

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES

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January 3, 1996

**City of Bethel
Public Safety Commission
Regular Meeting of
[As Amended]**

I. Oath of Office of newly appointed Commission Members was conducted at 6:45pm by Laurie Adams, Acting City Clerk.

II. Call To Order

The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM, at the City Offices Conference Room, Bethel, Alaska, by Mayor Richardson interim City Council representative.

III. Roll Call

All Present: Mayor Richardson, Gary Vanasse, Tom Hildreth, Bruce Day, Shari Neth, John Hastie, and Gary Peltola.

Absent:

IV. Approval of Agenda

motion Motion by Chairman Vanasse, 2nd by Mr. Hastie to amend the agenda by adding Ridgecrest crossing zone project as item F and a Discussion period for cab inspections as Item G.

The agenda was approved as amended. Voice vote.
Motion carried unanimously.

V. Chief's Reports

Fire Chief Young addressed the Commission about enjoying a good working relationship.

Police Chief Liu stated that he welcomes concerns about the Police Department. He tries to be receptive and will do his best to meet community needs.

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VI Commission Member Comments

Commission members each expressed their gratitude for their appointment and their willingness to serve the community.

Mayor Richardson welcomed Gary Peltola as an Exofficio member of the commission.

VII. People To Be Heard

Stewart Greydanus expressed his dissatisfaction with how the police department handled his case. He asked for a refund of an impound fee in the amount of \$50.00 because his car wasn't secure. He was also upset about the information the Police Department released to the media.

Commission members began asking Stewart questions about the impoundment of his vehicle and the news release. A discussion ensued about the possibility of changing existing procedures.

Lt. Short said that vehicles were safer in the Police Department parking lot than at the City Shop. He also said the Department is in the process of getting a new impound yard that would alleviate this kind of complaint.

Chief Liu confirmed that presently vehicles are taken to the City Shop parking lot or to the Police Department parking lot.

Mr. Greydanus was directed back to see the City Manager and Chief Liu about the refund.

Motion

Mr. Hastie made a motion Ms. Neth 2nd, to make impound and press releases items on the next agenda.

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VIII. New Business

Item A: Election of Officers

The Commission elected Gary Vanasse as the Chairman; Tom Hildreth as Vice Chairman.

Item B: Terms of Office

Mayor Richardson serving as an interim City Council representative read about the initial appointments. 2 members serve 1 year; 2 members serve 2 years; and 2 members serve three years.

Gary Vanasse received a one year term, Tom Hildreth a three year term, John Hastie received a two year term, Shari Neth a two year term and Bruce Day a three year term of office.

Item C: Meeting Date and Time

motion After a short discussion Mr. Hildreth made a motion that was 2nd by Mr Hastie to meet at the log cabin at 7:00pm on the first monday of each month making the next meeting in the log cabin on February 5, 1996 at 7:00pm. It was approved by all, motion carried

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Item D: Police Performance Audit

City Manager Ken Weaver explained that the audit came about out of last years budget and Council approval.

Mr. Lamb explained how the audit team will compare our Department to a National Standard then will make recommendations for a five year plan based on the results. The goal of the plan is help the Department to function at a level where they could be accredited if they wanted to be. Operating within the plan could reduce the City and Departments liability risk.

Chairman Vanasse brought up how the Police Department used to patrol on the river and that the department is needed to respond to emergencies when the State Troopers are busy up river.

Mr. Lamb cautioned that there is a question of liability in this issue and that there is no simple solution. He also addressed handling citizen complaints, how the public doesn't understand the chain of command and how they want to go to the top to get a problem settled.

There was some discussion about coming up with a simple complaint format and educating the public on how to use it.

Chairman Vanasse asked several questions about how our department compares in salaries to other police departments.

Jim Bendric another audit team member said that AML has a League of Alaska Blue Book with salary comparisons.

Item E: Reserve Officer Program

Lt. Short passed around to The Commission a Policy and Procedure, and format of training for the Reserve Officer Program. He explained how the program is designed to save the City money by providing highly trained volunteers to augment the Police Department. It provides levels of ability to keep the Reserve Officers motivated.

Chairman Vanasse encouraged Commission Members to take advantage of the ride-a-long program with the officers or to attend staff meetings to get to know each other.

Item F: Crossing Zone at Ridge Crest

Ms. Shari Neth introduced Jim Kohl who explained that the DOT had come out in December and they were getting close to finalizing the project with completed drawings by next month. There was some discussion as to where the cross walks and board walks would be located. The plan had changed from the original one proposed in 1993. As a result of the discussion Jim said he would talk to DOT about Watsons Corner next week.

The Project Manager is
Jim Childers
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Anchorage, AK 99519-6900
PH: (907) 266-1505
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Item G: Discussion Item, Cab Inspections

Some of the Cab drivers questioned why some garages won't do cab inspections because of liability.

Chief Liu said we adopted Anchorage standards and there are two inspection stations, Avalos, and Ed's Automotive Shop behind QFC.

IX. Adjournment

motion Motion made by Mr. Hildreth and 2nd by Mayor Richardson to adjourn the meeting

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1996.

Chairman