

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
September 24, 1996**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 6:31 p.m. by City Clerk Tanner in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. VOICE

Present: Harding, McComas, Miller, Phillips, Rodgers
Absent: Richardson, Wallace

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by Rodgers to elect Buford McComas as Acting Mayor.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

There were no people to be heard.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Acting Mayor McComas noted that Council Member Wallace seconded the motion to adjourn on September 17, not Council Member Rodgers.

motion M/M by Phillips, 2nd by Rodgers to approve the minutes of the September 17, 1996, regular meeting as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to approve the agenda as presented.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Acting Mayor McComas read a proclamation declaring October 6-12, 1996, as National Fire Prevention Week.

Next, Mr. McComas noted a memo in the packet from the City Clerk. All Council members present stated that they would be able to attend the October 3, 1996, special meeting to canvass the municipal election.

Council discussed a third item in the Mayor's report, the DCRA Population Determination used to compute the City's Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing funds. Council Member Miller stated that the population has increased in recent years, not decreased, as the population determination would lead one to

believe. City Manager Weaver was asked to investigate the costs associated with challenging the determination and report back to the Council.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Bids received for new Sewage Lagoon Pump: Only one company, Alyeska Pump and Equipment, responded to the City's Request for Quotes. Their bid came in at \$77,000. Council questioned the need for a new pump. City Manager Weaver stated that the pump is a necessary piece of equipment.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to award the contract for a new sewage lagoon pump to Alyeska Pump and Equipment, for the price of \$77,000.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- Reimbursement to Officer Vukich for Academy Tuition and Expenses: City Manager Weaver reviewed the agreement between Former Police Chief Liu and Officer Vukich, and recalled that Council had indicated during the 1996 budget sessions that officers should be reimbursed for their Police Academy Tuition. Council Member Miller voiced his support for reimbursing Officer Vukich's tuition and expenses.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to reimburse Officer Vukich in the amount of 5,765.00, and to request the City Manager to make a recommendation on how future academy training costs will handled.

City Manager Weaver stated that the CSO program is being closed out, so this should eliminate future problems with academy tuition reimbursement. He would prefer, in the future, to hire only academy-trained officers. Acting Mayor McComas noted that three training slots, free of charge, are available to the City. He would like to see VPSO's from Delta Villages recruited into Bethel on a rotating basis. Mr. McComas noted that Officer Vukich recently received a commendation from Police Chief Eilers and does deserve to be reimbursed.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Miller asked the City Manager to write a letter to the Commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, inquiring about the impact of changing Bethel's municipal classification. City Manager Weaver responded that if the City were anything other than Second Class, it would lose it's Village Safe Water funding for water and sewer improvement projects. Council Member Miller responded that he would like to see this information in writing.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES and COMMISSIONS

Port Commission: Council Member Rodgers reported that the Commission met, and recommended that the Council close the City Dock to fishing. Their concerns are for safety and liability. Council Members Miller and McComas asked if the Commission could investigate setting aside one safe area for fishing, but not close the entire dock. No action taken.

Youth Services Committee: Council Member Harding reported that the Committee met, and had many questions about the interaction with City Council and City Administration. Council Member Miller requested that the City Clerk send a letter to the Committee to help clarify some of the communications issues. In addition, the Committee made several recommendations regarding the use of the Youth Center.

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by Miller to approve the recommendations of the Youth Services Committee, including 1)opening the weight room to women only from 6 am to 10 am, Monday through Friday, for a monthly fee of \$50; 2)opening the Youth Center to adult day use from 11 am to 2 pm, Monday through Friday, for a fee of \$2.00 per session; and 3)opening the Youth Center on weekends to adult groups for a yet to be determined fee.

Council Member McComas voiced his opposition to the motion. Mr. McComas stated that men are charged on a per-use basis for the weight room, and women should be charged the same rate. Also, Mr. McComas stated, the Youth Center is intended for youth use, and opening the Center to adults on weekdays and weekends might send the wrong message. Council Member Phillips also stated her opposition to the motion.

vote Voice vote. Motion failed, 2-Yes, 2-No (McComas, Phillips)

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to open the weight room to women only from 6 am to 10 am, Monday through Friday, for a per-use fee of \$2.00

vote Voice vote. Motion passed, unanimously.

Senior Advisory Board: Community Services Director Julius Pleasant reported that the Board had their annual elections on September 11. They have a full board, and their first regular meeting is scheduled for October 9. This is the second Wednesday of the month, in the future, all meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, at 10:00, held at the Senior Center. A Rummage Sale will be held at the Senior Center on Saturday, September 28.

Finance Committee: Council Member Wallace was absent, no report given. The next regular meeting is October 17, 7:30 pm, at the City Office.

Public Works Committee: Council Member Miller reported that the Committee did not have a quorum for their last scheduled meeting. The next regular meeting is October 15, 7:30 pm, at the City Shop.

Planning Commission: Council Member McComas reported that the Commission did not have a quorum for their last scheduled meeting. The next regular meeting is October 10, 7:30 pm, at the City Office.

Public Safety Commission: Council Member Phillips reported that the Commission did not schedule a September meeting, due to moose hunting. The next regular meeting is October 7, 6:00 pm, at the Log Cabin.

At this time, City Manager Weaver stated that he had additional information from his Manager's Report that needed to be reviewed and approved by the Council. He explained that a request for funding needed to be made to Village Safe Water, and the request needs to be approved by the Council.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to approve the request for funding from Village Safe Water.

vote Voice. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Item A: Public Hearing, Ordinance #96-39, Budget Amendments for FY 1997.

Acting Mayor McComas opened the public hearing. There being no people to be heard, Mr. McComas closed the public hearing.

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Harding to adopt Ordinance #96-39.

City Manager Weaver explained that this budget amendment provides funds to pay an additional Communications Officer (dispatcher.) It also transfers funds for additional improvements to the Courthouse Building.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B: Public Hearing, Ordinance #96-40, Budget Amendments for FY 1996.

Acting Mayor McComas opened the Public Hearing. There being no public comments, Mr. McComas closed the Public Hearing.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to adopt Ordinance #96-40.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C: Public Hearing, Ordinance #96-42, Acquisition of Property for Utility Easement.

Acting Mayor McComas opened the Public Hearing. There being no public comments, Mr. McComas closed the Public Hearing.

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by Miller to adopt Ordinance #96-42.

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

Item D: Public Hearing, Ordinance #96-43, Amendment to City Classification Plan

Acting Mayor McComas opened the Public Hearing. There being no public comments, Mr. McComas closed the Public Hearing.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to adopt Ordinance #96-43.

City Manager Weaver explained that this amendment to the Classification Plan adds the additional Communications Officer position that was funded by Ordinance #96-39.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Discussion - Headquarters site for Bethel Search and Rescue

Council Member Miller, who requested the agenda item, explained that he has discussed this issue with Dean Swope of Bethel Search & Rescue. They need enough room for equipment storage and meetings. He would like the City to donate a piece of land for their use, noting that they had an offer for an ASHA house, but it fell through because they had no place to put it. Council Member McComas stated his preference that they pay \$1 per month, so that they have to remember each month where the land came from. Council Member Rodgers stated that the amount should only be \$1 per year, considering the number of lives that are saved by Bethel Search & Rescue's efforts.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to have the City Manager and City Planner research options and a potential site for donation or lease to Bethel Search & Rescue.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B: Resolution #96-35, Requesting Grant Funds for Capital Projects

City Manager Weaver explained that the request is for additional Capital Funding for the Braund Building Renovation.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to adopt Resolution #96-35.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimous.

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Harding - Thanked everyone involved in Youth activities, including the parent-involved basketball programs at the highschool.

McComas - Encouraged everyone to get out and vote on Election Day.

Miller - Noted that a program, "History of Bethel" will be presented at the Cultural Center on Wednesday, September 25. The Long Term Planning Task Force will have a meeting after the elections. Encouraged people to vote in the elections.

Phillips - Welcomed the new Senior Advisory Board members. Noted that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Thanked the outgoing Council Members for their efforts.

Richardson - Absent, no comment.

Rodgers - No comment.

Wallace - Absent, no comment.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

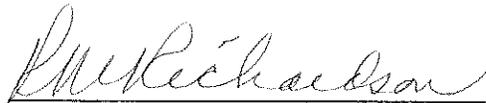
There was no business scheduled for Executive Session.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

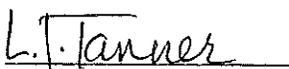
motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Harding to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1996.


Ruth M. Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


L.J. Tanner, City Clerk