



CITY OF BETHEL

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City of Bethel, Public Safety Commission Regular Meeting Minutes April 1, 1996

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:02 PM, at the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska, By Chairman Vanasse.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: John Hastie, Tom Hildreth, Gary Vanasse, Bruce Day, Shari Neth
Absent: Ruth Richardson, Don Constantine (excused)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from March 4, 1996 meeting.

Mr. Hastie noted that he had requested to be excused, and that his name should be placed behind the names of excused absent individuals under section II, Roll Call. It was decided that when an individual is excused from a meeting, this should be noted in the Roll Call section, not just in the body of the minutes.

Ms. Neth requested that in section VI under commission member comments, the term "special issues" be changed to "specific issues," and that in section VIII, Item A the terms *sales tax* and *point of sale* be placed in quotation marks, i.e., "sales tax", "point of sale".

Mr. Hildreth requested that the comments he submitted to be read at the March 4 meeting be made a part of the minutes.

motion M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Day, to approve the minutes of the March 4, 1996, regular Commission meeting as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Neth asked if the resolution for inebriates, called for at the last meeting, should be added to the agenda. Mr. Vanasse stated that the resolution was not ready.

Mr. Hastie requested that prior to discussing Item C: Police Audit, the Commission discuss a tour of the Police Department. Mr. Vanasse directed Mr. Hastie to bring the item up under Commission Member comments.

motion M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Neth to approve the agenda.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. CHIEF'S REPORTS

Chief Young stated he'd been busy working on the budget. He passed out a few items of interest:

- A. EMT Training class for volunteers on city ambulance service. This is an experiment to gauge public interest. He stated requirements for volunteers to join are stringent.
- B. Graph of dollars saved vs. dollars lost in fire calls. It shows that the fire departments' rapid intervention saves property and money.

Chairman Vanasse asked for both Chiefs to give the Commission copies of their budget proposals. Ms. Neth also asked them to prioritize the budget items so they have an idea where the greatest needs are. Mr. Vanasse stated that they may have to hold a special meeting to help with the budget in a timely manner.

Chief Young asked permission to leave. Permission granted.

Chief Liu requested that the Commission pass a resolution to the council as to how the police audit got leaked out to the public.

motion M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Neth to forward a verbal request to City Council for an investigation on how the police audit got leaked.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion M/M by Hastie, 2nd by Neth to send a letter of recognition to the WAANT Unit and Investigator Walker acknowledging his effort in the bootlegging arrests.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hastie discussed a memorandum in the last meetings' packet. Mr. Hastie indicated that the memo had been altered to hide the name of the original author, Sergeant John Bilyeau. Mr.

Hastie asked Chief Liu why the Commission received an altered document. Chief Liu responded that he had whited out Mr. Bilyeau's name, feeling that it was not necessary for Mr. Bilyeau's name to appear on the memo. Mr. Vanasse stated that he would prefer not to see this type of thing happen in the future.

Discussion followed on Chief Liu's statement in his department report that morale is high, and reasons officers look for jobs elsewhere, including low pay and career advancement. The City Manager stated that he has a police officer pay survey.

Further discussion followed on the reserve officer program.

VI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Day Mr. Day stated that he received an unauthorized copy of the police audit in the mail. He thinks it should have been made public.

Hildreth Mr. Hildreth stated that the City Council has gone through a paper conservation act. He thinks the Public Safety Commission should do the same and cut back on the amount of paper in the packet.

Hastie Mr. Hastie stated that he was surprised to receive a copy of the audit, and is unsure if it is the complete document. The return address on the envelope was that of the Bethel Police Department. He assumes this is a dire plea for help from the Police Officers.

After some discussion it was planned that the Commission would tour the Police Department, Fire Department, bus barn facility, and dog pound. The Fire Chief, Police Chief, and City Manager supported the idea.

motion M/M by Hastie, 2nd by Hildreth to tour the Police Department and Fire Department with the Police facility being 1st, at the earliest possible time.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion resulted in the tour being scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th at 5:30 pm. It was agreed that it would be a public meeting, duly posted.

Neth Ms. Neth stated that the unauthorized copy of the police audit should not be reviewed by the Commission, that they should only use the copy of the audit that was given to them by the Mayor. She considered the mailing of the audit to be underhanded.

Vanasse Chairman Vanasse stated he would not be here for the May meeting and Vice Chairman Tom Hildreth would chair that meeting.

VII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

There were no People to be heard.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

ITEM A: Collection of Sales Tax on Alcohol Sales

Ms. Neth asked if the Council had responded to the Commission's recommendations that they investigate the issue. City Manager Weaver stated that Council has not responded officially.

Ms. Neth's preliminary findings are that Yute Air could provide a caged in area. Yute Air determined a possible requirement of approximately 150 sq feet at approximately \$7.00 per sq. foot, just for the floor space. She reiterated that these were not precise quotes.

A discussion followed about the different possibilities of getting revenue out of alcohol sales. The legislation that is before the State Legislature on collection of sales taxes was discussed, as well as the possibility of using City Staff to do a feasibility study on the issue.

Ms. Neth agreed to do more research into the possibility of an alcohol control point and to see if state law allows the airlines to work as agents in collection of the sales taxes.

motion M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Day to table this item until the next meeting.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Vanasse asked to have a copy of the Kotzebue draft ordinance sent to the Commission Members before the next meeting.

ITEM B: Reserve Program Reinstated

Chief Liu gave a short report stating that the status of the Reserve Program is the same as it was before it was put on hold. Mr. Vanasse stated that he is strongly in favor of continuing the program. Other commissioners were in agreement.

Chairman Vanasse, at the request of the City Manager, asked that the subject of mandatory physical examinations for Fire and Police Department Staff be looked into.

ITEM C: Police Performance Audit

Chairman Vanasse stated that an unauthorized copy of the Police Performance Audit has been mailed; he has received a copy. He noted that a revised version was distributed to the Commission at the instructions of the City Council. Mr. Vanasse stated that the Commission could not address issues in the unauthorized version until they were told to do so by City Council. He asked the Commissioners for their comments, but advised them to keep comments regarding the unauthorized version of the audit general in nature until they get direction from Council.

Mr. Hildreth noted that several of the items involve the department's budget. He recommends that the Commission table the matter until direction is received from the City Council.

Mr. Hastie noted that there were differences between the two versions. He does not want to see time spent on an investigation of the audit leak when there is an unsolved murder in town. He would like the Commission to consider a resolution that the Justice Department come to Bethel and investigate alleged burglary of or tampering with the evidence facility and that the minors be interviewed and concur their findings with the Chief's findings.

Ms. Neth would like to see the matter tabled until direction is received from the City Council.

Mr. Day also noted that several items were related to the budget.

motion M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Day, to recommend to City Council that they be allowed to review the entire unedited audit at the discretion of the Council.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A: Shift Change Proposal.

Sgt. Gagne stated that this item is being negotiated with the union and is included for their information. Mr. Hildreth stated that it couldn't be discussed if it's related to labor negotiations. No action was taken.

ITEM B: Home Fleet Vehicle Program Proposal

Chief Liu gave a brief report on the benefits and purpose of the Home Fleet Vehicle Program, such as deterring crime in areas cars are parked, increased response time for back up calls, increased morale, less maintenance costs. A discussion ensued about the benefits versus the costs.

motion M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Neth to table this issue until they receive a prioritized budget list from the Police Department.

vote Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

X. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Neth to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 6TH DAY OF MAY, 1996.



Tom Hildreth, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:



L.J. Tanner, City Clerk