



CITY OF BETHEL

P.O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559

543-2297—Area Code 907

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 1994

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Abrant called the May 11, 1994, regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Abrant, Tubbs, Vanasse, Hildreth, Twitchell

Absent: Gregory (excused), Wallace (excused)

APPROVAL/MINUTES

M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Tubbs to approve the minutes of the April 6, 1994, with the following amendment:

Page 2, Old Business Item A (Off-Road Vehicle Ordinance), 5th paragraph, the first two sentences amended to read "Abrant pointed out that statewide registration is already available. Vanasse explained that boats register with the city..." (Amended agenda attached as part of these minutes.)

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/AGENDA

M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Hildreth to amend the agenda to add New Business Item A: Off Road Vehicles. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

CHIEFS' REPORTS

-Lt. Meece announced the graduation ceremony for the D.A.R.E. program. He also announced National Police Memorial Day, and stated that the Bethel Police Department would be represented in the Anchorage ceremony by Officer David Ewing. The department is keeping a watch on the level of the river. The homicide investigation on Sophie Shomler continues, with the trace evidence report

just received. Officers did an excellent job collecting trace evidence.

-Chief Young stated that he has been working with the State Fire Marshall on inspecting numerous commercial facilities. Regarding the recent safety concerns about the roads in Trailer Court, Young stated that those are not city roads; they are privately owned. Young stated that he assisted some of the residents in organizing their complaints and directing them to the property owner. Chief Young described current training, and stated that his department is also monitoring the river.

COMMITTEE MEMBER
COMMENTS

-Mr. Twitchell stated that he missed having an inter-agency emergency flood preparation meeting.

-Mr. Tubbs stated that several of the Trailer Court residents had sent a letter to Lyman Hoffman. He suggested that the income from the various lots should be sufficient to provide for the roads to be kept in working order.

-Mr. Hildreth stated that he is glad to be on the committee, and will give his utmost to the city in terms of positive change.

-Mr. Vanasse welcomed Mr. Hildreth to the committee.

-Mr. Abrant also welcomed Mr. Hildreth, and gave an update on his possible transfer.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD (none)

OLD BUSINESS

Item A: Terms for
Committee Members

-Mr. Vanasse reminded the committee that the committee had already agreed to set terms, and the task for this meeting was to set the schedule for the terms. General discussion followed on various proposed schedules.

motion

M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Hildreth to approve two-year terms for committee members, calculated retroactively to the date of appointment. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Item B: Public

-Chief Young and Mr. Tubbs highlighted the

Safety Budget
Proposals

progress of the City Council's budget preparation process.
-The police department was discussed first. Factors considered included the reserve program, overtime, animal control, the administrative assistant position, travel and training, waste heat, and the chief's salary, and an additional police officer position.
-The following issues were discussed for the fire department's budget: the fire chief's vehicle, the city manager's proposal to cut one fire captain position, non-personnel items that were excluded from the city manager's proposal, the community's demand for 24 hour service.

motion

M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Hildreth to recommend the following changes be made to the police and fire departments' budgets:

Police - 1) transfer \$1,800 from the Waste Heat account to the Travel and Training accounts
2) maintain the police chief's salary at the Fiscal 1994 level

Fire - 1) maintain the fire captain position that was deleted in the city manager's proposed budget
2) replace Vehicle 600, the emergency services Bronco
3) maintain the fire chief's salary at the Fiscal 1994 level

Voice vote. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Off-Road

-Chairman Abrant stated that he does not think this community can tolerate the abuse of off-road vehicles any longer. In other communities, people load their off-road vehicles on trailers, transport them to appropriate areas to ride them, and transport them back home on trailers. Abrant estimated that thirty percent of the off-road vehicle users are ruining it for everyone. They are threatening public safety. Abrant described a recent incident to show that parents are

helpless and the community is at risk.
Abrant stated that there needs to be a public announcement that the abuse of these vehicles is over, and that the laws will be enforced.
-General discussion followed about how this could be accomplished, including legal aspects, fines, and enforcement, and proactive safety programs.
-Mr. Tubbs stated that he would contact Connie Tucker to start drafting an ordinance.

motion

M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Hildreth that a recommendation be made to City Council that the state and federal laws be enforced, and that off-road vehicles should not be tolerated from this point forward, for the sake of the welfare of the residents of the city of Bethel. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

motion

M/M by Vanasse, 2nd by Hildreth to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WILL OCCUR ON JUNE 1, 1994, 12:00 P.M., AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.



Connie Johnson
Police Department Admin. Asst.