



# CITY OF BETHEL

P.O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559

543-2297—Area Code 907

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 1993

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Abrant called the May 5, 1993, regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Gary Vanasse, Peter Twitchell, John Abrant

Absent: Sherron Smith, Susan Rapoza

### APPROVAL/MINUTES

M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Twitchell to approve the minutes of the April 6, 1993, meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

### APPROVAL/AGENDA

M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Vanasse to amend the agenda as follows: Item A: Fireworks, Item B: Reserves. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

-Mr. Vanasse expressed general support from the Interim-City Manager and the City Council on the Police Department proposal to cut one investigator position in order to raise police officer salaries. He expressed concern about the effects of raising the entry level from 7,A to 7,C.

-Mr. Liu supported the raise in entry level range on the basis of specialized training, stringent qualifications, and occupational hazards of officers.

-Mr. Abrant noted that this is an issue for fire fighters as well.

-Mr. Vanasse suggested that in the future Council might create two separate range 7 scales.

-Mr. John Watts stated the value of retaining employees over the long term, especially with regard to saving training costs.

-Mr. Twitchell told of sitting on a grand jury at which a police officer left an unprofessional impression on jury members.

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-Mr. Liu explained that he talked to the grand jury about how the case was handled. The grand jury was satisfied, and suggested more officer coverage in the field, as well as more training and retention of officers.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

-Mr. Young stated that he has submitted a budget to Council which falls below last years budget figures. Mr. Young expressed disappointment at the prospect of losing one fire fighter position, which was not part of the budget he submitted. He described some of the problems he has had in the past year with keeping all staff positions filled.

-Mr. Hunter explained that it is the responsibility of the City Manager to submit a balanced budget. Departments are encouraged to make proposals, but they do not make the final budget decisions. Mr. Hunter expressed the need examine the current allocation of limited resources, and arrive at a broader (city-wide) perspective of how to use these resources in best service to the community.

OLD BUSINESS

Item A:  
Fireworks

-Mr. John Watts stated that he speaks as a representative of DECO Enterprises, and not as a representative of Camai Air. He reviewed that last year was a success, and that people enjoyed the fireworks. He described incidents in which he turned away sales to minors accompanied by (non-parental) young adults. Mr. Watts said that he was not aware of any injuries resulting from last year's fireworks. He is open to enhancing safety, and requests the approval of Chief Liu for the sale of fireworks again this year.

A lengthy discussion followed, including the following topics: Problems encountered last year, possible restrictions to control the use of fireworks, and who is responsible for safe use of fireworks.

motion

M/M by Vanasse to recommend the sale of fireworks in Bethel to the authority, Chief Liu. No second.

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-Mr. Liu asked Mr. Twitchell to accumulate current opinions from the public via radio. Mr. Liu stated that he will postpone the decision, in order to allow for more community input.

Item B:  
Reserves

-Mr. Vanasse stated that he would like to see a plan for reserves, citing past successes of reserves in the Fire Department. Mr. Vanasse recommended that Chief Liu incorporate reserves into the long range plan.

A brief discussion revealed general agreement that Reserves are an important topic, but should be postponed for a short period because of pressing budget and staffing issues.

motion

M/M by Twitchell to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Vanasse. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE IS ON JUNE 1, 1993.

Connie L Johnson  
Connie Johnson  
Police Department Admin. Asst.