

**City of Bethel
City Council
Special Meeting of May 18, 1995**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 6:30 PM by Mayor Wintersteen in the City Offices Conference Room, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chris, Harding, Miller, McComas, Swanson, Tubbs, Wintersteen

III. Executive Session--City Manager Selection

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Swanson to go into Executive Session for the purpose of City Manager selection. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

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

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Tubbs to hire Michael Patterson as the new City Manager.

Council member Miller stated that, while he would support the Council appointment as City Manager, he would be casting a protest vote.

Council member Harding stated that if Mr. Patterson refused the position, the Council should review the option of interviewing the local candidates instead of going down the list of finalists.

Council member McComas stated there was no reason to circumvent the process the Council had set from the beginning, and that local preference was not a factor in the hiring process.

Mayor Wintersteen stated that the Council had made a clear choice from the start to seek a candidate that met the criteria the Council established. Mayor Wintersteen also stated that if the Council wants to interview the local candidates, the Council should rewrite the job description and selection criteria and readvertise the position.

vote Poll vote on the motion. Motion carried, 6-Yes, 1-No (Miller).

IV. ADJOURNMENT

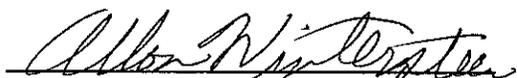
motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Tubbs to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23RD **DAY OF** MAY, 1995.

ATTEST:



Connie Tucker, City Clerk


Allan Wintersteen, Mayor

City of Bethel
City Council

Special Meeting of May 18, 1995

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:05 PM by Mayor Wintersteen in the City Offices Conference Room, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chris, Harding, McComas, Miller (late), Swanson, Tubbs, Wintersteen

**III. Public Hearing--City Manager's Recommended FY1995-96 Annual Budget;
Topics: Police Department, Fire Department**

Mayor Wintersteen opened the Public Hearing.

Chris Liu, Police Chief, distributed information regarding his department's budget requests and justification for specific line items. Discussion followed on the benefits of participating in the COPS FAST program when the department could not keep all of its current positions filled. Chief Liu suggested raising the pay for all officers to comparable levels with the rest of the state, to enhance retention, and estimated the cost to do so at close to \$100,000.

Chief Liu also requested the Animal Control Officer position be reinstated. In response to Mayor Wintersteen's suggestion that the position fulfill part of the Administrative Assistant's or Community Service Officer's duties, Chief Liu stated that the department had been working on cross-training all positions and the Mayor's suggestion was a possibility.

Chris Walker, Patrolman, addressed the Council in support of the Animal Control Officer. Officer Walker stated that the main reason for the high turnover rate of officers was the caseload, and eliminating the Animal Control Officer position would only add to that caseload, causing the turnover rate to increase. Officer Walker stated that Bethel is one of the busiest departments in the state and is among the lowest paid.

Bruce Dey, Bethel, presented Council with a petition signed by 272 people in support of the Animal Control Officer. Mr. Dey stated that most of the people signing the petition had commented on the length of time the community has gone without a mauling incident, because the Animal Control Officer is doing a good job.

Bruce Perry, Fire Department, also spoke in support of the Animal Control Officer, stating that he is not just out chasing dogs, but performs preventive services.

Paula Stybor, Youth Services, spoke in support of the Animal Control Officer, stating that he not only takes care of dogs in the community, but also rescues stray cats that would have died otherwise. Ms. Stybor asked the Council to look at what the Animal Control Officer does for all of the animals in the community.

Tim Oosterman, Public Works, stated that the Council also needed to consider the health and safety factor of eliminating the Animal Control Officer position. Mr. Oosterman stated that the Animal Control Officer dispensed free rabies shots to animals. Mr. Oosterman suggested the City charge a fee for the shots and raise the license fees to keep the position in the budget.

Kevin Short, Police Lieutenant, also spoke in support of the Animal Control Officer. Lt. Short also spoke in favor of increasing the training budget, citing the increased training mandates and the frustration the officers feel when held to standards that the City can't fund.

Scott Gagne, Police Department, told the Council it would be a step backwards to take away the Animal Control Officer position. Officer Gagne also stated that the town he was from in New Hampshire had 26 officers to handle the same number of calls as Bethel, and 75% of those calls were traffic related.

George Young, Fire Chief, distributed comments on the Fire Department's budget, stating he disagreed with the renaming of the Senior Fire Captain's position, the elimination of the Fire Captain position, the cut to the training and travel line item and the elimination of the volunteers stipend. Chief Young also asked the Council to increase the Gasoline and Vehicle Repairs line items.

Council broke at 8:40 p.m. for a short recess. At 8:45 p.m., Mayor Wintersteen called the meeting back to order.

Council member Harding asked Chief Young his bottom line recommendation. Chief Young asked to hold the budget at FY95 levels, and add a replacement ambulance.

Paula Stybor, Youth Services Program Coordinator, addressed Council on Youth Services' recommended budget, explaining some of the changes due to the merging of her position with the 4-H Program Director position. Ms. Stybor requested the travel and training line item be restored to the FY95 level in order to attend one workshop for which she had been elected Chair.

George Young, speaking as a citizen, spoke in support of the programs the Youth Services division provides for the children of the community.

William Hunter, City Manager, distributed an information sheet to Council regarding the amount of Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing the Legislature had adopted, stating that about \$15,000 had been restored to the City, which had been designated to the Public Safety budget, adding that the City could raise the impound and licensing fees for animals to restore the rest of the salary for the Animal Control Officer position.

Mr. Hunter then referred to the handout concerning the ambulance service, stating that YKHC owed the City \$58,000 for ambulance service and had refused to pay. Mr. Hunter also reminded the Council that YKHC was suing TIPSA and forcing it out of business, which would cost the City more in insurance costs. Mr. Hunter asked that an understanding with YKHC be put in writing, spelling out that if they did not pay, there would be no ambulance service. Chief Young stated that he had been told by YKHC that a check for \$22,000 had been sent that day to the City for ambulance service.

There being no one else who wished to speak, Mayor Wintersteen closed the Public Hearing.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Harding to adjourn the Public Hearing at 9:30 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF JUNE, 1995.


Allan Wintersteen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Connie Tucker, City Clerk