
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

February 10, 2003

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on February 10, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Vice-Mayor Berger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Andrei Jacobs	
David Trantham	Jerry Drake
Carl Berger	Joy Shantz
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers	

Excused absence(s): Hugh Short, Jr.

Unexcused absence(s): none

Also in attendance were the following:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Janette Persinger, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

A. Harold Jones: Council Member Behavior

- Voiced his objection in the way that Council Member Trantham was treated at the last meeting

B. Willy Keppel: Application for recall petition, Council Member Behavior

- Questioned the process of the application for recall petition
- Voiced his objection to the treatment of Council Member Trantham at the last meeting

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To suspend the rules under People To Be Heard to allow all persons a longer than three minute time limit
SECONDED BY:	Jacobs	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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C. Jim Valcarce: Clarification of agenda

- Inquired whether his client, Council Member Trantham was the subject of item B under new business

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the amended minutes of the 2-10-03 regular meeting
SECONDED BY:	Shantz	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the agenda as amended
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

To remove item E under the consent agenda and move to the regular agenda

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by voice vote (5 – 1 Berger).
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MAYOR’S REPORT

Items included in the Mayor’s report:

- Letter from Representative Mary Kapsner re: the legislative session and goals
- Invitation to the Mayor and AML Board of Directors from Alaska Municipal League to attend the upcoming Early Legislative Meeting
- Press release from Representative Carl Gatto re: proposed “No Child Left Behind” Act
- Press release from Representative Mike Chenault re: submittal of Gas Manufacturing Bill
- Letter from Department of Community and Economic Development re: FY 03 Shared Fisheries Business Tax payment
- Press release from Representative Bruce Weyhrauch re: House Bill 45 – passage of second verse for state song
- Press release from Alaska State Legislature re: Bills on the Move

MOVED BY:	Drake	To appoint Dick Andrew to the Senior Advisory Board And Andrew McGowan to the Public Works Committee
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MANAGEMENT TEAM’S REPORT

City Manager Herron’s report included the following:

- April 8, 2003, the FY 04 Budget will submitted to council
- Land appraisal completed on the Assisted Living Project
- Personnel matters
- Travel status
- Meetings with Lt. Governor Lehman

The City Clerk gave an overview of the Clerk’s Conference and responded to the questions raised by Mr. Keppel.

Robert Strahan, Finance Director introduced Karen Rodgers of Altman, Roger & Co. Ms. Rogers gave a presentation of the audit report and letter to management.

Discussion and questions from council ensued. Robert Strahan addressed some of the issues involved in the audit report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Advisory Board

Council Member Berger reported that the Senior Advisory Board had not met and asked for volunteers to serve on the Board.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Council Member Jacobs reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee had not met since the last council meeting. Council Member Jacobs stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee will be working with the Community Strategic Plan.

Planning Commission

Council Member Shantz stated that the Planning Commission will meet on February 13, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.

Port Commission

Council Member Rodgers reported that the Port Commission met in January and explained the three recommendations to council from the Port Commission.

Council concurred to direct Administration to follow up on all three recommendations.

Public Works Committee

Council Member Trantham announced that the Public Works Committee will meet on February 18, 2003 at 12:00 p.m.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission

Council Member Drake stated that the Public Safety and Transportation Commission will meet on February 18, 2003. Council Member Drake expanded on two proposed House Bills.

Finance Committee

Mayor Short was not present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A – Public Hearing – Second Substitute Ordinance #02-33: An ordinance authorizing the disposal of a 10.3 acre parcel within the surface estate of the southwest quarter of section 8, range 71 west, township 8 north, seaward meridian, to Yuut Elitnaurviat-People’s Learning Center, Inc.

Vice-Mayor Berger opened public hearing.

- A. Janelle Vanasse stated that Channel 7 news did a feature on the Yuut Elitnaurviat project. Ms. Vanasse further stated her support for the ordinance.
- B. Joan Hamilton voiced her support of the ordinance.
- C. City Manager Herron asked that any of the specific actions that are in question related to the conveyance process be addressed at this time. *There were no questions from council.*

Vice-Mayor Berger closed public hearing.

Item B – Public Hearing – Ordinance #03-01: FY 03 Mid year budget modifications

Vice-Mayor Berger opened public hearing. With no members of the public to speak to the ordinance, Vice-Mayor Berger closed the public hearing.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt ordinance #03-01
SECONDED BY:	Shantz	

Discussion moved to the council.

VOTE ON MOTION	A tie vote of 3 – 3 was achieved. (Vice-Mayor Berger, Council Member Drake, Council Member Shantz – yes, Council Member Trantham, Council Member Rodgers, Council Member Jacobs – no.)
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NEW BUSINESS

Item A – Presentation of VISTA

Deputy City Manager Soberay introduced Kate Hammond and gave an overview of the VISTA program and Kate’s role within the Community Strategic Plan and City of Bethel.

Item B – Discussion item – Council member training and strategic planning

Council Member Drake gave an overview of a grant that is being by Alaska Municipal League. The grant will offer training for council members. The training will be offered free of charge. The only request would be for airfare to be paid for by the City of Bethel for the trainer that will be coming to Bethel.

Discussion ensued. It was recommended that all of the surrounding villages be included in the training.

Council concurrence was to direct administration to work with Council Member Drake and Alaska Municipal League to facilitate bringing the training to Bethel.

Item C – Acceptance of funding from Village Safe Water

MOVED BY:	Drake	To accept both grants that are being offered by Village Safe Water
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
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Item D – Introduction – Ordinance #03-02: Repealing sections 17.24.228 through 17.24.280 of the Bethel Municipal Code pertaining to mandatory installation of piped water and sewer in subdivisions

Introduced under the consent agenda and set for public hearing on February 25, 2003.

Item E – Resolution #03-03: Supporting efforts to construct a new police department facility

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adopt resolution #03-03
SECONDED BY:	Shantz	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
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COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Berger announced that two representatives from the State DOT and from Washington DC will be attending the Public Safety and Transportation Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Their focus will be to explore a public transit system in Bethel. Council Member Berger corrected the statement that council members are paid for the job that they do and stated that council members do the job for the betterment of the citizens of Bethel.

Council Member Shantz cautioned drivers and pedestrians to be cautious during this early break up season.

Mayor Short was not in attendance.

Council Member Jacobs stated his respects for his fellow council members and stated his seriousness with his job as a council member. Council Member Jacobs further stated his support for Yuut Elitnaurviat.

Council Member Drake expanded on the comments that were made during People To Be Heard. Council Member Drake further stated his support for the actions of the City Clerk regarding the applications for recall petition.

Council Member Trantham thanked everyone who came to his aid in the previous weeks and voiced his concern about open sewage in the housing subdivision area.

Council Member Rodgers cautioned snowmachiners driving on the river and welcomed his niece to Bethel. Council Member Rodgers voiced his concern over thefts that are happening in the sleeping establishments in Bethel and asked that Chief Morris look into the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adjourn the meeting
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

APPROVED THIS 25th day of February 2003.

ATTEST:

Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

Janette Persinger, City Clerk