
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

March 16, 1999

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on March 16, 1999, at 6:30 p.m. in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Agnes Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Mayor Agnes Phillips	Dario Notti
Antone Anvil	Mike O'Brien
Joerene Hout	Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers

comprising a quorum of the Council.

Absent:

Karol Pobrislo, excused

Also in attendance were:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Dave Trantham, referenced a recent article in the "*Drums*" regarding help for the elders. He stated that the Senior Citizens Advisory Board has met several times and has held public hearings. He also noted that City Manager Bob Herron attended several meetings and worked with them. He additionally noted that Council Members Hout and Notti had attended one or two meetings each and that the mayor had been invited but was too busy to attend. The seniors still have not met with the mayor. Mr. Trantham then invited Mayor Phillips to be guest speaker at their April 7 meeting. He also invited the other council members to visit the center.

Mayor Phillips indicated that she had other commitments at that time.

Mr. Trantham said the seniors are trying to pay their way. He handed out a flyer and spoke about the Chrissie Shantz Day Care program and how they are trying to make it as self-sufficient as possible. He noted that MediCare can be billed \$79.80/per day per client, but only 6 of the 12 to 15 clients are eligible at this time. He added that no one seems to know why the others are not eligible.

He went on to say that while the seniors are sincerely trying to help, they were very upset with allegations of abuse. He asked if they have any appeal rights of the comments made by the mayor, city manager and the chairman of the Finance Committee.

Council Member Rodgers stated that an appeal would be made to the Council. He related his own observation of an abuse of the senior citizen sales tax exemption.

Mr. Trantham asked if there were documented incidents.

Council Member O'Brien stated that the abuse does happen, but there is no way to be specific unless you watched the checkout lines. He said the system is abused, maybe not every day and not by every senior.

Mr. Trantham continued by saying that the seniors would like to face their accusers. He felt that a public official should have documentation to back up such statements.

Council Member Rodgers said if such documentation exists, it is confidential and may only be viewed by the person involved.

Mr. Trantham asked who a person would ask to find out if there was such documentation, to which Council Member Rodgers replied the person should ask the city manager or mayor.

Mr. Trantham then asked Mayor Phillips if she would meet with him and his attorney.

Mayor Phillips replied that she would not.

Mr. Trantham went on to note that one Bethel senior was honored by Governor Knowles as Volunteer of the Year last year. This was a great honor and this person gives a lot of time to the day care center.

Joan Hamilton, stated she has lived in Bethel for 11 years. She presented a complaint about her water/sewer service. She said that the past Saturday there was a note left on her door that the water delivery person could not get to the pipes due to a vehicle being in the way. This had happened in the past, but the Hamiltons had cleared the stuff out of the driveway. Other drivers had been using the other side of the house. Since it was Saturday, she could not contact anyone until Monday. The driver returned today and left a note saying the pipe was frozen. She felt a lot of time and aggravation would have been saved if the driver would have just knocked on the door. She admits that it was her fault that her truck was in the driveway and the pipe was frozen.

Council Member Rodgers asked the city manager to direct the drivers to put some courtesy back into their service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	O'Brien	To approve the minutes of February 23, 1999.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Phillips read the consent agenda items by title only.

Resolution #99-06: Requesting FY00 Safe Communities Funding From The Department Of Community And Regional Affairs (City Manager)

Resolution #99-07: Supporting the Women, Infants and Children’s Program (Mayor Phillips)

Ordinance #99-05: Amending Piped Rates and Senior Citizen Credit for Water and Sewer and Establishing Rates for Kasayulie Subdivision (City Manager Herron) (Public Hearing 4/13/99)

Ordinance #99-06: Amending BMC 2.52, Boards, Commissions And Committees (Mayor Phillips) (Public Hearing 4/13/99)

Mayor Phillips stated that Item E under New Business, Discussion Item – Vacancies on Commission and Committees, was withdrawn from the agenda.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To approve the agenda and consent agenda.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to approve agenda and consent agenda carried by unanimous consent.
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MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Phillips announced the following:

She noted that the next City Council meeting will be April 13. Council Member Notti asked to be excused from that meeting

The Mayor requested Council’s confirmation of the reappointment of Mary Trailov to the Planning Commission.

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To confirm the reappointment of Mary Trailov to the Planning Commission for a term expiring on 12/31/01.
SECONDED BY:	Hout	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Mayor Phillips thanked Acting Senior Services Director Maggie Simeon for the invitation to the dance last weekend which was a fund raiser for the new bus.

She noted receipt of a letter from BNC regarding training grants.

She said a copy of the action plan from AHFC is available on their web site.

She added that Alaska Housing has a program available for homeless families.

The mayor noted receipt of a letter from Representative Kapsner regarding the shortfall in the state budget and how this will affect the power cost equalization.

She thanked Brian Glasheen for his report on his recycling project.

Mayor Phillips pointed out a letter regarding the elimination of daylight savings time in the state.

She also noted a letter regarding welfare to work grants.

She has also received a letter regarding lapsing grants for the Braund Building renovation, to which City Manager Herron stated letters have been sent and the state is happy with what the city is doing.

The mayor also noted receipt of a letter regarding revenue sharing and announced that Bethel's estimated population is 5,463.

She thanked Janet Athanas for her hard work on the Owl Street Park and noted that the city had been granted the CDBG for the project.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Herron noted that department head reports were included in the council packets.

He asked that the council meet in Executive Session to discuss the APEA contract negotiations.

He also asked the Council to consider the possibility of combining the Public Safety and Transportation Commissions.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Mayor Phillips noted there are vacancies on the Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Port and Public Works Commissions/Committees.

Public Works Committee

Council member O'Brien stated the Committee had not met since the last Council meeting and the next meeting is scheduled for April 20.

Public Safety Commission

Council Member O'Brien stated the Commission had met on March 1 but he was unable to attend. He will request that the Commission meet at a later time, as he cannot make it at 6:00 p.m. He stated minutes of the last meeting were in the packets and noted the highlights of the meeting.

Port Committee

Council Member Rodgers stated the Committee met on March 8, but he had not been able to attend and there was not a quorum. A work session was then held by those present. Discussion was held on the purchase of a skiff and a small truck for the port attendants. The Committee's next meeting will be mid-April.

Senior Citizens' Advisory Board

Council Member Anvil stated that he had not attended the last meeting as he had attended another meeting. The next meeting will be April 7 at 10:30 a.m. He felt that the mayor should attend the meetings whenever she can.

Finance Committee

Mayor Phillips stated the Finance Committee will meet next on March 18.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti stated the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for March 18 had been rescheduled for March 25.

Transportation Commission

Council Member Hout stated that the Commission did not have a quorum for their last scheduled meeting and it has been rescheduled for March 25.

Parks & Recreation Committee

Council Member Pobrislo was not present, so there was no report given.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance #99-04: Repealing BMC 5.16, Solicitations (Finance Committee)

Mayor Phillips called for public testimony with no one coming forth to speak.

MOVED BY:	O'Brien	To adopt Ordinance #99-04.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

City Manager Herron explained that solicitations were included in the newly adopted business license ordinance, and this chapter was no longer necessary.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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ANVIL Yes	HOUT Yes	NOTTI Yes	O'BRIEN Yes
PHILLIPS Yes	RODGERS Yes	SANCHEZ-POBRISLO Absent	6 YES 0 NO

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Phillips stated that she had attended a meeting where community members signed off on Title 47. She thanked John Malone for his hard work on Title 47. She sent condolences to the family of Ted Samuelson.

Council Member Hout also sent condolences to the Samuelson family and noted that Ted had been the postmaster in Bethel for many years.

Council Member Notti apologized to the seniors for not attending their lunches. He said he does enjoy the company. He also offered condolences to the Samuelson and Fannie Bean families.

Council Member Anvil also offered condolences for the Kawagley, Samuelson and Shomler families. He noted that even after discussion by the Council, campaign posters are still all over town.

City Manager Herron stated that the signs will come down next month with the help of a couple of men from the Tundra Center.

Council Member Rodgers thanked the manager for taking care of the signs. He also sent his condolences to the families who recently lost loved ones. He noted that several people at the table are the next generation of elders.

Council Member O'Brien offered condolences to all the families mentioned. He noted that Council Member Rodgers brought up a good point and everyone is good at procrastination. He felt everyone should take the time to say "I love you" to the important people in their life.

Mayor Phillips thanked all the participants of the upcoming Camai Festival.

The City Council took a short break prior to going into Executive Session. Mayor Phillips left the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

Vice Mayor O'Brien called the meeting back to order at 7:45 p.m.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To recess into Executive Session to discussion APEA contract negotiations.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

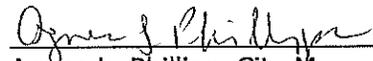
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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The Council meeting was reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

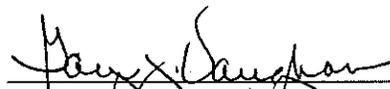
With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF APRIL, 1999.



Agnes L. Phillips, City Mayor

ATTEST:



Gaye J. Vaughan, City Clerk