

CITY OF BETHEL  
CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting of January 25, 1994

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Chris in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chris, Jones, Metcalfe, Trantham, Tubbs,  
Wintersteen  
Absent: Miller

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by Jones to approve the minutes of the January 11, 1994, regular meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Tubbs to approve the minutes of the January 13, 1994, Special Council meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Tubbs to approve the minutes of the January 18, 1994, Special Council meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/REGULAR AGENDA

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

motion M/M by Trantham, 2nd by Tubbs to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Chris read a proclamation into the record pronouncing January 23-30, 1994, as Kuskokwim-300 Sled Dog Race Week.

motion M/M by Wintersteen, 2nd by Jones in support of the Proclamation making the week of January 23, 1994, K-300 week. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT

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

1. Request to Attend Winter Cities Forum

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Trantham authorizing City Manager Hunter to attend the Winter Cities Forum in Anchorage, March 5-10, 1994, at an estimated cost of \$1,000. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Council requested a written report on the Winter Cities Forum from the City Manager upon his return, and Mayor Chris asked that the report be given to the City of Bethel Economic Council and to the Bethel Chamber of Commerce.

2. Request for Donation to the Camai Festival

It was noted that the request from the Bethel Council on the Arts for donation to the Camai Festival mentioned "in-kind" support as well as cash donation. Council asked the City Manager to ascertain what "in-kind" support and past support the City has provided to the Camai Festival and submit a report on what was learned.

3. Request for Direction on Sewer Lagoon Project

City Manager Hunter reported that Jordan Suhr was unable to attend the meeting and provide an oral report. City Manager Hunter referred Council to the status report dated January 24, 1994, submitted by Mr. Suhr (a copy of Mr. Suhr's report/recommendation is attached as part of these official minutes). Discussion regarding Mr. Suhr's recommendation followed. Council concurred with City Manager Hunter's recommendation that the City proceed at the present level of expense and complete the project by March 1, 1994. In addition, Council requested the City Manager request Mr. Suhr make a site visit to the lagoon and obtain a report which contains an estimate of the amount of dirt that has been moved and remains to be excavated from the lagoon site.

4. Request for Direction on Proposed Deferred Compensation Plan

City Manager gave a brief explanation of circumstances surrounding an offer to City employees by Cal Calvin representing CALCO to participate in the American Life

and Casualty Deferred Compensation Program. Mr. Hunter stated that as a result of Mr. Calvin's presentation, 10 employees enrolled in the plan. Mr. Hunter also pointed out that City Administration could not find any records indicating that the program had been approved by the City Council. Brief discussion followed. Finance Director Elam recommended that all benefit plans be researched by City Administration and approved by the City Council in advance of the plans being offered to employees.

**motion** M/M by Metcalfe, 2nd by Wintersteen to disapprove the plan until information is provided by City Administration regarding the plan and a formal request is made to the City to add a new benefit program. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Request for Support of SB #167 and HB #143

City Manager Hunter explained that SB #167 and HB #143 support amendment of the statute on marine fuel taxes (AS 43.40) so that marine fuel taxes collected in any municipality which the State has required to take over responsibility for harbor and dock expenses, be refunded to the municipality.

**motion** M/M by Metcalfe, 2nd by Jones to approve City Administration's request for support of SB #167 and HB #143. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Port Director Greydanus will present a resolution supporting these two bills at the February 8, 1994, Council meeting.

*Informational Items from the City Manager's Report and Questions to the City Manager.*

City Manager Hunter gave a brief report on the status of the Public Works Director candidates and the interview schedules.

Regarding Jordan Suhr's report on the water system pressure/Bethel Heights water distribution system, Councilmember Trantham concurred with Mr. Suhr's analysis of the situation, and stated that he hoped the City would budget for completion of the project at the six-month budget revision. Mr. Trantham recommended that City Administration obtain an estimate of what the cost would be to complete the final 10% of the project.

VII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

*Scheduled dates for upcoming meetings were announced.*

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Councilmember Jones reported that the Finance Committee met January 20, 1994, and referred Council to the minutes of that meeting. Recommendations from the Finance Committee included: 1) that the operation of the laundromat be reorganized--a) reschedule of personnel; b) inventory control; c) tokens for machines; d) one person on duty at all times; d) laundromat manager report to the Finance Director. The recommendation also included that the City Manager bring a proposal to City Council at the mid-year budget review; 2) that all fish tax revenues be directed to the general fund; 3) that a grant writer be engaged for research and filing of grant applications for water and sewer projects.

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Tubbs that City Administration prepare a Request for Proposal for companies and/or an individual for a grant writer as a contract employee to research and file grants.

Motion was withdrawn.

Following some discussion regarding a grant writer position, Mr. Jones requested that the matter be placed on the February 8, 1994, agenda for discussion.

Councilmember Wintersteen reported that the Port Commission met on January 17, 1994, and discussed the proposed Port Development Report. A joint meeting of the Planning Committee/Port Commission and Public Works Committee scheduled for January 19, 1994, to review the Port Development Plan was canceled as Bartz Englishhoe was unable to attend the meeting. The Commission held election of officers--Chairman, Norm Silta; Vice Chairman, Buster Richardson; Secretary, Bill Bergen.

Councilmember Tubbs reported that the Public Safety Committee met January 5, 1994, and discussed the 1) ASB's recommendation for school crossing guards; 2) FY 94 budget; 3) Police Department rank structure; 4) snow machine crossings.

VIII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

There were no people to speak on items not on the agenda.

Council broke at 8:25 PM for a short recess. At 8:35 PM, Mayor Chris called the meeting back to order.

Following the break, Mayor Chris again opened the meeting to People to be Heard for items not on the agenda. At that time there were no people to address items not on the agenda.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

ITEM A: Public Hearing: Ordinance #94-01--A Temporary Ordinance Amending Title 2, Chapter 2.04.030 Entitled Order of Business by Placing People to be Heard after Roll Call

Mayor Chris explained that the purpose of this ordinance was an effort to follow on a trial basis the Council Rules of Procedure that placed the People to be Heard portion of the order of City Council business after Roll Call. Because the order of business is set by ordinance, to change the order required an amendment to the ordinance. The enactment of a temporary ordinance would provide for a 90 day trial period. Mayor Chris opened the public hearing.

Tom Warner asked the reason for placing People to Be Heard after Roll Call instead of after approval of the agenda. It was explained that because a number of items are now approved under the Consent Agenda as a means of expediting the meeting process, if people were allowed to speak before the Consent Agenda was approved, it gave the public an opportunity to address items that are placed on that agenda.

There being no further comments from the public, Mayor Chris closed the public hearing. Brief discussion followed.

motion M/M by Wintersteen, 2nd by Metcalfe to adopt Temporary Ordinance #94-01 Amending Title 2, Chapter 2.04.030 Entitled Order of Business by Placing People to be Heard after Roll Call. Poll Vote. Motion carried. 4-yes (Chris, Metcalfe, Trantham, Wintersteen); 2-no (Jones, Tubbs)

ITEM B: Public Hearing: Ordinance #94-02--An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal/Lease of Property to the State of Alaska for a Bethel Children's Residential Facility

Mayor Chris gave a brief explanation of the ordinance before the Council and referred Council to handouts received prior to the Council meeting: 1) letters from Newton Chase and Melinda Eggers, dated January 25 and 24, 1994, respectively, regarding the proposed lease agreement for the Bethel Children's Residential Facility; 2) letter to Hal Jones from Oly and Cattie Olson; and 3) petition from residents opposed to the placement of the receiving home. (Copies of these documents are attached as part of these official minutes). Mayor Chris then opened the meeting to the public.

Speaking in support of Ordinance #94-02 and expressing the need for a receiving home in Bethel for abused and neglected children in the YK-Delta Region were: Gloria Simeon, Mary Anaruk, Clyde Ferguson, Evonne Howe, Josephine Angiak, Russ Huffman, Terrell Miller, Sue

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Hare, Bob Medinger, Pat Sampson, Gerri John, Howard Fuller, Bonnie Kowchee, Melinda Eggers and Susan Taylor.

Speaking in opposition to Ordinance #94-02, specifically, the fact that the facility would include a mental health facility which had not been mentioned and objecting to the use of City property was Tom Warner; John Abrant also opposed placing a mental health facility in a housing subdivision. Both Mr. Warner and Mr. Abrant noted that it was just recently brought to everyone's attention that the facility would also be used to treat emotionally disturbed children.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Chris closed the public hearing.

motion M/M by Metcalfe, 2nd by Wintersteen to approve Ordinance #94-02, authorizing the disposal/lease of property to the State of Alaska for a Bethel Children's Residential Facility.

A lengthy discussion among Council members ensued and included debate over the purpose of the facility as it was originally presented to the Planning Commission and the Council, and the need for a facility for abused and neglected children from the YK-Delta Region. An alternative site for the home was suggested. Melinda Eggers from the State of Alaska stated that the decision regarding an alternate site would need to be made at the State Commission level.

vote Poll Vote. Motion failed. 2-yes (Metcalfe, Wintersteen); 4-no (Chris, Jones, Trantham, Tubbs).

motion M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by Jones to continue meeting past 10:00 PM. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM C: Review Proposed Lease Agreement Between the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services and the City of Bethel

*Review of the proposed lease agreement was tabled as a result of the defeat of Ordinance #94-02.*

*Council broke at 10:30 PM for a short recess. At 10:45 PM, Mayor Chris called the meeting back to order.*

X. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A: Resolution #94-02: A Resolution Supporting a Public Telecommunications Facility Program Grant for KYUK Administered by the Department of Commerce  
*Approved by Consent*

ITEM B: Resolution #94-03: A Resolution Expressing Appreciation to the Korean Community for Its Contribution to the Eddie Hoffman Senior Center's Annual Christmas Dinner

*Approved by Consent*

ITEM C: Resolution #94-04: A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of the 1994 Series A Bond Anticipation Note in the Aggregate Principal Amount of \$1,000,000, Approving a Note Purchase Agreement, and Related Matters

*Approved by Consent*

ITEM D: Introduction of Ordinance #94-03: An Ordinance of the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, Amending Title 2 of the Bethel Municipal Code by Adding a New Chapter 2.40 to the Existing Title 2, Entitled Access to Public Records

*Approved by Consent*

ITEM E: Adoption of the Bethel City Council Rules of Procedure

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Tubbs to approve the Bethel City Council Rules of Procedure. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Chris stated that a simplified version of the document would be prepared and made available to the public at all Council meetings.

ITEM F: Public Works City Shop Use Policy

Kevin Miller, V&E Foreman, presented the "After Hours Facility Use Proposal" and explained that currently there was no policy in place that provided guidelines on use of City facilities for employees. Proposals from Administration, Public Works and the Senior Center were reviewed.

motion M/M by Jones, 2nd by Tubbs to approve the Public Works Shop Use Policy as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

#### XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Trantham noted that council members had been putting in extra time and extra duty on many issues and hoped that the Council would continue to work together to address and solve the many difficult issues that are before them.

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Councilmembers Jones, Tubbs and Wintersteen expressed concern about the new disco in town (Bogey's Place) and the health problems associated with the fact that the establishment does not have flush toilets and running water.

Councilmember Metcalfe stated that he was disappointed in the direction the Council was taking since the Council began its term with a commitment to community development and listening to the desires and concerns of the public. He pointed out that there had been wide public support for the receiving home facility, and despite the Planning Commission's recommendation, the Council went against both the support expressed by the public and the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

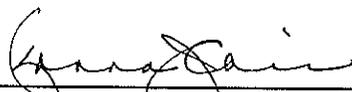
With regard to Councilmember Metcalfe's comments, Mayor Chris responded that she had received information only three weeks ago that the home would include a facility to treat emotionally-disturbed children and felt that the decision made was based on what she had just learned and the letter submitted by Melinda Eggers which addressed the proposed lease.

Mayor Chris also stated that she had received numerous calls about the problems and dangers associated with young children operating snow machines in town, and asked City Administration to look into resolving the problem.

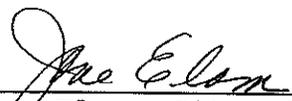
XII. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Metcalfe, 2nd by Wintersteen to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1994.

  
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Donna J. Chris, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Jane Elam, City Clerk