

City of Bethel  
City Council  
Special Meeting of May 25, 1995

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was convened at 6:30 PM by Mayor Wintersteen in the City Offices Conference Room, Bethel, Alaska.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris (late), Harding, Miller (late), McComas, Swanson, Tubbs, Wintersteen

**III. Executive Session--City Manager Contract Negotiations**

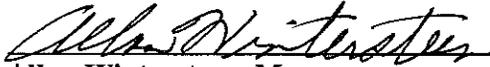
**motion** M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by Swanson to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the City Manager contract negotiations. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**motion** M/M by Chris, 2nd by Tubbs to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF JUNE, 1995.**

  
Allan Wintersteen, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Tucker, City Clerk

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City Council

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The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM by Mayor Wintersteen in the City Offices Conference Room, Bethel, Alaska.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris, Harding, McComas, Miller (late), Swanson, Tubbs, Wintersteen

**III. Public Hearing--City Manager's Recommended FY1995-96 Annual Budget; Topics: Public Works Department; Enterprise Funds--Utilities, Port**

Mayor Wintersteen opened the Public Hearing.

Jerry Korthuis, Bethel, addressed Council stating he was upset about spending \$30,000 extra to haul gravel and stockpile it, instead of hauling it only when it was needed. Mr. Korthuis asked for the reasoning behind this. Mr. Korthuis also asked why an office was built at the shop, at a cost of \$30,000, when offices were available, and why surplus equipment was thrown away at the dump instead of waiting for the City's surplus auction. Mr. Korthuis estimated \$10,000 worth of equipment had been thrown away, calling it a misuse of City funds.

Tim Oosterman, Public Works, questioned why the Administrative Overhead figure had changed from a percentage of expenses of the Enterprise Funds to a fixed amount and how that figure was determined. Mr. Oosterman suggested the difference in the fixed amount and the percentage charged could be used instead to purchase a new water or sewer truck. Mr. Oosterman also pointed out that eliminating the Utilities Maintenance Foreman position would leave a crew of one person to perform the repairs to the utility system, which requires at least two people.

Gary Watson, Public Works, stated that three mechanics maintain 43 vehicles in the City, and they need all of the mechanics they can get to keep the vehicles running. Mr. Watson stated that two mechanics would not be able to keep up with all of the trucks, and the Oiler position was important for preventive maintenance of the vehicles. Mr. Watson pointed out that if the Building Maintenance workers were eliminated, there would be no one to repair the boardwalks.

Clair Grifka, Public Works, stated that the law requires workers working in confined spaces have to have at least two workers present, if not more. Mr. Grifka suggested using the money paid by PATC for the lease of its building to fund a maintenance position.

Ron Partlow, Public Works, spoke in support of keeping the Oiler and Mechanic positions, stating

that the Oiler position has been vacant for two months, and the trucks have gone three times longer than they are supposed to between oil changes. Mr. Partlow also stated that the trucks were falling apart. In response to a question from Mayor Wintersteen, Mr. Partlow stated that sometimes workers are pulled from their duties to fill in for building maintenance because there are not enough workers in building maintenance.

Steve Weisner, Public Works, stated he drove the newest water truck, and that one is five years old, and he is driving it even though there are some things wrong with it, because there are not enough mechanics to get everything fixed.

Ron Partlow stated that he was driving the newest sewer truck, which is three years old. Mr. Partlow also reminded Council of the OSHA guidelines which prohibit sending only one person out to work in the cold, and cutting positions could cause problems in following that guideline.

Council member Miller questioned the soundness of the City's fleet.

Kevin Miller, Public Works, estimated that 75% of the trucks would not pass inspection due to the low manpower available, and that the City would be liable if a truck caused an accident because of poor maintenance.

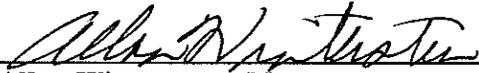
Bruce Perry, Fire Department, spoke in support of the Port Attendant positions, adding that they served a good purpose. Mr. Perry suggested the Council raise money by adding more slips for sale in the Small Boat Harbor.

There being no one else who wished to speak, Mayor Wintersteen closed the Public Hearing.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**motion** M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by Harding to adjourn the Public Hearing into a work session. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF JUNE, 1995.**

  
Allan Wintersteen, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Connie Tucker, City Clerk