

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Kelly called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

ROLL CALL Present: Anvil, Dale, Hohman, Kelly, Trantham, & Warner.  
Absent: Hoffman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES MOTION M/M by Dale, 2nd by Warner to approve the 08/08/89 minutes as presented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA M/M by Warner, 2nd by Anvil to approve the agenda as presented.

MAYOR'S REPORT No Mayor's report.

MANAGER'S REPORT City Manager summarized his written report delivered to Council at the beginning of this meeting.  
-The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved \$803,000 for long-term mitigating repairs of the downstream end of the First Avenue bulkhead.  
-Bid results on the Pumphouse Electrical Modifications, Sewage Lagoon Improvements, Dumpsters, Water & Sewer Truck, and Sewer Tank.  
-Exploring possibility of acquiring vehicles through a Municipal Lease Program for the Police Department vehicles as success was not achieved in locating enough vehicles.  
-Correction on headquarters of GEO/Chem, Inc. who are located in Chicago, Illinois and not Anchorage as indicated. (GEO/Chem was awarded the bid on the Small Boat Harbor ramp materials).  
-Telephones for the Small Boat Harbor have been received and will be installed soon.  
-The blue LCM removal is underway at the Dock.  
-When transporting the water tank from the White Alice Site, it was discovered the insulation was in poor shape and was removed. No additional work is being done at this time. Eventually the tank can provide water for fire/water trucks, and provide water for the east end of town.  
-Several concerns were brought before the State Department of Transportation at the 08/21/89 meeting with the city. Principal areas of discussion on the up-coming road repair project were: conflicts with school children, compaction of the base material, salmon transportation to the airport, street light relocation costs, and detour routes. Among other topics of discussion were culvert extension and improvements along Ridgecrest Drive and Brown Slough, airport parking-area improvements, state tidelands lease for re-claimed lands behind the multipurpose bulkhead, and paving the intersection of Ridgecrest and Akakeek Street.

Council discussion on Manager's Report:

Councilmen Warner asked if the water truck ordered last year would be in Bethel this year.

Manager's Report  
discussion -cont.-

Public Works Director Stock said the latest information he received was that the truck was now in Seattle.

Councilmen Dale took exception to the explanation of the blue LCM removal being underway. A motion was made to have it removed, and two weeks later, it is still in place at the Small Boat Harbor. Port Director Greydanus said he was taking responsibility for this and explained that Contractor, Buck Turnbull, who originally owned the LCM before selling it to the current owner, agreed to move it at no cost to the city. He further explained that the removal will be completed by the next regular Council meeting on 09/12/89.

Councilmen Warner asked if the city ended up with bill for the LCM removal, would it be worth the expense.

Councilmen Dale explained that the purpose of providing space at the Small Boat Harbor is that Contractors have been selected to repair the highway in Bethel and will need the storage space for their equipment. It would be in the interest of the city to have removed, not only the blue LCM, but all other objects needlessly taking up space at the harbor. Our tariff rates are reasonable and "attractive" to contractors, but cannot be used with the state the property is in now.

Councilmen Dale asked why a discussion on 3 & 4 wheelers and off-road motorists were not discussed with the State/DOT. He said a plan needs to be devised for the quick deterioration of the roads and shoulders of the roads due to the off-road motorists.

City Manager Earnest said there was some discussion on 3 & 4 wheelers, and he talked with Police Chief Clayton about this topic. It will require a community effort as well, to control the situation. There is a problem with apprehension of the drivers of these machines.

Councilmen Warner said he has been contacted regarding unlicensed motorists and underaged drivers often racing at high rates of speed. Perhaps extra patrol after school hours and delivering a high visibility effort will get the message across to people that they are not suppose to be doing this and may cut back on the problem.

City Manager Earnest said there are two issues arising from this: a safety issue, and an issue of destruction of public roads.

Councilmen Trantham said he received a recommendation to require licencing off-road vehicles for recognition purposes. He also recommended this topic be placed on the next agenda, meanwhile, information on the legality of the issue can be gathered

Councilmen Warner asked that Police Chief Clayton be present at the 09/12/89 Council meeting.

Mayor Kelly added one item not previously mentioned. Tony Knowles, former Mayor of Anchorage was in town last week and said he was very impressed with the work currently being done at the City of Bethel.

Mayor Kelly requested a city Lobbyist be placed on the next agenda for discussion purposes.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

Finance Director Kehr said the auditors were in town and extensive work will need to be completed, more work will be required this year in comparison to last years audit. Glaring errors were recently discovered in information that was re-inputed into the software system at the beginning of the year; alot of account analysis will need to be done to correct the errors. Work has begun on problems with the medicare tax situation which needs to be straightened out with the IRS. Mr. Kehr said he was not able to get the month-end report for July together.

Discussion was held on the following:

Councilmen Warner asked if a preliminary year-end report was completed. Finance Director Kehr said he has not completed that either; and Accounting is still in the process of closing out last fiscal year

Councilmen Trantham said the most current financial data supplied to Council was as of 03/30/89. It is very difficult for Council to make financial judgment calls. April, May, June, & July data still have not been received; and can Council anticipate some financial data covering any of these months in the near future. Finance Director Kehr said he cannot give a definite date on when something will be available.

Councilmen Hohman said the audit done last year was late by five months after the deadline which is required by city ordinance. Can we expect a timely submitting, or what is the auditors feeling on this? Finance Director Kehr said based on his discussion with the manager of the audit team, it is unlikely the audit will be completed by the end of September as required by the contract and ordinance.

Mayor Kelly asked if there was a reason why the Finance Department is so far behind.

Mr. Kehr said yes, there is, as he has been called upon to deal with Personnel matters which is not his field of expertise and was given responsibility of insurance matters which is contingent with Accounting, but again, not his field. Significant computer problems were encountered; in fact, last week a problem held us up in Accounting for approximately four hours, he said.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT DISCUSSION  
-cont.-

Mayor Kelly stated that maybe delegation of the work load in the Finance Department will be in order.

Councilmen Trantham asked Finance Director Kehr how successful the new computer software implementation has been. Mr. Kehr said from a personal stand point, he feels it is fairly successful, but there are some problems that he has not been able to resolve. Controls need to be installed for payroll and the flow between the Finance and Personnel Departments.

Councilmen Trantham asked if the printer funds were recently appropriated for has been received. Yes, it has, and we are waiting for a representative from IBM to arrive in Bethel for the installation, Mr. Kehr explained.

Councilmen Hohman asked Finance Director Kehr what areas he has been called upon that took him away from his finance duties which is creating part of problem in that department and can this be attributed to the instability of the city management at the beginning of the year. Mr. Kehr said he has been asked "Personnel questions and things like that", yes it could be the management but is not the entire reasons; it has deminished a bit recently

Councilmen Trantham asked Mr. Kehr what his estimate of time during the past 3 - 4 months was devoted to other duties besides finance. Mr. Kehr said including acting as a data processor 15 to 20 percent.

Councilmen Anvil asked that employees in the Accounting Department work together to bring the paper work up to date.

City Manager Earnest said a couple key position in Accounting are yet to be filled and that is causing a considerable amount of delay. Mr. Kehr agreed. Mr. Earnest said his hours, Mr. Kehrs, and Mr. Grahams (Accounting Manager) have been more than extensive. There is an arrangement to have one of the auditors here to help on the Accounting catch up. Mr. Earnest also said the Alaska Municipal League (AML) will be contacted for assistance who provides assistance to communities. Mr. Kehr will be leaving on August 25, 1989; a replacement is currently being sought, and the highest priority is to get the Finance Department back in shape.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS Councilmen Anvil stated that the burned-out street lights need to be changed as it is beginning to get dark outside earlier in the day now. Mr. Anvil asked that during the winter months, the lights be checked frequently for burned-out bulbs.

Councilmen Trantham informed City Manager Earnest that prior to his arrival, a determination was made to have police officers observe and note any street light problems during routine patrol and report to Administration to follow-up with Public Works for light replacements.

City Manager Earnest asked that we include this as an agenda item for the 09/12/89 regular Council meeting. During his research of the street-light plan, he has gathered bits of information and would like to resurrect the effort as school is back in session and before the off-set of darkness.

Councilmen Anvil brought up a problem concerning water delivery for one of Ron Peltola's buildings. Mr. Peltola, he said contacted the City Manager and was to receive a response, but time has lapsed, and Mr. Peltola is still waiting for a reply. Mr. Anvil asked that when a complaint is received, a reply should be made as soon as possible. Councilmen Anvil asked the City Manager to see what steps need to be taken to resolve this problem.

City Manager Earnest said a letter was drafted and Mr. Hamm is reviewing that now. We are following an Ordinance involving site plan permits, and not allowing city services when these permits have not been filed with the Planning Department and do not meet the building-code requirements. If we provide for one exception, we will need to provide for all.

Councilmen Dale stated that during a previous Council meeting, a discussion on the future use of alleyway between 6th & 7th Avenue (land in question) and the Planners decision was the alleyway was needed for city utilities; if this is the case, people who are in the alleyway should received notification to move their buildings or the city gather dollars to expand city utilities. Since the city does not have the funds to put utilities in and probably never will, why not relinquish that alley to the people who own that property adjunct to it and put the utilities on either of the two streets (6th & 7th Avenues) where they should be. This issue has been turned over to the Planning Department by Council, but we have not received a response yet.

Councilmen Anvil said when we voted on Amendment #1 to Ordinance #85, it was his understanding that only piped water & sewer rates would increase, and asked if it was too late to withdraw his vote.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS  
-cont.-

Council explained which rates were increased, and agreed it is too late to withdraw his vote casted at the 07/11/89 Council meeting.

Councilmen Dale asked what became of the 25 to 30 loads of asphalt purchased from Bethel Native Corporation at \$250 per load because he observed sand being filled at the dock between the highway and KTC office where the asphalt was to be placed. Councilmen Dale asked Public Works Director Stock for an explanation.

Public Works Director Stock said he believes the asphalt has been leveled out and sand is being used where there is no asphalt. Port Director Greydanus asked to respond and said the former Port Director (Connick) was asked to determine how much asphalt would be needed to cover the area, but it was not sufficient; therefore, used asphalt for a base since area is "swampy", and covering with sand.

City Manager Earnest said he has requested that improvements be made surrounding the dock area following Council directive during the last several meetings.

Councilmen Hohman gave his notice of his resignation from the Bethel City Council. This is an action he contemplated months ago and felt resignation at this time would allow for the election process to provide a replacement. Mr. Hohman asked that his resignation be effective consistent with the election process - 30 days prior to the election.

Councilmen Warner said he was distressed by Mr. Hohman's decision and hoped he would reconsider.

Councilmen Trantham said he felt saddened by this and also asked him to reconsider. Mr. Trantham said if this does take place, this seat will be a one-year term; and asked for it to be researched.

Councilmen Dale said from the stand point of doing good work, making motions and seeing things never getting done, he too, was saddened by his decision to resign.

Mayor Kelly said she would like to say the same things that have been said by Council, and thanked Councilmen Hohman for his time and efforts.

Councilmen Anvil thanked him and said he's done a fine job on Council.

REPORTS FROM STANDING  
COMMITTEES

Councilmen Warner said the Port Commission met on 08/21/89 and some of the issues were addressed in the City Manager's Report. There was discussion on the Small Boat Harbor telephones, speed limit signs at the entrance of the boat harbor and brown slough bridge which people are ignoring, Council will need to re-address the \$20 Small Boat Harbor fee and make it more formal. The Port Commission will present a proposal to Council during the up-coming winter. Also discussed was the placement of the fish-buyers vessels; unclarity of the Corps of Engineers dredging the Small Boat Harbor; funds available from FEMA for dredging.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

There were no people to be heard at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Sales Tax  
Ordinance

SALES TAX ORDINANCE

Councilmen Dale explained that he requested Item A/ Sales Tax Ordinance & Item B/Business License and Regulations be placed on the agenda. There has been extensive work done on the Sales Tax Ordinance, and still we do not have a Sales Tax Ordinance Revision. There has been plenty of correspondence between the City Administration and the Legal Counsel and recommended changes from the Chamber of Commerce. Councilmen Dale said he would like to see a draft of the Sales Tax Ordinance accepted by Council.

Councilmen Warner recommended a worksession for the Sales Tax Ordinance. Mr. Warner further stated he is unwilling to make any changes until an economic analysis determination is made of the proposed revision and its effect on the community.

Councilmen Trantham said a member of the Finance Committee suggested the single unit sale be reduced from \$10,000 to \$1,000.

Mayor Kelly called for a Sales Tax Worksession to be held on 08/31/89, 7:30 at the Log Cabin. The City Clerk is to invite the Finance Committee members.

ITEM B: Business  
Licenses & Regulations

BUSINESS LICENSES & REGULATIONS

Brought before Council was a Master List of the business license holders in Bethel. Approximately 117 out of 389 business license holders have not paid for a '89 business license. Several large business' in Bethel did not purchase a business license; and a number may have gone out of business without informing the City Clerk to have their files deleted from the list. During the beginning of the '89 year, a reminder was mailed out from the city, but little response was received.

New Bus. Item B:  
Business License  
discussion -cont.-

After Council discussion, it was decided the City Clerk mail out another letter to those who have not purchased a '89 business license, and report back to Council in one month.

MOTION

M/M by Dale, 2nd by Anvil to move into Executive Session at 9:20 P.M. Voice vote, motion carried.

MOTION

M/M by Hohman, 2nd by Warner to move out of Executive Session at 10:04 P.M. Voice vote, motion carried.

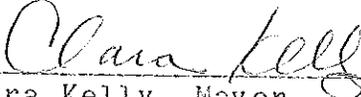
MOTION

M/M by Warner, 2nd by Anvil for the City of Bethel to enter into an agreement with Ownes & Turner for purposes of Labor Negotiations between the City of Bethel and the Bethel City Employees Association. Poll vote, motion carried, 6/0.

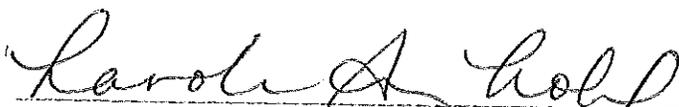
MOTION

M/M by Dale, 2nd by Trantham to adjour at 10:10 P.M. Voice vote, motion carried.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1989.

  
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Clara Kelly, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Karole A. Kohl, Acting City Clerk