

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 23, 1973

ALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cooke at 7:40 P.M. KVNA Building.

ROLL CALL

All 7 members were present.

READING OF MINUTES

On page 6, paragraph 5, Murphy's name was changed to Romer. On page 4 under new business #1 a dollar sign was placed before 5,000. On page 6, item 8, the last word in sentence 3 was changed from organizations to individuals.

COMMUNICATIONS

Shuler stated that he had enclosed a letter from Oscar Pederson, Regional Administrator of HUD to Governor Egan dated November 28, 1972, regarding confirmation of the Bethel Heights roads.

Murphy questioned if any additional information had been received on the roads to Bethel Heights. Shuler replied no.

Connick also asked if ASHA had said anything about taking over the roads at Bethel and Shuler replied that he had wrote a letter to ASHA and talked with Garland Davis.

Shuler also stated that he had received a telegram from Andre Schalk regarding the jail. In that telegram it stated that the jail is to be allowed a load of 18 people and that excess bunks be removed. This has since been changed to an occupancy load of 24.

MANAGERS REPORT Shuler reported that reappraisals on the Brown Slough lots are being completed. Silides feeling are that there will not be a big problem as anticipated on the dredging.

Shuler also reported that he would be going to Anchorage and that he would talk with Simmons and ASHA regarding this project.

Nome had been contacted on how much they charge the State for inmates staying in jail. Nome had requested \$181,000 to maintain the jail. The average daily load in Nome, for the week I called was 12 a day and they are operating only on a cost per day basis.

He also talked with George Silides on the dock project and no action has been done on it. Silides will get a hold of Don Statter "to get things rolling."

Connick suggested that John get a hold of Silides and Statter and then have a public hearing on the dock project. Connick also brought out that we need more input from the citizens on the dock.

Shuler reported that the PHS was presently pushing back the dump.

Shuler wrote to Jake Spake, Central Engineer District Anchorage regarding of phase II in road construction in the subdivision status and the next funding availability won't be until 1975. No commitments have been made to fund phase 2 and 3. Copies of letter were sent to Gravel and Stevens. Spake highly recommended contacting our Congressman to assist in seeking funding.

MAYORS REPORT NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gregory stated that the recreation committee has not met due to lack of interest. Gregory stated that between now and the next council meeting they will have a meeting.

Hoffman at this time questioned John if anything was done on the new cemetery, and Shuler replied that he is waiting for a sand sample from the Cemetery Committee.

Dinsmore reported that the attendance at the Economic Development Committee Meetings now down to 6 people and there has been no meetings for a couple of weeks.

Mary Gregory translated.

Romer reported that the Land use Committee has had no meetings at all.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD NONE

OLD BUSINESS

1. Budgets 1973-1974

Shuler stated that this discussion is a continuation of the last several meetings and work sessions. It was recommended that there be one more work session for public input. It was also suggested that this be put on the agenda for the next council meeting. The budgets have been posted publicly.

Murphy felt that the water and dump truck should be paid in half and put the next half on the next years budget. A relief patrolman/jail guard is needed, and recommended by the Police Committee. The cost is approximately \$11,500.

Shuler reported that Jerry Nicholson had received a written response from Whitterberg regarding the water and dump truck and that they also sent a round trip ticket to go down and look at the equipment.

Murphy suggested that Jerry and John get together with different persons in town familiar with heavy equipment about the water and dump truck. Eddie Hoffman, Butch Lauraux, Art Nicholson, Roy Longbotham, Studnik, Walsh were named to get together with Jerry.

Connick recommended that the committee report to the council at the work session after they meet.

Shuler reported that someone is now working on the water system at the City water works. The chlorinator has to be set manually, and is subject to continual error. Murphy recommended a fluorinator be added and agreed to a new chlorinator with an automatic sensor device.

On the discussion of the City dump Shuler stated that the best idea he has heard, is to build a ramp to drive up and dump. The time is late for action this year.

Sanadt reported that during the police committee meeting they stated that they would like the gutters to run all the way through. He also stated that there is \$6000 in the police department budget, for construction and this may not be enough. Shuler stated that his recommendation is to get funds for construction from other resources. The City has spent close to \$4000 on the jail, and the \$2,000 should be sufficient.

Cooke asked the council how much should the City set aside for the part time jail guard and patrolman.

Murphy suggested \$11,000 for the part time jail guard and patrolman.

Shuler recommended a chlorinator system be put in for \$850.

Shulers recommendation is that boardwalk fund should come from the Liquor Store. If a boardwalk is to be constructed.

M/M Murphy, Connick, I move that we allow John to spend within the budget until the budget is approved. Voice vote carried.

Cooke stated that the recreation Committee will meet on Friday and that she would like a work session on Monday night, July 30th, 7:30 P.M. At the Braund Building. The Budget will be on the agenda for the first meeting in August.

Mary Gregory translated.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 57- ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

Shuler stated that this is an ordinance relating to intoxicating liquors, establishing rules, regulations, closing hours, and prohibiting sales during certain hours and enumerated holiday. Shuler then read ordinance 57.

Murphy suggested that the council fill in blank hours and costs on the ordinance.

Hoffman suggested that Gregory translated ordinance 57 in Eskimo.

Mary Gregory then read ordinance 57 in Eskimo.

Cooke asked for comments from the audience.

Art Bauer stated that the sections on the bouncer and the section on paying for permits should not apply to the V.F.W.

Wayne Bruha stated the the Liquor Handlers permit is good. The reason for permits is to show good moral characteristics of bartenders and waitresses. The fee for Liquor Handlers permit is usually \$10.00 Bruha stated that he was in favor of Art Bauer's suggestion in not having a security guard, especially before 6 P.M.

Jerry Crutchfield brought out that in the ordinance it states that the Chief of Police has the power to revoke the Liquor Handlers Permit.

Bruha agreed with Crutchfield in that the court should have the power to revoke any Liquor Handlers Permit.

A guest attending the meeting wanted to know if the opening hours of the bars would be longer. She felt that they should not be open any longer than what the hours are now. She stated that there are a lot of danger involved in people from the villages going home by boats, ect. She is not only concerned about her own kids but also concerned about people from Bethel and the surrounding villages. She felt extending liquor hours will not decrease but increase problems for everybody.

A letter from Randy Luffberry was then read by Shuler. In that letter it stated that 90 % of the crimes are caused by alcohol in the Bethel area, and that an extension of the hours for police control is reasonable.

Dinsmore brought out an example that if a 10 year old came into Bethel and drank too much pop and got sick and was asked where he got all the pop and was told. Then the people would say to close down the store. If an adult got drunk then they blame the bars and booze. It's time that Adults started being treated like adults and not like children.

Maurice Budge suggested that the council have a public vote on the bars. Let the people vote and let them be heard first.

Mary Gregory translated.

Tom Anderson stated that the Liquor Handler Permits should be in the ordinance. The hours of the bars has nothing to do with the hours of the Liquor store. The idea of bars being open till 5 A.M. in the morning might be severe to many people. He felt that the council doesn't have an ordinance that is strong enough. If bars are closed at an early hour this creates a traffic problem and problems to pedestrians walking on the streets after the bars close at 12 midnight.

M/M Connick, Hoffman, I move that we extend the meeting, past 10 P.M. Voice Vote carried.

A guest attending the meeting brought out that she has never seen a problem so severe in her life. She has worked with the young people and children at the jail. The problem of drinking is a sad situation in this town. She urged that the council back up Van Sandt and that he has done a great job since he came to Bethel.

Mary Gregory translated.

Cooke at this time directed the council to Section 2 on the opening and closing of the bars.

M/M Murphy, Romer, I move that we put in the time that the bars be open from 12 noon to 2 A.M. in the morning. Romer brought out that 2 A.M. is not excessive. Romer also questioned if out of towners pay Sales Taxes. Shuler replied yes if they purchase gas, oil, groceries, ect. in Bethel, they must pay sales tax.

Bill Z. stated that the ordinance on this sales tax by common carrier is tax exempt whether by parcel post, air, barges, ect.

Andy Edge state that with the extension of hours the council will force liquor on the ballot this fall. Liquor was voted in by only 21 votes a year ago last fall this included 1 votes from construction workers that were in Bethel during the voting. Council allowed 59 of the question ballots votes- 57 were white and two were natives.

Mary Gregory translated.

A guest attending the meeting felt that the City Council of Bethel should get together with other councils from the villages and discuss this liquor problem. There will be more drownings and problems if the hours of the bars are extended.

Cooke stated that the councils from other villages cannot come into Bethel and vote on council matters and the Bethel City Council cannot go into the villages and vote on their council matters.

Roll Call Vote on the 12 noon to 2 A.M. motion with Connick, Cooke, Gregory, Crow, Hoffman all voting no, and Murphy and Romer voting yes. Motion failed by a 5 no and 2 yes vote.

M/M Murphy, Romer, I move that the closing hours of the bars will be FROM 1 A.M. till 12 noon, Roll Call Vote with Connick, Cooke, Gregory, Crow, and Hoffman voting no and Murphy and Romer voting yes. Motion failed by a 5 no and 2 yes vote.

M/M Hoffman, Crow, I move that the bars be open from 12 noon till 12 midnight. Roll call vote with Connick, Cooke, Gregory, Crow, and Hoffman voting yes and Murphy and Romer voting no.

Motion passed by a 5 yes and 2 no vote.

Cooke then directed the council to section 4 item c. Adding on "that all such revoked permits shall have the right to appeal to the City Council".

Bill Z also questioned if the council had contacted the City Attorney for his opinion since he is employed by the City. The attorney should be contacted before passage of any city ordinances. Connick agreed with Bill Z.

Murphy brought out that on section 4 (b) there was some discussion from the bar owners about the hiring number of bouncers that they felt do not need one at a later hour. Murphy suggested a bouncer on duty from 7-9 in the evening. Wayne Bruha feels that between the hours of 8 and 9 is a good time.

Cooke directed the council to section 4 item b the following was added, deleting the words "during all business" and adding "from 8 P.M. until closing hours."

Cooke also directed the council to section 4 item d on the cost of each permit and permits issued to waitresses.

Murphy suggested \$25.00 and \$10.00 for waitresses.

Art Bauer stated that he would like the council to consider exempting private organizations on that part. He doesn't think that anyone volunteering to bartend or be a waitress should be charged each time.

Shuler felt that they should be.

Murphy brought out that under section 5 allowing special consideration for certain days to allow the bar to be open should not be written into the ordinance but it can be discussed. For example New years fell on a Sunday and the council gave permission by a vote that bars could be open on Sunday. He suggested that the council vote for special consideration on special holidays when they occur.

Under Section 10, it was brought out that in Bethel we have snow machines, boats, cycles. It was suggested that snow machines, boats and cycles be added under motorized vehicles in section 10.

Connick stated to clear out any doubts to add boats under section 10 item A after motor vehicles.

Cooke translated and asked what the council felt on ordinance 57.

M/M Connick, Murphy, I move that ordinance 57 as amended be sent into the City Attorney for legal interpretations, suggestions and advise and upon return of the ordinance from the attorney then vote be taken on it. Voice vote carried.

M/M Murphy, Gregory, I move that the public hearing on ordinance 55 on planning Commission be moved over to the next regular council meeting. Voice vote carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Vehicle Permit Requests - Monte/Hagan

Cooke reported that this came up at the last work session and Monte and Hagan came to the council and wanted 1 each additional permit.

M/M Murphy, Gregory, I move that we give Monte and Hagan each one permit: Montes from 3-4 and Hagan from 2 to 3.

Mr. Debenham, a representative for 4 different cab companies at this time spoke. He has been involved in transportation administration and policies for 8 years. He represents various transportation companies. His suggestion was that the ones who have been around longer have more equity. He also stated that before the council can arrive at the number of permits to issue a special public hearing is required and he could find no minutes of such meeting. He urged the council to have a public hearing on the taxi ordinance. Mr. Debenham also stated that there are no proper files on these 2 permits.

Hoffman brought out that at the council work session Monte and Ciletti had asked for additional permits but now the council wanted to change that.

Shuler stated that he will be going into Anchorage and will take the taxi and other ordinances with him to the City Attorney.

Cooke suggested to have the taxi issue discussed at Mondays work session and to have a public hearing on taxi permits at the next regular council meeting.

Murphy withdrew his motion and Gregory withdrew her second.

Mr. Debenham feels that the 27 cabs that are now operating in the City of Bethel are too large a number for this size of town.

Cooke at this time cut off any further discussions on this until the work session.

2. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY CONTRACT- \$11,500

Shuler stated that he had enclosed contract proposal for the State of Alaska. Contract proposal for \$11,500 for state to maintain all dirt roads in Bethel with the exception of the BIA and Bethel Heights roads.

Connick recommended that this not be passed until we have more information. It was felt that \$11,500 per year was much to low a figure.

3. Resolution 96- Authorizing Participation of Police in Public Employees Retirement

System

Shuler read resolution 96 a resolution regarding fringe benefits for Police employees.

M/M Connick, Crow, I move that resolution 96 be approved. Roll Call vote with all 7 members present voting yes.

M/M Crow, Romer, I move that we adjourn the Meeting. Voice vote carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 A.M.

Margaret Cooke

