
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

March 28, 2000

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on March 28, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lions Club, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Mike O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Clerk's Note: There is no recording of this meeting due to equipment failure.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

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

Agnes Phillips
Karol Sanchez-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

No one stepped forward to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 14, 2000, will be on the April 11, 2000, agenda for approval.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

It was requested that the two items listed on the consent agenda be removed from the consent agenda.

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

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

Mayor O'Brien announced the following information included in the agenda packets:

- Governor's Talking Points for March 20 and 27, 2000
- Association of Alaska Housing Authorities News – March/April 2000
- Letter from SOA, Dept of Education to AML regarding 1998 SB 36
- News release from Alaska Housing Finance Corp.
- Bethel Pathway & Boardwalk News – March 2000
- Information on 2000 Annual School on Addictions – May 9-11, 2000, Anchorage Hilton
- Resource Review – March 2000
- State Legislature House & Senate Democrats News Release – March 16, 2000

The Mayor noted that he and City Clerk Vaughan had attended a meeting in Anchorage on Tuesday, March 21. The meeting/dinner was sponsored by Commonwealth North who is undertaking a study of the Urban vs. Rural issues. He added that it was a very good meeting and he hoped the study would actually produce something.

Mayor O'Brien stated that he would ask Council to confirm re-appointments to commissions and committees later in the meeting.

He pointed out the resignations of Tom Hildreth, Bruce Day and Shari Neth from the Public Safety Commission.

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Herron relayed the following information:

- Department Head reports were included in the agenda packets.
- New City Hall – The new windows are installed and the new boiler is operational. The interior paint job is nearly complete. Counters, cabinets and shelving are going in. Wiring for computers and council chambers is being installed. The new carpet has been ordered and should be installed within the next 21-30 days. He anticipated the first Council meeting in the new chambers on April 25.
- Bethel Court Complex – The Dept. of Law and Dept. of Corrections side of the complex is 99.00% complete and ready for the tenants to move in.
- Newly Paved Roads – First Ave., Front Street, Main Street, Oscar Way and Hanger Lake Road were paved last summer. The City and DOT are not yet ready to bring a Letter of Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding to the Council for consideration.
- Amended Pawnbrokers Ordinance – At the last Council meeting, the City Manager shared the City Attorney's opinion on the request from the local pawnshop owner to possible amendments. Ms. Cutler recommended that the ordinance be amended to expressly define the bond as a "surety" bond and that the hours be extended by two hours until 10 p.m. He explained this to the owner via fax and telephone conversation. The proposed ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting.
- Bethel Seawall – He provided the Council with pictures of a recently discovered aberration to the seawall. It has been reported to the Corps of Engineers. With the

- Corps' input, advice from the City Engineer and help from local knowledge, the problem will be solved.
- WAANT Grant Application – He asked for Council approval to submit the annual application for a WAANT drug investigator position. This application is also requesting funding for training, equipment and a scent detection K-9.

MOVED BY:	Hout	To authorize the City to apply for WAANT grant.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

In response to a question by Council Member Rodgers, the City Manager replied that the amount of City funding will be determined during the budget process.

Council Member Pobrislo asked is the City had applied for and received this funding in prior years, to which Mr. Herron answered that for several years the city has received funding for one officer and benefits, totaling approximately \$70,000. Additionally, this year the City is requesting funding for training, equipment and a dog. If the Council chooses not to fund those, then the City will not apply.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.
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Council Member Rodgers welcomed former Council Member Thor Williams to the meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

Council Member Phillips noted that there had not been a meeting since the last Council meeting.

Port Commission

Council Member Rodgers noted that the Commission met on March 20. The port director will arrive in town the first week of May. The Commission made a list of projects to be done. The next meeting will be April 17.

Public Works Committee

Council Member Drake noted that the Committee met on March 21. Their snow plan will come before the Council soon. They discussed the roads in the STIP, although that should be discussed by the Planning Commission.

Mayor O'Brien stated it was good that STIP was being reviewed by others.

Senior Citizens' Advisory Board

Council Member Hout stated there had been no meeting since the last Council meeting.

Transportation Commission

Council Member Hout stated that the March 16 meeting was postponed due to lack of quorum. It had been rescheduled for March 23, but she had been in Juneau.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Council Member Pobrislo stated the committee is now on a roll since they have a full compliment of members. They will be meeting on April 19. She invited anyone interested to come to the meeting to give input to the goals for the committee for the upcoming year.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti noted that there had not been a meeting in March as there were no agenda items. The next meeting was scheduled for April 13.

Public Safety Commission

Mayor O'Brien stated the Commission will meet on April 3. There has not been a meeting since the last Council meeting.

The Mayor asked for concurrence with the re-appointment of Irv Kreider to the Finance Committee for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2002, and Louis Andrew to the Planning Commission, also for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2002.

MOVED BY:	Phillips	To concur with the re-appointments of Irv Kreider to the Finance Committee and Louis Andrew to the Planning Commission.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

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

Ordinance #00-07: Authorizing the Exchange of Land for the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project (City Manager Herron)

Mayor O'Brien open the floor to public hearing. As no one stepped forward to speak, the public hearing was closed.

MOVED BY:	Notti	To enact Ordinance #00-07.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

Council Member Notti noted that this was approved by the Planning Commission. The City will exchange land with a person who owns property below the seawall in exchange for city land adjacent to her backyard.

City Manage Herron stated the Administration supports the Commission's recommendation.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion to enact carried by a unanimous voice vote.
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Bid Award – Courthouse Concession (City Manager Herron) (Recommendation – Award to Clint Schink)

City Manager Herron stated that Mr. Schink was out of town for the last meeting. Mr. Herron met with Mr. Schink upon his return. His recommendation was to award the contract for a six-month period.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To award bid for the courthouse concession to Clint Schink for a six-month period.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Council Member Notti asked why such a short period, to which Mr. Herron replied that Mr. Schink has no experience at this and he isn't sure he really wants to do it. He noted that there were no other bidders.

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

Ordinance #00-08: Amending The Adopted Annual FY 1999-2000 Budget (City Manager Herron)

City Manager Herron stated he was recommending that Council approve this transfer of money to purchase a flatbed truck. The money is allocated in the budget for a high reach.

Mayor O'Brien asked how much had been allocated for the high reach, to which Mr. Herron replied he wasn't sure. Mr. Herron continued by noting that the City's flatbed was one of the oldest vehicles. This purchase will not only give the City an upgrade but the new one also has a tilt bed.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To set Ordinance #00-08 for public hearing on April 11, 2000.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.
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Ordinance #00-09: Amending Chapter 3.029, Classification Plan, By Adding An Administrative Assistant (City Manager Herron)

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To set Ordinance #00-09 for public hearing on April 11, 2000.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

City Manager Herron stated that the mid-year budget adjustment included a transfer of funds for this temporary position, but no position had been created.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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City Manager Herron noted that he had received some questions from the owner of the only pawn shop in Bethel as a result of the Council enacting Ordinance #00-04. He gave each Council Member a copy of the questions and a letter from the City Attorney addressing each item.

Discussion Item – Gravel (City Manager Herron)

City Manager Herron stated that Mr. Keppel's letter deserved some consideration. He had given Mr. Keppel a copy of the letter from the City Attorney at the last Council meeting. He asked for direction from the Council.

Council Member Pobrislo thought it was a great idea to buy gravel now and pay for it over the next five years. She wondered if a contractor would be willing to hold the note for five years, but give the city the gravel now.

Council Member Hout noted that the roads are very much in need of repair now.

City Manager Herron stated that the contract would have to have a non-appropriation clause in it. He recommended that the City only take the amount it can afford each year. He further recommended going out to bid and see what the results are. The City will buy a load of gravel this year.

Council Member Notti stated that a 1% sales tax increase should be put on the ballot to see if people really want the roads improved.

Council Member Rodgers felt the budget should be cut prior to an increase in the sales tax.

Council Member Drake noted that once the voters increase the sales tax the additional one cent would never be reduced.

Council Member Pobrislo said that everyone would benefit, not just a few people.

Mayor O'Brien said the City can defer the maintenance like the state has been doing, but then it will cost \$5 or \$10 million. Just \$1 million will not do much but it's a start. Everyone eats the duct and the "guaranteed for life" shocks in our vehicles have to be changed.

Council Member Hout stated that in the past five years the City has probably spent \$1 million in road and vehicle maintenance.

Mayor O'Brien agreed with the City Manager about putting out an RFP.

Council Member Rodgers felt the public works Dept. and roads have been ignored while all the money has gone to the Police Dept. He felt the Police Dept. should be cut and something done about the roads. He added that the budget has been terribly out of balance for years.

Mayor O'Brien stated, without objection, that the City Manager was directed to put out an RFP as soon as possible as it is getting late in the season.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Hout stated she had a good trip to Juneau. She had met with people, learned a lot and had enjoyed the AML meetings. She noted that it was good to be home.

Council Member Pobrislo congratulated the Bethel cheerleaders who received a dance award and just missed the academic award at the recent state tournament.

Council Member Notti also congratulated the boys' basketball team. He sent his condolences to the family of Carl Mojin. He added that he was looking forward to a busy summer.

Mayor O'Brien thanked those who went to Juneau, especially Mr. Rodgers who had never been to Juneau before. He said their presence in Juneau made it apparent that they care about Bethel. He talked about HB 137 which would give dividends to municipalities and asked people to contact the LIO office and check out this bill. This could do a lot of good for Bethel and the region as it would give each community a fair share of the dole. He cautioned people about driving on the river.

Council Member Drake thanked the Finance Director and the City Manager for his requested information being included in the Finance Dept. report. He asked to also show a line item for outstanding sales tax and total revenue due by all enterprise funds. He was also interested in seeing something about collection efforts and length of time overdue. He also requested that the list of commission and committee members show when their terms expire. He congratulated the cheerleaders and Ms. Pobrislo for leading them. He noted that four of the Lady Warriors had been named to the all-tourney team in Kotzebue. He had had lots of fun at the state tournament. He ended by sending his condolences to the family of David Berlin.

Council Member Rodgers sent his condolences to Mojin and Berlin families. He felt the Council's presence in Juneau meant something. He had enjoyed the trip and had learned a lot.

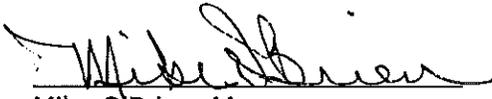
Council Member Phillips noted that she will travel to Juneau on April 7. She thanked Tom Hildreth, Bruce Day and Shari Neth for their service on the Public Safety Commission.

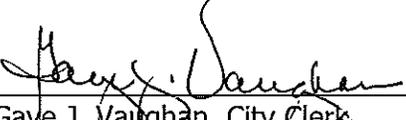
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 11th DAY OF APRIL, 2000.

ATTEST:


Mike O'Brien, Mayor


Gaye J. Vaughan, City Clerk