

CITY COUNCIL

Antone Anvil
Dario Notti
Mike O'Brien
Agnes Phillips, Mayor
Stanley Rodgers
Karol Sanchez-Pobrislo
Thor Williams

CITY MANAGER

Ken Weaver

ACTING CITY CLERK

Laurie Walters

MINUTES

City of Bethel, Regular Council Meeting

March 24, 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Phillips at the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Anvil, Notti, O'Brien, Phillips, Rodgers, Williams
Absent: Sanchez-Pobrislo (excused)
Also present: City Manager Ken Weaver, Acting City Clerk Laurie Walters

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

No one had signed up to speak to the Council

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mayor Phillips noted a number of typos in the minutes of the regular Council meeting on March 10, 1998 and the special Council meeting minutes of March 13. In the minutes of March 13, Mayor Phillips noted that she had also selected Nancy Reich as one of the three City Manager candidates to interview.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Rodgers to approve the minutes of the March 10 regular meeting and the minutes from the special meetings on March 9, March 12 and March 13, with corrections as noted.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Weaver requested that New Business Item D: Resolution #98-11, Declaration of items for surplus & authorizing the disposal of the surplus and New Business Item A: Resolution #98-08, Mandatory borough incorporation be removed from the consent agenda.

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Williams to approve the consent agenda as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Williams asked to add New Business Item A: Discussion-City Manager Recruitment Update to the regular agenda. Council member Rodgers asked to add Executive Session B: Personnel Issues to the regular agenda.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Anvil to approve the regular agenda as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Phillips thanked Council members O'Brien and Williams for attending the teleconference on Senate Bill #337 regarding mandatory borough incorporation. Ms. Phillips also stated her appreciation for the letter from the Tobacco Control Alliance and their efforts. Mayor Phillips pointed out the letter in the packet from Representative Allen Kemplen's office requesting the opinion of the Council as to what the State should do with the money produced by the Permanent Fund investments.

Council member Williams stated his support for spending the money on community funding.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by O'Brien to sent a letter in favor of depositing the interest from the Permanent Fund investments into the general fund and using the money to cover the shortfall of this years budget. Letters should also be sent to the Governor's Office, Speaker of the House, Senate President, and our local legislators.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, 5-yes, 1-no (Rodgers).

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Weaver reported that he had requested that the Police Department prepare some statistics on bootlegging arrests, after a member of the community at the last regular Council meeting requested the information be made available. Mr. Weaver turned the floor over to Police Chief Eilers who then deferred to Investigator Achee to present the statistics to the Council and answered questions.

The City Council took a five minute break.

Mr. Weaver continued his report to the Council by stating his recommendation that the City Council officially appoint Fire Chief George Young as Interim City Manager.

motion M/M by O'Brien, 2nd by Williams to appoint George Young as Interim City Manager.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Williams asked the City Manager about the Courthouse Lease and non-renewed business licenses that were mentioned in the Finance Directors department head report.

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Williams to direct the City Manager and the Finance Director to look into the issue of the non-renewed business licenses and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Phillips referred to information in the Fire Chief's department head report regarding fee structures and stated that an ordinance would be required for the next meeting to change the fees. City Manager Weaver stated that there is an ordinance in the code that deals with all City fees, and suggested the Council amend the existing ordinance. Council member O'Brien voiced a desire to review all the fees to see if there are any others the Council would like to adjust. The City Clerk was asked to provide the existing fee structures, including the Youth Center's fees, for the next Council meeting, with an ordinance prepared for the following meeting.

Council member Rodgers pointed out the memo to Police Chief Gary Eilers under the Manager's Report regarding the Police Vehicle Take-Home Policy. Mr. Rodgers stated that he disagreed with the policy and had on several occasions asked for a monetary figure from the Finance Department on the cost of having the take-home policy in place, but had never received the information. Discussion followed with additional comments from Council members Rodgers, O'Brien, Williams, and City Manager Weaver.

Council member O'Brien pointed out the a letter in the packet under Manager's Report from the State of Alaska, Division of Environmental Health, Solid Waste Program, along with a Certificate of Recognition for Landfill Attendant Steve Weisner's outstanding achievements relating to the operation of the landfill. Mr. O'Brien stated that it's not often that the City is recognized for something good.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee:

Mayor Phillips reported that due to the special City Council meeting she was unable to attend the last regular Committee meeting. Ms. Phillips also stated that a special meeting was scheduled for last Thursday, but there was no quorum, so the meeting is rescheduled for this coming Wednesday, March 25.

Planning Commission

Council member Notti reported that he had been unable to attend the Commission meeting on March 12, because of the special City Council meeting.

Port Commission

Council member Rodgers reported that at the last meeting the Commission discussed the Capital Project Plans priorities for the Port. Mr. Rodgers asked Port Director Stuart Greydanus to address the Council. In conclusion, Mr. Rodgers noted that the next meeting is April 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Dock office.

Public Works Committee

Council member O'Brien reported that the Committee met on March 17, and that the Committee is still two members short.

Public Safety Commission

Council member Anvil reported that because of the special Council meeting he was unable to attend the last Commission meeting. The next meeting is April 6.

Transportation Commission

Council member Williams reported that the next Commission meeting is April 2, and that the Commission currently has three openings.

Youth Services Committee

Council member Sanchez-Pobrislo was absent, no report given.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Item A: Discussion & Update-City Manager Recruitment.

Mayor Phillips pointed out the interview schedule. After the Council discussed the memos from the Acting City Clerk, the Council agreed that a luncheon for the City Manager candidates was appropriate and requested that the Acting Clerk make the arrangements for a noon luncheon on March 6, at the City Offices.

Mayor Phillips stated that she wished to reconsider her vote for the short-list of City Manager candidates. Ms. Phillips recalled that at the meeting on March 13, she had voted for Herron, Filip, and Reich, and stated she wished to change her vote to Herron, Filip, and Hohman, which would put Mr. Hohman on the interview schedule for 8:00 p.m., March 6.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by O'Brien not to place Mr. Hohman on the interview list.

Council member Notti announced that he wished to speak in favor of Mr. Hohman, and stated that testimony from Dave Trantham was misleading regarding the ability for Mr. Hohman to be bonded and false in his reference to a certain bail bondsman going broke years ago.

vote Roll call vote. Motion failed, 3-yes, 3-no (Phillips, Rodgers, Notti).

Council member Notti stated that he too wished to reconsider his vote. Mr. Notti recalled that he had voted for Hohman and Herron at the meeting on March 13, and stated that he now wanted to just vote for Mr. Hohman.

Council member O'Brien expressed his frustration by saying that each Council member had already made his or her decision based on free choice. Mr. Notti again stated that a citizen at the last meeting gave misleading testimony, and therefore, it was fair to bring the issue back up. Additional discussion followed.

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Notti that Mr. Hohman be placed as number four at 8:00 p.m. on the interview list.

vote Roll call vote. Motion carried, 4-yes, 2-no (O'Brien, Williams).

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by O'Brien to not interview Bob Herron, since he had fallen out of the top three on the list.

vote Roll call vote. Motion failed, 3-yes, 3-no (Notti, Phillips, Rodgers).

X. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Resolution #98-08 Opposing SB #337-Mandatory Borough Incorporation (Phillips)

Council member Williams stated he wished to add the following Whereas:

Most of land in the Yukon Delta region is owned by Federal or native organizations, or are native allotments which are tax exempt, and that it would be very hard for a mandatory borough to levy any kind of property tax.

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Anvil to adopt Resolution #98-08 as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B: Resolution #98-09 Opposing SB #36-Public School Funding (Phillips)

Passed by consent under approval of the consent agenda.

Item C: Resolution #98-10 Alaska Clean Water and Alaska Drinking Water Fund Loans (Weaver)

Passed by consent under approval of the consent agenda.

Item D: Resolution #98-11 Declaration of Items for Surplus & Authorizing the Disposal of the Surplus (Weaver)

City Manager Weaver introduced the resolution and then turned the floor over to Port Director Stuart Greydanus who explained how the City arrived at the suggested sale price.

Council member Rodgers stated that the I-Beams were originally set aside for shoring up the banks at the Small Boat Harbor. Mr. Rodgers recalled a report from the City Engineer, which recommended against using the I-Beams for that particular purpose, but Mr. Rodgers disagreed with that recommendation.

Council member Notti stated that he wanted to amend the resolution to say that for the first three months of the I-Beams being available for sale, the number sold to any one individual, company or organization be limited to three, and thereafter there would be no limit.

motion M/M by Notti, 2nd by Rodgers to adopt Resolution #98-11 as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Anvil - Still haven't seen the streetlights in AVCP Housing. Wished that when the Council asked Administration to do something that they would do it right away and not delay.

Notti - Camai Festival happening this weekend. Still taking volunteers.

O'Brien - Bethel should be proud of Camai Festival. Reminded community that the ice road conditions are deteriorating. Wonders what is done to the Council's credibility when the Council makes a decision and then goes back again and again to change that decision.

Phillips - Invited everyone to the potluck and pre-Camai Festival dancing on Thursday, March 27, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cultural Center sponsored by ONC. Council does operate on Roberts Rules of Order. The fact that the Council is willing to listen to new information reflects well on the Council.

Rodgers - Apologized to Police Chief Eilers. Started annual training with the National Guard this past week and Arctic Care is in town. Would like to see a resolution recognizing Arctic Care's input into Bethel's economy. Dog problem seems to have subsided some.

Williams - Expressed his hope that the Camai Festival would become more of a statewide event. Strongly believes that a great injustice was done tonight when the Council brought the issue of City Manager candidates back up, and that the Council as a whole had made the decision at the last meeting.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by O'Brien to remove Executive Session Item B: Personnel Issues and go into Executive Session to discuss Item A: BIA Oil Spill/Insurance Issues only at 9:03 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Rodgers to come out of executive session at 9:08 p.m.

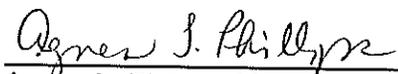
vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously

XIII. ADJOURN

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Notti to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

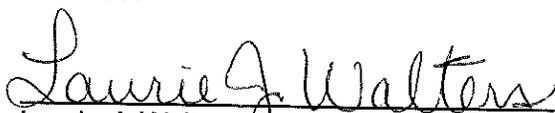
vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14TH DAY OF APRIL, 1998.



Agnes L. Phillips, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie J. Walters, Acting City Clerk