

City of Bethel
City Council

Regular Meeting of December 13, 1994

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:30 PM by Mayor Wintersteen in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Harding, McComas, Miller, Tubbs, Twitchell, Wintersteen

Absent: Chris

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Gary Vanasse, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, addressed Council regarding the issue of monitoring VHF Channel 16 for emergencies on the river. Mr. Vanasse stated that five members of the committee were in favor of monitoring the channel through the police department's communications office, but that the Police Chief was opposed. Mr. Vanasse also stated that the license and equipment for the monitoring would be under \$1000, and the Committee recommended the installation of the equipment in either the police or fire department. Council member Miller asked what role the Troopers would play in emergencies outside of the City. Mr. Vanasse said that the Troopers would monitor the channel from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and any after-hours emergencies would be passed on to the Troopers if out of the City's jurisdiction. City Manager Hunter stated that he had asked for names of contacts for information, but he had not received the names so he could not provide any recommendation at this time. Police Chief Liu stated that most communities monitoring Channel 16 have the Coast Guard stationed in their community, and reminded Council that an earlier Council had set a policy of not responding to emergencies on the river. Chief Liu added that the additional channel created a risk to the field officers if the dispatcher is distracted.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by McComas to approve the minutes of the November 22, 1994, special meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to approve the minutes of the November 22, 1994, regular meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/REGULAR AGENDA

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Tubbs to move the presentation by Wiley Thompson, FBI, immediately following Approval of Agenda to accommodate the speaker; to remove New Business Item A from the agenda; and to remove the gaming permit application submitted by UAF from New Business Item E: Gaming Permit Applications and include it with the gaming permit submitted by the Lion's Club as New Business Item F. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Tubbs to approve by consent, Items B, C, D and E under New Business. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to approve the agenda as amended. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION BY WILEY THOMPSON, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, FBI

Mayor Wintersteen introduced Wiley Thompson, Director of the Anchorage Office of the FBI.

Mr. Thompson thanked the Council for allowing him to speak and for allowing Chief Liu to attend the FBI Training Academy, adding that his training will benefit the community.

Mr. Thompson spoke on the role of the FBI in Alaska and on crime in Alaska. Mr. Thompson stated that juvenile crime is increasing and the criminals are getting younger. Mr. Thompson spoke of the benefits of community oriented policing which allows the officers to become acquainted with the people in their community.

In response to a question regarding bootlegging, Mr. Thompson stated that the FBI has no direct authority in dealing with bootlegging, but he believed the FBI should bring leaders together to solve problems. Mr. Thompson stated it was possible that the FBI would become involved in investigating and identifying organizations transporting liquor for the purposes of bootlegging.

In response to a question on retaining police officers, Mr. Thompson advised the community to embrace the police department and offer support. Mr. Thompson added that the officers

needed to have a commitment to the community and be encouraged to stay within the community.

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wintersteen gave the following report:

- Met earlier with Mr. Thompson.
- Trying to attend Chamber of Commerce meetings regularly.
- Completed City Clerk's evaluation.
- Participated in the Involved Parents Preschool Christmas program as Mayor.
- Thanked those who work at the City, and encouraged support of Bethel merchants.
- Noted TWC's program for collecting presents for families in need.

Mayor Wintersteen then questioned the Council on holding the December 27, 1994, regular meeting, as two Council members would be out of town.

motion M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by McComas to cancel the December 27, 1994, regular Council meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding labor negotiations followed with the consensus that if the Council could not complete its review of the APEA's counteroffer during the Executive Session at the end of the current meeting, it would continue the Executive Session the following evening.

Mayor Wintersteen then spoke about Committee/Commission appointments and asked for interested community members to serve on the Youth Services Committee. Council Member Miller suggested allowing other people a chance to serve on committees/commissions rather than automatically reappointing existing members.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Hunter thanked all City employees for doing a fine job throughout the year.

City Manager Hunter then reviewed his written report with Council and requested direction on the following items:

1. K300 Donation Request

City Manager Hunter stated that the City had provided the services of the Animal Control Officer and traffic control the previous year.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Tubbs to continue to support the K-300 by providing the Animal Control Officer, traffic control and the use of the Log Cabin, if desired. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Request for RFP

City Manager Hunter explained that he had been advised by the Finance Director that the City does not have the in-house expertise to collect the outstanding bills for ambulance, protective custody and utility services, and that this request is for contracting with a collection service to collect these bills. Mr. Hunter pointed out that the revenues received would negate the cost of the collection service.

motion M/M by Miller to hire another employee to perform the collections function. Motion died for lack of a second.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Tubbs to authorize an RFP for collection services.

Council member Twitchell left the Council meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Discussion regarding hiring a new employee versus contracting out followed.

vote Voice vote on the motion. Motion failed, 3-Yes, 2-No (Harding, Miller).

Council referred this matter to the Finance Committee for its recommendation.

3. Request for Audit Report Work Session

City Manager Hunter proposed January 17, 1995, at 6:00 p.m. for the Audit Report Work Session. Council agreed by consensus to set the work session for that date and time at the City Offices Conference Room.

4. Request for Direction re:Building Codes

City Manager Hunter explained that City Administration needed direction on pursuing the development of building codes for the city, since the process is very time-consuming and other priority projects are needing attention.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Tubbs to direct the City Manager to continue research in establishing building codes for the City of Bethel. Voice vote.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council member Miller asked that City Administration be aware of time budgeting and Council's priorities.

Informational Items/Discussion/Questions on City Manager's Report:

City Manager Hunter stated that the surplus auction scheduled for December 10 had been postponed until the spring.

Mr. Hunter also pointed out his initial response to the DEC regarding the landfill violations and added that a more detailed response would be sent by the deadline. Council member Miller suggested closing the landfill to save money and bring the landfill into compliance.

Council member Miller stated that he would volunteer to cook for the seniors if necessary due to a staff shortage. Mr. Hunter thanked Mr. Miller and added that the City needed names of volunteers on an ongoing basis. Council member McComas said that he would like to see the high school give credit to students for working at the Senior Center. Mr. Hunter asked Mr. McComas to coordinate information on establishing such a program.

Council broke at 9:00 p.m. for a short recess. At 9:10 p.m., Mayor Wintersteen called the meeting back to order.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Scheduled dates for upcoming Committee/Commission meetings were announced.

Council member McComas stated that the Planning Commission had not met due to a lack of a quorum.

Council member Tubbs reported that the Finance Committee had no meeting scheduled for December.

Council member Harding reported that the Public Safety Committee met on December 2 and supported the application of the COPSFAST grant. Mr. Harding also stated that the committee had identified the need to investigate the feasibility and costs of installing a 911 system, based on the presentation given by GTE. Mr. Harding again relayed the committee's support for monitoring VHF Channel 16 and asked for Council's support. Mr. Harding added that the Committee hoped to refresh Council's memory on approving the installation of snow machine crossing signs and trail markings. Council directed the City Clerk to research the Council minutes to determine Council's action regarding crossing

signs.

Council member Harding reported that the Youth Services Committee did not meet due to a lack of a quorum.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

ITEM A: Review and Approval of Police Department Policies and Procedures Manual

Mayor Wintersteen explained that the Council had reviewed the manual at its work session and that the questions raised and revisions suggested had been addressed.

motion M/M Harding, 2nd by Miller to approve the Policies and Procedures Manual for the Police Department.

Council member McComas asked that a policy be established to provide every officer with a vest. City Manager Hunter added that this could be addressed as part of the department's safety policy.

Council member Miller asked that, in the future, the document be provided to the Public Safety Committee for its review and suggestions. Mayor Wintersteen asked that a copy of the approved manual be provided to the committee.

vote Poll vote on the motion. Motion carried, 5-yes, 0-no.

X. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A: Introduction of Ordinance #94-28: An Ordinance Establishing a Special Rate for Water and Sewer Services for the Lease of the Laundromat

Item removed from agenda

ITEM B: Resolution #94-42: A Resolution Requesting Municipal Assistance Through State Revenue Sharing and Municipal Assistance Programs for FY96

Approved under Consent Agenda

ITEM C: Resolution #94-43: A Resolution Opposing Unfunded Federal Mandates

Approved under Consent Agenda

ITEM D: Resolution #94-44: A Resolution Authorizing an Application for Funding Under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994

Approved under Consent Agenda

ITEM E: Gaming Permit Applications: K-300 Race Committee, Video World, Valley Women's Resource Center, Bethel Broadcasting, Inc., Alaska Wing Civil Air Patrol

Approved under Consent Agenda

ITEM F: Two Gaming Permit Applications--Lion's Club and UAF-Kuskokwim Campus

Mayor Wintersteen reviewed the memo from the City Clerk regarding UAF's sales tax status.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Miller, to table approval of the UAF-Kuskokwim Campus application until sales taxes are current and a business license has been purchased. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by Miller to approve the gaming permit application from the Lion's Club.

Council member McComas abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest, since he is president of the Lion's Club.

vote Poll vote, 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstain (McComas).

ITEM G: Review and Approval of Loan Agreement for Yuqtarvik Museum Artifacts

Council member Miller asked why the City was making a loan agreement and not an outright donation of the artifacts to AVCP. City Manager Hunter replied that the City was not authorized to give away the artifacts. Mr. Miller stated that the Council could authorize a donation and added that AVCP was a good place for the artifacts.

Mayor Wintersteen reminded Council that if the City gives up ownership, it cannot have a say in the disposal of any of the artifacts, and advised the Council to be cautious since the artifacts were going to a new facility under new ownership and control.

Council member Tubbs added the Council should err on the side of caution until the City can determine ownership of the artifacts.

Council member Miller stated that the City could circumvent the need for a lease and renewal if the artifacts were donated.

motion M/M by Miller to amend the Terms of the loan agreement to read "upon renewal, the City Council will make a determination on ownership of the artifacts." Motion died for lack of a second.

Council member McComas stated that he had read that three villages had dropped out of AVCP and this raised the question regarding AVCP's future in its current role and the fate of the artifacts.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to approve the loan agreement with AVCP for the Yuqtarvik Museum artifacts. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council member McComas thanked the Mayor for attending the Lion's Club Christmas program. Mr. McComas asked Council to direct the City Manager to investigate the 911 system as the current system does not provide a telephone number and address of the caller and must be traced through the telephone company. Mr. McComas stated that a surcharge could be added to the residents' phone lines to support the system and distributed information on the system and recent legislation allowing municipalities to collect the surcharge.

Council member Tubbs stated that he supported a 911 system. Mr. Tubbs reminded everyone that the tradition in the holiday season is to share and he admonished people to share with those less fortunate. Mr. Tubbs also wished Council Happy Holidays.

Council member Miller stated he would like an empty Receiving Home for Christmas and asked everyone to take care of their children.

Mayor Wintersteen stated that he had received a call from a citizen who was upset that the road crew was not out and the streets were impassable. Mayor Wintersteen said that an hour later the same person called again to cancel the complaint since the crew was out in the storm plowing the roads. Mayor Wintersteen also commented on the sewer leak in City Sub and added that the City was in the process of cleaning up the area. Mayor Wintersteen wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas.

Council member Harding wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked the Public Works Department for clearing the roads. Mr. Harding also thanked the private citizens for

plowing roads as necessary.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ITEM A: Labor Matters--APEA Contract Negotiations

motion M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by Miller to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing APEA contract negotiations. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

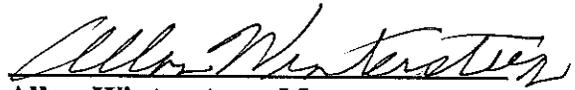
motion M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by Harding to come out of Executive Session. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wintersteen set a special meeting for December 14, 1994, from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the City Offices Conference Room for the purpose of continuing the discussion of the APEA contract negotiations in Executive Session.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1995.


Allan Wintersteen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Connie Tucker, City Clerk