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# City of Bethel, Alaska

## Public Safety & Transportation Commission

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Date: March 5, 2009

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

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### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on January at 7:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Chairperson Mark Springer called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Compromising a quorum of the Commission, the following members were present for roll call:

Mark Springer

Brian Lefferts

Charlie Chung

Pat Jennings

Ex-Officio members present were the following:

Chief Larry Elarton

Records Sharri Salyers

### **III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

Rachel from Kusko Cab Co.

Had a few items that she had some concerns with, her first question was in regards to the (BMC) 5.20.160 (A) It states in lieu of sales tax in the wording and she didn't understand why she needs to pay this (\$185.00) a month for taxi permits when she pays sales tax every month on the vehicles that she owns. Chairman of the board Mark Springer stated that the in lieu of sales tax was to of been removed in the revised BMC. Mr. Springer suggested that Rachel go speak to the Finance committee to try and get the answers to her question on the reason of the sales tax that she is paying at this time. Rachel continued with another question, as to dispatch fees they have recently changed to (\$185.00) a month. What are these fees for? Chairman of the board Mark Springer turned the question over to Transportation Inspector Chief of Police Elarton and he stated he was not sure what those fees were for and would be willing to attend the finance committee meeting with Rachel to help her find out.

Chairman of the Board Mark Springer read the ordnance 5.20.160 (A),(B),(C) and requested that it be put onto the April 2, 2009 agenda.

Theresa from Kusko Cab Co.

She had a question on the renewal of the taxi permit. Why would I have to pay the renewal on the permit if it belongs to me? I own the permit I am paying the \$185.00 a month for the permit and then I have to pay a renewal fee (\$250.00) every two years. I do not understand why I have to pay both fees. Chairman of the board Mark Springer stated that we will look into the whole BMC ordnance 5.20.160 and hopefully we will be able to figure it out and have answers for you at that time.

Jea Pak from Bethel Airport Limo Service

Had a question on using his Cadillac Limousine as a taxi if he could buy a taxi permit from a taxi permit holder? There were concerns as to what the BMC listed of definitions as to a taxicab. Chairman of the board Mark Springer read from BMC 5.20.010 (O) the definition of a taxicab. As to what the BMC's definition lists it was determined that Mr. Pak would be able to utilize his Cadillac limousine as a taxicab if he was able to obtain a taxi permit.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

##### MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF March 5, 2009

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Lefferts	
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Jennings	

*Discussion*

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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#### V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF

##### MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF January 8, 2009

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Jennings	
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Lefferts	

*Discussion*

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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#### VI. CHIEF'S COMMENTS

##### Police Chief-

- A: (CSP) Community Service Patrol-** Grant has been signed we be employing three people. We will be buying two vehicles. We unsure as to where the offices will be at this time weather it will be at the former Korean Church or we may have to do some movement in our office and try to accommodate them there. We are waiting on council approval.
- B: Calls for service-** We had two attempted homicides, we have multiple traffic accidents, we are attempting to get the truck that is stuck in the ice on the river out.
- C: Radios-** We have changed providers from Alaska Telecomm to Procomm Alaska. Procomm gave us a quote for \$5,000.00 to come to Bethel for two days and try and find out what the problems that we have been having. Procomm was there for half day with all of their tools and everything is has been working well.
- D: Antenna-** We received a nasty gram from the state that we've not used the Grant funding at this time. They were advised that we have changed providers to Procomm. Since Procomm came in a has fixed our problems we are now able to get out of Kasyulie and Larson, we are checking if we can put the antenna up at the Animal Shelter Public works building or AST if we can get a MOU with them.
- E: Budget- 2010 has been submitted-** We are have requested in our Capital expenditures' a Radar Trailer, Vehicles, Building Repairs and fencing for the fire range.

- F: Building-** Public works is going to be working on the furnace since we bought portable heaters for all of the offices this winter. A Council member has requested that I get him plans on what we are wanting in a new building. Lt. Achee had some plans drawn up on a building before and that has been submitted.
- G: Abandoned Vehicles-** We are looking into trying to get something going with that. We have talked with the department heads in the city and are trying to implement a possible recycling of vehicles parts that are taken to the landfill and this could be a revenue to the city. We could have Tundra Center workers come in and drain all of the oil and take that tires and wheels off of the vehicles and have them organized in a way of getting more vehicles in the area.

**VII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS REPORT**

- A:** Three Inspections of vehicles
- B:** Two new Chauffeur permits given
- C:** Three Transfers
- D:** Three Taxicabs change Dispatch's
- E:** Chairman of the board Mark Springer asked what is the Enforcement on the cabs speeding not using their head lights, turn signals, car seats. Chief Elarton stated that there was a meeting earlier on March 5, 2009 with the City Manager Lee Foley, Sharri Salyers and his self with the cab owners and dispatchers. All of those questions were addressed and the owners and dispatchers will be taking the information back to all of the drivers. We are hoping that will help. If not we will start issuing tickets.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A: Annual Election of Chair**

**MOTION TO ELECT CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD MARK SPRINGER**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Lefferts	
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Jennings	

*Discussion*

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**B: Annual Election of Vice-Chair**

**MOTION TO ELECT VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD BRIAN LEFFERTS**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Jennings	
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Chung	

*Discussion*

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**C: City-Owned Vehicle Policy-** Chief of Police Larry Elarton requested to have Lieutenant Andre Achee speak on the behalf of the Bethel police department. Lieutenant Achee stated that the city manager has implemented a new city owned vehicle policy. It has brought up concerns for us at the police department. The city has had three different policies since I have been here. The police department has also had their own policies and the police department's has been a little more stricter on their policies, we would police our own policies and make sure that it was being followed. This new policy being implemented allows only the department heads of the city, Lieutenant of Police, Investigative Sergeant and Fire Captain to take the city vehicles home. The police department's policy allowed The Chief of Police, Lieutenant , Supervisors and officers that are on the work schedule to take the vehicles home. Officers off of the schedule do not have a take home vehicle The way that this worked is that the supervisors would be on call and the officers that were scheduled days would be on call that evening. They would have the vehicle at their home and go to the scene. The officers that are on their days off would leave the vehicles at the department. The schedule for the officers are, three days on and three days off four days on and four days off. There are two officers on days and two officers on nights. With the new policy the officers will have to drive or get a ride to the police department to get the vehicle and then go to the scene. The concerns that we have with this new policy is officer safety issues we do not have someone available to get to a crime scene whether it be someone with a gun call or any other dangerous call that we may have. We are asking you the public safety commission for your recommendation to the City Council and/or the City Manager to allow us to maintain our police departments vehicle take home policy and have it over ride this new city owned vehicle policy. Vice-chairman of the board Brian Lefferts had a question. Did anyone take up these concerns with that city manager? Chief of Police Larry Elarton advised that it was brought up to the city manager and the city manager would appreciate feedback on the policy. Chairman of the board Mark Springer stated that he would be willing to go and speak to the city manager with the Chief of Police to advise the city manager that the commission would like to see that the police department maintain their vehicle policy.

**MOTION to recommend the City Manager to give policy discretion to the Chief of Police on police vehicles.**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Lefferts	
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Jennings	

*Discussion*

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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**COMMISSION MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

**A: Pat Jennings- No comment**

**B: Brian Lefferts-** Would like to see on the next agenda the Aurora Data Project it goes into effect as of June 1, 2009. The state is requiring a tracking system for the ambulances. Fire Chief Young will have this information.

**C: Charlie Chung-** No comment

**D: Mark Springer-** I got ran off of the road last night, I am glad that you had a meeting with the cabs and I hope that you continue to have more of them. HAM radio people will be grateful once the paging system is working at the KYUK everything the pages go off it interrupts the radios. Would like to see Animal Control reports next month.

The new patches are looking very nice.  
Stimulus package has a billion dollars in the cop grant thought I would let you know about that and see if you know anything about that or not.

**X. ADJOURNMENT  
MOTION TO ADJOURN**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Lefferts	
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Jennings	

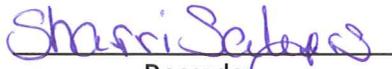
*Discussion*

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Next meeting on Thursday APRIL 2, 2009

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Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
Recorder