



# CITY of BETHEL

P. O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559

543-2297 — Area Code 907

MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL  
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 28, 1978

9

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

7:30 P.M.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Guinn at 7:30 P.M.  
Councilperson present: Charles, Elliott, Hickling, Hoffman,  
Gregory and Guinn. Councilperson Absent: Twitchell.

INVOCATION

Invocation was provided by Councilperson Gregory.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/M by Councilperson Hickling to approve the minutes of  
September 25, 1978 and the Special Council Minutes of October  
5, 1978 as written. Voice vote was taken and was unanimous.  
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/M by Gregory to approve the Agenda with the additions of  
Items, C, D, & E., under NEW BUSINESS, (c) Swearing in of the  
New Council Members, (d), The Election of the Mayor and (e),  
A Resolution in Support of Bethel Broadcasting's request to  
air commercial programs. Voice vote was taken and was  
unanimous. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

MANAGER'S REPORT

Hoffman stated that Paul Dixon, Representing St. Mary's, Nat  
Cole, State Department of Education and Eric Simpson from  
Community & Regional Affairs were in attendance to answer any  
questions that the public might have with regards to Bethel's  
1st Class City Status.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None - on leave

MAYOR'S REPORT

None

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Councilperson Elliott said that the gravel pit belongs to Walsh & Co. It was suggested that City Administration contact Walsh & Co. and request that a fence or a flag be run across the road so that in the winter time the snow-machine riders would not accidently get hurt from the cable.

Councilperson Charles said that the Parks & Recreations had a meeting on September 27, 1978. The discussion was on the Construction of a Swimming Pool, under Unfinished Business. M/M by Committee Member at the Parks & Recreations Meeting to approve the Recreation Committees recommendation to the City Council that the City soliciate proposals for the Construction of the Swimming Pool within the City limits of Bethel with possible lease/purchase to the City. Vote was taken and was approved unanimously. Also another motion was made that another Sub-Committee be formed to develop Specifications for Proposals. Under New Business., (Director's Report) a motion was made by Committee Member Beecroft that the Council accept the Management Contract from BNC to the City for the management of the Bowling Alley. The Contract was accepted as written by the Parks & Recreation Committee. Also under New Business the important thing is the Budget proposal to the City Council who's separate budget is as follows:

Parks & Recreations

Bowling Alley Interprise Fund

Senior Citizen's Special Revenue Fund

Last years was \$120,000 thousand. M/M by Committee Member Beecroft that the Original Budget as proposed by John Alder be re-submitted to Council for consideration.

M/M by Councilperson Charles that the above be submitted to the Council. Voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gregory, said that the Personnel Committee met and it was the recommendation that we hire Irene Williams as the City Clerk with a 6 month probationary period and another recommendation was that John P. Guinn be placed in the Personnel Committee, to take over Tom Pierce-Bulger's seat.

M/M by Councilperson Gregory that the Personnel Committee Meeting of October 9, 1978 be accepted. Voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

ITEM A. PUBLIC HEARING ON 1ST CLASS CITY STATUS

Mayor Guinn opened the Public Hearing on the 1st Class City Status to the Public.

The following individuals attended to provide input on 1st Class City Status:

Paul Dixon, St. Mary's, Management Consulting Practice.  
Nat Cole, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education.  
Eric Simpson, Community & Regional Affairs, and a Staff Member on the Local Boundary Commission.

Lyman Hoffman asked for a summary of the report that Jack Penrod gathered from REAA on LKSD, of the financial cost to the City if it were to operate the schools and what would the City have to provide in terms of revenue to operate the School Districts?

Nate Cole stated that School Districts operate on what they call "hard money".

Lyman Hoffman questioned Mr. Cole with regards to the letter Al Weinburg sent with regards to the dormitory, central warehouse, and Office Building that are within the Community and ask if those facilities would become the property of the City of Bethel should we become a 1st Class City. The contents in which children reside shall become the property of the City of Bethel. Everything that the REAA owned would have to be negotiated.

There is only one (1) statutory basis that States that the Department of Education may own/transfer such things as equipment, real and personal property. Everything may have to be settled in court.

The REAA shows that their spending five hundred thousand dollars on the Title I positions in the City of Bethel.

Mayor Guinn stated that the Chair will have a short recess from 9:00 p.m.

Mayor Guinn opened the Public Hearing on the 1st Class City Status. at 9:15 p.m.

Eric Simpson stated that if Bethel became a 1st Class City we would be eligible to receive 25 thousand dollars that's called "Re-organization Plan", it can be spent on anything that the City of Bethel would like to spend it on. It would probably be used more essential in the area of Tax-Assessment Planning.

Eric Simpson talked about the differences of the 1st Class City and the 2nd Class, Mayor/Manager form, what would happen if we were to be a Borough, what kinds of Tax the 1st Class City can use: ie., Fish Tax, Property Tax, etc.

Paul Dixon commented on the 1st Class City and the 2nd Class City. Under 1st Class City Status. The Mayor is elected by the people not by the Council and can serve for a specified term, unlike the Mayor would serve here. In a 2nd Class City the Mayor is considered to be a Councilperson. The Mayor can break a tie in a 1st Class City, also has veto powers, and may line items in the budget, but he cannot veto anything withing a School operating Budget.

Diane Carpenter asked: What would be the role/authority in relationship of the Mayor with the City Management between meetings? Would the Mayor have any powers between meetings to represent the Council to take action? Simpson stated that under City Manager form of Government the City Manager is the Chief Executive Officer until thus time that he would designate that power to the Mayor or someone else.

Councilperson Hickling stated that the Mayor would have the power without a Councilperson/Member to make discussions without calling the Council together. He would have a lot more power on all/everything, also the Fireing & Hiring.

Rosie Porter stated that under a 1st Class City, a Mayorial form of Gov't the Mayor could be a full time Mayor. It would be up to the City to decide which form of Gov't they wanted as a 1st Class City whether they wanted a full time Mayor or a part time Mayor.

Lyman Hoffman asked, if we became a 1st Class City would the Council members retain there seats or would there have to be another election to elect other Councilmembers? Simpson stated that the Annual time to reclassify is when the Mayor's term is coming up for re-election but you would retain your same office.

Paul Dixon from the City of St. Mary's setting up St. Mary's on 1st Class City, related some experiences of the 1st Class City.

He gave a background of St. Mary's. No Public Schools in Community the only school was a Mission School, it was serving Elementary and Secondary Education. The Young people of St. Mary's were coming to Bethel for activities instead of staying at St. Mary's. They needed something to keep the young people in the village. .

The City of St. Mary's spent a 1½ years exploring different kinds of Incorporation including all the forms of Local Gov't the end result was to decide to take on the full pledge of the 1st Class City Status.

St. Mary's had a choice, after four (4) years of operation of a Manditory School District. So they continued in a 1st Class City Status. They have gone under City Manager form of Gov't.

Andrefesky isn't a part of the School District. They are enrolled as an attendance area.

Mr. Al Weinburg asked, since the Public School District does not operate a Secondary Program would you speculate what kind of position the District would be in? If for some reason the Mission would go out of Business, because they decided to by Marshall Law close it or burned? Dixon commented, it would have no choice, it would have an impact but without the opportunity to make the specific studies of the gravitations and the circumstances of funding.

Dixon talked about how St. Mary's became a 1st Class City, what the pro's and con's were in being 1st Class City. What proper procedures to use to become a 1st Class City.

M/M by Councilperson Hoffman to continue after 10:00 P.M. Voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Dixon said that St. Mary's wanted to improve the sources of Education available to them and they could make direct application for the Grants, Loans, for Financing.

Mayor Guinn stated that a reoccurring statement made is that a 1st Class City would have more open control of the Schools. What has been pointed out is that a Board would be elected from the immediate Bethel area as suppose to the School Board that is elected from the Community as it is now with the surrounding villages.

Councilperson Charles said that the LKSD School Board Members were elected by the people. If the people are not satisfied with Education they should speak up.

Bob Buttane asked what would happen to our schools if a 1.3 million dollar cut in the Bethel School system happened? Who would be the first to go? What programs would suffer the most? Information like that would help someone, anyone make a better choice on whether they wanted to vote for a 1st Class City or not.

Mayor Guinn closed the Public Hearing on the 1st Class City Status to the Public.

Mayor Guinn thanked Mr. Dixon, Nat Cole, and Eric Simpson for providing their expertise on the 1st Class City Status for the City of Bethel.

Lyman Hoffman said that he suggests that instead of setting another Public Hearing, that we gather the information from the Department of Education, and we approach the Local REAA and ask them to see where they would cut, if they were faced with a 1.3 million dollar deficit reduction of Revenues and gather all this information and present it before the 90 day period to the New Council Members and see at that time if they want to put this issue on the ballot.

M/M by Hoffman that the Administration proceed with the above described outline course of action and that the New Council Members make an evaluation when it is compiled. Voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### ITEM B. HIRING OF THE CITY CLERK

M/M by Councilperson Elliott that the City appoint Irene Williams as the City Clerk with a 6 month probationary period. Voice vote was taken and was unanimous. Motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### ITEM A. THE SWEARING IN OF THE NEW COUCIL MEMBERS

Lyman Hoffman said that we have the Oath of Office for the three (3) members, Peter Twitchell, Bob Hoffman and Diane Carpenter. Lyman proceed with the Oath of Office for the New Members.

ITEM B. ELECTION OF MAYOR

Lyman Hoffman opened the floor/council table for nominations for the Mayor's seat. Councilperson Charles nominated Don Elliott. Councilperson Hoffman nominated Louise Charles. Councilperson Charles stated that Don Elliott went for Mayor last year and she thinks that he would do a better job than she. Councilperson Charles withdrew.

Lyman Hoffman stated that Don Elliott is the Mayor by acclimation.

NEW BUSINESS UNDER MAYOR ELLIOTT

ITEM A. INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION IN REGARDS TO KYUK'S  
INDORSEMENT FOR COMMERCIAL PROGRAM BROADCASTING

M/M by Councilperson Hoffman Sr. that the Resolution in regards to KYUK's Commercial Broadcasting be approve. Voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Councilperson Gregory said that a letter should accompany that Resolution stating the KYUK is the only Braodcasting Station in the Southwestern area.

M/M by Councilperson Charles that the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 P.M. Voice vote was taken and was unanimous. Motion carried.

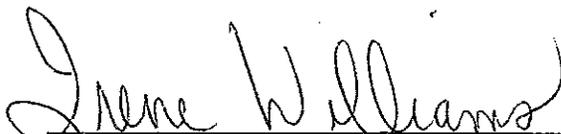
ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment at 10:30 P.M.

APPROVED:

  
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Don Elliott, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Irene Williams, City Clerk