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# City of Bethel, Alaska

## City Council Minutes

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April 10, 2001

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

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### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on April 10, 2001, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Rodgers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Rodgers	Jerry Drake
Agnes Phillips	Dario Notti
Mike O'Brien	Karol Pobrislo
Carl Berger	

Also in attendance were the following:

Robert Herron, City Manager  
Colleen Soberay, City Clerk  
Louann Cutler, City Attorney—*via teleconference for executive session*

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Drake	To move on with the agenda and until the necessary people have arrived for special business item III on the agenda
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	O'Brien	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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### PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

*There was no one to be heard.*

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Notti	To approve the minutes of the Mar. 13 regular meeting and Apr. 2 special meeting
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Pobrislo	

*Correction of a date made under Finance report by Ms. Phillips*

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**A. Proclamation congratulating the BRHS Girls Varsity Basketball team**

Mayor Rodgers presented a proclamation to the team congratulating the team for its successes during the 2000-2001 basketball season—1<sup>st</sup> place in the regional championships and 5<sup>th</sup> place in the state championships. Coach Crow and several members of the team accepted the proclamation. Mayor Rodgers also presented each team member a certificate of outstanding performance, also accepted by Coach Crow and several members of the team.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Drake	To approve the consent agenda with addition of executive session re: preferential use agreement at the Bethel dock; and removal of new business item A—Lion’s Club lease
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Phillips	

*Consent agenda item: Res. #01-13—Supporting the Fire Department in seeking grant money*

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**MAYOR’S REPORT**

The Mayor’s Report included the following:

- Apology Letter from Mayor Rodgers
- Governor’s Talking Points for the week of March 19, 2001
- Letter from State of Alaska, Division of Emergency Services — *Re: Monitoring major river breakups; Community Flood Action Plan*
- Senator Stevens’ report to Alaskans
- E-mail from Sen. Stevens office — *Re: NACO Legislative Alert, April 5, 2001*
- Message from Senator Lyman Hoffman
- Fact Sheet on Health Status in Alaska, 2000 Edition
- Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan for Alaska public hearing notice
- Letter from Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer — *Re: Alaska Air and Remote Sensing Technology Applications workshop May 30 to June 1, 2001*
- Letter from State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation — *Re: Grant offer for Piped water and sewer improvements Phase II, Grant funds: \$2.9 million*
- Letter from Juneau Mayor — *Re: Torchbearers for the Olympic Flame for the XIX Olympics*

Mayor Rodgers expressed his gratitude for the speedy and professional work of the Bethel Police Department in responding to a bomb threat at BRHS. He thanked acting Chief Dahl for a job well done.

**MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	O’Brien	To appoint Diane Taff-Roy to the Parks and Recreation Committee
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Phillips	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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## MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT

City Manager Herron, noted the management reports included in council packets and reviewed the following items with council:

- Remaining honey buckets in Bethel—The nine people who are still using honey buckets are not interested in working with agencies to discontinue use of honey buckets. It is illegal to privately haul human waste. City manager asked Council for permission to involve the city attorney, as citations are not effective with the remaining honey bucket users. Council agreed.
- Juneau trip—Met with legislatures; met with Alaska city managers; met with vocational education group; met with Lt. Gov. Ulmer and Gov. Knowles.
- Economic development conference April 6, 2001—Lt. Gov. was the keynote speaker; city manager served on a panel.
- USDA meeting—April 9, 2001 met with Shelia Skelcreg, who recommended Bethel submit a grant application to fund a new police station.
- Postal annex—Confirmed with the Denver office that there is interest in selling the property. City government would probably have priority in purchasing the postal annex.
- Children-at-Play signs—Followed up on Council member Pobrislo's request to replace the signs. City manager is working with the public works department to purchase bigger, brighter signs as requested.
- Ordinance #01-02—PSTC has resubmitted Ord. #01-02 to Council. Summarized final changes made by PSTC. City manager recommended setting public hearing for April 24.

Council member Berger asked the city manager to briefly explain the Police Chief's absence. Manager Herron explained Chief Petitt is attending a 10-week FBI course. He said George Dahl is acting Chief of Police in Chief Petitt's absence. Manager Herron also explained the City is paying Chief Petitt's salary while he is at training, but there is no cost for the training. Manager Herron explained that upon graduation, Chief Petitt is committed to give 36 months of service to the City. Manager Herron also explained the intent of the training.

The City Clerk reviewed the following items with council:

- Cemetery *ad hoc* committee update—Focus of the committee is on reestablishing the Ptarmigan Memorial Cemetery and later identifying land to be reserved for a third cemetery site. Ordinance will be brought before Council in May regarding cemetery burial and permit procedures.
- BMC—Expected to be completed and distributed in May.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

### Senior Advisory Board

Council member Berger said the new SAB took their oath of office at the March 20 meeting and elected Clara Kelly as the new chair. He also said SAB member Grace Lieb volunteered to serve on the cemetery *ad hoc* committee. Mr. Berger said the SAB is scheduled to meet April 12 at the Senior Center.

### Planning Commission

Council member Notti said the commission is scheduled to meet April 12. Mr. Notti reviewed the agenda for that meeting.

**Port Commission**

Mayor Rodgers said the commission’s March 26 meeting was cancelled, but is scheduled to meet April 16.

**Public Works Committee**

Council member Drake said the committee is scheduled to meet April 17.

**Public Safety and Transportation Commission**

Council member O’Brien said the commission met April 2 to make final corrections to Ordinance #01-02. Mr. O’Brien also said Andrew Steele recommended speed signs be placed in certain areas around Willow Street and that item has been added to the agenda for the next PSTC meeting.

**Finance Committee**

Council member Phillips said the committee is scheduled to meet April 19.

**Parks and Recreation Committee**

Council member Pobrislo said the committee’s March 21 meeting was cancelled and the next regular meeting is April 18. Ms. Pobrislo reviewed minutes from the February 28 meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Item A — Public Hearing on Ordinance #01-08: Increase in water and sewer rates**

*Mayor Rodgers opened the public hearing. There was no one from the public to be heard.*

Manager Herron reviewed amendments made to ordinance #01-08 in that there were a few corrections that were made in regard to current service offered and a few mistakes made in the original ordinance.

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Drake	To adopt amendments made to Ord. #01-08
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Notti	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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<b>MOVED BY:</b>	O’Brien	To adopt Ord. #01-08 as amended
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Drake	

Council member Berger asked the approximate number of people who testified on this ordinance. The city clerk said about six people. Council member Berger asked the city manager where the City is in regard to implementing metered water systems. Manager Herron explained a small study will be conducted and briefly explained the difficulties in putting a metered water system into place. Manager Herron also said the City’s budget is built upon maximum yield and implementing metered hauled water may not be a profitable decision because of the high cost associated with hauled water and sewer.

Council member O’Brien said without this needed rate increase, the City would not have the money to conduct studies on the feasibility of implementing metered water, redistricting and the like. Council member Pobrislo agreed with Council member O’Brien. Discussion briefly ensued.

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote 7-0.
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**Item B — Public Hearing on Ordinance 01-05: Repealing and Reenacting Titles 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the BMC governing site plan permits and development, flood protection, the comprehensive plan, subdivisions, land use regulations; and amending other related code provisions**

*Mayor Rodgers opened the public hearing. There was no one from the public to be heard.*

Manager Herron said administration recommends Council pass ordinance #01-05.

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Drake	To adopt Ord. #01-05
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Pobrislo	

Council member O'Brien thanked the planning commission and city planner for their hard work with ordinance 01-05. Manager Herron thanked council for giving \$10,000 to the process so the City could hire an expert, Lee Sharp, to work on this project with the city planner and planning commission. Manager Herron said one thing in particular not put in the ordinance was that subdivision developers be required to install piped sewer and water infrastructure before selling their first lot.

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote 7-0.
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**Item C — Public Hearing on Ordinance #01-13: Budget Modification**

*Mayor Rodgers opened the public hearing. There was no one from the public to be heard.*

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Pobrislo	To adopt Ord. #01-13
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	O'Brien	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote 7-0.
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**Item D — Sales tax work session with Finance Director**

Assistant Finance Director, Laurie Walters, recommended Council postpone this work session until the next regular scheduled meeting, as the Finance Director is out of town and she does not have his notes to explain the intent of the recommended changes.

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Notti	To postpone Item D: Sales tax work session until the April 24 regular council meeting
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Pobrislo	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.
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**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item A — Introduction: Ordinance 01-15: Lion's Club Lease**

*Removed from the agenda.*

**Item B — Discussion Item: Security locks for hotel and B&B guest rooms**

Council member Notti said people have approached him with complaints in regard to security at hotels and B&B's in Bethel. He explained that it is unsafe not to have secure locks on the inside of a room because people have complained of offenses, such as theft.

Council member Drake said this topic is something that wouldn't necessarily be addressed in a legislative matter. Mayor Rodgers said although something should be done, government should not mandate security lock requirements. Council member Pobrislo said she also agrees something should be done. She said people should report incidents to the police and that is where the law should be involved. Manager Herron said administration could research the subject to determine any requirements, if Council wishes. Council member O'Brien agreed this is not an administrative matter, but said there are other organizations in the community who would be better suited to deal with this, such as the Chamber of Commerce. Discussion briefly ensued.

**Item C — Introduction: Ordinance 01-14: Heavy Vehicle Use Tax**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Pobrislo	To introduce Ordinance #01-14 and set public hearing for April 24, 2001
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Berger	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by a voice vote 6-1 (Notti—nay).
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**Item D — Resolution 01-13: Supporting the Fire Department in seeking grant money**

Resolution #01-13 passed under consent agenda.

*Other comments*

Mayor Rodgers reviewed a letter about an upcoming small business conference in Anchorage, hosted by Senator Stevens. Council member Berger requested to attend. Council agreed Mr. Berger would attend.

Mayor Rodgers also read a letter from the Boy Scouts requesting donations to attend summer camp.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Council Member Berger** wished everyone Happy Easter.

**Council Member Pobrislo** commented on the proclamation given out the girls BRHS varsity basketball team and said it was good of Mr. Drake to bring this to Council's attention for recognition. She proposed that recognizing student organizations for their successes is something the Council may want to consider doing on a regular basis. Ms. Pobrislo suggested that toward the end of each school year, school faculty inform the Council of student organizations deserving of recognition.

**Council Member Notti** wished everyone Happy Easter. He said it would be nice to see more people attend the Council meetings to participate.

**Council Member O'Brien** said Happy Easter. He thanked the three students at BRHS for reporting the possibility of a bomb threat. He explained in this particular case three young adults had the sense enough to bring this to the attention of school administrators. He said despite the fact that there was not a bomb, there could have been. Mr. O'Brien said too often people don't report things like this because they think it's a joke, but later find out it wasn't. He gave his gratitude to the three young people who brought this forward and thanked them for their courage.

**Council Member Drake** wished everyone Happy Easter. Mr. Drake gave a brief report on the recent trip to Juneau. He reported the group briefly met with the senate president. He commented on the AML conference and a reception he attended for the Alaska Humanities Forum. He said during the conference he participated in breakout sessions with public works and infrastructure sub-committees and had a lively discussion with the executive director of ASG, basically discussing force account issues. He said the group reiterated state policies that were adopted in November and later broke off into teams to meet with legislators.

**Mayor Rodgers** wished everyone Happy Easter and happy birthday to all of the seniors whose birthday is in April. He gave his condolences to the Napoka family for the loss of a loved one.

**Council Member Phillips** wished everyone Happy Easter and thanked all of the volunteers and dancers for working with and participating in the Camaí Festival. Ms. Phillips also thanked Linda Curda for organizing the Camaí Festival.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Phillips	Moved to suspend the rules and go into executive session to discuss the Bethel curfew law, a financial matter and the preferential use agreement
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Drake	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Council came out of executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

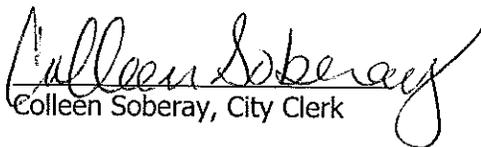
<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Phillips	To adjourn the meeting.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Pobrislo	

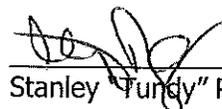
<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

**APPROVED THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2001.**

ATTEST:

  
Colleen Soberay, City Clerk

  
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers, Mayor