
City of Bethel, Alaska

City Council Minutes

November 16, 1999

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on November 16, 1999, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lions Club, Bethel, Alaska. Mayor Agnes Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Mayor Agnes Phillips
Jerry Drake
Joerene Hout
Dario Notti

Mike O'Brien
Karol Pobrislo (6:45 p.m.)
Stanley "Tundy" Rodgers

comprising a quorum of the Council.

Also in attendance were:

Bob Herron, City Manager
Gaye Vaughan, City Clerk
Louann Cutler, City Attorney

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Hal Jones, representing the Bethel Chamber of Commerce, provided copies of a resolution passed by the Chamber Board urging the post office to do door-to-door mail delivery. He asked that this be placed on the ballot at the next city election.

Shari Neth, member of the Public Safety Commission since January 1996, spoke about the pending ordinance establishing an alcohol delivery site in Bethel. On behalf of the commission she requested updated information such as the fiscal impact on the city. The commission has called for a community meeting for the first week in February.

Janelle Everett, stated she was frustrated and concerned with the post office's decision to choose the WAVE site. She believed this was decided long ago before the post office asked for comments. She asked Council to ask that the Bethel Community Services site be selected. She related that a WAVE employee told her in July that it was a done deal. She felt that a service so vital to the community should not be moved so far from the city center.

(Clerk's Note: Council Member Pobrislo arrived at the meeting.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections and typographical errors were noted by the Mayor and Council members.

MOVED BY:	Pobrilso	To approve the corrected minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 1999.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

City Manager Herron requested an Executive Session be held about the laundromat, a possible litigation and other financial matters.

Copies having been made available to the public, Mayor Phillips noted by title only the items on the consent agenda.

Resolution #99-29: Accepting A Grant In The Amount Of \$1,300,000 For The Village Safe Water Act (City Manager)

Resolution #99-30: Certifying Local Government Approval For Tundra Women's Coalition Emergency Shelter Grant Project (Mayor Phillips)

Ordinance #99-27: Relating to Purchase and Sale of, and a Ground Lease and Bill of Sale for the Laundromat (City Manager Herron) (Public Hearing December 16, 1999)

Ordinance #99-28: Relating to Acquisition of a Road Grader (City Manager Herron) (Public Hearing December 16, 1999)

MOVED BY:	O'Brien	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 Phillips announced the following:

She had attended Alaska Municipal League in Soldotna and found it to be a very worthwhile conference.

She had also attended a pot luck.

Receipt of the Governor's *Talking Points* was acknowledged.

Also receipt of a news release from AHFC regarding

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Herron relayed the following information:

About twenty people had attended the pathway meeting. The next meeting will be later in the winter.

His written report includes a letter from the City Engineers stating that the landfill should last another six to seven years.

DEC letter

Union negotiations will be held again this week and will, hopefully, conclude soon.

The park adjacent to the Police Station will be dedicated on November 19. The park will be named for former Police Chief Tom Dillon who was killed in the line of duty on November 19, 1972.

Testimony of the BP/ARCO merger may be given at the Legislative Information Office.

The Kusko 300 committee has requested a donation from the City.

Mayor Phillips questioned the progress of the Braund Building to which Mr. Herron replied that the courthouse should be moved and operational by the end of February. The city offices should be operational by May 1.

Council Member Hout questioned who the Resource Development Council consisted of. Mr. Herron replied that it is mostly industry people in the Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau areas.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mayor Phillips noted there are vacancies on the Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Port and Public Works Commissions/Committees.

Transportation Commission

Council Member Hout reported that the Commission had had a very productive meeting. She felt the city can regulate the taxis and still be fair. The Commission will be holding a work session.

Parks & Recreation Committee

Council Member Pobrislo stated the Committee had not met since the last Council meeting.

Planning Commission

Council Member Notti noted that the Commission did not have any action items so the November meeting had been cancelled.

Finance Committee

Mayor Phillips stated the next meeting will be December 9.

Senior Citizens' Advisory Board

There is currently no appointed representative to the SCAB.

Port Committee

Council Member Rodgers said the Committee had not met. He had looked at the new bullhead and it looks very good. He referred to three letter in the packet from Howard Elliott who left Bethel on November 9. One was a letter to the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Rodgers noted that

maintenance of the seawall was the city's responsibility with the maintenance fund. The committee will meet again on December 20.

Public Works Committee

Council Member O'Brien stated that the Committee met today at Noon and reviewed the projects accomplished this summer. He noted that future meetings will be held at Noon.

Public Safety Commission

Council Member O'Brien stated the Commission met on November 1 but he had not attended.

OLD BUSINESS

Reorganization of Council

Mayor Phillips noted that the first order of business was the election of a mayor and vice mayor. She announced that nominations for mayor were made for Ms. Hout and Mr. O'Brien at the last meeting.

The mayor asked Ms. Hout and Mr. O'Brien to give brief statements then asked the Council to cast their votes for mayor.

City Clerk Vaughan collected and tallied the votes cast by Council members. She announced the vote was three for Ms. Hout and four for Mr. O'Brien.

Mayor Phillips then asked for nominations for vice mayor.

Ms. Phillips nominated Dario Notti.

Council Member Rodgers nominated Joerene Hout.

Council Member O'Brien nominated Karol Pobrislo.

MOVED BY:	O'Brien	To close nominations for vice mayor.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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City Clerk Vaughan collected and tallied the votes cast by Council members. She announced the vote was three for Ms. Hout and two each for Mr. Notti and Ms. Pobrislo. According to Council Procedures, there would be a vote between Mr. Notti and Ms. Pobrislo, the winner of which would then be opposite Ms. Hout for vice mayor.

Again the City Clerk collected and tallied the votes. The vote was five for Mr. Notti and two for Ms. Pobrislo. The Clerk asked the Council to cast their vote for vice mayor for either Mr. Notti or Ms. Hout.

Ms. Vaughan collected and tallied the votes. Prior to the announcement of the result, Ms. Hout yielded to Mr. Notti.

Ms. Phillips thanked the Council for electing her as mayor for two years. As a shy person this roll has been good for her. She noted she was the first Yupik female mayor since Margaret Cooke and she was proud to be a roll model for young Yupiks. She noted there had been a lot of work and time as mayor and she will now have time to sew.

Newly elected Mayor O'Brien took the gavel and noted that the officials from the U.S. Post Office had arrived.

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To suspend the rules to hear testimony about the new post office.
SECONDED BY:	Pobrislo	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Bryant Schroeder, gave a brief history of the new post office site, stating they had presented plans to the City Council on February 23 and requested sites. Four sites were submitted and one was immediately discarded. He reviewed the events leading up to today.

Hal Jones, presented the post office officials with a copy of a resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors supporting home delivery for Bethel residents.

Rich Lewis, noted that the first step for home delivery would be for the Council to adopt a resolution. He stated that the post office would then have to look at the maintenance of streets in Bethel and whether street names and house numbers were adequate.

Council Member Pobrislo stated she liked the idea of home delivery.

City Manager Herron questioned the process to appeal the site selection.

Mr. Schroeder stated the City was given notice of the site selection of the WAVE site on November 5. There is a 30-day window in which to appeal. The Council or the mayor can appeal and it should be sent to him. The public can write but only the Council can actually appeal.

Council Member Drake asked how long the process could be dragged out if appealed, to which Mr. Schroeder stated they could miss the 2001 construction season. This level of project has to go to headquarters for approval, however they have seed money to begin. Currently they project being in the new building by Fall 2001.

A question was raised about the need for a new post office if home delivery is established. Mr. Schroeder stated yes the new post office would still be needed as the current split operations is very ineffective and they are out of room in the current buildings.

City Manager Herron asked Mr. Lewis if the funding for the post office would be jeopardized if there was a delay, to which Mr. Lewis stated he has requested additional funding from Congress, but the request was put on hold until it was known they would need it. This project is about three months behind schedule now.

Mr. Lewis further stated in a worse case scenario, if WAVE was to pick another site for their operation, it could delay the post office construction up to a year.

In response to a question about home delivery, Mr. Lewis stated he could not see cluster boxes working in Bethel due to soil conditions, but the post office delivery analyst would have to study it. He noted that the individuals are responsible for maintaining their own box.

Hal Jones asked if people could still have a post office box even if home delivery is offered. Mr. Lewis said they could. Mr. Jones then asked if the residents of Bethel asked for a new post office and Mr. Lewis replied that they had not.

Council Member Drake asked if the new post office will still be constructed if WAVE is not. Mr. Lewis replied that the post office will be built, it is not tied to WAVE in any manner.

Council Member Notti stated he supports the WAVE site. He felt there are others who also support it since there is lots of new development in the area. He said he likes to go to the post office, see people and visit, but that if home delivery were to be placed on a ballot, he would vote for it.

Council Member Rodgers asked if the consolidation of two buildings would alleviate the wait for delivery.

Mr. Lewis stated the mail would be in people's boxes earlier. He noted that 33,000,000 lbs. of mail was moved from Anchorage to Bethel in 1998.

Council Member Notti noted that he mailed five boxes from three post offices to Bethel the previous week. Some of the boxes arrived in three days, while others took eleven days to arrive.

Janelle Everette asked if the Council would file an appeal and reiterated her opposition to the WAVE site.

Appointment of Council Members to Committees and Commissions

Mayor O'Brien asked if any council members wished to switch to another committee or commission.

Council members Phillips, Rodgers, Notti, Pobrislo and Hout indicated they would like to keep the appointments they currently have.

Mayor O'Brien indicated he would no longer be able to be a part of two committees and asked if either Mr. Drake or Ms. Hout would be willing to take Public Works. Mr. Drake stated he was willing.

Ms. Hout indicated she would take Senior Citizens Advisory Board in addition to the Transportation Commission.

The Mayor would continue with the Public Safety Commission.

Ordinance #99-26: Amending the Adopted Annual FY1999-2000 Budget for Sexual Assault Exams and Bethel Recycling Building (City Manager Herron

Mayor O'Brien called for public testimony. Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

MOVED BY:	O'Brien	To adopt Ordinance #99-26.
SECONDED BY:	Rodgers	

Council Member Drake questioned the amount designated for the recycling building.

City Manager Herron replied that Brian Glasheen has refused to move to the proposed location.

A discussion ensued regarding the recycling center.

MOVED BY:	Drake	To amend Ordinance #99-26 be deleting \$46,000 for recycling building.
SECONDED BY:	Notti	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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City Manager Herron indicated that he had spoken with YKHC President Gene Peltola who said the city would be billed for sexual assault examinations. He added that \$35,000 was just a guess as to the amount needed.

VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED	Motion carried by a unanimous vote.
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DRAKE Yes	HOUT Yes	NOTTI Yes	O'BRIEN Yes
PHILLIPS Yes	RODGERS Yes	SANCHEZ-POBRISLO Yes	7 YES 0 NO

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Item – Home delivery of mail

Mayor O'Brien stated that after listening to opposing views on the post office site, he was uncomfortable with appealing the site selection. He felt he needed to be more informed and placing the subject on the ballot would be in line with finding out how people feel about home delivery.

MOVED BY:	Pobrislo	To appeal the post office site selection.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

Council Member Notti stated the numbers sound like they were equal in favor and opposed to the WAVE site.

Council Member Hout stated having the Advisory School Board coming out against the BCS site was a big factor.

Council Member Drake stated he has dealt with the post office for seventeen years in moving mail, etc. and could see no reason to appeal. He said the post office has always done what it wants to do.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion failed by unanimous voice vote.
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DRAKE No	HOUT No	NOTTI No	O'BRIEN No
PHILLIPS No	RODGERS No	SANCHEZ-POBRISLO No	0 YES 7 NO

MOVED BY:	Drake	To postpone discussion of home delivery to January meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Hout	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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City Manager Herron stated he would get more information on home delivery for the Council.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Hout congratulated Mr. O'Brien on being elected mayor. She said she would like to see something on the next agenda about funding the radio broadcast of the Council meetings.

Council Member Phillips asked about the television transmitter, to which City Manager Herron stated he is having it looked at, then will apply for a temporary license.

Council Member Hout stated that people in the villages and at fish camp don't watch television.

Council Member Pobrislo congratulated Mayor O'Brien and Vice Mayor Notti and thanked Council Member Phillips for her service as mayor. She said AML was well worth the trip for all who attended.

Council Member Notti congratulated Mr. O'Brien for being elected mayor and for being re-elected to the AML Board of Directors. He said he had enjoyed the AML conference and the Newly Elected and Continuing Officials work shop. He noted that he learned things he didn't catch his first time attending and that he had made good contacts both regionally and statewide.

Council Member Drake thanked the Veterans who made it possible for him not to be a vet. He said the AML conference was extremely eye opening and his head was still swimming. He noted that the Municipal Official of the Year was a maintenance worker from Quinhagak. He was looking forward to working with Alaska Municipal League.

Council Member Rodgers also congratulated Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Notti and thanked Ms. Phillips. He noted that bottled water in the stores is now more costly than gasoline. He told of his son snowmobiling through a caribou herd with no gun or camera. He offered his condolences to the Simeon family.

Council Member Phillips also congratulated Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Notti who brings a Native viewpoint. She also thanked Mr. Notti for his working with AML on a resolution.

Mayor O'Brien offered his congratulations to Mr. Notti and noted that he jokes about he and Mr. Notti usually being on opposing sides, but most of the time they are just going in different directions to get to the same point. He noted that Mr. Notti and Mr. Drake will be serving on AML Committees. He thanked Ms. Phillips for her services as mayor and stated he hoped he could fill her shoes. He thanked the Council for electing him mayor.

City Clerk Vaughan expressed her thanks to Police Chief Pettit for getting her vehicle out of a deep snow drift while she was delivering Council packets.

The Council took a brief recess at 9:15 p.m. prior to going into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED BY:	Rodgers	To recess into Executive Session.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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The Council reconvened the meeting at 11:26 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Phillips	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Drake	

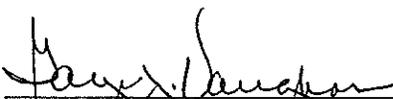
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1999.

ATTEST:


Mike O'Brien, Mayor


Gaye J. Vaughan, City Clerk