
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

January 24, 2000

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on January 24, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lions Club, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Mike O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Mike O'Brien, Mayor
Jerry Drake
Joerene Hout
Dario Notti

Agnes Phillips
Karol Pobrislo
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers

comprising a quorum of the Council.

Also in attendance were:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Betty Twitchell, Parks & Recreation Dept., advised the Council that they had received notice of outdoor recreation grants which must be applied for no later than February 9. The minimum grant is \$100,000 with an equal match to come from the community. This grant is to be used for new projects and there will be three awarded in the state. The city matching portion can be in the form of land, labor, equipment, etc.

Questions were asked of Ms. Twitchell regarding the grants.

City Manager Herron stated this is a fairly competitive grant, but if someone in the city would donate some land for a park, Bethel just might have a shot at being a recipient.

Ms. Twitchell noted that the city meets all the criteria, except the match.

Council Member Notti stated he was in favor of applying for the grant, but not if it required adding another \$100,000 to the budget.

The Council voiced no objection to applying for the grant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2000, and special meeting of January 17, 2000.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

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

At the request of a council member, Resolution #00-01 was removed from the consent agenda.

Council Member Phillips requested the addition of Resolution #00-02 to the consent agenda.

The Mayor noted the addition of Ordinance #00-05 to the agenda.

Copies having been made available to the public, Mayor O'Brien noted by title only the items on the consent agenda.

Resolution #00-02, Supporting Tundra Women's Coalition Application For Funding Under The Alaska Mental Health Trust (Council Member Phillips)

Ordinance #00-02: Authorizing the Disposal of an Interest in Land No Longer Necessary for Municipal Purposes (Council Member Drake) (Public Hearing set for February 8, 2000)

Ordinance #00-04: Relating to the Operations of Pawnbrokers and Providing for an Effective Date (City Manager) (Public Hearing set for February 8, 2000)

Council Member Rodgers requested that discussion items be added to the agenda regarding Kasayulie Subdivision roads and snow plowing and driveways.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To approve the agenda and consent agenda as amended.
SECONDED BY:	Phillips	

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

Mayor O'Brien announced the following:

- Governor's Talking Points for January 10, 2000 and January 17, 2000
- Alaska Housing Finance Corp. news releases regarding: Welfare-to-Work Vouchers; HUD awards; and public hearing on consolidated housing and community development plan for the State of Alaska, New Five Year Plan

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Herron relayed the following information:

- Department Head reports were included in the agenda packets.
- A letter from Myron Angstman on behalf of Darrell Korthius regarding gravel for the Port.
- The motor vehicle clerk position has been offered to a local person.
- The conditions of the ice road are currently unsafe. It will be re-opened when it is safe again.
- Mid-year budget adjustments will be on the next agenda.
- The city lobbyist, Paul Richards, has scheduled 21 meetings for those going to Juneau.

Mayor O'Brien directed the city manager to respond to Mr. Angstman's letter.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mayor O'Brien noted there are vacancies on the Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Port and Public Works Commissions/Committees.

Finance Committee

Council Member Phillips stated she had not attended the last meeting as she was on call at work.

Port Commission

Council Member Rodgers reported that the Commission met on January 17 with a quorum present. They discussed the seawall, security cameras, dumpsters, and fingers in the small boat harbor. Some of these issues will be brought to the Council.

Public Works Committee

Council Member Drake reported that the Committee met on January 18 and discussed recycling, the Governor's funding for capital projects, and an easement on Ptarmigan Road. He noted that the Board of Directors for Bethel Recycling need to discuss what they want to do and what the city can do for them.

Public Safety Commission

Mayor O'Brien stated the Commission would meet on February 7.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti stated there was no quorum at the last meeting, but there also were no action items on the agenda. He noted that Bethel is the only city in the U.S. with liberal permitting for filling in wetlands.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Council Member Pobrislo stated the Committee has not met.

Senior Citizens' Advisory Board

Council Member Hout stated that the Commission was thankful that the bus was getting repaired. She questioned the ordering of a new bus.

Ms. Hout had also attended the recycling meeting where a lot of interest was shown.

Transportation Commission

Council Member Hout stated there have not been meetings, as the Commission is lacking a quorum.

Council Member Pobrislo asked about the senior bus, to which City Manager Herron replied that the person from whom the new bus was purchased would buy it back and that there is interest in it from potential buyers. There are currently more seniors who wish to ride the bus, but as a bus gets longer, there are difficulties in finding drivers and getting a bus into cul-de-sacs.

A discussion was held on the senior buses and housing them inside at night.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance #00-01: Amending Chapter 3.029, Classification Plan, By Adding An Oiler (City Manager)

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To enact Ordinance #001-01.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

Council Member Hout asked if this was a full time position.

City Manager Herron replied that it was a 4-hours a day.

Council Member Rodgers stated he hoped there would be a preventative maintenance program instituted.

Mr. Herron said this position was created as there was money left from a vacant position. The intent is to hire an oiler as a beginner at \$12-14/hour.

Council Member Rodgers felt everyone at the city should have the knowledge of an oiler. Preventative maintenance will make vehicles last much longer.

The city manager stated his directive is for the person driving a vehicle to check the oil when they gas up.

Mayor O'Brien stated there should be a check sheet to be completed by each operator.

Discussion on vehicles continued.

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

Resolution #00-01: Providing For the Re-establishment of Council Committees and Establishing Certain Committee Procedures (Council Member Pobrislo)

MOVED BY:	Pobrislo	To adopt Resolution #00-01.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Council Member Drake stated he has requested a work session be held on commissions and committees. He would like to see that happen before this resolution is adopted.

Council Member Pobrislo stated she has discussed eliminating the Parks & Recreation Committee for three Council meetings and no one has spoken against it.

Council Member Drake wanted to establish a focus and direction of the Council prior to adopting this resolution.

Council Member Pobrislo stated this could be prolonged, but council members had been on committees long enough to know where they want to go with them.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To postpone Resolution #00-01 until February 8.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to postpone was carried by a vote of 4 yes, 3 no..
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DRAKE Yes	HOUT Yes	NOTTI Yes	O'BRIEN No
PHILLIPS Yes	RODGERS No	SANCHEZ-POBRISLO No	4 YES 3 NO

A work session regarding commissions and committees was scheduled for February 2 at 6:30 p.m., location to be announced.

Ordinance #00-05: Relating to Purchase and Sale of, and a Ground Lease and Bill of Sale for, the Building Commonly Known as the Laundromat (City Manager)

MOVED BY:	Hout	To set the public hearing on Ordinance #00-05 for February 5, 2000.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Discussion Item – Kasayulie Subdivision Roads (Council Member Rodgers)

Council Member Rodgers said he asked for this item to be placed on the agenda as a small boy was recently burned in his home and the parents could not get to town with him as the roads were not cleared. The city has conditionally approved the subdivision, but has not accepted the roads.

City Manager Herron stated that the roads are the responsibility of the city.

Council Member Pobrislo asked what the incentives would be for a developer to upgrade the roads if the city is maintaining the roads.

The City Manager replied that the City should not fully accept the roads until the punch list has been completed. The City has been working with the developer to get the items completed.

Council Member Notti said it is the City's best interest to not accept the roads right away. It would be better to wait a year or two to find out how they hold up.

Mayor O'Brien stated the City has in effect guaranteed public services once the final approval of the plat is given.

A discussion ensued regarding the approval of plats, roads and subdivisions.

Discussion Item – Snow plowing and driveways (Council Member Rodgers)

Council Member Rodgers asked whose responsibility it was to plow driveways or, at least the berm created by the snowplow.

All Council Members and the City Manager echoed "the homeowners."

Council Member Hout pointed out that the snowplow comes through, leaves a berm, then the sewer and water trucks cannot get in.

Council Member Notti stated that the snowplow driver could avoid leaving the berm by dropping the blade, but it would take four times as long to plow. He also noted that the City could purchase a blower and truck the snow away.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Phillips thanked the City employees for their good service to the citizens of Bethel, especially the water, sewer drivers and the road crew.

Council Member Rodgers congratulated Charlie Boulding for winning the Kusko 300 race.

Council Member Drake expressed his thanks to the road crews and the water and sewer truck drivers. He also congratulated Charlie Boulding and the Kusko 300 committee for a good race.

Council Member Hout also thanked the City crews who worked under very adverse conditions. She drives a school bus and likes the roads cleared in the morning before she begins her route. She also thanked the Kusko 300 committee. She apologized for missing last week's special meeting.

Council Member Pobrislo also commended the City crews and the Kusko 300 committee. She added that Public Works was doing a great job.

Council Member Notti commended all the outdoor crews, noting it has been a nasty winter. He offered his thanks to all the volunteers who worked on the race.

Mayor O'Brien echoed the comments of the Council by offering his congratulations to the Kusko 300 committee and all the volunteers of the community. He noted that Bethel has a great web of volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Drake	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 8th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2000.

ATTEST:

Mike O'Brien, Mayor

Gaye J. Vaughan, City Clerk