

CITY COUNCIL

Tad Miller
Dario Notti
Mike O'Brien
Agnes Phillips
Ruth Richardson, Mayor
Stanley Rodgers
Thor Williams



CITY MANAGER
Ken Weaver

CITY CLERK
L.J. Tanner

City of Bethel
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
February 28, 1997

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Richardson in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Miller, Notti, O'Brien, Phillips, Richardson, Rodgers, Williams
Absent: none

Also present: Acting City Manager George Young, City Clerk L.J. Tanner, 15 persons in audience.

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Dave Trantham addressed the Council with regards to the recent shootings at the highschool. He suggested that this tragedy presents an opportunity to the Council to focus on the problems that led up to the event. Mr. Trantham stated that any citizen can call the Alaska State Troopers at 1-800-478-2294 for information on setting up a Community Watch. There is also a rewards program for drug trafficking and bootlegging tips. Mr. Trantham encouraged citizens to call the Troopers with any tips they may have.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by Phillips, 2nd by Williams to approve the minutes of the February 11, 1997, regular meeting as presented.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by O'Brien to table Old Business Item A, Resolution #97-09, a Resolution commending the Public Works Director for his handling of recent sewage spills, until the March 11 regular Council meeting; and to add New Business Item B - Resolution #97-10, a Resolution regarding the tragedy at the Bethel Regional High School.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Council member O'Brien asked to add New Business Items C and D, Discussion of Community Watches and Discussion of Mandatory bootlegging sentences, respectively.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to approve the agenda as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Richardson reported that she had been out of town for the past week. However, she had heard the news reports of the shooting at the highschool, and had no doubts that the community would pull together in this time of tragedy to support one another. She expressed her condolences for the families of Ron

Edwards and Joshua Palocios, and her appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy that had arrived from other communities in Alaska and the lower 48. Mayor Richardson also noted the recent passing of Mr. Jimmy Aloysius, a long-time Bethel resident and YKHC employee. Mr. Aloysius will be missed by many people.

Next, Mayor Richardson presented certificates of appreciation to the Police, Fire, and Emergency Response personnel who responded to the shooting incident. She noted that it was but a small expression of the community's gratitude for their services.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Young stated that he had nothing further to add to the written reports in the Council packet. Council members posed the following questions:

- **Dust Control:** Council member Miller asked Mr. Young to convey to City Manager Weaver the importance of having a dust control plan in place before the spring thaw.
- **Sewer Line Break:** Council member Williams noted that with the recent warm weather, the ground is getting soft. He wondered if additional clean-up might be required at the site of the spill. Public Works Director Harry Parsi stated that the ground near the spill had been adequately scraped since the spill and no further clean-up is required at this time.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES and COMMISSIONS

Finance Committee: Council Member Phillips reported that the Finance Committee meeting was canceled.

Planning Commission: Council Member Notti stated that the Commission held their regular meeting, and discussed the lease of land to the K300. The attorney is reviewing the matter. Council member Miller inquired about the land available for a park near AVCP housing, and about a possible land donation for Bethel Search and Rescue.

Port Commission: Council Member Rodgers reported that the Commission discussed issuance of small boat harbor slips at their last meeting. Unfortunately, public turnout was low. The Commission decided to keep the system the same, first come-first serve.

Public Works Committee: Council Member O'Brien stated that the Committee held their regular meeting on February 18, and discussed the upcoming budget sessions. Mayor Richardson asked Mr. O'Brien to put the dust control issue on their next agenda.

Public Safety Commission: Mayor Richardson reported that the Public Safety Commission meeting had been canceled.

Transportation Commission: Council Member Williams stated that the Commission had not met since the last Council meeting, so there was nothing new to report.

Youth Services Committee: Council Member Miller reported that the Committee held their regular meeting, and discussed staffing needs, the upcoming budget session, and the need for parents to help provide a safe environment for the youth. They also discussed the pilings project.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - there was no old business to be discussed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Discussion - Beautification Projects

This agenda item was held over from the first October 1996 meeting of the current Council, when it was suggested by Shari Neth that the Council plan some type of City beautification plan. Mayor Richardson stated that it is an excellent idea, especially as the City celebrates its 40th "municipal" birthday this year. Council member Miller invited the community to come forward with ideas for cost effective beautification projects to the City Manager. He suggested that local businesses might donate necessary equipment, and the City currently provides free seed for people to seed their sandpads.

Item B: Resolution #97-10 - Regarding the tragedy at the Bethel Regional High School

Council member Miller read the Resolution.

motion M/M by O'Brien, 2nd by Rodgers to adopt Resolution #97-10.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item C: Discussion - Community Watch

Council member O'Brien, who added the agenda item, explained that he would like the City to help give citizens the opportunity to form a community watch program. Council member Miller suggested that the matter be referred to the Public Safety Commission for discussion at their next meeting. Council agreed.

Item D: Discussion - Court System Bootlegging Sentence Recommendation

Council member O'Brien, who added the agenda item, explained that for each bootlegging trial, the City can make a recommendation to the court. Council member Williams added that the City can make a recommendation to the accused offender's probation officer. The probation officer writes a pre-sentence report which goes to the judge. Council member Notti stated that from his personal experience, treatment for drug and alcohol addiction is more effective than jail time. Council member Miller agreed with Mr. Notti. Council member Rodgers suggested that Resolution #96-47, which was adopted by the Council on November 26, 1996, could be sent to the probation officer and court system each time an accused bootlegger goes to trial.

motion M/M by O'Brien, 2nd by Williams to send the probation officer and court system a copy of Resolution #96-47, for each trial of an accused bootlegger.

motion S/M by Notti, 2nd by Miller, to amend Resolution #96-47 by adding "and treatment" to the recommended sentence.

withdrawn Motion withdrawn. Mayor Richardson stated that the City Clerk believed that "and treatment" had already been added to Resolution #96-47.

vote on M/M Voice vote. Motion carried, 5-Yes, 2-No (Miller, Notti)

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Miller - The recent tragedy offers everyone an opportunity for self-assessment and getting to know themselves better.

Notti - Thanked Sue Hare, who had been one of his foster parents. It's been a rough week.

O'Brien - Stated that he certainly appreciates the people in Bethel.

Phillips - Offered condolences to the families affected by recent deaths, and thanks to everyone who helped. Wished Sue Hare a speedy recovery and thanked her for reaching out to those in need.

Richardson - Stated that the last week has been an emotional roller-coaster for everyone. Reminded the Council of the memorial for Joshua Palacios on Friday at 3:00, at the highschool. Donations of food can be taken to the music room. Joshua's funeral will be held at 12:00 on Wednesday, February 26.

Rodgers - no comments.

Williams - Stated that it was good to be home after his recent traveling. Thanked the Police Department for their help at the highschool. Asked that minutes from the Transportation Commission be in the Council packets in a more timely manner. Supports the proposed tobacco tax.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Before a motion to go into Executive Session was made, Mayor Richardson stated that she has a conflict of interest in the Crow vs. City of Bethel case, because it has to do with BNC's involvement in the tidelands issue.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to adjourn the regular meeting, take a 5-minute break, and then reconvene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Crow vs. City of Bethel tidelands issue, at 7:45 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. *Mayor Richardson left the Council chambers at this time.*

motion M/M by Notti, 2nd by Rodgers to come out of Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

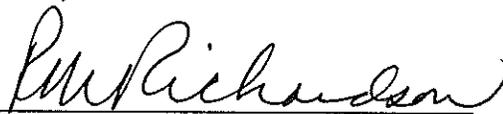
vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

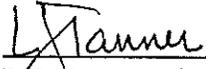
motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by O'Brien to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11TH DAY OF MARCH, 1997.


Ruth M. Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


L.J. Tanner, City Clerk