
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

September 28, 2001

Special Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on September 28, 2001, at 12:00 p.m. in the Council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Rodgers called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following were present:

Jerry Drake	Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers
Agnes Phillips	Carl Berger
Karol Pobrislo	Thor Williams

Also in attendance were the following:

Robert Herron, City Manager
Laurie Walters, Acting City Clerk

City Manager Herron began the meeting with instructions to the Council that according to the BMC, if the Mayor calls a special meeting with less than 24 hours notice, a motion to waive the required 24-hour notice must be made and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To waive the required notice of 24 hours for a special meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Williams	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by roll call vote 5-1 (Pobrislo).
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NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Resolution #01-34 Requesting Capital Funding through the State of Alaska Village Safe Water program - Kasayuli Subdivision Water and Sewer Feasibility Study

City Manager Herron explained that on September 19, YKHC attempted to submit an application for Village Safe Water (VSW) funding for Kasayuli Subdivision Water /Sewer Feasibility study, but the application was rejected by VSW who replied back that all applications for funding must go through the City of Bethel. Mr. Herron emphasized that the application to be submitted to VSW included the wording "if it fits within the Bethel Water and Sewer Master Plan Update of 1996 by Dames and Moore". Mr. Herron reported that YKHC had contacted him just yesterday, but he felt obligated to give Council the opportunity to make the choice. Mr. Herron stated that the Council must now decide what is best for the community as a whole.

Council member Drake voiced his support of the resolution, pointing out specifically that having the feasibility study funding flow through the City would allow the City more control over design and other important construction issues which would be of great importance since once construction was finished, YKHC would turn the facility over to the City, without the City having to invest any City interests in the water/sewer treatment facility. Mr. Drake also noted that having a City operated facility in that area may be valuable in getting more of that area of town on piped water and sewer sooner than expected.

Council member Pobrislo expressed her opposition to the resolution primarily due to the extremely short notice of the meeting and feeling that the Council had not been provided adequate information to make such a rushed decision.

Council member Berger was concerned about how this request for feasibility funding on behalf of the YKHC project would affect the City's attempts to acquire feasibility funding in the future for our own projects. Mr. Berger also questioned the timing of such a request and this special meeting, and why a representative of YKHC was not here to answer the Council's questions.

City Manager Herron reassured the Council members that this would not affect future funding to the City for feasibility studies, because each year a certain amount of funding is set aside for feasibility studies in certain communities and the City did not apply for such funding for any City projects in this application year. Mr. Herron informed the Council that YKHC had submitted their application for funding just six business days earlier and had just gotten word yesterday that they needed to approach the City with their request. Mr. Herron added that he had double-checked with Village Safe Water about the application deadline, and they insisted that it remain as previously set for this afternoon at 5:00 p.m., September 28.

Council member Phillips stated she supported the resolution. Ms. Phillips noted that although she was personally against development in Bethel, she recognized that it was unlikely and she saw the need for planning for the long-term development of the town.

Council member Williams had reservations about the City looking to do something at the edge of town when the current water/sewer projects are working from the center of town outward. Mr. Williams stated that if the funding was approved and construction followed he wanted to be sure that the benefits of that facility would not be restricted to just Kasayuli Subdivision, but would impact Larson Subdivision, Tundra Ridge and Blueberry Subdivision, etc.

There were some additional questions about the scope of the project and whether it fit within the City's water/sewer master plan. City Manager Herron reported that the feasibility study would step outside the bounds of the master plan and that is why he was so careful to include in the application to VSW the wording "if it fits within the Bethel Water and Sewer Master Plan Update of 1996 by Dames and Moore". If VSW determines that the feasibility study is indeed outside the master plan then the study very likely will not be funded.

Further discussion ensued about the pros and cons of such a study being funding and possibility of the construction of a water/sewer treatment facility that may follow the study. Also discussed were all of the hurdles the funding request must go through before it could possibly be approved.

Mayor Rodgers remarked that he was in favor of the resolution, but thought it was very important that the resolution included the language of the application that City Manager Herron had pointed out about it being a part of the master plan. Mayor Rodgers noted that if YKHC doesn't get the funding through VSW, they will get the money from another source and then the City loses all control over the project.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt Resolution #01-34
SECONDED BY:	Williams	

Mayor Rodgers questioned whether the Council would feel more comfortable with the application language included in the resolution. Further discussion followed.

Moved by: Williams — To amend Resolution #01-34 by adding the language "if it fits within the Bethel Water and Sewer Master Plan Update of 1996 by Dames and Moore", at the end of the fourth and fifth "whereas" of the resolution.

Seconded By: Drake

Vote on motion: Motion carried by roll call vote 4-2 (Pobrislo, Berger)

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion, as amended, carried by roll call vote of 4-2 (Pobrislo, Berger)
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ADJOURNMENT

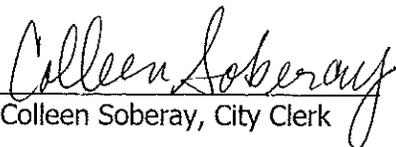
MOVED BY:	Drake	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Williams	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 9th DAY OF OCTOBER 2001.

ATTEST:


Colleen Soberay, City Clerk


Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers, Mayor