

**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**  
**September 17, 1996**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was convened at 6:31 p.m. by City Clerk Tanner in the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: McComas, Miller, Phillips, Wallace  
Absent: Harding, Richardson, Rodgers

**motion** M/M by Phillips, 2nd by Miller to elect Buford McComas as Acting Mayor.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

There were no people to be heard.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council Member Miller pointed out that Page 5, New Business Item D "Dust Control" should state that he is dissatisfied with the City's dust control, not satisfied. Council Member Phillips noted that the Council came out of Executive Session at 8:36 pm, not 9:36 pm.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to approve the minutes of the August 27, 1996, regular meeting as amended.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Member Miller request the addition of Old Business Item C, "Dust Control," and New Business Item G, Resolution #96-34.

**motion** M/M by Phillips, 2nd by Miller to approve the agenda as amended.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Acting Mayor McComas pointed out the brochure for the AML's upcoming Local Government Conference, and stated that it is important that someone from the Council attend.

**VII. MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Weaver referred Council to his written report, and discussed the following:

- Lease of PATC building to YKHC: Council Member Phillips would like to see a breakdown of costs associated with maintaining the PATC building. Acting Mayor McComas inquired as to the City's plans to renovate the building. City Manager Weaver stated that he would have further information at the September 24 regular council meeting.
- Courthouse Lease to State of Alaska: City Manager Weaver reviewed a breakdown of costs associated with operating and maintaining the courthouse building, and recommended a higher lease rate of \$13,425 per month, based on those costs.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to renew the lease with the State of Alaska for the courthouse building at the City Manager's recommended rate of \$13,425.00 per month.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- Lease of Bus Barn to Golden Eagle: Golden Eagle Unlimited has expressed interest in leasing the Bus Barn on a short-term basis. Council Member Miller asked the City Manager if the City's property disposal ordinance would be followed. Acting Mayor McComas asked if the proposed lease would come before the Council for approval. Mr. Weaver responded affirmatively to both questions.
- FAA Sanitary Sewer Line: The City is currently not in a position to authorize the installation of "tees" along the new sewer line.
- Ridgecrest Memorial Cemetery Update: City Clerk L.J. Tanner gave a brief report on the findings of the staff-level cemetery committee. Harry Parsi, Public Works Director, gave a preliminary estimate of \$50,000 for design, engineering, and fencing of the Ridgecrest Memorial site.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Wallace to acknowledge prior burial arrangements at the old cemetery (behind teen center), whenever possible.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- Old Swimming Hole Park Update: Council Member Miller stated that the City needs a park where fishing and swimming are permitted. City Manager Weaver responded that the Old Swimming Hole is not a suitable site, due to the many vehicles buried at the site.
- OMNI Lease/QFC I/Gas Station: Discussion took place on the gas station being installed at the QFC I convenience store across from the City's well. Representatives from OMNI and Swanson's were available to answer questions. Acting Mayor McComas read a letter from Norm Billsborough of the OMNI corporation.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Wallace to acknowledge OMNI's right under their lease with the City to use the property for a gas station.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- Bank Stabilization Update: Mr. Weaver notified the Council that Red Samm is almost done with the seawall construction.
- Lobbyist RFP Responses and Selection: Mr. Weaver stated that himself, Council Member McComas, and Chamber of Commerce representative Gary Korthuis had reviewed the five proposals submitted for Lobbyist services, and recommended an award to Paul Richards of Richards and Associates.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to award the contract for Lobbyist Services to Richards and Associates, with a 6-month performance review.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- Comprehensive Plan RFP Responses and Selection: Mr. Weaver stated that himself, Port Director Greydanus, Planning Director John Malone, and Purchasing Agent Laurie Adams had reviewed the two proposals submitted for the Comprehensive Plan Revision, and recommended an award to HDR Alaska, Inc.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to award the contract for the Comprehensive Plan Revision to HDR Alaska, Inc.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- Teen Center Pilings: City Manager Weaver explained that the pilings under the teen center are rotten and unstable. Harry Parsi, Public Works Director, explained the necessary repair options to the Council. The best, and most expensive, option is to move the building, replace the pilings, and move the building back onto the pilings. A less expensive alternative is to jack up the building and install new footings. Council Member Miller asked Mr. Parsi if the building was dangerous. Mr. Parsi responded that the situation does not currently pose a threat of danger to the occupants, but if the problem is not repaired, it will eventually become dangerous. Acting Mayor McComas asked Mr. Weaver and Mr. Parsi to collect more information and report back to the Council.

#### **VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES and COMMISSIONS**

With several Council members absent, and lack of quorums on all recent committee or commission meetings, no reports were given.

#### **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Item A: Public Hearing, Ordinance #96-32, Bethel Fuel Sales Land Disposal.**

Acting Mayor McComas opened the public hearing. There being no people to be heard, Mr. McComas closed the public hearing.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Wallace to adopt Ordinance #96-32.

**vote** Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **Item B: Public Hearing, Ordinance #96-41, Disposal/Sale of City Property - Old Library.**

Acting Mayor McComas opened the Public Hearing. There being no public comments, Mr. McComas closed the Public Hearing.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to amend Ordinance #96-41, under Conditions of Sale, to specify that the successful bid will include a schedule for timely removal of the building.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Wallace to adopt Ordinance #96-41.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**Item C: Discussion - Dust Control**

Council Member Miller, who requested the agenda item, stated that he believes the Council has blown an opportunity to better control the dust problem in Bethel. He recommended at the August 27, 1996, regular council meeting, that the City Manager prepare a comprehensive dust control plan, for implementation next Spring. Mr. Miller proposed that the council direct the City to spray the EMC2 product on the roads and report back to the Council. Acting Mayor McComas stated that the City is purchasing a hydroseeder, for use on the shoulders of dirt roads. This should help alleviate the problem. In addition, the City could hydroseed private sandpads, at cost. Public Works Director Parsi stated that a lot of money could be spent on dust control, with poor results. The solution is to put more gravel on the City roads, to hold the silty sand in place. Calcium chloride is not effective enough, and the EMC2 solution hasn't been applied due to fluctuations in the weather. Council Member Miller stated that he wants the Council to demonstrate a commitment to solving the problem.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to direct the City Manager to research the dust problem, and create a comprehensive dust control strategy, including a budget. The strategy must be ready for implementation before spring of 1997.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item A: Introduction of Ordinance #96-39, Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 1997**

**Item B: Introduction of Ordinance #96-40, Amendment to the Classification Plan**

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to introduce Ordinances #96-39 and #96-40.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimous.

**Item C: Discussion - Tennis Courts at the Log Cabin**

Council Member Miller, who requested the agenda item, explained that he would like to see half of the basketball court/ice rink converted for use as a tennis court. He believes this is a healthy option for both children and adults.

**motion** M/M by Miller, to direct the City Manager to investigate installation of tennis court equipment.

**no second** Motion failed, no second.

Acting Mayor McComas stated that he would like to refer this issue to the Youth Services Committee. Mr. Miller responded that he would agree, but that he wanted the City Administration to follow-through to make sure something happens. Council Member Phillips added that she believes the Youth Services Committee and Teen Center Director know what the recreational needs of local children and teens are, and that Yup'ik parents can provide wholesome activities for their children.

**Item D: Introduction of Ordinance #96-42, Acquisition of Property for Utility Easement.**

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Wallace to introduce Ordinance #96-42.

City Manager Weaver explained the location of the property being acquired. It is near the Blueberry subdivision, and will be acquired for the FAA sanitary sewer installation.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimous.

**Item E: Introduction of Ordinance #96-40, Amendment to the Classification Plan**

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to introduce Ordinances #96-43.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimous.

**Item F: Resolution #96-32, Election Judges for 1996 Municipal Election**  
Acting Mayor McComas read the resolution.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Wallace to adopt Resolution #96-32.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimous.

**Item G: Resolution #96-34, Authorizing an Application for the Federal Office of Justice Programs  
"Violence Against Women" Grant.**

City Manager Weaver explained the grant being applied for. Police Chief Eilers commended the work of Police Department Administrative Assistant Kathy Coker for her excellent work on the grant proposal.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Phillips to adopt Resolution #96-34.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimous.

**XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Harding** - Absent, no comments

**McComas** - Encouraged everyone to get out and vote on Election Day. Has spoken to an attorney about the Village Motel, and believes there are actions the City can take.

**Miller** - Asked Mr. Weaver to look into options for solving the problems at the Village Motel.

**Phillips** - Thanked the upriver villages for helping hunters. Also thanked all the local businesses who employed college students over the summer break. Would like to see smoking banned in the Laundromat.

**Richardson** - Absent, no comment.

Rodgers - Absent, no comment.

Wallace - No comment.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Wallace to adjourn the regular meeting, and enter executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy in the City of Bethel vs. Crow case, at 8:00 p.m.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimous.

**motion** M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Miller to come out of executive session at 8:10 p.m.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**motion** M/M by Miller, 2nd by Wallace to follow the recommendations of the City Attorney in the City of Bethel vs. Crow case.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**motion** M/M by McComas, 2nd by Wallace to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

**vote** Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1996.

  
Buford McComas, Acting Mayor

ATTEST:

  
L.J. Tanner, City Clerk