

Meeting of the Bethel City Council

Monday, May 17, 1965

H.C. Theatre

8:00 P.M.

Present: Mendola, Schirmer, E. Hoffman, J. Hoffman, Elliott, Nicholson  
Absent: Schirmer, Sallison

The minutes of April 12 were read and accepted as read.  
The minutes of May 3 were read and accepted as amended. Amendment to change from "\$12,00 per month including housing" to "\$1200 per month to include housing".

The Mayor reviewed actions taken after recommendations of previous council meetings:

The sanitation service will be run by Mr. Edge. The development grant as proposed in resolution #17 is not needed. A telegram was sent to Senator Gruening. The Mayor was assisted by Father Mueller. 2 sets of swings and other playground equipment have been ordered.

The Mayor mentioned that he had sent telegrams to 15 villages, asking that representatives be sent for Senator Gruening's visit.

Jimmy Hoffman suggested setting up a play ground area in front of the old school. Ben Wilkins suggested that the city request a long-term \$1.00 per year lease of the property. He said that the chamber of commerce has a lease, but does not think it is valid. It was pointed out that the old school has been condemned and it is the responsibility of the State to tear it down.

MM J. Hoffman/Elliott that the Department of Education be requested to demolish the building. 4 ayes.

Bill Borg spoke to the council on the need for storm flags. He said Ted Samuelson would raise the flags when necessary. He suggested yellow flags for expected winds from 20-30 knots, and red flags for winds above 30 knots.

Ben Wilkins volunteered to get some wind socks from Standard Oil and have them made into flags.

MM J. Hoffman/Elliott that the flags be made, not to exceed \$15.00  
Mendola, Elliott, E. Hoffman, J. Hoffman in favor. NC

A bill from McNealy and Merdes in the amount of \$94.50 was presented. This charge was for giving advice on Bethel Sales, Inc. The firm also filled out papers for the Community Action Program.

Erosion- The Mayor told the Council that Col. Buchanan, of the Corps of Engineers said that he feels that they can re-open the Bethel problem and make a new survey.

The Mayor told the council that the old Community Action Committee has fulfilled its purpose and that a new, permanent committee has been appointed, with Keith Swanson as chairman. It was mentioned that it is necessary to have the committee incorporate, and Wendell Kay said he would draw up the necessary papers free of charge.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps Program was discussed. There will be 35 jobs for boys and girls from 16 to 21 years of age. The jobs will pay up to \$1.75 per hour.

MM Mendola/E. Hoffman that a letter be written to Northern Commercial Company and negotiate for the lease of the old school grounds. 4 ayes.

The need for a District Magistrate was mentioned. The Deputy has no jurisdiction over juvenile cases, adoptions, etc.

MM Elliott/E Hoffman that a letter be written, asking for a District Magistrate for Bethel.

Mayor Nicholson announced that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has requested a land withdrawal of over 1,500 acres of land that extends from the H marker to the site, excluding White Alice. He stated that he does not feel that the Bureau needs that much land and that 40 acres would be more than sufficient for their needs. Mr. Nicholson suggested that letters of protest be written to the Congressional delegation and the Secretary of the Interior.

Pete Reader spoke from the floor, saying that the Bureau of Indian Affairs was asking for the specific amount of land and boundaries that had been withdrawn for the Air Force, and that the proposed withdrawal would be changing the jurisdiction from the Air Force to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He stated that the Bureau of Land Management publicises proposed withdrawals in newspapers and by posting notices in public places, and that persons may file protests through the office of Mr. Youngblood. He suggested that if the council wishes, they may file a protest and ask for a public hearing in Bethel.

Mayor Nicholson said that he would amend his suggestion that a letter be written to say that telegrams be sent to the Congressional delegation, Secretary Udall and the Bureau of Land Management. He mentioned that it was the recommendation of Senator Gruening's staff that protests be sent.

MM Mendola/ E. Hoffman that telegrams of protest be sent to the Congressional Delegation, the Bureau of Land Management and the Secretary of the Interior Udall. 4 ayes and 0 nos. MC

Mr. Reader asked for recognition again, but the Mayor pointed out that there was a heavy agenda and, since a vote had been taken, there was nothing to be gained from further discussion of the proposed withdrawal.

The possibility of getting the NCA building for city offices was discussed. Andy Edge told the council that Mr. Peterson has offered the building for \$75.00 per month. This charge is to include heat and lights. Jimmy Hoffman questioned the charge, and said that he thought there was

a misunderstanding on the price. Mr. Edge is to get the offer in writing and poll the council by telephone.

The City had proposed renting the small building on the river front from Joe Mendola, for \$50.00 per month. It was felt that this building could be used for the Neighborhood Youth Corps. The rent should start from May 15.

The repeated absences of Joe Sallison from Council meetings was discussed. Ben Wilkins said that he would be here until October and would serve on the council if Mr. Sallison resigned.

Mayor Nicholson said that he had talked with Don Schirmer and that he (Mr. Schirmer) would continue to serve on the council if his resignation were rejected or, he would withdraw his resignation.

MM Mendola/Elliott that Don Schirmer's resignation be accepted. 4 ayes.

Mayor Nicholson recommended Ben Wilkins to replace Mr. Schirmer as a councilman.

MM Elliott/Mendola that Ben Wilkins be appointed to the City Council. 4 ayes 0 nays.

The need for furniture for the city office was discussed. Mr. Edge had prepared a list of needed items and estimated prices. 9.4 Cu ft. safe, \$500.00, a desk, 2 chairs and 1 executive chair, \$350.00, 2 3 sets of filing cabinets, \$300.00, and filing baskets, \$100.00.

The need for all the furniture was questioned by Jimmy Hoffman, and Mr. Edge said that he had a desk in Fairbanks that he will give to the City if the city will pay the freight charges to get it to Bethel.

MM Mendola/Elliott that Mr. Edges offer be accepted. 5 ayes.

Mr. Edge said there were other items, such as filing cabinets that the city could have, and Mr. Mendola amended his motion with Elliotts second, that the offer include other office furnishings.  
MC

MM Wilkins/Elliott that a 9.4 cu. foot safe be purchased from Sears, to be brought up on the second boat.

MM Elliott/Hoffman that 2 legal size filing cabinets with locks be purchased.

MM Mendola/E. Hoffman that 1 secretary, 1 executive and 2 waiting room chairs be purchased, not to exceed \$235.00. Filing baskets and trash baskets not to exceed \$100.00 Mendola, Elliott, E. Hoffman, Wilkins in favor. Jimmy Hoffman opposed.

Eddie Hoffman told the council that the road has washed out in Louse Twn and a culvert is needed. He stated that Butch Laroux said he would weld the needed 5 drums for a cost of \$50.00

Jimmy Hoffman stated that he felt there was some misunderstanding, and that the drums would cost more.

MM E. Hoffman/Wilkins that Butch Laroux be paid \$50.00 for welding five drums together and delivering them to Louse Town. Mendola, E. Hoffman, Wilking in favor. J. Hoffman, Elliott opposed. MC

Mosquito Control. It was announced that the spray is now at Jimmix office, and that deisel fuel is needed. Jimmy Hoffman said he felt that some of the small firms should be asked about the spraying. Mr. Edge will get bids from the charter lines. Mr. Wilkins will secure the needed deisel fuel.

MM J. Hoffman/Elliott that the City charter someone to spray mosquitoes, not to exceed \$50.00 per hour. Flying to be done under the supervision of the city manager. E. Hoffman, J. Hoffman, Wilkins, Elliott, Mendola in favor. MC

It was mentioned that David Swanson had had to pay complete fare when he returned from Anchorage with Senator Gruening. His expenses were: Plane fare: \$66.00, Hotel and phone calls, \$55.61 for a total of \$121.61. Mr Swanson made no charge for meals.

MM Mendola/ E. Hoffman that upon presentation of Mr. Swanson's bills, that he be paid. Mendola, E. Hoffman, J. Hoffman, Wilkins, Elliott in Favor. MC

The City Clerk told the Council that she was resigning. He said that she would stay until June 30, to help the new person with the office procedures.

MM J. Hoffman/Elliott that the meeting be adjourned. MC

*A. L. D.*