

CITY COUNCIL

Antone Anvil
Dario Notti
Mike O'Brien
Agnes Phillips, Mayor
Stanley Rodgers
Karol Sanchez-Pobrislo
Thor Williams

CITY MANAGER

Ken Weaver

ACTING CITY CLERK

Laurie Walters

MINUTES

**City of Bethel, Regular Council
Meeting**

March 10, 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Anvil, Notti, O'Brien, Phillips, Rodgers, Sanchez-Pobrislo, Williams

Absent: none

Also Present: City Manager Weaver, Acting City Clerk Laurie Walters.

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Dave Trantham expressed his gratitude to City Clerk L.J. Warren for being a Clerk who worked for *everyone* in the City, and thanked her for doing such a wonderful job over the past two years. He then quoted some police activity statistics involving bootlegging and drugs. Mr. Trantham thanked all those who contributed time and money to the erection of the park equipment in Tundra Ridge. Mr. Trantham requested that the City Council consider donating an additional \$5,000 in sand for the Tundra Ridge park. Mr. Trantham petitioned the Council to give special consideration to the elders like Datu, and allow them to be first to receive their boat slips at the small boat harbor. On the same topic, Mr. Trantham suggested that the floats at the small boat harbor be put in a month early or in two weeks early and removed two weeks later. Mr. Trantham concluded his comments by commenting that position of City Manager is designed to help the City Council obtain their goals and objectives as collective body, and he warned the Council to make sure that the candidates are bondable.

Bob Medinger of LKSD, address the Council on the topic of alternative schools and the new venture needing to be a team effort. Mr. Medinger stated that he was not seeking any assistance from the City at this time, but in the future may approach the City regarding job work programs for the students attending the alternative school.

Bill Ferguson of LKSD voiced his concern and opposition to House Bill 36 which seeks to decrease school funding to LKSD in an amount of \$8 million over the next three years. Mr. Ferguson suggested the City's lobbyist be directed to work with LKSD's lobbyist to help short circuit the passing of the bill.

The City Council unanimously agreed to have a resolution in opposition to House Bill 36 for the next Council meeting.

motion M/M by O'Brien, 2nd by Rodgers to direct the City's lobbyist to work with LKSD's lobbyist on speaking out against House Bill 36.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Caroline Renner of the Bethel Tobacco Control Alliance and eight sixth-graders presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the City Manager and Mayor Phillips for implementing the no-smoking policy in City buildings. The Council members, one by one, thanked the kids for coming and applauded their efforts and a job well done.

Former City Clerk L.J. Warren took several minutes to present her good-byes to those on the Council and thanked the Council members, City staff, and all those in the community for their help and friendship for the past two years. Ms. Warren stated that her experience with the City and Bethel had been very pleasurable and memorable, and that she would miss everyone.

Port Director Stuart Greydanus extended his sincere appreciation to L.J. Warren for all her assistance to him, and stated that she would be missed. Mr. Greydanus then spoke to the Council about the small boat harbor dredging project.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Phillips noted a correction on page 1 of the February 24 minutes, the correct spelling of TWC's Director should be O'Mara. Council member Sanchez-Pobrislo noted that under Item C: Resolution #98-05, supporting PILT payments to cities in the unorganized borough (Phillips), that she voted no to the motion to amend the resolution.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by O'Brien, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 1998 regular City Council meeting, as amended, the minutes of February 25, 1998 special City Council meeting, and the minutes of March 4, 1998 special City Council meeting.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND REGULAR AGENDA

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

motion M/M by Notti, 2nd by Williams, to approve the agenda.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Phillips thanked former City Clerk L.J. Warren for all her hard work, and added that she would be missed.

The Mayor pointed out a letter from Mike Irwin, Commissioner of Department of Community and Regional Affairs, updating the progress of the Magnuson Stevens Act disaster funds, which included a copy of the Bristol Bay and Kuskokwim Fisheries Disaster Program overview.

The Mayor stated that she would be in training from March 29th to April 2nd.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Weaver pointed out that the department head reports were in the packet.

Council member Notti stated that he disagreed with the decision to move the curfew siren to Public Works where it would still be relatively close to residential housing. Council member Williams reminded the Council that they all voted to put the siren up, and not everyone is going to be pleased with where it is located. Discussion followed on where the best site would be for the curfew siren. Council member Sanchez-Pobrislo recommended that the siren be operational just during the summer months when it is most needed.

Council member O'Brien pointed out the trash lying around the dumpsters, and recommended it be cleaned up before spring.

motion M/M O'Brien, 2nd by Williams to have a community service worker ride along with the dump truck driver to help pick up trash around the dumpsters.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

BUC Purchase - City Manager Weaver announced that Bethel Utilities Corporation was still for sale and suggested the City Council seriously consider its purchase. Mr. Weaver added that an individual rate study would need to be conducted in order to clearly evaluate the potential of the buy.

Council member O'Brien stated he had hear reports that the original price had been reduced and suggested that now may be a real good time to revisit the issue.

House Bill 53-Prision Expansion – Mr. Weaver reported on the developments to HB 53, which started out with no expansion to Bethel's facility. Mr. Weaver stated that during the last conversation with Representative Ivan's office the question was posed whether or not the City would be amiable to soft beds, if hard beds were not an option. Mr. Weaver reported that he had accepted that offer, since it was better than no beds.

Legislative Citation - Mr. Weaver announced that although it had not yet arrived, a Legislative citation was forth coming for L.J. Warren, as a gesture of gratitude for all her hard work with the Bethel Bank Stabilization Project among other projects.

Smoking Policy – Mr. Weaver stated that although the City had recently implemented a blanket no-smoking policy in City buildings, the Council should consider passing the policy by ordinance with help from the City attorney.

Council member Sanchez-Pobrislo stated for the record that she was approached by a member of the community making accusations against an employee of the City who was using their position to make things difficult for this citizen making the accusations. Ms. Sanchez-Pobrislo stated that she hoped that the allegations were false, and asked the City Manager to remind City employees that they are representatives of the City. Mr. Weaver stated that the matter had been investigated, and that no improprieties were found to have occurred on City time.

Mayor Phillips presented Mr. Weaver with a Certificate of Appreciation for his performance as City Manager from August 1995 to March 1998.

Mayor Phillips recessed the meeting for a ten minute break at 8:33 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 8:44 p.m.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Planning - Council member Notti stated that the Commission had not met in a while, but that during the last meeting the Commission had discussed the development of a sub-division south of Blueberry Subdivision. Some discussion followed on streetlights in subdivisions and setting standards.

Youth Services - Council member Sanchez-Pobrislo reported that the meeting scheduled for tonight did not have a quorum.

Transportation - Council member Williams reported that the Commission did not meet due to lack of a quorum. Mr. Williams stated that the items currently being discussed by the Commission include chauffeur permits, snowmachines and snowmachine injuries.

Public Works - Council member O'Brien reported that the next meeting would be on March 17, 7:30 p.m. at the City Shop.

Port - Council member Rodgers reported that the next meeting was schedule for Monday, March 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Dock office.

Public Safety - Council member Anvil stated that he was unable to attend the last meeting. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for April 6.

Senior Advisory - Council member Anvil stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11. The annual Elder's conference will be held in April.

Mayor Phillips asked Public Safety Commissioner Bruce Day to address the Council regarding the topics of discussion at the last meeting. Mr. Day reported on the following items:

- Snowmachines & ATV's-requiring helmets
- Take-home vehicle policy-differing opinions, recommend it go to the Finance committee
- Code Enforcement Officer-need full-time dog catcher
- Increase in ambulance fee-in favor of, increases are in line with other towns
- Evan Ramsey case-Department of Law should cover expenses
- Community policing-good idea, need nominations
- Curfew ordinance-requested statistics from Police Department-told it's too time consuming

Mr. Day reported that Public Safety Commission was requested the City Council direct the Police Department to provide necessary statistics and information to the Public Safety Commission on curfew violations and the number of arrests referred to the prosecutor that are being prosecuted.

Finance Committee - Mayor Phillips reported that the next meeting was scheduled on Thursday, March 12.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

motion M/M Williams, 2nd by O'Brien to suspend the rules of procedure and discuss Old Business - Item C: Alcohol Beverage Delivery Site.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Phillips invited Public Safety Commissioner Shari Neth to address the Council.

Ms. Neth distributed a three page list of questions and procedures. Ms. Neth requested direction from the Council as to whether they would like the Commission to continue moving in the same direction. Ms. Neth and the Council members exchanged questions, answers, and recommendations on the implementation of the alcohol beverage delivery site. Ms. Neth reported that the next Alcohol Beverage Control Board meeting is scheduled for April 8, 1998.

motion M/M O'Brien, 2nd by Williams to advise the Public Safety Commission to continue to move in the direction they are already going in.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M Williams, 2nd by Notti to continue the meeting past 10:00 p.m.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Council returned to Old Business Item A at this time.

Item A: Public Hearing, Ordinance #98-03, Heavy Equipment Tax.

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing on the ordinance. Seeing and hearing no one to speak to the ordinance, Mayor Phillips closed the public hearing.

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Williams to amend Ordinance #98-03 by adding subsection (A)(4) to Section 4.17.070, per memo from City attorney Lee Sharp dated February 27, 1998.

vote Voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed. Council member Notti voiced his opposition to Section 4.17.030 A (5) of the proposed ordinance concerning presumption of ownership. Several Council members state their disagreement to the registration fee being due on January 1 of each calendar year. Council member O'Brien added his concern about the registration sticker being placed in a conspicuous spot, similar in placement, on all vehicles.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by O'Brien to amend Section 4.17.060 B to read that the sticker shall be place in a conspicuous spot, as close as possible to the left hand bottom corner of the windshield, or on ropes, the bottom left hand station.

vote Roll call vote, motion carried, 6-yes, 1-no (Notti).

motion M/M by O'Brien, 2nd by Williams to amend Section 4.17.0740(A) by replacing the language January 1st, with the language prior to the first its yearly use every calendar year.

vote Roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Phillips called for roll call on the question to adopt Ordinance #98-03 as amended.

vote Roll call vote, 6-yes, 1-no (Notti).

Mayor Phillips recessed the meeting for a 5 minute break at 10:22 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 10:29 p.m.

Item B: Discussion-Update-City Manager Recruitment

Mayor Phillips pointed out a memo in the packet from the City Clerk, informing the Council of the video interview schedule. Mayor Phillips reminded the Council members of the special meeting on Thursday, March 12. A brief discussion followed on what the procedure would be if Ms. Reich's tape did not arrive in time for the meeting. The Council requested that the Clerk check to see if the schedule for Ms. Reich's video interview was at the request of Ms. Reich or at the convenience of CQM, before the meeting on Thursday.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Discussion of Sales Tax Re-draft

Council member Williams pointed out that this item had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Item B: Update-Small Boat Harbor Dredging

Council member O'Brien stated that he had originally placed this item on the agenda because of a misunderstanding. Mr. O'Brien suggested that the City consider the removal of Mr. Faulkner's equipment from the small boat harbor be considered as payback for services rendered previously.

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Anvil – no comment.

Notti – Stated that former City Clerk L.J. Warren would be missed.

O'Brien – Apologized to Port Director Stuart Greydanus for the misunderstanding regarding the small boat harbor.

Phillips – Thanked City Manager Weaver and former City Clerk L.J. Warren for all their hard work. Encouraged the City Council to be involved in community activities and thanked them for their time commitment.

Rodgers - Thanked Mr. Trantham for his comments. Expressed his desire to have the Public Safety Commission have a little more bite to their recommendations.

Sanchez-Pobrislo – Congratulated the girls Warrior basketball team on going to State, and the cheerleading squad on their two awards.

Williams – Spoke about several government decisions that are going to be affecting the area. Expressed his continued concerns about dogs. Requested that mats be place in the entry way of the Log Cabin. Stated that he missed the City Manager to do list that the City Clerk had on her computer before it crashed.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by O'Brien, to go into Executive Session at 10:50 p.m., to discuss City Clerk Selection.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Sanchez-Pobrislo, to come out of Executive Session at 10:55 p.m.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Rodgers to offer the City Clerk position to Linda Mueller.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Williams, to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 p.m.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH, 1998



Agnes L. Phillips, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laurie J. Walters, Acting City Clerk