

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – Monday, January 3, 2000

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Chairman Tom Hildreth called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Members of the commission present: Tom Hildreth, Shari Neth, Bruce Day, James Berlin, Dick Russell and John Hastie. Police Chief Bob Petitt and note taker Andrew Steele were also in attendance.

ROLL CALL

Mike O'Brien and Fire Chief George Young were absent.

ABSENTEES

None.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

The minutes of 12/6/99 were moved for approval by Shari Neth, seconded by James Berlin and unanimously carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL

The agenda was amended to include the election of a Chair and a Vice-Chair to the commission and added as A. of *OLD BUSINESS*. Moved for approval by Ms. Neth, it was seconded by Dick Russell and unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF
AMENDED AGENDA**

There was no department report from the Fire Chief. The Police Chief ran through each item of his written report with the commission. He explained that as yet there is no contract signed with the State regarding the re-opening of the DMV in Bethel and that the City attorney is finalizing the language therein before submission. The DMV clerk job will be full-time to start with and then re-assessed according to its needs. The position is expected to break even financially. There will be another meeting of CRIMESTOPPERS on Saturday, January 15, 2000. New Years festivities went quietly for the department, with the major distraction being that of random gunshots fired, presumably, to celebrate the millennium. Several parties were seemingly unaware of the restriction on fireworks ending at 1:00am. There were no dwi arrests. It was felt that the weather was responsible for the quiet night. The commission asked the Chief to pass on their congratulations to the two officers who recently graduated from the PSA in Sitka and who are the latest additions to the police force in Bethel.

CHIEF' s REPORT

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Dick Russell wondered if something could be done to regulate the cab drivers that continue to smoke in their vehicles, despite receiving the no smoking sticker to affix to their dashboards. There are many instances of cabs smelling of tobacco when a passenger enters, and of drivers seen smoking inside the vehicle while parked. Various remedy suggestions followed and the Chief said that he would take it under advisement with the Transportation Committee.

Tom Hildreth brought up the subject of the parking lot in front of the AC store. There is continual chaos in this space. Taxis park haphazardly in the area at all times severely limiting the ability of regular drivers to avail themselves of the parking spaces in front of the store. This situation is further confounded by the present center egress only section, which has not alleviated the congestion and has in fact added to the confusion, as some drivers continue to enter through this section. He suggested angled parking within a demarcated area and a one-way system throughout the lot that would entail entrance from one side and egress from the other, with the middle resealed. After some discussion Mr. Russell made a motion that Chief Pettitt set up a multi agency work force organization to solve the problem. This force would include representatives from the planning department, AC, the Post Office, BNC, Video World, taxicab owners and a representative from this commission. This motion was seconded by John Hastie and unanimously carried. Mr. Hildreth volunteered to be the commission representative.

Mr. Hildreth then asked Chief Pettitt about new plans for taxi drivers. The Chief responded that with the advent of the DMV, some provision would need to be made to accommodate the Korean nationals. Multi language test papers are a possibility, as are interpreters, though the latter might be dangerous as they could be giving the answers while interpreting, without anyone being the wiser. The Chief said that he would also like to see a change in the ordinance that requires drivers to have a chauffeur's license in addition to the permit. This license would only be granted after the individual has taken and passed a special chauffeurs driving test. He also would like to see an 800 number made available to be posted in each cab that could be used by members of the public in the event of a complaint against cab drivers.

MEMBER COMMENTS

DICK RUSSELL

Smoking in taxi cabs

TOM HILDRETH

AC parking lot

Taxi drivers

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Shari Neth made a motion to nominate Tom Hildreth as continuing Chairman of the Public Safety Commission. John Hastie seconded and the motion was unanimously carried. James Berlin made a motion that Dick Russell be nominated as continuing Vice-Chairman of the Public Safety Commission, which Bruce Day seconded. This was unanimously carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A: Election of Chairman & ViceChairman to the Public Safety Commission

The Chief was asked if there was anything in the Statutes to cover securing of loads on vehicles. Searching the internet, had produced nothing that would cover the sort of events that commission members reported, such as seeing wood siding and sheet rock lying on the highway having fallen from the back of vehicles due to driver neglect in the loading process. Dick Russell made a motion that the City drafts a “load coverage and safety” ordinance for both commercial and private vehicles. This draft to be sent back to the commission upon completion for any wording additions. Bruce Day seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

B: Load Coverage Ordinance

Mr. Hildreth asked the Chief what could be done to clear up the abandoned buildings that seem to be proliferating in Bethel. Several local buildings were discussed as unsanitary, unsafe and fire-hazard eyesores. John Hastie made a motion that this issue is brought to the attention of the Planning Commission for action. Bruce Day seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

C: Abandoned Buildings

Despite a memo attached with the draft ordinance from the City attorney stating that **5.60.030.C-“A pawnbroker may not purchase or pawn property from a person who appears to be under the influence of drugs or intoxicating beverages.”** was unenforceable and might be subject to constitutional challenge, after some discussion Dick Russell made a motion that the ordinance be passed on to City council for approval with the notation that **5.60.030.C** be left in, for law enforcement to access as an emergency tool. Shari Neth seconded the motion which was carried 5 –1.

D: Pawnbrokers Ordinance

Neth; Hildreth; Hastie; Berlin; Russell. AYE
Day. NAY

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Shari Neth introduced arrangements for the forthcoming community forum on the Alcohol Delivery Site which has been changed to Thursday, February 10, from 7-9:00 pm. at the Cultural Center. She will present historical perspective of the site at this forum. Mr. Day presented statistics from the program in force in Barrow. Though there are differences in the manner in which their program is administered, the proposed Bethel ADS is similar. Despite having been in operation for almost three months, there have been no appreciable differences in the number of alcohol related court cases. He will supply update statistics to Ms. Neth at the next commission meeting that she will be able to use at the forum. There was discussion and suggestion from each commission member as to the best way to supply information to the public at this forum. These will be finalized at the next commission meeting immediately before the forum.

OLD
BUSINESS(continued)
Alcohol Delivery Site

Dick Russell was called away on an emergency call at 8:00pm.

John Hastie made a motion to table the draft ordinance until the next commission meeting because of Mr. Russell's absence. This motion was seconded by Mr. Day and unanimously carried with the proviso that it would be returned to the City clerk for the following amendments.

NEW BUSINESS
Draft Ordinance #00-xx

9.20.060: Add the word "by" between furnished and persons.

9.20.070A: Remove clause 3 in its entirety.

9.20.070B: Remove the number 3 that precedes "or area." Remove clause F in its entirety.

9.20.080: Add what the fine structure is for this section.

9.30.010A: Remove "possession" and substitute the word "importation."

10.20.100: Remove "B" and substitute B & C for C & D.

The next meeting is Monday, February 7, at 6:15pm in the Fire Department.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Neth made a motion to adjourn which Mr. Berlin seconded, unanimously carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

ADJOURNEMENT