

CITY COUNCIL
Kent Harding
Buford McComas
Tad Miller
Agnes Phillips
Ruth Richardson, Mayor
Stanley Rodgers
Wally Wallace



CITY MANAGER
Ken Weaver

CITY CLERK
L.J. Tanner

City of Bethel
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 26, 1996

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Richardson in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Harding, Miller, Phillips (by phone), Richardson, Rodgers
Absent: McComas, Wallace (both excused)

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Miller to adjourn the regular meeting and enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the City's negotiation with the employee union. Time: 6:12 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Note: Council Member Phillips' spouse is an employee of the City of Bethel, and a member of the employee's union. Because of this conflict of interest, Ms. Phillips did not participate in the discussion or any resulting motions.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to come out of executive session at 6:27 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to schedule a final settlement meeting on April 9th, with the intention of coming to an agreement with the Union at the April 23rd Council Meeting.

vote Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously. (Ms. Phillips' abstained)

IV. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Dave Trantham of Bethel offered his thanks to Fire Chief Young and the Fire Department for their efforts to get the City's insurance rating lowered, and to Finance Director Duke and her staff for their efforts in collecting protective custody fees. He asked Council to pass a Resolution in support of Bethel Broadcasting and KYUK. Mr. Trantham also provided his personal evaluation of each individual Council member's performance on the Council.

Billy McCann, Bethel, discussed the bootlegging problem and stressed that only the community, working together, can help solve this problem.

Antone Anvil, Bethel, also discussed bootlegging and community involvement, as well as the issue of making Bethel a dry community. He advocated for people to ignore issues of race and to accept others as they are.

Thor Williams of Bethel spoke as the Chapter President for the ASEA (State Employees Union), Local 62. He is concerned about cuts proposed in the state legislature of up to \$1.6 million. These cuts would be made by not funding state contracts, and doing away with part of the geographic cost differential. This would result in a loss of up to 18% of each state employee's pay. About 114 state employees live and work in Bethel, they are a major part of the economy. Council Member Miller asked Mr. Williams about the positions of Senator Hoffman and Rep. Ivan. Mr. Williams responded that Senator Hoffman is in favor of the contract, while Rep. Ivan is on the Republican side of the issue, against the contract.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to approve the minutes of the March 12, 1996 regular meeting as presented.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to approve the agenda.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. MAYOR'S REPORT

Awards and Proclamations

Mayor Richardson read the Certificate of Appreciation prepared for former Council Member Mary Pavil, and the proclamations for Norman Japhet, Gabe Kylook, Dalton Moss, Mike Riley, and Richard Tikium.

Mayor Richardson then presented plaques of recognition to Ollie Olson, Johnnie Watts, and Eric Shrum. These gentlemen served many years on their committees (Public Works, Transportation, and Finance, respectively.)

Incoming Correspondence

Mayor Richardson reviewed the following correspondence.

- Letter from Ivan Ivan regarding positions available on the Children's Trust Board.
- Letter from Tundra Women's Coalition regarding the governor's proclamation making April "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Alaska. The Mayor read the proclamation and declared April to be "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Bethel. A formal proclamation to this effect will be signed.
- Memo from Tom Hildreth, Resident Manager of the Ayalpik Apartments, regarding handicapped parking enforcement.
- Letter from the State Department of Public Safety expressing condolences for the recent fire-related death in the Bethel.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the Alaska DOT/PF will hold a public comment session on Wednesday, March 27, from 2:30-7:30 at the Log Cabin. The public meeting is intended to inform people about the improvements to be made to Ridgecrest Drive, and to solicit input from local residents.

VIII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Weaver referred Council to his written report on the following:

Item A: Bethel Bank Stabilization

The Army Corps of Engineers has received funding for their portion of the Bank Stabilization Project for Fiscal Year 97; the City of Bethel has still not received any local match moneys from the State. The Senate bill that reflects the Governor's recommended budget to the legislature includes \$1.5 million for Corps match projects; Bethel Bank Stabilization funds are not included.

Mr. Weaver discussed his trip to Juneau to meet with Senator Hoffman, Rep. Ivan, and DOT/PF Commissioner Perkins. Although they are supportive, the funding looks problematic. Mr. Weaver and Stuart Greydanus, Port Director, will attend a meeting with Red Samm Construction and the Army Corps of Engineers in Anchorage, on March 28th.

Item B: Request for Water/Sewer for YKHC Subdivision

City Manager Weaver reviewed a letter from YKHC, in which they request assurance from the City that water and sewer services will be provided to Kasayuli subdivision. Mr. Weaver informed Council that he has requested a consolidated report from the City staff before giving those assurances.

Item C: Additional information from the City Manager

- Mr. Weaver advised Council that Julius Pleasant has been hired as the new Community Services Director. Mr. Pleasant will start work on April 15, 1996.

IX. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES and COMMISSIONS

Report from the Youth Services Committee

Ms. Kate Hamilton of the Youth Services Committee read the Committee's report, then fielded questions from the Council. Council Member Miller complimented the committee's initiative in trying to get a Recreation Center built in Bethel. Mayor Richardson asked if they would be working with Bev Hoffman, who did quite a bit of work on a similar project several years ago. Ms. Hamilton replied that they were in contact with Ms. Hoffman.

There was some discussion on whether the membership of the committee could be reduced so that they have a better chance of getting a quorum at their monthly meetings. Mayor Richardson commented that she would really prefer to have a committee of 7, rather than 5. They have changed their monthly meetings to the 1st Thursday, at 5:30, at the Log Cabin, in hopes of having better attendance.

Other Committee/Commission Reports

Finance Committee: Council Member Wallace was absent, no report given.

Planning: Council Member McComas was absent, no report given.

Port Commission: Council Member Rodgers noted that the next meeting is on April 15th.

Public Safety Commission: Mayor Richardson noted that the next meeting, April 1st, will include a discussion about receiving the full Police Audit report

Public Works Committee: Council Member Miller reported that there was no quorum at the last meeting, since several committee members were out of town.

Senior Citizens: No Council Member assigned, no report given.

Transportation: Mayor Richardson commented on the heavy workload involved in regulating the active taxi industry in Bethel.

X. OLD BUSINESS - There was no Old Business to be addressed.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Resolution #96-11: A Resolution authorizing an application for the FY97 Anti-Drug Abuse Grant/Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to adopt Resolution #96-11.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B: Presentation by Alaska DOT/PF - State Highway Improvements

Mr. Weaver introduced Mr. Jim Childers, from the DOT/PF. Mr. Childers outlined the DOT's plans to upgrade Ridgecrest Drive, then fielded questions from the City Council. A public meeting will be held from 2:30-7:30, on March 27, at the Log Cabin for citizens to learn about the project and voice their concerns.

Item C: Resolution #96-12: A Resolution in Support of a New Bethel Middle School.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to adopt Resolution #96-12.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Harding No comments

Miller Expressed his thanks to the people who attended the Long-Term Strategic Planning Task Force meeting. The next meeting is on April 22, with a potluck dinner starting at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 7:00 p.m. He will prepare a Resolution for the next Council meeting to express support for KYUK.

Phillips Thanked Mary Pavil for her work on the Council, and thanked the voters and Council for electing her to fill Ms. Pavil's position.

Richardson Continues to support Police Chief Liu, but still plans to conduct a 6-month review of progress on the audit recommendations.

Rodgers No comments.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to adjourn the regular meeting and enter Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing settlement offers in the following legal matters: Crow vs. City of Bethel, Andrew Scheall vs. City of Bethel, and Rodgers vs. City of Bethel.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to come out of executive session at 9:30 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to continue with the City's current position on the Crow vs. City of Bethel matter, as discussed in Executive Session.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to accept the settlement offer from Andrew Scheall, as discussed in Executive Session.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to make a counter-offer in the Rodgers vs. City of Bethel matter, as discussed in Executive Session.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Harding to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9th DAY OF APRIL, 1996.



Ruth M. Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



L.J. Tanner, City Clerk