

**CITY COUNCIL**  
Kent Harding  
Buford McComas  
Tad Miller  
Agnes Phillips  
Ruth Richardson, Mayor  
Stanley Rodgers  
Wally Wallace



**CITY MANAGER**  
Ken Weaver

**CITY CLERK**  
L.J. Tanner

**City of Bethel**  
**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
**July 9, 1996**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was convened at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Richardson in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Harding, McComas, Phillips, Richardson, Wallace  
Absent: Miller (un-excused), Rodgers (excused)

**III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

Antone Anvil, spoke about the proposed bike trail. He would like to see some action taken by the City towards this goal. He also requested that speed limit signs be posted on the City-maintained roads, not just the highway. Mayor Richardson requested that the City Manager contact the DOT/PF regarding the bike trail, and investigate posting speed limit signs on the City roads.

Dave Trantham, thanked Clair Grifka for expediting the improvements to the Tundra Ridge Park. He also thanked Buck Turnbull and O'Brien Construction for their help. He noted the professional attitude of Animal Control Officer Mike Burley. He described a negative contact with a Police Officer while driving in his truck.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**motion**M/M by McComas, 2nd by Wallace to approve the minutes of the June 25, 1996, regular meeting as presented.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**motion**M/M by McComas, to move New Business Item F: Hoppenworth Termination Issues to Executive Session.

**withdrawn** Motion withdrawn by Mr. McComas.

**motion** M/M by McComas, 2nd by Wallace to approve the agenda as presented.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

## VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Richardson announced that the Rural Provider's Conference will start on July 15. She has been heading up the organization of this conference. The Mayor reviewed a letter from the Kuskokwim 300 Committee and referred the matter to City Manager Weaver.

## VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Weaver referred Council to his written report, and discussed the following:

- **Police Chief Recruitment:** One of the five finalists has withdrawn his application. Background checks are still being conducted.
- **Police Department Investigation:** Ongoing
- **Police and Fire Department Salary Increases:** Mr. Weaver explained the salary increases given to Police and Fire Department personnel based on the budget work sessions.
- **Dust Control:** Clair Grifka, Acting Public Works Director, explained how the EMC2 solution is applied to the roads. He stated that since receiving the solution, it has rained frequently, and one of the road maintenance crew resigned. They will begin applying the solution as soon as possible given the manpower constraints.
- **Lobbyist RFP's:** Council Member McComas suggested that the City Council work together with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a list of priorities and directives for a lobbyist. Mayor Richardson added that it would be a good idea to include the Strategic Planning Task Force in these discussions. Council Member Harding recommended that instead of simply issuing RFP's, and picking the best response, the City should research what they want done, and then seek out the best lobbyist for the job. Mayor Richardson directed the City Manager to find out if the City's purchasing ordinance would allow them to do that.

**motion** M/M by McComas, 2nd by Wallace to proceed with the process of setting legislative priorities and retaining a lobbyist

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- **RFP for Comprehensive Plan:** Mr. Weaver reviewed his idea for issuing an RFP for the development of a comprehensive plan. Mayor

Richardson stated that she would like to review any RFP for these services before it is actually issued.

#### VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES and COMMISSIONS

**Youth Services Committee:** Amy Smith reported for the YSC. The Committee has continued to have problems with a lack of a quorum at meetings. However, they have been working hard at work sessions on the idea of a community recreation center. She urged people to complete the needs assessment surveys that were distributed some time ago.

Mayor Richardson requested that next year, the Committee get more involved in the City's Fourth of July celebration, and provide games and prizes for children.

**Planning:** The next Planning Commission meeting is on Thursday, July 11.

**Public Works Committee:** Council Member Miller was absent, no report given.

**Finance:** Council Member Wallace stated that he was out of town for the last Finance Committee meeting. Mayor Richardson asked Mr. Wallace and Council Member Phillips if it would be agreeable for Ms. Phillips to fill in for Mr. Wallace when he is out of town. Both Council Members agreed.

**Transportation:** The next meeting is on Wednesday, June 10. A special session will be held to discuss river taxi services.

**Port:** Council Member Rodgers was absent, no report given.

**Public Safety:** No meeting was held in July. The next meeting is August 5.

#### IX. OLD BUSINESS

**Item A: Resolution #96-25 - Approval of Union Agreement with APEA.**

**motion**M/M by McComas, 2nd by Wallace to adopt Resolution #96-25.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, 4-Yes, 1-Abstention (Council Member Phillips's husband is a member of the bargaining unit, so there is a conflict of interest.)

**Item B: Resolution #96-26 - Acceptance of the Final Dames & Moore Water and Sewer Master Plan Update.**

motion M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Harding to adopt Resolution #96-26.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**Item C: Review of Draft Cemetery Report**

Mayor Richardson noted that the ad-hoc Cemetery Committee is meeting on Monday, July 15, 10:00 am at the City Conference Room. Julius Pleasant, Community Services Director, complimented former Planning Manager Jim Hoppenworth for the report. He reviewed some of the major points made in the report. A meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11, at 10:00 at the Senior Center to discuss the report. A public meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 15, 10:00 at the City offices. Mr. Pleasant hopes that a decision will be made and ready to present at the July 23 Council meeting.

**Item D: Braund Building Renovation Project**

City Manager Weaver explained the funding for the renovation project, and referred Council to a letter in the packet in which the State has expressed interest in leasing additional office space in Bethel. He introduced Rick Button, an Engineer with EEIS, who has developed the new plans for the renovation.

Mr. Button presented the plans to the Council. Staff changes and space allocations were re-visited for these new plans. The new plans establish a "City Campus" comprised of the Courthouse and its' proposed addition, City Hall, a renovated Police Station, Fire Station, and PATC building. He stated that the first phase of the project - upgrades to the electrical and mechanical systems in the Braund Building- will not be visible. Discussion followed on the need for additional lease space, cost of renovations to the Police Department, current lease rate in Bethel, construction estimates, and timeline.

Mayor Richardson requested that Council hold a Work Session on Friday, July 12, to review the plans in more detail.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item A: City Manager Evaluation Form and Process**

Mayor Richardson stated that she likes the evaluation form used to evaluate the previous City Manager. She asked Council for their opinion, and they agreed that this form should be used. The actual evaluation is scheduled for the first Council meeting in August.

**Item B: Introduction of Ordinance #96-30, Requiring use of Camlock on Sewer Holding Tank.**

**motion**M/M by Harding, 2nd by Wallace to introduce Ordinance #96-30.

Council Member Wallace stated that he believes an ordinance similar to 96-30 was adopted two Council's ago. The City Clerk was requested to research the matter for the next meeting.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Item C: Introduction of Ordinance #96-31, Collection of Sales Tax on alcohol imported from Anchorage.**

**motion**M/M by McComas, 2nd by Phillips to introduce Ordinance #96-31.

Mayor Richardson asked if this was the ordinance recommended by the Public Safety Commission. This is one of two ordinances recommended by the Commission.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, 4-Yes, 1-No (Wallace)

**Item D: Removal of Thermopiles from the Seawall**

Stuart Greydanus, Port Director, presented the idea of removing thermopiles to the Council. Mayor Richardson asked how much it would cost to remove them. Mr. Greydanus responded that he will try to have the removal costs included as part of the overall bank stabilization project, so that 75% of the cost will be paid by the Army Corps of Engineers. The matter was referred to the City Manager.

**Item E: Fines for boats left on the City Dock after June 1**

Stuart Greydanus, Port Director, explained the problem of people leaving their boats on the dock after breakup. It has been getting worse each year. The Port Commission has recommended that a fine of \$50.00/day be levied for people who leave their boat on the dock after June 1, with a 2-week hardship clause for those people who have a legitimate reason they cannot move their boat.

Mayor Richardson suggested that they remove the hardship clause, and assess a lower fine. City Manager Weaver recommended perhaps a fine of \$25.00/day for the first two weeks, then \$50.00/day thereafter.

**motion**M/M by McComas, 2nd by Harding to approve a policy of charging a \$25.00/day fine for the first two weeks after June 1, and a

\$50.00/day fine thereafter, for boats left on the dock after June 1.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Item F: Hoppenworth Termination Issues**

Mayor Richardson wondered why this item, a personnel issue, was on the agenda. Council Member Harding stated that Council Member Miller has some information regarding this issue and should have an opportunity to present it in person.

**motion**M/M by Harding, 2nd by McComas to table the item until the next Council Meeting, so that Council Member Miller can present his information.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**Item G: Requesting garbage collector to pick up garbage around the dumpsters.**

Council Member McComas commented that the real solution to this problem is privatized, home collection of refuse. It was noted that Mr. Miller had requested this agenda. The item was tabled until the July 23 council meeting.

**Item H: Erroneous Police 911 Responses**

Mayor Richardson read a letter submitted to the Council by Mr. Bobby Randeau. Mr. Randeau then addressed the Council, explaining why he feels victimized by the Police Department. Interim Police Chief Schadle responded to Mr. Randeau's comments. No action was taken by the Council.

**Item I: Nuisance Ordinance**

Mayor Richardson requested the City Clerk to place this item, which was placed on the agenda by Mr. Miller, on the July 23 agenda.

**Item J: Revenue Bonds for Community Recreation Center**

Council Member McComas, who requested this item, asked to refer the issue to the Finance Committee. Council agreed.

**XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Harding** - Thanked everyone for the 4th of July participation. Thanked the Police Department and City Manager for responding to a disturbance near his home.

**McComas** - Said the Police Department has been doing an excellent job. Stated that next year, the City should set aside a few 4th of July booths free to local artisans.

**Phillips** - Thanked Janet Athanas and the Community Services Department for their efforts on the 4th of July. Suggested that people who complained about a lack of activities for children should volunteer next year to hold those events.

**Richardson** - Thanked City Manager Weaver for expressing the 4th of July spirit by dressing as Uncle Sam. She was very happy to see everyone comply with the fireworks ban.

**Wallace** - Thanked Julius Pleasant for the work on the cemetery issue.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**motion**M/M by McComas, 2nd by Wallace to adjourn the regular meeting, and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing legal strategy in the Nerby and Rodgers vs. City of Bethel cases, at 9:10 p.m.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimous.

**motion**M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Harding to come out of executive session at 9:28 p.m.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**motion**M/M by McComas, 2nd by Phillips to follow the attorney's recommendations on both cases.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**motion**M/M by Harding, 2nd by Wallace to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1996.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ruth M. Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:

L. J. Tanner  
L. J. Tanner, City Clerk