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# City of Bethel City Council Meeting Minutes

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January 14, 2008

Special Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

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## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

A Special Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on January 14, 2008 at 6:30p, in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Vice-Mayor Middlebrook called the meeting to order at 6:30p.

## **II. ROLL CALL**

### **Members present:**

Vice-Mayor Eric Middlebrook  
Council Member Dan Leinberger  
Council Member R. Thor Williams  
Council Member Tiffany Zulkosky

### **Members absent:**

Council Member Tundy Rodgers  
Council Member Yolonda Jorgensen

### **Others present:**

City Manager Wally Baird  
City Clerk Sandra Modigh

## **III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

1. Acting Police Chief Andree Achee addressed Council to speak in favor of the special meeting and the agenda items. Chief Achee advised Council and the community that the Police Department are facing a staffing tragedy. Chief Achee stated that the issue was brought before Council months ago and to date nothing has been done nor has immediate relief for the department been addressed. Chief Achee stated the lack of action taken by Council gives the perception that Council is not interested in public safety and has caused moral, recruiting, and retention issues within the department. Chief Achee stated that the current officers are working too many hours and that the State Troopers have been very helpful. Chief Achee stated that this is a City matter and Council, as elected officials, need to decide what is in the best interest of the community; public safety should be first.

2. Jody Mauls addressed Council to state that it was clear to her that the Police Department does not understand the chain of command for hiring police in Bethel. Ms. Mauls stated that Council has approved funds within the city budget and that administration then has the responsibility hire police officers. Ms. Malus stated that this is not a matter of money, but a matter of moral. Ms. Malus inquired what it would take for the Council to get involved to ensure that City Manager does that particular job. Ms. Malus stated that she was unclear where the responsibility of Council end and the responsibility of the City Manager begin.

Council Member Leinberger advised Ms. Malus that this is a team effort and stated that "People to Be Heard" is not a time for Q&A during a Council meeting.

3. Kerri Fulton addressed Council to state that it appalls her that we have a deficiency in staffing the Police Department and the way in which the Council behaves in supporting the person that they have hired and directed to hire, fire, and carry out the City of Bethel policies and procedures. Ms. Fulton stated that there are certain Council Members that want to micromanage everything within the City. Ms. Fulton inquired whether Council Member Williams wanted to be a City Manager or Council Member. Ms. Fulton advised Council to add language to their job description including positive, cooperative, courteous, and professional attitudes as being an essential function of their position. Ms. Fulton stated that Council has a failure to act and advised Council to support their City Manager and provide him the resources needed to set the appropriate salary to staff our police department.

4. Andree Achee readdressed Council to advise Council and the community of the policy & procedures of hiring a police officer.

5. Pat Patterson, the Police Department physiologist used to evaluate officer applicants, addressed Council to state that our current officers are burned out and the situation is getting desperate and suggested that Council strive for some improvements allow the police department to entice others to work for the department.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDA**

<b>MOVED:</b>	Zulkosky	To approve the Consent & Regular Agenda for the January 14, 2008 Special City Council Meeting as amended removing the introduction of ordinance 07-12 (f) from the consent agenda.
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Leinberger	

<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	Carried unanimously

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Item A- Contract Police Officers**

City Manager Baird provided a brief overview of the contract agreement for contract/temporary police officers.

City Manager Baird answered Council member inquiries regarding the proposed contract agreement.

<b>MOVED:</b>	Leinberger	To approve the city managers policy to hire police officers on a contractual basis
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Zulkosky	
<b>MOVED:</b>	Leinberger	To limit the contract officers to a maximum of 6
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Williams	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	Carried unanimously	
<b>MOVED:</b>	Williams	To have the contract valid until June 30, 2008.
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Leinberger	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	Carried unanimously	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	Carried unanimously	

**Item B- Village Public Safety Officer Memorandum Of Agreement**

City Manager Baird reviewed the VPSO temporary coverage and MOA

<b>MOVED:</b>	Leinberger	To approve the city managers plan to hire, on a temporary basis, VPSO's
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Zulkosky	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	Carried unanimously	

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item A-Introduction of Ordinance 07-12 (F): An Ordinance of the Bethel City Council Amending the Adopted Annual FY 2008 Budget By Removing Funding For One Entry Level Police Officer Position And Adding Funding For Two Temporary Police Officer Position And Associated Costs**

<b>MOVED:</b>	Leinberger	To introduce ordinance 07-12 (F): An Ordinance of the Bethel City Council Amending the Adopted Annual FY 2008 Budget By Removing Funding For One Entry Level Police Officer Position And Adding Funding For Two Temporary Police Officer Position And Associated Costs
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Williams	
<b>MOVED:</b>	Williams	To increase 1061501-salaries to \$123,477 and 1061510-social security to \$5,000
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Leinberger	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	Carried unanimously	

<b>MOVED:</b>	Williams	To increase line item 1061510 to include 2 VPSO positions \$5000
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Leinberger	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>		
Carried unanimously		
<b>MOVED:</b>	Williams	To increase line item 1061545 \$5000
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Leinberger	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>		
Carried unanimously		
<b>MOVED:</b>	Williams	To amend the decreases to reflect in line item 1061501-salaries-from one entry level police officer to 3 for a total of \$123,477.
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Leinberger	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>		
Carried unanimously		
<b>MOVED:</b>	Leinberger	To direct administration to come up with ancillary adjustments for these three positions
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Williams	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>		
Carried unanimously		
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>		
Carried unanimously		
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>		
Carried unanimously		

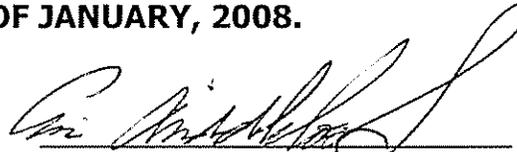
<b>MOVED:</b>	Leinberger	To direct administration to implement actions & directions.
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Zulkosky	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	Carried unanimously	

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MOVED:</b>	Williams	To adjourn the meeting.
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Leinberger	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	Carried unanimously	

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:56p.

**APPROVED THIS 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2008.**

  
Eric Middlebrook, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Sandra Modigh, City Clerk