
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

October 3, 2005

Special Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on October 3, 2005, at 6:30p, in the City Manager's Office, City Hall, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Dymont called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Hugh Dymont	Andrew McGowan
R. Thor Williams	David E. Trantham
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers	Dan Leinberger
Yolonda Jorgensen (arrived meeting at 6:37p)	

Also in attendance were the following:

Wally Baird, City Manager
Carolina Russell, Acting scribe

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

None

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA AND REGULAR AGENDA

MOVED:	Rodgers	To approve the Consent and Regular Agenda for the October 3, 2005 Special Meeting.
SECONDED:	Williams	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Passed	Council concurrence

NEW BUSINESS

Item A- Court House Expansion Project

MOVED:	Williams	Moved to suspend the rules 6:34 p.m. to allow public testimony.
SECONDED:	Rodgers	
VOTE ON MOTION	Passed	Council concurrence.

1. Edward Lackey addressed council to discuss Sales Tax in two different ways. He has been in business for approximately 10 years, and collects revenue for the City of Bethel. He proposes reconsidering the 1% that businesses can take off for collecting sales tax for the City. Mr. Lackey also questioned how much chlorine is too much in our water and he would like to find out. Mr. Lackey also discussed the smell from the lift station across the street from Ed's Automotive and suggested a deodorizing chemical to be used which could improve the situation.

Council informed Mr. Lackey that the Lift Station will be moving.

- Mr. Lackey spoke in opposition of the Alcohol Delivery Site and questioned whether or not it is the normal thing for most cities to have a City Manager and/or a Mayor, but not both.

Council informed Mr. Lackey that all cities have both a Mayor and a City Manager except for smaller communities and in each location they have different duties.

Council Member Williams requested an update from Administration on the Court House Expansion Project regarding what the process is; where the City is on that proposal, on getting the money in and on the design on the building. Council Member Williams stated his concerns are that the interest rate may be increasing.

City Manager Baird informed Council that 65% level on the plans have been reviewed. Once the plan is to 100% or 95 % Administration will be able to know how much to get, but until that point Administration would not know how much to get. City Manager Baird stated that we are really close and the architect should have that pretty well complete and ready for us to go to bid.

Item B- Formation of Alternative Energy Committee

Mayor Dymont points out Code 2.52.020. The creation of *any* committee demands an ordinance, even an ad hoc committee. He would like the committee to be just advisory and have it running sooner than that. If the administration creates an advisory committee, they could advise both the administration and the council. The city manager advises that certain requirements would need to be followed regardless of who assigns the committee, such as posting requirements.

MOVED:	Rodgers	Moved that the City Manager pursues this with outmost taste in forming an Alternative Energy Committee, with 7 or 9 members, whichever is necessary.
SECONDED:	Jorgensen	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION		
	Passed	Council Concurrence.

Councilmember Williams argues that the motion to direct the city manager to pursue the formation of an Alternative Energy Committee is out of order; the council shouldn't be making motions and directing to create this advisory type of committee because that would be to fall back into the ordinance that the council is trying to avoid. It has to be directed by the city manager, it has to be created with his own ideas and the council should not take any point with it because someone could later accuse the council of superseding BMC by directing the city manager to do it.

MOVED:	Williams	Moved to vote against previously passed motion- directing administration to create the ad hoc advisory committee for the administration.
SECONDED:	Rodgers	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Passed	Council concurrence.

Item C-2005 End of Year Audit Update

Council Member Williams regarding 4.04.090 of the BMC. He requests recommendations from Administration regarding better timeframes in BMC for timely analysis. Concerns about dragging audit onto December. The city manager responds that the auditors arrived to the City of Bethel today Oct 3rd. This was the earliest possible to get people here to do it regardless of what the City had prepared or not prepared. Getting people who are qualified may be a recurrent difficulty in the future for various reason, but by being fully staffed the City might be able to send off information even before the auditors come here. A Finance Director candidate will be interviewed tomorrow and City Attorney has accepted the job offer.

Council member Leinberger questions: Is 90 days workable? And would a change of calendar year ease the problem? City manager responds a change of calendar year would likely compound it. Also, Mr. Baird would like to hear the opinion of the next Fin. Dir. (if candidate interviewed tomorrow is hired) could provide a more accurate answer on this issue based on his experience.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Council concurred to appoint Sharon Lindley to the Planning Committee.

MOVED:	Williams	To appoint Sharon Lindley to the Planning Committee.
SECONDED:	Leinberger	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Passed	Council concurred

Council discussed whether or not to appoint Willy Keppel to the Planning Commission and the mayor's rights (or power) to appoint or not appoint an applicant, what the BMC says about this and what he as mayor looks for in an applicant.

Council concurred to appoint Minnie Sallison- Fritz to the Cemetery Planning Committee

MOVED:	Leinberger	To appoint Minnie Sallison Fritz to the Cemetery Planning Committee
SECONDED:	Williams	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	Passed	Council Concurred

- Letter from Cheri L. Alstrom, a Bethel teenager regarding the drinking problem in the community.

- Letter from Governor Murkowski regarding the Denali access System Program Advisory Committee (DASPAC)
- State Division of Oil & Gas Public Hearings

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Highlights of activities since 8/23 update
- AML Trip Report
- Village Safe Water Plan
- Preston Gates & Ellis rate increase
- Management Team Reports

MOVED:	Williams	That in the first meeting of January the council looks at going out to an RFP for contracted legal services.
SECONDED:	Rodgers	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION		
	Passed unanimously	Council concurred

CLERK'S REPORT

MOVED:	Williams	To approve the City Clerk's travel request.
SECONDED:	McGowan	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION		
	Passed unanimously	Council concurred

- Elections
- BMC Codification

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: For the next council meeting Mr. Trantham would like to put in the agenda the following, more meetings during November & December. Maybe two regular meetings would lead to less special meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED:	McGowan	To adjourn at 9.02 pm
SECONDED:	Leinberger	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION		
	Passed	6-1 (No: Rodgers)

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:02p

APPROVED THIS 29th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2005.

ATTEST:


 Carolina Russell, Acting City Clerk


 Hugh Dymont, Mayor