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# City of Bethel, Alaska

## City Council Minutes

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July 23, 2002

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

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### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on July 23, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Vice Mayor Notti called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

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

Jerry Drake  
Dario Notti  
Carl Berger  
Hugh Short, Jr.

Excused absence(s): Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers  
Sue Trantham  
Gary Vanasse

Unexcused absence(s): none

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager  
Janette Persinger, City Clerk

### PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

**Wendy Cooley** voiced her concerns over the sales tax on homes that are purchased in Bethel. She added that the tax is very difficult to pay and creates a hardship for those trying to purchase new homes in Bethel. Ms. Cooley suggested that rather than adding a new tax, to enforce the existing taxes.

**Daniel Cooley** also voiced his concerns regarding the sales tax on homes. He reiterated that the tax creates a hardship on those purchasing homes in Bethel. Mr. Cooley believes that the tax is contrary to mission of Alaska Housing Authority. He stated that he understands the City's need for additional revenue but believes that adding the tax is the wrong way to go about it. He further added that if the tax does go into place that the revenue collected from the tax should be dedicated toward streets and roads. City Manager Herron stated that tax dedication is forbidden.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Drake	To approve the minutes of the July 9, 2002 regular meeting
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Berger	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

<b>Moved By:</b>	Berger	To approve the regular agenda and consent agenda as amended
<b>Seconded By:</b>	Drake	
<i>Under new business item C – Discussion of pending litigation against the City of Bethel</i>		
<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.	

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

The Mayor’s Report included the following:

- Calendar of council meeting dates
- Alaska Municipal League draft agenda for the July 25 & 26, 2002 meetings in Bethel
- Public announcement of vacancies on the Port Commission, Parks & Recreation Committee, and Public Safety & Transportation Commission
- Newsletter from Governor Knowles office – Jobs & Economy Update
- Letter from State of Alaska re: payment of grant monies towards Bethel water and sewer improvements
- Award letter from Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development stating that the City of Bethel has been designated to receive \$7,100.00 in funding
- Letter from Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development re: Notice of Entitlement
- Governor’s Talking Points for the week of July 15, 2002

Mayor’s appointment – John Dickens to the Public Safety & Transportation Commission  
 Mayor’s appointment – Tiffany Longan to the Parks and Recreation Committee

**MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT: JOHN DICKENS TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

<b>Moved By:</b>	Short	To appoint John Dickens to the Public Safety & Transportation Commission
<b>Seconded By:</b>	Berger	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT: TIFFANY LONGAN TO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

<b>Moved By:</b>	Berger	To appoint Tiffany Longan to the Parks & Recreation Committee
<b>Seconded By:</b>	Short	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**MANAGEMENT TEAM’S REPORT**

City Manager Herron noted the management reports included in Council packets.

City Manager Herron pointed out that due to aggressive collection procedures of the finance department – the City has seen a sharp increase in the amount of taxes collected.

City Manager Herron reported that on July 18, 2002, he and Council Member Drake had the opportunity to tour three contrasting Boys & Girls Clubs in Anchorage. City Manager Herron’s recommendation is to wait until Council Members Notti and Trantham have a chance to report on their tours before providing all of the information to Council. Currently, it is City Manager Herron’s suggestion to move forward in a joint effort to establish Boys & Girls Club in Bethel.

City Manager Herron provided for council information regarding force accounting. City Manager Herron gave a brief synopsis of the material.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Senior Advisory Board**

Council Member Berger reported that the senior advisory board had not met.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee**

*Council Member Trantham was not present.*

### **Planning Commission**

Council Member Notti stated that the Planning Commission met on Thursday, July 11, 2002. Council Member Notti highlighted the meeting.

### **Port Commission**

*Mayor Rodgers was not present.*

### **Public Works Committee**

*Council Member Vanasse was not present.*

### **Public Safety and Transportation Commission**

Council Member Drake reported that the Public Safety & Transportation Commission had not met.

### **Finance Committee**

Council Member Short reported that the Finance Committee had not met.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Item A – Discussion Item – Childcare exemption**

City Manager highlighted a childcare exemption memo written by himself to council. In the memo, he stated that during the previous fiscal year, \$8,600 in taxes was received from childcare facilities. City Manager Herron stated that there were two options to take on this issue: (1) to provide zero exemptions for all childcare facilities, or (2) for the City to consider exempting all childcare facilities.

Council Member Drake stated that he was not ready to make a firm decision and would like the matter looked into further.

Council Member Short voiced his concerns over the lack of state certified daycare in Bethel and highlighted the current state requirements. Council Member Short voiced his desire for Administration to implement a monitoring program of childcare facilities in Bethel.

Council Member Berger voiced his concern as to why the exemption is needed. He asked if the tax is a hardship for childcare providers.

City Manager Herron stated that he would direct the Finance Director to ask the Finance Committee why they requested this exemption. City Manager Herron called for a copy of his memo to be forwarded to both the Finance Committee and Public Safety & Transportation Commission. Each body would then discuss the issue and report back to council.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item A – Introduction – Ordinance #02-25: An ordinance to amend section 4.16.040. C of the Bethel Municipal Code regarding sales tax exemption on single sale units**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Short	To move to introduce and set for public hearing ordinance #02-25
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Drake	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.
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**Item B – Introduction – Ordinance #02-26: Amending the adopted annual FY02-03 budget**

*Ordinance #02-26 was introduced and set for public hearing August 13 under the consent agenda.*

**Item C – Discussion Item – Pending litigation against the City of Bethel**

City Manager Herron stated that as of 5:00 p.m. today, the City of Bethel has not been officially served with a lawsuit.

It was decided that the discussion item would be discussed at the next council meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Council Member Berger** stated that he looked forward to discussion of the impending lawsuit and would have a few comments at that time. Council Member Berger commented on the positive things that have been happening in the community such as the Fourth of July celebration.

**Council Member Trantham** – was not present.

**Council Member Notti** reported that he had an opportunity to visit the Mountain View Boys & Club. The janitor at the facility provided his tour. Council Member Notti commented on the sales tax issue.

**Mayor Rodgers** – was not present.

**Council Member Drake** added to the report of the City Manager regarding the Boys & Girls Club. Council Member Drake stated the experience was positive and desired the further opportunity to explore the possibility of partnering with Boys & Girls Club.

**Council Member Vanasse** – was not present.

**Council Member Short** – no comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

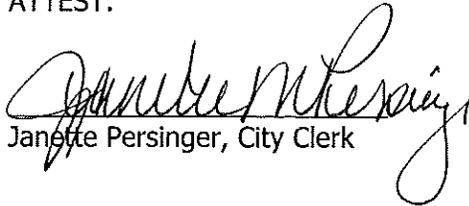
<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Drake	To adjourn the meeting.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Short	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

**APPROVED THIS 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2002.**

ATTEST:

  
Janette Persinger, City Clerk

  
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers, Mayor