
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

March 23, 2004

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on March 23, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

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

ROLL CALL

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

R. Thor Williams	Dario Notti
Dave Trantham	Hugh Dymment
Hugh Short, Jr.	Andrei Jacobs
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers	

Excused absence(s):

Unexcused absence(s):

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Amanda Byington, City Clerk
Louann Cutler, City Attorney

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Mike Rabe - CRW

- Mr. Rabe gave a back ground information on the Kasayuli Feasibility Study
- He also spoke of funding sources now available making it easier to achieve an additional funding of 2.8 million dollars a year
- Mr. Rabe also compared the different funding that is being used on the project in Kasayuli
- He also gave descriptions of the phases for the water and sewer upgrades while reassuring Council that all upgrades will support any development that may occur at airport and/or west of the Airport in the future
- He also spoke about the cost for the City of Bethel and of the homeowner and gave the differences of costs now and after the water and sewer upgrades are complete
- Mr. Rabe also discussed the six phases of how the upgrades are going to occur

Council Member Jacobs asked for discussion from Mr. Rabe about there not being any negative benefit to other parts of town. Mr. Rabe referred to the Master Plan for Water and Sewer dated 1996. The proposal he is discussing only adds to the Plan it does not change the plan due to a new funding source.

Council Member Dyment spoke about how the City will be responsible to maintain, upgrade, and eventually replace the system. Village Safe Water assumes that the grant funding will continue, therefore upgrading and replacing the system should come from that funding, responded Mr. Rabe.

Vice-Mayor Williams asked if the upgrades are going to meet the need of future development of Blueberry Subdivision. Mr. Rabe responded by saying yes. Future funding may not exist; Mr. Rabe said that the City is already addressing the issue by taking the first steps to more funding. Mr. Rabe asked for all of Council Member comments on the Kasayuli Feasibility Study by April 9.

MOVED BY:	Trantham	To direct the City Clerk to prepare a Resolution to accept the Kasayuli Feasibility Study 95% complete
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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Willy Keppel

- Mr. Keppel referred to the City Managers report that there is some trouble gaining access through Native Allotments and referred to letter from Don Elliot and his wife Evelyn. They stated in the letter that they would be happy to be involved with getting a road through the Donut hole
- He then addressed his proposal of two phases of road building
- He gave estimated costs of building the road and how much the frontage could sell for
- Mr. Keppel gave advantages of having the road and spoke about funding sources available

Council Member Dyment asked Mr. Keppel about this initial new armory and tie into City Subdivision or does it go from the armory to Ptarmigan. Mr. Keppel responded by saying Ptarmigan should be phase two, due to selling the road frontage for more money to build the phase two road system to Ptarmigan. Mr. Keppel then referred to the Venus Subdivision map. He stated that the property line is within six inches of property lines.

Council Member Notti asked about a land being native allotted. He thought that the land was restricted. Mr. Keppel responded by saying he had never seen any restrictions that could not be over-ridden by the City Council.

Willy Keppel

- Mr. Keppel asked for Council member Notti to resign his seat on Council
- He stated that inappropriate use of public funds was the reason he was asking for the resignation
- Mr. Notti has had plenty of time to repay the money, Mr. Keppel said.
- Mr. Keppel believes the City of Bethel should be charging Mr. Notti interest on the balance owed
- He then stated that if Mr. Notti does not resign, then it may be time for a recall

Council Member Rodgers asked Mr. Keppel how long it took him to gather the information for the Road through the Donut Hole. Mr. Keppel responded by saying five years. Council Member Rodgers stated that Mr. Keppel had presented more information on the subject in fifteen minutes than he has received in eight years of asking for it and then thanked him for his presentation.

Council Member Dymont asked Mr. Keppel about the letter from BNC stating that the land must not be used for Commercial Property. He then spoke about asking the City Attorney's advice on the matter. After this he asked for Mr. Keppel's understanding of the restrictions on BNC position and also for his opinion. Mr. Keppel said that other BNC Board Members told him that this was never a topic of discussion and that the letter was give to the City Council for political purposes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To approve the amended minutes from the March 9, 2004
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Williams's edits: Comments under Manager's Report, the comments need to have a persons name with the comment that was made. Pages should be specific to the item of discussion. Comments concerning Notti to have Public Works look into roads STIP should be changed to BMP. Jacobs's edits: Would like his comments to indicate that he was a Jr. Ex-officio. Rodgers edits: Spelling of Rodgers name

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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APPROVAL OF CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To approve the amended consent agenda and amended regular agenda
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Amendments: Remove New Business Item H with discussion from Council Member Dymont; Council Member Trantham to remove New Business Items A, B, &C from Consent agenda: Council Member Jacobs changed New Business Item I to just "user fees"

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Short's report included the following:

- Council Member Notti, Mayor, and Vice-Mayor met to discuss the matter of Council member Notti's per-diem. At that time Council Member Notti requested Executive Session to discuss the details of the matter. Mayor gave direction to City Clerk to add Executive Session to next regular City Council meeting.
- The mayor spoke about the AML fly-in in April. He gave Council Member Trantham the opportunity to discuss any AML matters. Mr. Trantham asked if any of the Council Members that are on an AML Committee or Commission are planning to go to the AML fly-in. He requested permission to go Juneau to attend the AML fly-in meeting on April 13 and 14.

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To send Council Member Trantham to Juneau to attend the AML Board of Directors meeting on April 14 and 15.
SECONDED BY:	Williams	

Discussion for Council Member Jacobs that implication of travel to Juneau for Council Member Trantham had already been accomplished. Council Member Jacobs requested to go if there is monies budgeted for Council Member travel. Council Member Dyment assured him that there is.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To send Council Member Jacobs to AML fly-in on April 14 and 15 using the City Council travel budget money.
SECONDED BY:	Dyment	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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Council Member Trantham spoke about a teleconference of the AML Board of Directors meeting on March 15 that he and Vice-Mayor Williams attended. He also spoke about the 911 increase to \$3.00 instead of \$.75. Mr. Trantham also spoke about a discussion of the AML Board of the smaller Cities and Boroughs running out of monies. Transportation bill to reduce the 375 Billion has been reduced to 250 billion which will directly affect the City of Bethel. He also spoke about Senate Bill 366 which says the State of Alaska wants to repeal the authority of taxations. He would like the Council to request a copy of this Bill and carefully read over it. Community Dividend is being discussed at the AML meetings and is being lobbied now in the legislature. AML is currently working on responses to some questionnaires. He would like for everyone to get a copy of all paperwork available in the City Clerks office.

Council Member Dyment requests that Council Member Trantham prepare a draft Resolution in opposition to the Senate Bill 366. Council Member Trantham requests all of Council to submit comments to include in the Draft Resolution that he will prepare.

- Mayor Short read into record a letter form the AML about the smaller cities and the loss of their revenue.
- March 9, 2004 was Bob Herron's birthday and gave best wished from Council

MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT

City Manager Herron's report included the following:

- Joint Task Force meeting Friday March 26. At that time they will give a decision about the possible transfer of the Senior Center.
- Paul Richard follow up lobbyist report
- Waste Water Treatment Facility Engineering Report from the Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development. The facility will be funded and so no money will come out of the City of Bethel General Fund
- No change in job openings or vacancies
- Future travel plans

City Clerk announced that she will be out of the office next week 3-29 thru 4-1. She will also miss the next Council meeting due to prescheduled training.

City Manager Herron addressed Council Member Dymont saying that AML will provide a copy of a resolution that is in opposition of a state wide sales tax. Council Member Dymont requested to customize the Resolution for the City of Bethel. Council Member Williams asked for the percentage increase of the proposed state tax. Council Member responded by saying Bethel tax will increase to 9% and will get a return from the state at 6%. Council Member Notti discussed that the State will also take over the exemptions.

Council Member Jacobs asked the City Manager to explain a statement that a City worker had been picking up Honey-Buckets. City Manager Herron responded that the police were involved.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Advisory Board – Council Member Trantham reported that the SAB met on March 22. There was only one absent, the Chairman. SAB has declared a vacancy and the City Clerk will be posting it. The meeting was a special meeting. He did share the attendance record with the City Clerk. He then spoke about the action items of the meeting. Council member Tantham also turned everyone's attention to the Senior Director's management report. SAB discussed Ms. Bumsted's paper. They also discussed an appointment of an honorary member. Mr. Trantham then presented a recommendation to the City Council from the SAB about the Emeritus Member

MOVED BY:	Williams	To adopt the recommendation from the Senior Advisory Board to appoint a Emeritus Member to the Board
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

Jacobs inquired about having all Committee Commissions and Board the ability to appoint an honorary member. Mayor Short responded by saying that it is best left up to the Committee or Commission to do so. Council Member Dymont asked if there was any discussion of having a 2/3 vote verses a majority.

MOVED BY:	Dymont	To amend the motion to add the wording of requirement of a 2/3 vote to establish an honorary member to the Board.
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

Council Member Trantham announced that the original draft copy of the recommendation did say 2/3 vote as a requirement. Council Member Williams discussed the fact that there is no ability to vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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Council member Dymont asked if this language will be added to the by-laws. Council Member Trantham also stated that that previously on the SAB there have been honorary members. Council Member Notti had concerns about how this will affect the grant being used for funding on the SAB.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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Council Member Trantham then presented another recommendation to the Council to speak against a City owned liquor store. Mayor Short suggested that they will take it under advisement. He then spoke about one more recommendation to prepare an Ordinance to allow City Taxi's to have a Senior Citizens Fare. Council Member Dymont announced that he would bring this to the Public Safety and Transportation Committee. Mr. Trantham then announced that there had been sub-committee nominations for review of the by-laws and for the Program Evaluation. Spring fundraiser is set for April 30 from 1-5 P.M.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Council Member Jacobs would like to remove the user fees from the agenda so he could discuss this with the Parks and Recreation Committee before he spoke to Council.

Planning Commission – Council Member Rodgers made a statement about having the Committee and Commission submitting their minutes in a timely manner. He then spoke about the agenda. Potential development of the donut hole was discussed. Direction was given to the Commission to get together a packet for the Council meeting and one was never delivered. He also referred to the great information provided to Council by Willy Keppel. The recommendation that was discussed at the meeting is not included with packet.

Port Commission – Vice-Mayor Williams reported that the Port Commission met on March 15, 2004. They discussed the power line on the back portion of the Port office. Northland wants to place it underground and they are willing to pay for the expense of doing so. Northland also requested a space on the dock just for them to do their work. The Commission has received three responses to the RFP about moving the Port Office. The Port Director and Assistant will be back in Bethel the first week of May. John Sargent attended the meeting for future understanding of the Port's use of grants. There will be Clerk's training at the next meeting.

Public Works Committee – Council Member Notti asked for direction of turning in Draft minutes or signed minutes, due to the time issues. Council Member Rodger is okay with the Draft because the issue is to have the Council representative to the Committee or Commission to guide the Representative in their comments. Waste water pilot plant is to arrive the first week of March is now delayed to the last week of March. Thermal probes have been installed in the lift station next to the laundry mat. One of the plow/sander trucks have arrived in Bethel. He spoke about how it works and how much Calcium it can hold. Dust control issues to lower the speed limit reduction, proper hydro-seeding and in the winter change from salt/sand to straight salt were discussed. The Committee requested a special meeting for March 30 with agenda items of Committee training, internal communication, budget, sub-committee on dust control.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission – Council Member Dymont reported that no meeting has happened since the last Council meeting

Finance Committee – Mayor Short reported that there had been two meeting since the last Council meeting on March 1 and on March 22, 2004. He reported that the Committee has rescinded a previous motion about a proposal to increase water and sewer rates that they had discussed. March 26, 2004 will be the next meeting.

MOVED BY:	Notti	To suspend the rules to allow for public testimony at this time
SECONDED BY:	Dymont	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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Joan Hamilton

- Ms. Hamilton apologized for any confusion
- She spoke about the Senior Advisory Board meeting and the results of meeting being the recommendations that were presented to Council by Council Member Trantham

Joan Hamilton Continued...

- She gave some back round on the recommendations
- Ms. Hamilton also spoke about the attendance of the SAB meeting
 - one person left for Medical
 - one person left for personal reasons and then returned later the same meeting
- Thanked the Director of Senior Services for her promptness in getting the minutes so quickly as to have them ready for this Councils review

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A – Public Hearing of Ordinance 04-03: Amending Sections 13.12.010, 13.12.160 AND 13.12.280 of the Bethel Municipal code regarding solid waste collection and disposal by defining non-residential customers, requiring non-residential customers to use dumpsters , and clarifying the non-authorized use of dumpsters or other garbage containers owned by others is prohibited, and amending sections 13.16.010 to create a separate fee for non-residential solid waste service customers

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To approve Ordinance 04-03: Amending Sections 13.12.010, 13.12.160 AND 13.12.280 of the Bethel Municipal code regarding solid waste collection and disposal by defining non-residential customers, requiring non-residential customers to use dumpsters , and clarifying the non-authorized use of dumpsters or other garbage containers owned by others is prohibited, and amending sections 13.16.010 to create a separate fee for non-residential solid waste service customers
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

Discussion:

- *Mayor Short wanted more explanation of the definitions provided in the Ordinance. He also asked about the differences in the charge amounts. He was answered by Vice-Mayor Williams stating the intent behind the Ordinance and he then answered the Mayors questions of the definitions. He then spoke about why and how the fees were addressed.*
- *Vice-Mayor Williams addressed the issue of large businesses dumping garbage in residential dumpsters, causing more garbage and overflowing residential dumpsters. Council Member Notti asked about the smaller businesses in town, and how much this Ordinance would or would not affect them.*
- *Council Member Dymment spoke about this Ordinance to increase fees. He also spoke about how the City of Bethel is overspent in the budget. He stated that this kind of fee increase may be inevitable in more than one area. City Manager Herron spoke on behalf of the Ordinance that its main purpose is targeting several large businesses in town so they don't get away with paying the same amount as a residential customer does.*
- *Mayor Short spoke against the approval of this Ordinance tonight. He doesn't think the public has had adequate time to respond. 25, 33, or 85% increase in their businesses bill. Council Member Dymment responded to increase from \$12 to \$40.00 and believes the \$24.00 increase is okay.*
- *Council Member Notti stated that he thought this Ordinance was well intended but there is too much grey area. The future of the Enterprise fund is the biggest concern of Vice-Mayor Williams.*
- *Janet Athanas spoke for the small business. You cannot expect for the community not to use businesses dumpster.*
- *Council Member Dymment asked for the issue of being a family dwelling and a large business all in one, he asked that the language be straightened out now. Vice-Mayor Williams wants this Ordinance to pass tonight and make revisions later.*
- *Mayor Short responded by saying the ordinance is flawed and he spoke against the Ordinance.*

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes 4-3 (Rodgers, Notti, Short)
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Item B – Public Hearing of Ordinance 04-04: A technical amendment to Ordinance #03-21(S) Authorizing a land exchange between the City of Bethel and Owners of property in City Subdivision

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To adopt Ordinance 04-04: A technical amendment to Ordinance #03-21(S) Authorizing a land exchange between the City of Bethel and Owners of property in City Subdivision
SECONDED BY:	Williams	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion Passes Unanimously
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10 Minute Break

NEW BUSINESS

Item A – *Resolution #04-08: A Resolution of the Bethel City Council establishing utility permit fees within the Department of Public Works

MOVED BY:		To adopt Resolution #04-08: A Resolution of the Bethel City Council establishing utility permit fees within the Department of Public Works
SECONDED BY:		

City Manager Herron spoke about why the City needed. Jacobs asked if a one time or annual fee. There was discussion that there were certain language included that clarified the one time only fee.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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Item B – *Resolution #04-09: A Resolution of the Bethel City Council accepting the Bethel Boardwalk Improvements Project

MOVED BY:	Notti	To adopt Resolution #04-09: A Resolution of the Bethel City Council accepting the Bethel Boardwalk Improvements Project
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Janet Athanas spoke on behalf of the Resolution. She was asked to speak about the project by Council member Trantham.

- *ASCG and the Parks and Recreation Department worked together*
- *Ms. Athanas spoke about the 1.9 mile New Boardwalk*
- *She stated that it cost \$1.5 Million dollars funded by the Department Of Transportation*
- *The only thing left to do now is to adopt this resolution of acceptance*

Council Member Trantham suggested a letter of appreciation to the legislature signed by everyone. His reason is to give thanks as often as possible, right now being a great time to do that. He also asked for a letter of thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Department for the many hours they have put in on this project. Suggestion to thank the delegation and the Governor from the City Manger. Trantham asked to be generous in the distribution of the letter. He would like everyone to receive a copy. Direction was given to the City Clerk to complete the letters by the Mayor. Council Member Notti asked for circulation of the letter also go to the Planning Commission.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion Passes unanimously
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Item C – *Resolution #04-10: A Resolution of the Bethel City Council supporting the efforts of the Bethel Fire Department to seek grant monies from the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

MOVED BY:	Notti	To adopt Resolution #04-10: A Resolution of the Bethel City Council supporting the efforts of the Bethel Fire Department to seek grant monies from the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
SECONDED BY:	Williams	

Council Member Trantham asked how the City of Bethel could thank the Fire Department as well.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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Item D – *Resolution #04-11: A Resolution accepting a grant on the amount of \$3,000,000 for phases B and C from the Village Safe Water Act

MOVED BY:	Williams	To adopt Resolution #04-11: A Resolution accepting a grant on the amount of \$3,000,000 for phases B and C from the Village Safe Water Act
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

MOVED BY:	Trantham	To amend the Resolution and delete the last sentence of the Resolution 04-11
SECONDED BY:	Dyment	

Discussion: City Manager Herron addressed the issue of the names. He spoke about this being a template from Village Safe Water. Council Member Notti referred to the earlier statement within the Resolution that says City Manager, Robert Herron. Mr. Herron was hired by the City to be the City's chief administrator; administer grants, administer employees, and administer the programs of the City of Bethel said the Mayor as he spoke against the amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION	Motion failed 2-5 (Dyment, Jacobs, Notti, Williams, Short)
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MOVED BY:	Dyment	To amend the main motion to remove Robert Herron. In the last sentence replace Robert Herron with the City Manager
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION	Motion passes 6-1 (Trantham)
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VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Motion passes 5-2 (Trantham, Rodgers)
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Item E – Discussion item – City of Bethel Audit Report

Steve Wadley – Altman & Rodgers

- Mr. Wadley spoke about the Auditors opinions letter
- Management Discussion and Analysis was also spoke about
- Break up activities for easier to read format
 - Governmental Activities: General Fund, Special Revenue Fund from business type of activities
 - Business Activities: Enterprise Funds; designed for user fees to cover cost
- Net Expenses show the expenses of each department the net amount is the deficiency of each of those departments
- All reports are sent to another independent firm for review
- He reported that the hole process would at a minimum take 30 days

Rob Strahan – City of Bethel Finance Director

- Addressed Mr. Trantham’s questions about delays that have occurred

Vice-Mayor Williams asked about business activities - the Enterprise Fund. The amount the City received compared to the amount the City spent. He asked for an explanation of depreciation in an audit. He was answered by Mr. Wadley saying that we are not putting away money for the depreciation of equipment.

MOVED BY:	Williams	To suspend the rules to move Items F though I to the next meeting of the City Council
SECONDED BY:	Dymont	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes unanimously
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Item F – Discussion Item: Alcohol Delivery Site v/s Liquor Store

- MOVED TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Item G - Discussion Item: Ensure the cost of running the Enterprise Fund is covering all expenses

- MOVED TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Item H - Discussion Item: removing the current Council Representative from the Public Works Committee

- MOVED TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Item I - Discussion Item: Weight room user fees

- MOVED TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MOVED BY:	Notti	To adjourn into Executive Session to seek advice from and provide direction to the City Attorney regarding the Crowley / Yukon Fuel merger and whether to join the current litigation, file a new lawsuit, seek and hire an expert to evaluate the merger, and/or participate in the Attorney General's investigation and formulation of a consent decree.
SECONDED BY:	Dyment	

Trantham asked for a brief summary from the City Manger or the City Attorney that may be discussed in public, he requests as much discussion as possible. Mayor Short told Mr. Trantham to speak on the motion. Mr. Trantham explained that he would like a little explanation before going into Executive Session.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion Passes (Rodgers, Trantham)
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Mayor Short called a two minute break to clear the Chambers.

Council Adjourned to Executive Session at 10:25P.M.

Council Member Rodgers left the meeting at 10:25 P.M.

Council Reconvened at 11:40 P.M.

MOVED BY:	Dyment	To direct the City Manager to direct the City Attorney to contact the Attorney General's Office and request the report that their Oil Industry Analyst is doing in regards to the Crowley/Yukon Fuel merger be made public, and ask the City Attorney to begin investigation in to the City's options in regards to an expert oil industry analysts opinion in regards to the merger; find out who is available and possible cost then report back to Council
SECONDED BY:	Williams	

Discussion: Council Member Trantham commented on the complexity of the motion and asked for it to be broke up into two parts. Mayor Short spoke in favor of the motion so as to promote competition.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion passes 5-1 (Trantham)
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MOVED BY:	Dyment	To direct the City Manger to contact our Legislature in Juneau and get their feelings on this merger and find out what the Busch Caucus is doing if anything or has any kind of strategy about the proposed merger
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

MOVED BY:	Williams	To amend the motion not to direct the City Manger but to direct the City Lobbyist who is already in Juneau to have face to face conversations with the Western Alaska Constituency and get their comments on the proposed merger
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION	Motion passes 5-1 (Trantham)
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VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Motion passes 5-1 (Trantham)
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Council Member Comments

Council Member Trantham asked for announcement of the City Clerk’s vacation. He spoke about the review of the Audit. He invited the public to an open meeting to take concerns in reference to the budget. He wants to hear from the community on what programs they want and how to pay for them. We need to get our finances under control. He then spoke about allegations that have been brought against him. He thinks there has been an investigation. He then cautioned the City of Bethel about making allegations that cannot be proved in a Court of Law. He announced that his spirit cannot be broken.

Vice-Mayor Williams spoke about Area M and the lack the Governor has of re-closing the Area. He believes this is a waste and goes against the Yupik traditions. He gave his sentiments to Sam Shields and his family as he hurt himself very badly. He asked administration to produce an outline for cell-phone usage. He then mentioned the responsibility for the decision of separating the City Clerk from the City Manger.

Council Member Notti spoke about how the City spent their money. He does not believe that ALL services should be paid for. There are certain things that we can expect to be within our budget. He then compared personal accounts to business accounts. He believes that the shortage in the budget was only 1% and being within 1% of the total budget is pretty good. He feels that Council Member Rodgers walking out of the meeting earlier was an attempt at abstaining from a vote. He thinks Council Member Rodgers should be marked unexcused. He then gave condolences to the Michaels family.

Council Member Jacobs thought it was important to discuss a conversation with the attorney about a polling place. This was his first experience with voting. He referred to a January 13, 2004 letter from Louann Cutler. He stated that it is a bit inaccurate. Pray for family and friends in Iraq. He also gave suggestions for improvement to the City Clerk.

Council Member Dymont noticed that Mr. Jacobs brother was in Iraq and stated that he was in their prayers. Thanked Mayor Short to the pro-active response to this matter. Thanked Vice-Mayor Williams for beginning the process of eliminating monies to be spent or increasing revenue.

MOVED BY:	Jacobs	To adjourn the meeting at 12:05 P.M.
SECONDED BY:	Williams	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion Passes unanimously
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APPROVED THIS ____ **day of** _____ **2003.**

ATTEST:

Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

Amanda Byington, City Clerk