
City of Bethel City Council Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2006

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on July 11, 2006, at 6:30p, in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

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

II. ROLL CALL

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

Members present:

Mayor R. Thor Williams

Council Member Hugh Dymont (attended meeting telephonically)

Council Member Tundy Rodgers

Council Member Leinberger Dan

Council Member Andrew McGowan

Council Member Dave Trantham

Vice Mayor Mary Kenick

Others present:

City Clerk Sandra Modigh

City Attorney Sharon Sigmon

City Manager Wally Baird

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

1. Robert Konig addressed Council to request an easement through the City of Bethel for his property.

City Council referred Mr. Konig to the Planning Commission to obtain an easement for his property.

2. Bob Herron addressed Council to thank each one of the Council members for their efforts in the success of the Vietnam Moving Wall and advised Council that there will be a full page add acknowledging all of the participants and contributors of the Moving Wall. Mr. Herron wanted to give a special thanks to Susan Taylor, Major Carl Bailey, Ben Dale, Mark Friggin, Star Jensen, Buck Bukowski, Jerry Drake, Jim Strudie, Steven Dustin Haden, Charles Herron, Wayne Ogle, Dave Trantham, R. Thor Williams, VFW Post 10041, Post Commander Sunny Venes, Ina Nelson, Jessica Liberty, The Emersion School Singers, Father Chuck Peterson, Henry Hunter, Red Smart, Lt. Michelle Welman, Chief Officer Nile Harrison, Sgt. Salsbrun, and Specialist Robert

Pike. Also thanks to Lyman Hoffman, Donnie Olson, past Governor Tony Knowles, Jonathan Liberty, and Kernel Denise Klein.

3. Yolonda Jorgensen addressed Council to discuss the Community Recreation Center and a possible petition to get the ball rolling. Due to the cost of fuel and the high cost of living at this time, the petition has been postponed but the efforts have not been discontinued. Mrs. Jorgensen stated that there are YMCA's throughout the world and she has been researching the possibility of using their basic design plans. Mrs. Jorgensen stated that the Community Recreation Center will bring in revenue for the City and will also be great for the community. Mrs. Jorgensen provided the City Clerk copies of her research regarding the YMCA and a Multi-use Recreation Center to be given to Council and Administration upon request.
4. Susan Taylor addressed Council to state that Bethel needs a Laundromat; although business has declined the need is still there. Susan requested that the City of Bethel look into what they can do with possible the Safe Water funding to get the Laundromat running because this is a necessary service for the community. Susan also thanked the community members that participated in the Moving Wall.
5. Willie Keppel addressed Council regarding reimbursement from the City for the Readiness Center and stated that he is unhappy that the City has not held up its end of the deal. Mr. Keppel also inquired why we are spending funds on the court house expansion that going to cost us a couple million bucks when it hasn't made it through planning with the plat work. Mr. Keppel stated that this is not what the community needed and that the state should fund and build the expansion.
6. Tony Vaska addressed Council with two complaints, one in regards to out of state and expired tags on community vehicles which he has also addressed with the police department and second is regarding article from the police department regarding the four wheelers on the roads which is a good start but he still has questions regarding City policy for bicycles on the road. Mr. Vaska suggested to Council a permanent school zone mileage per hour due to the number of kids in the area of 20, miles an hour and the have it enforced.
7. Anastasia Hoffman addressed Council regarding the City Managers evaluation and to express that her interaction with the City Manager has always been professional, very responsive, assessable, and thorough. Mrs. Hoffman stated that she believes that Mr. Baird has done a good job for the City of Bethel as she appreciates his employment with the City.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AND REGUALR AGENDA

MOVED:	Trantham	To approve the Consent and Regular Agenda for the July 11, 2006 Council meeting as amended removing item A-City Manager Evaluation from executive session.
SECONDED:	Rodgers	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Carried unanimously.	

V. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item A- Honorary Captain of the Port Award Presentation For Elias Venes

Mayor Williams read the Honorary Captain of the Port Award for the record and presented Mr. Elias Venes with his award.

Mr. Venes thanked Council for his award.

VI. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Item A-6/27/06 Regular Meeting Minutes-*meeting minutes approved/ revised on the consent agenda*

VII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Parks & Recreation Committee: Vice-Mayor Kenick informed Council that the P&R committee has not met since the last City Council meeting; their next meeting is scheduled for July 18th.

Finance Committee: Council Member Leinberger informed Council that the Finance Committee has not met since the last City Council meeting; their next meeting is scheduled for July 13th.

Alternative Energy Committee: Council Member Leinberger advised Council that the Alternative Energy committee last met on July 6th and discussed the following:

- 4 recommendations to the City Manager
 1. Expanding the Alternative Energy Committee to 10 members
 2. thank you letters to participants and sponsors of the Wind Diesel Conference
 3. use of grant funds
 4. 200 or greater kilowatt wind generator for the City shop

Public Works Committee: Council Member McGowan advised Council that the Public Works Committee has not met since the last City Council meeting due to a lack of a quorum; their next meeting is scheduled for July 18th.

Public Safety & Transportation Commission: Council Member Dymont stated that the PS&T Commission last met on July 10th and discussed the following:

- off road vehicles on City roads and a possible ordinance to be brought before Council
- discussion of splitting the Commission into two Commissions, a Public Safety Commission and a Transportation Commission; the Commission voted unanimously against the idea of splitting the commission

Cemetery Committee: Council Member Trantham informed Council that the Cemetery Committee has not met since the last City Council meeting and is unsure of the date of the upcoming

meeting. Council Member Trantham once again thanked Council for the money allocated to the new cemetery.

Alaska Municipal League: Council Member Trantham advised the community and Council that he currently sits on the AML Board. Council Member Trantham informed Council that if Bethel plans on holding and sponsoring the 2007 AML Legislative Conference we will need to get something together to be presented in August at the conference in Homer; Council Member Trantham reviewed the requirements.

Planning Commission: Council Member Rodgers informed Council that the Planning Commission has not met since the last City Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for July 13th.

Port Commission: Mayor Williams informed Council that the Port Commission has not met since the last City Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for July 17th.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A- Public Hearing Of Ordinance 06-14: An Ordinance Authorizing The Acquisition Of Interests In Land From Various Owners For Utility Easements Involving Ridgecrest Drive Sewer Force Main Realignment

Public Hearing:

None

MOVED:	Leinberger	To adopt ordinance 06-14: An Ordinance Authorizing The Acquisition Of Interests In Land From Various Owners For Utility Easements Involving Ridgecrest Drive Sewer Force Main Realignment
SECONDED:	Rodgers	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION		
Carried unanimously.		

Item B- Approval Of Renegotiated Alaska Court System Lease

The City Manager advised Council that this is a request before the Council to renegotiate a lease for the courthouse.

Council concurred to recess from 7:27 p.m. until 7:36 p.m.

City Manager Baird stated that this matter was a discussion item at the last City Council meeting and informed Council that this matter has been analyzed and reviewed the history of the project with Council including the finances changing due to increased finance charges. City Manager Baird stated that we are not losing out of pocket money at this time, this may occur when replacement costs begin because there is not funding set aside for that at this time.

Council discussed concerns regarding renegotiation of the court lease.

Council Member Leinberger inquired about options the City of Bethel may have if they do not decide to sign the lease and requested that a "plan B" be devised for the court house expansion project and the signing of the lease.

MOVED:	Leinberger	To table the issue, approval of the renegotiated Alaska court system lease, until the next city council meeting.
SECONDED:	McGowan	
Council Member discussed reason to postpone the issue and other		
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Carried unanimously.	

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Item A- City Manager Evaluation

Council decided to review the City Manager one at a time.

Council Member Rodgers stated that he did not complete the evaluation sheet because the evaluation did not pertain to the City Managers duties. However, Council Member Rodgers stated that he did complete the final page with an overall rating of 130-excellent job. Council Member Rodgers stated that we haven't had a City Manager like this since he has been here and thanked Wally for a job well done.

Council Member Trantham reviewed the individual points of the evaluation and his rating on each. Council Member Trantham stated that he suggests that we retain the City Manager for the remainder of his contract as well as 5% salary increase effective today.

Council Member Dyment stated that he gave the City Manager an A for an outstanding job he has done for the City of Bethel in the last year. Council Member Dyment also stated that Bethel is blessed that we were able to get someone of this caliber and added that he approves of the 5% salary increase.

Mayor Williams stated that he has been trained by the State of Alaska to complete evaluations and advised all that he is a very hard evaluator. Mayor Williams pointed out that he would like to see more solution based strategies regarding sales tax and the streets & roads issues. Mayor Williams stated that his biggest concern at this point in time is budget oversight and explained his concerns. Mayor Williams stated that he would like to see more one-on-one meetings with department heads. Mayor Williams stated that City Manager Baird has done a great job bringing in the "nay sayers" into the fold, willing to open up your door to everyone in the community and listen to their concerns and addressing them. Mayor Williams stated that he is ultimately concerned with the court house expansion project. In addition Mayor Williams stated that he would like to see implementation of capital funds in the budge and addressed not receiving an end of the year ledger. Mayor Williams stated that there have been occasions to where the City

Manager has lost his temper and believes that this is an issue that needs to be worked on. Overall Mayor Williams rated Wally an 81. Mayor Williams stated that his expectations for the upcoming year is closer supervision of the Grant Manage, budget control, by October 31, 2006 a list of street signs that are needed and purchased, by October 31, 2006 a list of all pipes needed and purchased for the upcoming break-up, by January 1, 2007 a plan on how to improve the finance department including sales taxes and budget control.

Council Member McGowan stated that he gave a middle of the road ratings on all areas and stated that Council has let you down by not providing their expectations however; overall City Manager Baird is doing a good job.

Council Member Leinberger stated that he is very impressed with the action taken regarding a former Finance Director issue and his timeliness in correcting the matter. Council member Leinberger stated that he has seen an improvement in the Planning Department and Code Enforcement as well as an improvement in the budget process. Council Member Leinberger stated that his only negative comments would be in regards to remaining poised and loosing his composure with a citizen, a letter from Mr. Tilbery and the miscommunication regarding the matter, as well as receiving financial statements more frequently. Council Member Leinberger stated that the labor contract concern was that Council was not kept in the loop regarding the process; however Council did not provide clear parameters. Overall on scale of 1-5 Council Member Leinberger rated City Manager Baird a 4.2=B+ and requested a reminder on what the negotiated union increase rate structure.

Vice-Mayor Kenick stated that she rated the City Manager very high for his accomplishments completed within the first year of his tenure. Vice-Mayor Kenick also stated that she has seen many improvements in the services that the City provides and agrees with a pay increase of 5%-overall rating-excellent

City Manager stated that this is the best evaluation that he has ever received, not by score but in regards to feedback. City Manager Baird stated that the letter from BUC surprised him as well and communications have been opened since he has received the letter. City Manager Baird stated that a site plan was previously approved for the courthouse expansion and the City has continued with the project.

Council Member Trantham requested to make one further comment directly to the City Manager Mr. Baird. Council Member Trantham stated that City Manager Baird has been a healing factor for the community and that he appreciated his participation in ending his 6 year feud.

City Manger Baird introduced his family in attendance

Council concurred to recess from 8:55 until 9:10p

During the recess Council was provided the City Managers current contract.

MOVED:	Trantham	To approve and authorize a 5% pay increase for City Manager Wally Baird, effective date as of July 11, 2006.
SECONDED:	Kenick	

Mayor Williams stated his opposition of the motion.

Vice-Mayor Kenick, Council Member Dyment spoke in favor of the City Managers pay increase.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Carried: 6 - 1 Williams voting against.
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Item B- New Water And Sewer Rate Reconstruction

Council Member Leinberger stated that he has put this item on the agenda to bring this issue back to Council after a meeting between the Public Works Committee and the Finance Committee at the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Williams stated that he is a strong proponent for metered trucks.

Council Member Dyment stated that he recalled the water wagon man stating that the metered trucks would work in this climate but there would be a tremendous increase in the water delivery rates.

X. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Williams state that he was thankful for all that participated in the 4th of July parade, the Moving Wall, and apologized for not recognizing Council Member Rodgers for his attendance at the Moving Wall ceremonies. Mayor Williams welcomed back the City Manager and City Clerk.

XI. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Baird provided Council an attachment regarding the courthouse expansion and updated Council on the ptarmigan road construction process and advised Council that the Tundra Ridge Road project is scheduled for bidding in June.

Council Member Leinberger stated that he was disappointed at the lack of activities at the 4th of July festival and would like to see more emphasis on family activities. Council Member Leinberger inquired as to whether or not the City Manager has had an opportunity to address the Laundromat and National Guard memorandum.

Council discussed concerned about the Fire Departments roof during the upcoming rainy months, VSW funds and projects, the removal of the lift station, and the phone system in Council Chambers.

MOVED:	Keinck	To suspend the rules to proceed past 10 p.m.
SECONDED:	Leinberger	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Carried: 6 - 1 Rodgers voting against.	

XII. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

- Currently working on codification and updated the BMC
- Working on upcoming election calendar and public notices,
- Newsletter to be drafted once all articles are submitted
- Special thanks to administration and Sharon Sigmon for filling in and completing my duties during my absence

MOVED:	Dyment	To approve travel for Mayor Williams, Council Member Trantham, and Vice-Mayor Kenick to attend the 2006 AML Legislative Conference.
SECONDED:	Leinberger	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION		
Carried unanimously.		

MOVED:	Trantham	To authorize travel for the City Manager to attend the 2006 AML Legislative Conference.
SECONDED:	Leinberger	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION		
Carried unanimously.		

Council concurred to direct the City Clerk to research self audits for City Council Members.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item A-City Attorney Evaluation

MOVED:	Leinberger	To proceed into executive session to conduct the City Attorneys evaluation.
SECONDED:	Kenick	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION		
Carried: 6 - 1 Rodgers voting against.		

Council exited executive session at 10:46 p.m.

XIV. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Rodgers stated his condolences to Roy Hall and the Samuelson family; hug an elder.

Council Member Trantham said thank you good night

Council Member Dymont stated that he had no comments this evening

Mayor Williams stated that he is happy to hear Council Member Dymonts strapping young son on the phone; and that he's glad to see this Council works together as a body

Council Member McGowan stated that he did not have any comments at this time.

Council Member Leinberger stated that the community shined with the success of the Moving Wall and he's awestruck and proud of the City of Bethel and community members

Vice-Mayor Kenick gave kudos to all that participated in the Moving Wall in Bethel; it showed how the community can come together

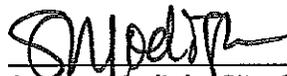
XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED:	Rodgers	To adjourn the meeting at 10:57 p.m.
SECONDED:	Kenick	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Carried: 6 - 1 Dan voting against.	

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 25TH DAY OF JULY, 2006.

ATTEST:


Sandra Modigh, City Clerk


R. Thor Williams, Mayor