
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

May 14, 2002

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on May 14, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Acting Mayor Drake called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Carl Berger	Jerry Drake— <i>Acting Mayor</i>
Hugh Short, Jr.	Gary Vanasse

Also in attendance were the following:

Robert Herron, City Manager
Colleen Soberay, Acting City Clerk

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Proclamation congratulating the JROTC Drill Team for their successes at the Nationals Competition in Florida, May 3, 2002

Postponed to the May 28, 2002 council meeting.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

There was no one to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Berger	To approve the minutes of the April 9, 2002 regular meeting and April 27 and May 7, 2002 special meetings
SECONDED BY:	Vanasse	

**Corrections noted by city clerk.*

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

MOVED BY:	Vanasse	To approve the regular agenda and consent agenda after adding new business item C: bank services sales tax exemption
SECONDED BY:	Berger	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's Report included the following:

- Letter from Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer — *Re:* Proposed budget cuts affecting Alaska's children; encouraging people to contact legislators to voice concerns
- Letter from ERA Aviation — *Re:* Fare increases
- Letter from Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation — *Re:* Update on funding for the Retail Food and Sanitation Program in the State's FY03 operating budget and thanking the City Council for passing Resolution #02-09
- Newsletter from Representative Kapsner
- News Release from Senator Lyman Hoffman
- AML Fax Alert — *Re:* End of Session Status of Key Municipal Issues
- AML Fax Alert — *Re:* House Bill 20—Municipal Dividend
- Senate Majority News Release — *Re:* Minority Chooses Political Clout Over Education Funding
- Governor's Talking Points for the week of May 2 and 6, 2002
- *Bills on the Move*

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

MOVED BY:	Vanasse	To appoint Rodger Blakesley to the Parks and Recreation Committee
SECONDED BY:	Berger	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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MOVED BY:	Short	To suspend the rules and re-open <i>People to Be Heard</i>
SECONDED BY:	Berger	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Paul Gregory, Bethel resident, spoke to Council about the curfew law in that he is concerned that if it is not enforced hoodlum behavior will continue. Mr. Gregory said it is especially important to enforce the curfew during the summer. He continued that criminal mischief is getting worse and something needs to be done. Mr. Gregory provided anecdotes to support his concerns about gang violence. Mr. Gregory highlighted that some elders will be victims of gang violence. He reiterated the curfew law should be enforced. Mr. Gregory also spoke to Council regarding boat safety. He explained boats travel at fast speeds on the slough. He asked that Council direct that something be done about the dangerous boating on the slough.

Council member Berger asked the city manager to speak to the police chief in regard to monitoring this situation. Council member Berger asked that the police chief give a report at the next Council meeting. Council concurred.

MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT

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

- Legislature—City lobbyist reported the Senate has not met since 2:30 this morning; the House is moving along with issues before them. City lobbyist would provide an up-date on the legislative situation
- Reviewed status of appropriations for Bethel
- Explained Ptarmigan Road has been placed in a Government Obligation Bond, which would go to the vote of the people of Alaska
- Yuut Elitnaurviat/People's Learning Center is a number one priority for our region's delegation, who is working to keep it in the budget
- New in the state budget is \$143,000 for dust control in Bethel

Acting City clerk Soberay explained a request for a donation by the Involved Parents Preschool. *Written request by Involved Parents Preschool provided to Council.*

MOVED BY:	Short	To donate \$100 to the Involved Parents Preschool's Trash-a-thon project
SECONDED BY:	Vanasse	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Senior Advisory Board

Council member Berger said the Board is scheduled to meet May 24. He said he was asked to announce that Senior Center budget cuts would require the senior center to lose federal matching dollars.

Council member Short clarified that the requested cut of \$11,600 would be taken from the general fund contribution, which would not affect federal funding for the Senior Center. Discussion briefly ensued.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Council member Trantham was not present.

Planning Commission

Council member Notti was not present.

Port Commission

Mayor Rodgers was not present.

Public Works Committee

Council member Vanasse said the committee met May 6 for a special meeting to discuss the FY03 Public Works Department budget. He said budget recommendations would be forwarded to Council. Council member Vanasse said the committee also discussed recommendations in regard to the solid waste/lagoon feasibility study. He reviewed the committee minutes to highlight the recommendations.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission

Council member Drake said the Commission met to discuss the Police Department budget, which they supported as presented by the city manager. He said the commission also discussed the enforcement

of the taxicab headlights ordinance. Council member Drake said the commission requested the taxicab headlights law be enforced.

Finance Committee

Council member Short said the committee met for a special meeting May 6 to review the Public Works Department budget. He said there was a lot of discussion, but the committee did not reach a consensus.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A — Public Hearing — Ordinance #02-14: Authorizing the disposal of a portion of land within the TACAN parcel Re: Lease to BNC

Acting Mayor Drake opened the public hearing. There was no one to be heard.

MOVED BY:	Short	To adopt Ord. #02-14
SECONDED BY:	Berger	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item B — Public Hearing — Ordinance #02-15: Amending Chapter 2.04 of the BMC to provide a stipend for city council and participation in the PERS retirement program

Acting Mayor Drake opened the public hearing. There was no one to be heard.

Council member Short requested another public hearing be held to allow for more council members to be present.

MOVED BY:	Short	To schedule Ord. #02-15 for a second public hearing May 28, 2002
SECONDED BY:	Berger	

Council member Vanasse said, as presented, he supports Council adopting Ord. #02-15. He said if Ord. #02-15 passes, Council should include the amount needed in the budget.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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NEW BUSINESS

Item A — Introduction — Ordinance #02-16: Public Works/City Clerk budget modification

Ordinance #02-16 was introduced and set for public hearing May 28, 2002 under the consent agenda.

Item B — Resolution #02-16: Recognizing and supporting diversity in the community

Resolution #02-16 was adopted under the consent agenda.

Item C — Discussion item: Bank services sales tax exemption

Council member Short said the Finance Committee recommended the Council exempt bank services sales tax. He asked the city manager the status of that recommendation.

Manager Herron explained negotiations were stalled because of a change in branch managers for Wells Fargo, Bethel. He said banks are currently paying the required sales tax. Manager Herron said he would work with the new branch manager to reach a consensus. Manager Herron provided Council with a brief background of the bank's request for an exemption. Discussion ensued.

Council member Short requested an ordinance be drafted for the next Council meeting so that Council may continue discussions. Council concurred.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Berger reminded the public that it is bike season. He commended City employees for working hard on the roads.

Council Member Trantham — was not present.

Council Member Drake asked if any council member would like to be his co-host in Wednesday morning's KYUK radio talk show. Council member Berger agreed to be the co-host.

Council Member Rodgers — was not present.

Council Member Notti — was not present.

Council Member Vanasse said he appreciates the Public Work employees for working hard on the roads. He cautioned the public to be careful during boating season.

Council Member Short — no comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED BY:	Short	To go into executive session to discuss A: Up-date on union employees labor negotiations
SECONDED BY:	Vanasse	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Vanasse	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Short	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 28th DAY OF MAY 2002.

ATTEST:

Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers, Mayor

Janette Persinger, City Clerk