

CITY OF BETHEL  
CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting of October 12, 1993

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Feaster in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Feaster, Jones, Trantham, Vanasse, Warner,  
Wintersteen  
Absent : Metcalfe (excused)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Wintersteen to approve the minutes of September 28, 1993, as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Wintersteen, 2nd by Vanasse to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 7, 1993, held to certify and canvass the municipal election of October 5, 1993, as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Wintersteen, 2nd by Vanasse to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Adjustment held October 11, 1993, to hear an appeal of a decision of the Planning Commission as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/REGULAR AGENDA

motion M/M by Warner, 2nd by Jones to amend the regular agenda by adding under Executive Session, an update for new council members on the status of APEA labor relations. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Feaster referred Council to his written report. In addition, Mayor Feaster referred Council to a letter received from former lobbyist, Rick Urion.

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Hunter recapped his written report with Council and requested direction on the following items:

1. Contract for Lobbyist Services

motion M/M by Trantham, 2nd by Wintersteen to approve the Lobbyist Services 1994 Legislative Session Contract between the City of Bethel and Sharon Macklin. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

In response to a question from council member Allan Wintersteen regarding reporting responsibilities, City Manager Hunter advised that by contract the lobbyist is required to submit weekly reports. These reports could be submitted either in writing or verbally.

*Manager's Report (Informational)*

1. Heat Services Contract Negotiations continue, and Council will be kept apprised of the progress.

2. FY 95 Capital Matching Grant Program City Manager Hunter referred to the proposed projects for consideration under the Governor's capital matching grant program. A Resolution authorizing the City to apply for funds from the matching grant program will be brought back to Council for its consideration.

3. Abbreviated Project Status Report from Jordan Suhr

In response to a question from Mr. Trantham regarding the estimate of 80,000 to 100,000 yards of material still to be removed from within the new cell, City Manager Hunter advised that these were the latest figure estimate he had received from Jordan Suhr. Additionally, Finance Director Elam reported that while the cost of the excavation will run over budget, the cost of the total project will not run over. As of September 15, 1993, \$2.2 million had been expended. Mr. Elam will provide a current report on the financial status of the lagoon project at the next Council meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. Trantham as to who authorized the field modification along the north dike, City Manager Hunter advised that it was Jordan Suhr. Mr. Trantham pointed out that the modification could prove to be very costly.

Regarding Mr. Suhr's concern about access easements for construction and maintenance of the BHWA/Tundra North project, City Manager Hunter advised Council that the Planning Manager was in the process of obtaining these easements from property owners, as the original file established in 1990 could not be located.

In response to question raised in Mr. Suhr's report about a joint venture agreement between the City and LKSD with respect to the Kilbuck lift station, City Manager Hunter stated that he would research the files to determine what the provisions of the agreement were and report back to the Council.

***Questions on the Manager's Report:***

Regarding the Village Safe Water Program SFY95 capital budget questionnaire, it was pointed out that the 1987 Water/Sewer Plan would serve the purpose of a feasibility study. The questionnaire will be revised to indicate that a study has been conducted.

In response to a suggestion from Mr. Wintersteen to include travel reimbursement for accommodations when staying with friends, City Manager Hunter indicated that would be acceptable providing a receipt was submitted with the expense report.

In response to a question from Mr. Jones regarding repair of two water trucks, Finance Director Elam stated that he was not aware of the problem and that the Purchasing Agent had not been notified to purchase parts.

In response to question from Mr. Trantham regarding inspection of the courthouse ramp and stairs, City Manager Hunter stated that he would make certain that a final inspection was conducted before final payment was made to the contractor.

**VII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Scheduled dates for upcoming committee/commission meetings were announced.

Council member Trantham reported that a number of people representing the taxi cab industry would be in contact with the Transportation Commission and the City Council regarding re-regulation of the industry.

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Council member Vanasse reported that the Public Safety Committee had not met for several months, and suggested that the new City Council representative might want to work to reactivate the Committee.

VIII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Eric Shrum thanked the outgoing council members for their service and dedication as members of the City Council.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

ITEM A: Public Hearing--Ordinance #93-31: An Ordinance Acquiring Two Parcels of Land from the Bethel Native Corporation

Mayor Feaster explained that the purpose of Ordinance #93-31 was to formally accept property that was conveyed to the City from the Bethel Native Corporation under 14 c(3) of ANSCA. The property conveyed was for the sewer lagoon and the petro port. Mayor Feaster opened the public hearing. There being no comments, the Mayor closed the hearing to the public.

Council member Warner recommended inclusion of the total number of acres conveyed by BNC for the sewer lagoon property in the ordinance.

motion M/M by Wintersteen, 2nd by Warner to adopt Ordinance #93-31 approving the acquisition of two parcels of land from the Bethel Native Corporation, Property A (sewer lagoon) and Property B (petro port), and to revise the ordinance to include the number of acres conveyed for the sewer lagoon. Poll vote. Motion carried unanimously.

*Council broke at 8:15 PM for a short recess. At 8:30 PM, Mayor Feaster called the meeting back to order.*

City Manager Hunter presented plaques to outgoing Council members Feaster, Warner and Vanasse and thanked them for their contribution and dedication to the City.

X. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A: Swear In New Council Members and Selection of Mayor

Council member Wintersteen was appointed Acting Mayor. The City Clerk performed the swearing in ceremony for new council members, and Acting Mayor Wintersteen opened nominations for selection of a new mayor. Council member Tubbs nominated Donna Chris to serve as Mayor.

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motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Trantham to select Donna Chris as Mayor of the City of Bethel by acclamation. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Chris expressed her desire for the Council, city staff, and residents to work together and to continue the tradition established by the outgoing council members.

ITEM B: Presentation by Bill Stokes, DEC, Regarding Lead and Copper Deposits in Water

Department of Environment Conservation representative, Bill Stokes, spoke on the importance of properly testing city-supplied water for lead and copper levels. Mr. Stokes provided advice on the health hazards of lead poisoning, especially in children, and offered ways to prevent getting lead poisoning from the water supply. Mr. Stokes stated that he would be conducting classes to certify water treatment operators and recommended the City send Leon Treat to these classes to update his certification.

ITEM C: Resolution #93-38: A Resolution Authorizing the City of Bethel to Participate in the Community Development Block Grant Program

City Manager Hunter explained that the purpose of the grant was to provide access to the water/sewer system for low to moderate income residents by replacing their honey buckets with flush toilets and running water. Mayor Chris read Resolution #93-38 into the record.

motion M/M by Wintersteen, 2nd by Jones to approve Resolution #93-38 authorizing the City to participate in the Community Development Block Grant program and to revise the resolution to include a statement regarding the purpose of the grant. Voice vote. Motion carried. 5-yes (Chris, Jones, Trantham, Tubbs, Wintersteen) 1-abstention (Miller). Mr. Miller abstained as he was a potential applicant for the grant.

ITEM D: Resolution #93-39: A Resolution Recognizing William C. Bivin's Contributions to the Bethel Community

Mayor Chris read Resolution #93-39 into the record.

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Wintersteen to adopt Resolution #93-39 recognizing William Bivin's contributions to the community. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM E: Resolution #93-40: A Resolution Revising the Draft Priorities Established by the Department of Transportation for Needed Transportation and Facilities Projects

Mayor Chris read Resolution #93-40 into the record.

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Tubbs to approve Resolution #93-40 establishing priorities for transportation and facilities projects with the Department of Transportation. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Hunter was directed to communicate with the Department of Transportation and ask why Bethel was placed in the "Remote Roads and Trails" category and to request a change to "highway projects."

ITEM F: Executive Session: Legal Strategy--1) McPeck vs. City of Bethel; 2) Update for New Member on the status of the APEA labor relations

motion M/M by Trantham, 2nd by Jones to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing McPeck vs. City of Bethel and to provide an update on the APEA labor relations for new council members. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Trantham, 2nd by Jones to come out of Executive Session. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

#### XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council members Wintersteen, Jones, and Trantham expressed their anger over defacement of a number of buildings and signs in Bethel. All agreed that this type of behavior was a great disservice to the community.

Council member Trantham welcomed new council members and expressed his desire for all to work together as a team.

Council member Miller advised Council that he had run for City Council because he had an agenda, and that he was motivated to accomplish certain things. He stated that he would be discussing these items with council members, individually, as well:

1. Increase the three minutes to five minutes for public participation and include time for translation of the speakers.

2. Advocate the acceptance of written statements for the record read in public.

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3. Move the People to be Heard section of the meeting to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate those citizens who take the trouble to address the Council.

4. Require that public hearings for the commissions/committees and the City Council being at the time they are advertised.

5. Form a task force to evaluate taxing options, especially with regard to a ballot initiative regarding a liquor store so that taxes may be accrued at the point of purchase.

6. Pursue with the Public Works Committee a community work service program to involve people who are by sentence required to perform work for the public.

7. Help develop the community recycling effort.

8. Request, as a citizen, zoning for a Receiving Home adjacent to the property for which the appeal was denied by the Board of Adjustment.

9. Pursue making Youth Services its own department with greater flexibility in adjusting to children's needs including being the liaison with the other agencies that deal with similar problems.

10. Investigate the interest in repealing the 5% tax on gaming activities.

11. Support regulating the number of cars per taxi company, and perhaps including freezing the number of companies until there is demonstrated need.

12. Be available to community members and city employees, and advise everyone to follow city procedures in resolving particular problems.

Mayor Chris thanked Mr. Miller for his desire to be an active member of the City Council, and stated that she supported some of the ideas he presented.

Discussion was held on appointments to vacant committee positions. Mayor Chris nominated Don Tubbs to serve on the Public Safety Committee and Tad Miller to serve on the Public Works Committee.

motion M/M by Wintersteen, 2nd by Jones to ratify Mayor Chris' committee appointments. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

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XII. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Wintersteen, 2nd by Jones to adjourn the meeting  
at 10:35 PM. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 1993.

  
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Donna J. Chris, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Jane Elam, City Clerk