the police department salaries, but because they have not used the \$71,000 in salaries, the police department wants to buy two new vehicles. Council member Pobrislo clarified that if the ordinance fails, the \$71,000 that would be used for new vehicles would revert back to the general fund, saving the City \$71,000. Ms. Pobrislo pointed

out council is currently working on the FY02 budget and said if this money were spent now, she would want to drop the police department FY02 budget by \$71,000.

Mayor Rodgers asked if the vehicles have been bought. Mr. Robinson said the vehicles have been ordered, but not paid for.

Council member Phillips said she is in support of this appropriation for the police department and that the road conditions are hard on the vehicles. She also pointed out a police officer shortage.

Council member Berger said this is a substantial budget modification and there is no one here from the police department to justify the need or answer questions. He said without additional information or justification he cannot support this ordinance. Mr. Robinson recommended postponing this ordinance to the next meeting so a representative from the police department could be present. Discussion ensued.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To postpone ordinance 01-16 to the May 22, 2001 council meeting
SECONDED BY:	Phillips	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by roll-call vote 5-1 (Pobrislo).
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Item D — Sales tax work session with city finance director

Stuart Robinson, City Finance Director, reviewed recommended changes to the sales tax code with Council as part of an ongoing work session to identify problem areas in the sales tax code. He explained the changes requested for: 1. License fee charged for each business—recommended fees based average gross sales; 2. Additional fees for businesses selling games of skill and chance; 3. Tax returns and remittance; 4. Revisions to language to conform to sales tax penalties and interest for violations. Mr. Robinson asked that these recommended changes be incorporated in the ordinance that will result with the completion of the sales tax work sessions. Mr. Robinson explained he will now work with the city attorney to put the recommendations into an ordinance, but the city attorney is still researching what constitutes a direct government sale. Discussion briefly ensued.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the recommended changes to be incorporated into an ordinance
SECONDED BY:	Phillips	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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NEW BUSINESS

Item A — Introduction: Ordinance 01-18: Amending certain sections of Title 14 Harbors and Ports regarding payment of fees and charges

MOVED BY:	Drake	To introduce Ordinance #01-18 and refer to the Port Commission
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote
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Item B — Discussion Item: Redistricting

The city clerk explained the redistricting information provided to council is to start discussions, but it's a lot of information to digest in one evening to take a position on. The city clerk said the city manager recommends council take a position on redistricting at the next regular council meeting.

Council member Notti said plan 1 and 2 look good for Bethel, but not for other areas. Council member Berger said there is a redistricting public hearing Monday, May 14 at 3:30 p.m. at the Legislative Information Office in Bethel. Mr. Berger urged everyone to get information on redistricting and attend the hearing May 14. Discussion briefly ensued.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Berger said a constituent pointed out to him that council took action at the last work session that was inappropriate for a work session. Mr. Berger said council made a procedural mistake and will be careful in the future. He also said he is new to council and is still learning.

Council Member Pobrislo—*No comment*

Council Member Drake wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Council Member Notti wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Mayor Rodgers wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and cautioned all to be careful of the river conditions.

Council Member Phillips congratulated those graduating May 11.

EXECUTIVE SESSION — *Council did not hold an executive session.*

ADJOURNMENT

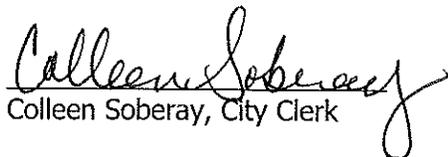
MOVED BY:	Agnes	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

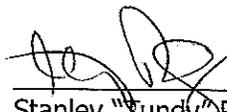
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY OF MAY 2001.

ATTEST:


Colleen Soberay, City Clerk


Stanley "Fundy" Rodgers, Mayor