

City of Bethel
City Council

Regular Meeting of January 24, 1995

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:30 PM by Mayor Wintersteen in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chris, Harding, McComas, Wintersteen

Absent: Miller (excused), Tubbs (excused), Twitchell (unexcused)

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Prior to opening People to be Heard, Mayor Wintersteen made a short announcement regarding the City Manager's contract renewal, stating that the City Manager is not interested in pursuing a one-year renewal, but would agree to an extension of his contract through June 30, 1995.

Hal Jones, Bethel, stated he thought Mr. Hunter was one of the best City Managers in Bethel since Mr. Jones had lived in Bethel. Mr. Jones went on to express his support of leasing the Laundromat to Circle A Enterprises without Council control over the rates.

Eric Shrum, Bethel, Chairman of the Finance Committee, also spoke in support of privatizing the Laundromat, and urged Council to review the proposal again and reconsider the lease. Mr. Shrum also advised that in the future, the Council may have to privatize other City services.

Betty Blake, Bethel, addressed the Council and questioned why the Council did not cancel the bid process if it did not want to lease the Laundromat, and added that she was in favor of the lease.

Janet Athanas, Circle A Enterprises, stated she came to ask the Council if a second lease agreement could be negotiated for the lease of the Laundromat or if the issue was closed.

Mark Stemp, Executive Director of BNC, addressed Council regarding the proposed DNR lease for the tidelands and submerged lands along the seawall. Mr. Stemp stated he represented a group of upland owners and was looking forward to working with the City in

resolving their differences.

Agnes Phillips, Bethel, related an incident to the Council involving a water truck bumping into her vehicle and stated that she was impressed with the manner of the foreman in determining what had happened. Mrs. Phillips asked Council to remember the people who were unable to pay for services when setting policies. Mrs. Phillips also praised Council member Miller and added that the City needed more Council members like Mr. Miller.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by Chris, 2nd by Harding to approve the minutes of the January 10, 1995, regular meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Chris to approve the minutes of the January 16, 1995, special meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA/REGULAR AGENDA

Mayor Wintersteen requested New Business Items B be removed from the Consent Agenda.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Harding to approve by consent, Item A under New Business. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Chris, 2nd by Harding to amend the agenda by removing New Business Items B and C and adding New Business Item B: Resolution #95-04. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wintersteen asked for Council direction regarding continuing with negotiations for the lease of the Laundromat.

motion M/M by Chris, 2nd by McComas to direct the City Manager to negotiate another lease for Council consideration at the February 14, 1995, regular meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the figures provided by the City and the need to complete further research to reflect accurate costs.

Council member Harding requested three changes for a future lease: 1) that the contract is between the City and Circle A Enterprises, 2) that an initial rate schedule is included as

part of the lease, and 3) that the fuel tank and lines, once installed, are the responsibility of the lessee, not the City.

Mayor Wintersteen added he would like to see a credit report on Circle A Enterprises also included with the lease.

vote Voice vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wintersteen then read a letter from the Tundra Women's Coalition and Seann Hallisky, which are attached as part of these official minutes, regarding Council member Twitchell's recent arrest and asking for his removal from the Council. Mayor Wintersteen also read a letter from Council member Twitchell responding to the letters, which is also attached as part of these official minutes. Mayor Wintersteen pointed out that no ordinance or statute mandates the removal of Council member Twitchell. Discussion followed, no action was taken.

Mayor Wintersteen continued with his written report, discussing correspondence he had received.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Hunter reviewed his written report with Council and requested direction on the following items:

1. Snow Machine Crossing Signs

City Manager Hunter requested Council direction on pursuing road sign standards due to the liability and expense involved.

motion M/M by Chris, 2nd by McComas to direct the City Manager to review the State's manual governing road signs and provide a recommendation to Council. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Fireworks Ordinance

City Manager Hunter requested direction regarding proceeding with an amendment to the ordinance.

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by McComas to proceed with the ordinance amendment allowing the Mayor to serve as an alternate decision-maker. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

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City Manager Hunter then awarded the fourth quarter Job Well Done Awards to the following individuals: David Post, Connie Tucker, Helen Merdian, Cristin Pring, Bonnie Duke, Celeste Kanli, Bruce Perry, George Young, Harry Parsi, William Elukak, Robert Wright, Shawn Flemings, Clair Grifka, Carl Teter, Vernon Chase.

Informational Items/Discussion/Questions on City Manager's Report:

Council member Chris asked for an update with the FAA sewer line project. City Manager Hunter stated that FAA is moving forward with acquiring the property, and the attorneys for both sides were finalizing the sale agreement.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Scheduled dates for upcoming Committee/Commission meetings were announced.

Council member McComas reported that the Planning Commission met on January 12, 1995, and set fees for various Planning services, as well as reviewing a proposed subdivision plat.

Council member Harding reported that the Public Safety Committee had not met.

Council member Chris reported that the Port Commission met on January 16, 1995, and distributed handouts regarding concerns of the Port Commission. Discussion followed regarding the relocation of the Port Director to the Braund Building during the winter in order to work closely with the Planning Manager on the Bank Stabilization Project. Ms. Chris also referred to the request from the Civil Air Patrol for a donation of eight pieces of seawall pipe to construct a floating dock for rescue airplanes.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Chris to donate eight pieces of seawall pipe to the City Air Patrol.

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by McComas to amend the motion to state that the pipe be declared surplus and sold at a value of one dollar to the Civil Air Patrol.

After a discussion regarding the City's disposal process and liability, the main motion and the amendment to the motion and their seconds were withdrawn.

motion M/M by Harding, 2nd by McComas to direct the City Manager to research the process and liability in declaring eight pieces of seawall pipe as surplus and donating them to the Civil Air Patrol. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

In the absence of Council member Tubbs, the City Clerk presented a resolution from the Finance Committee recommending the Council issue a Request for Proposals for a collection agency.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Chris to accept the resolution from the Finance Committee and issue an RFP for a collection agency. Voice vote. Motion failed, 3-yes, 1-no (Harding).

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Chris to rescind the previous motion to allow for discussion. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Chris to accept the resolution from the Finance Committee and issue an RFP for a collection agency.

Discussion followed regarding the City's efforts in collections and past practices using a collection agency.

vote Voice vote on the motion. Motion failed, 3-yes, 1-no (Harding).

Mayor Wintersteen reported that the Senior Services Committee met January 11, 1995, and discussed reports that seniors were being overcharged for taxicab rides and liability concerns of using volunteer workers.

Council broke at 9:10 p.m. for a short recess. At 9:15 p.m., Mayor Wintersteen called the meeting back to order.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

ITEM A: Telephonic Presentation by Kevin Ritchie, Executive Director, AML, Regarding Region IX Representative

Mayor Wintersteen reported that Mr. Ritchie was unavailable at that time for the presentation and asked that the item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A: Resolution #95-03: A Resolution Requesting Local Match Monies for the Bethel Bank Stabilization Project for Fiscal Year 1996

Approved under Consent Agenda

ITEM B: Gaming Permit Application(s)

Item Removed from Agenda

ITEM C: Review of Proposed Lease with DNR

Item Removed from Agenda

ITEM B: Resolution #95-04: A Resolution Accepting Village Safe Water Grant #16716 for Original Townsite Water/Sewer Main Design

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Harding to approve Resolution #95-04.

Discussion followed regarding citizen input into the design of the water and sewer systems, and the potential problem with original townsite properties with little or no utility easements on the property.

vote Voice vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council member Chris reminded Council that a short time ago, someone had made a pledge in her name to RATNET. Ms. Chris stated that she had received notice that someone had sent in \$100 to satisfy that pledge and she thanked whoever sent in the money. Ms. Chris then added that she was leaving town to celebrate her mother's 80th birthday.

Council member Harding stated he was grateful for the opportunity to attend the Citizen's Police Academy, which had participants ranging in age from 15 upward. Mr. Harding said the Academy explained the role of Public Safety Officers in the region.

Council member McComas invited the Council members to personally inspect the ambulance at the Fire Station in order to view the condition of it. Mr. McComas also stated his belief that the Mayor should be a member of the Alaska Conference of Mayors.

Mayor Wintersteen said he had received a call from the City Lobbyist, who was urging the City appoint a representative to the Alaska Municipal League Board. Mayor Wintersteen also related his conversation regarding the condition of the roads with a cab driver, who advised that four corners in town needed sanding, only one of which was under City jurisdiction.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ITEM A: Labor Matters--APEA Contract Negotiations**
- ITEM B: Legal Strategy--Wulvik v. City of Bethel**
- ITEM C: Legal Strategy--YKHC v. TIPSA, et al**
- ITEM D: City Attorney Evaluation**
- ITEM E: City Manager Contract Renewal**

motion M/M by Chris, 2nd by McComas to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Labor Matters--APEA Contract Negotiations; Legal Strategy--Wulvik v. City of Bethel; Legal Strategy--YKHC v. TIPSA, et al; City Attorney Evaluation; and City Manager Contract Renewal. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Chris, 2nd by McComas to come out of Executive Session. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Chris, 2nd by McComas to accept the City Manager's proposed contract extension through June 30, 1995. Poll vote. Motion failed, 3-yes, 1-no (Harding).

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by McComas, 2nd by Harding to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1995.


Allan Wintersteen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Connie Tucker, City Clerk