

CITY COUNCIL

*Tad Miller
Dario Notti
Mike O'Brien
Agnes Phillips
Ruth Richardson, Mayor
Stanley Rodgers
Thor Williams*



CITY MANAGER
Ken Weaver

CITY CLERK
L.J. Tanner

**City of Bethel
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
February 11, 1997**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 6:40 p.m. by Mayor Richardson in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Miller, Notti, O'Brien (via teleconference), Phillips, Richardson, Rodgers, Williams (via teleconference)

Absent: none

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Dave Trantham addressed the Council with regards to his home insurance premium. His premiums have been cut in half, largely due to the efforts of the Fire Department. Mr. Trantham thanked the Fire Department and Chief George Young. Mr. Trantham also thanked former Police Chief Chris Liu for his efforts on the Bethel Police Department. Mr. Liu has resigned the department to take another job. Lastly, Mr. Trantham discussed bootlegging and its' detrimental effect on the city. He urged the City Council to solicit help from the citizens of Bethel to put an end to bootlegging.

Antone Anvil spoke to the Council about snow-machines. He has noticed specific traffic areas that pose a threat to snow-machiners, pedestrians, and drivers. He suggested that trails be designated for snow-machines before someone is seriously injured.

Kevin Murphy addressed the Council about the recent Police enforcement of snow-machine registrations. He believes that more public notice should have been given, including radio and TV announcements. Snow-machine dealers could be instructed to prepare the registration paperwork when someone purchases a snow-machine. He also noted that in some cases snow-machines have to leave trails and use the road right-of-way. Mr. Murphy spoke next about the City's lack of consideration for villagers who come to the city. Mr. Murphy stated that 1/5 of the city's sales tax revenue is generated by villagers who purchase items in Bethel, and yet nothing is done to encourage them to spend their money in the city - for example, there are no public restrooms.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Notti, to have the Police Department give public notice of snow-machine registration enforcement for 2 more weeks, before issuing citations, and to issue warnings in the mean-time.

vote Voice vote, motion carried, 6-Yes, 1-No (Richardson)

Tom Hildreth, Chairman of the Public Safety Commission, also spoke about snow-machines. He stated that the Commission had recommended that public notice be given before enforcement of the snow-machine registration law. They have also discussed snow-machine safety.

Susan Jacobson addressed the topic of ice-skating at Pinky's Park. She noted that the Bethel PTA had sponsored the recent weekend ice-skating event. Over 100 people came to the park to skate. PTA volunteers cleaned out the ice rink area so that the city could flood it, and handed out ice skates to skaters. However, she stated that the PTA doesn't have the manpower to continue handling the ice-skating, and asked for assistance from the City. Ms. Jacobson was advised to get in touch with the City Manager and Youth Services Committee to make these arrangements.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Phillips pointed out that the motion for a sole source bid to EEIS for bid specifications on the Youth Center repairs should have been noted as an *emergency* sole source bid.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to approve the minutes of the January 28, 1997, regular meeting as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Richardson asked Council member Miller to remove New Business Item C - Resolution #97-09, a Resolution commending the Public Works Director for his handling of recent sewage spills. Ms. Richardson noted that the sewer line break was still a sensitive issue, and she believed the Resolution was somewhat premature. Council member Miller stated that he would be willing to table the resolution until the February 25, 1997 City Council meeting.

motion M/M by O'Brien, 2nd by Rodgers to table Resolution #97-09 until the 2/25/97 meeting.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by O'Brien to approve the agenda as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Richardson reported on the trip to Juneau made by herself and the City Manager. She felt that the trip was successful, and that the City's concerns were heard. In two days, they met with over 20 legislators, as well as the DOT, the OMB, and Governor Knowle's Rural Coordinator, Tim Towarak. They heard many good things about our lobbyist, Paul Richards, and feel that he is very well respected in the legislature. The City's request for funding of water & sewer projects was well received, although the request for additional seawall funding was met with some suspicion by the Budget Director, and the city's chances of receiving funds are poor. Ms. Richardson noted that Mr. Weaver would report further on that issue in his City Manager's report to the Council.

Ms. Richardson noted that it is National Condom Week, and urged people to act responsibly to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Next, Mayor Richardson brought up Council member William's request that the City Council Rules of Procedure manual be updated. She reminded the Council members to review their Rules of Procedure, and give any suggested changes or corrections to the City Clerk.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- **Seawall Funding:** Mr. Weaver discussed a letter he had sent to Governor Knowles and Budget Director Annalee McConnell, regarding the increase in the cost of the seawall. Mr. Weaver also noted that legal work on land credits for the seawall is on-going.
- **Sewer Line Break:** Mr. Weaver pointed out a letter from DEC with regards to comments made by their Bethel Representative about the sewer line break.
- **Council member Williams** asked Mr. Weaver about the dumpster situation at Trailer Court. Mr. Weaver noted that he had instructed the Public Works Director to take care of the problem, but that no action had been taken.
- **Council member Phillips** inquired about drug testing of Senior Center employees. Mr. Weaver responded that random drug testing of CDL drivers is federally mandated.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES and COMMISSIONS

Finance Committee: Council Member Phillips reported that the next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 13, at 7:30, in the City Office-Finance Conference Room.

Planning Commission: Council Member Notti stated that the Commission has not met since the last Council meeting. They will meet again on February 13th.

Port Commission: Council Member Rodgers reported that the next Commission meeting, scheduled for February 17, will be held in the Log Cabin, instead of the City Dock office. The Commission will discuss issuance of finger floats at the small boat harbor.

Public Works Committee: Council Member O'Brien stated that the Committee will held special meetings on January 29 and February 3, to discuss the City's STIP request. Their recommendations are included in Resolution #97-08, under New Business Item B.

Public Safety Commission: Tom Hildreth, Chair of the Commission, stated that at their last meeting they discussed the upcoming budget session. They also talked about piggy-backing onto the State Troopers fleet purchase program, snow-machines, and intersections with yield signs that have been changed to stop signs.

Transportation Commission: Council Member Williams stated that the Commission met on February 6. They discussed many issues, including permit appeals, dispatch consolidations and incorporation's, written tests for chauffeurs, drive time limits, the legality of the City's ordinance which does not allow drivers who have been hospitalized for mental health or substance abuse to obtain chauffeurs permits, cabs without top lights on, and snow machine traffic.

Youth Services Committee: Council Member Miller reported that the Committee has continued working on the Community Recreation Center project, and voted to approve renting the Youth Center on weekends.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - there was no old business to be discussed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Resolution #97-07 - To accept the FY-1996 Year-end Financial Statement

City Manager Weaver read the Resolution.

motion M/M by Phillips, 2nd by Rodgers to adopt Resolution #97-07.

Council member Notti asked Mr. Weaver about the money and bank accounts found at the Police Department. Mr. Weaver answered the questions. Council member Williams noted that he had not received a copy of the Financial Statements, and would therefore abstain or vote against the resolution.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, 6-Yes, 1-No (Williams)

Item B: Resolution #97-08 - Department of Transportation STIP Request

City Manager Weaver explained the STIP process to the Council, and then read the Resolution.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to adopt Resolution #97-08.

Discussion followed. Items discussed were Haroldson's Estates, the City's ability to maintain the roads listed in the Resolution, equipment and manpower requirements.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, 6-Yes, 1-No (Rodgers)

Item C: Discussion - Selling the Port Boat and Transferring Land from the General Fund to the Port Fund

Discussion about the value of the port boat, the problems and reasons for selling the boat, and the process for selling the boat took place.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Notti to authorize the City Manager to dispose of the Port Boat.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Next, the Port Development Plan's recommendation that Tract 5C be reserved for Port use was discussed. City Manager Weaver explained that there doesn't need to be any "transfer" of the land. The land belongs to the City, and the Port is part of the City. The land can be reserved for Port use without any type of financial transfer.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to reserve Tract 5C for Port use, as recommended in the Port Development Plan.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Miller - Supports ice-skating at the Log Cabin. Is happy to be far away from freeways, and doesn't mind being awakened by snow-machines. Reminded the Council that a second work session to discuss the City's sales tax policy and ordinance needs to be scheduled. Monday, March 10 was agreed upon by all Council members.

Notti - Thanked Kevin Murphy for his comments on villagers who visit Bethel. Stated he is interested in the Transportation Commission's discussions about the City's ordinance which does not allow drivers who have been hospitalized for mental health or substance abuse to obtain chauffeurs permits. Would have like further discussion about selling the Port boat.

O'Brien - Noted that sometimes Council members need a little push to remember what's important. Thanked Kevin Murphy for his comments, and for his many years of service on the Public Works Committee. Supports ice-skating at the Log Cabin. Thanked Chuck Willert and Wayne Smith for their hard work on the STIP request.

Phillips - Wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day. Reminded people of the ARCS fund-raiser, and noted that she would be donating a kuspuk.

Richardson - Reminded everyone about the Y-K Delta Community Leaders Conference, scheduled for February 24-26, at the Cultural Center. Wished Mike Warren good luck on the Iditasport race. Encouraged people to get involved in City committees, and noted that volunteerism is always appreciated..

Rodgers - Thought the ice-skating was a great idea, and his kids loved it. Thanked Dave Trantham for keeping the bootlegging issue alive. Thanked Chief Eilers for his efforts.

Williams - Asked people to give the gift of maintained sobriety on Valentine's Day. Reminded Committees and Commissions to forward their minutes to the City Clerk for inclusion in the packets.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to adjourn the regular meeting, and enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy in the Rodgers vs. City of Bethel lawsuit, at 9:35 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. *Mayor Richardson and Council member Rodgers left the Council chambers at this time.*

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Notti to come out of Executive Session at 10:05 p.m.

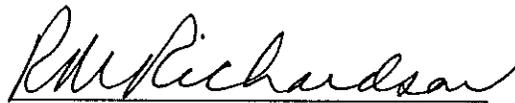
vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by O'Brien to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

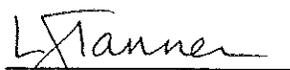
vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1997.



Ruth M. Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


L.J. Tanner, City Clerk