
City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

June 6th, 2005

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on Monday, June 6th, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Chairperson John Hastie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

John Hastie	John Dickens
Kyla Hagan	Mark Springer

Ex-Officio members present were the following:

Chief of Police Benjamin Dudley
Administrative Assistant Brodie Broerman

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

- A. GREG R. brought to the Commission members attention that the court sign located on the State Highway directly in front of the Bethel Utilities Corporations building obscures the visibility of traffic pulling out of City Subdivision onto the State Highway.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF June 6th, 2005

MOVED BY:	Dyment	Delete Unfinished Business Items C. and D.
SECONDED BY:	Dickens	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF May 5th, 2005

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF May 5th, 2005

MOVED BY:	Dickens	Add the word "investigation" on page 2, item f. ii. after "assault"
SECONDED BY:	Hagan	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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VI. CHIEF'S COMMENTS

A. PERSONEL STATUS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

- a. New dispatcher has been hired and will be starting tomorrow. However, we will be losing a dispatcher in August as he will be heading to Sitka for their Police Academy.
- b. Four new officers have been hired. One of the four officers has previous experience, one is a current dispatcher and the other two are fresh out of the Fairbanks Academy.

B. POLICE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

- a. The Chief will be speaking at the Chamber of Commerce meeting on Thursday.

- b. Housing difficult to find for new officers.
 - c. Homicide last weekend, Inv. Seidl has been leading a very thorough investigation.
 - i. Investigators from Alaska Bureau Investigations (ABI) came in to assist in investigating the crime scene.
 - d. Investigators from Missing and Exploited Children's Institute are here to investigate the long standing Stella Evon case.
 - i. They have created a \$5,000 dollar reward for leads on the case.
 - e. Lt. Mlynank from Alaska State Troopers is present with information on the Alcohol Distribution Center.
- C. BUDGET UPDATE
- a. Council attempted to not fund three police officer positions, but they decided against it.
 - b. Operating costs that the department has control over were cut in the budget.
 - c. One CSO position has been funded.
 - d. The total amount of salaries for the department is down, but PERS is up.

MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES

MOVED BY:	Springer	Move Unfinished Business Item G up to Unfinished Business Item A, and move Unfinished Business Item A down to Unfinished Business Item G. Renumber items as A-E.
SECONDED BY:	Dickens	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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VII. TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

- A. NONE

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION ON ALCOHOL DISTRIBUTION CENTER

- a. Lt. Mlynarik has received a lot of his information from Barrow who is operating with an Alcohol Distribution Center.
- b. All alcohol would go through the distribution center except personal carry / luggage alcohol.
- c. Individual would have to apply for a permit to pick up alcohol.
 - i. The application process would include a background check.
 - ii. Only Barrow residents are entitled to a permit.
- d. Computerized system would keep track of the amount of liquor going to each individual.
- e. Barrow currently charges a 3% tax and a \$15 delivery fee.
- f. Barrow is currently seeing \$10,000-\$12,000 a month in revenue.
 - i. Barrow contracted it out to a private vendor for a while, but had some undisclosed issues with the privatization and has moved it back to the city.
- g. Barrow has seen an increase in crime compared to when it was a dry town, but has seen a decrease in crime with the distribution center compared to when they were a wet town.
 - i. Most calls for service are alcohol related, if alcohol is controlled, calls may go down.
 - ii. Courts in Barrow have the power to revoke alcohol pick up permit.
- h. Unknown size of Barrow facility.
 - i. Bethels would have to be located near the tarmac.
 - ii. Cooperation of air carriers would be necessary; they would have to bring the alcohol to the distribution center.
- i. Discussion on selling the idea to council and to the public.

- i. Selling point to council would have to be proof that it would generate money for the city.
 - 1. Inquire on the current number of registered buyers in Bethel from places like Brown Jug.
 - 2. Inquire on the amount of alcohol shipped out to Bethel in 2004 to project future numbers.
 - 3. Public Safety and Transportation Commission
 - ii. May be difficult to sell the idea to law abiding citizens who don't want to pay a fee for something they don't abuse.
 - iii. State believes it is important for the Delta.
- B. DISCUSSION OF NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITY
 - a. Chief Dudley received a letter from Senator Ted Stevens in which he stated that they realize our need for a new Police Department but they currently have no funds to assist us in our endeavors.
 - b. The current police station is having a paint job this month.
- C. DISCUSSION ON RANDOM MECHANICAL INSPECTIONS FOR TAXI CABS
 - a. Penalties need to be addressed with mechanics that knowingly pass inadequate cabs.
 - b. Coordinate with the city shop on handling the random inspections.
 - c. If problems persist, address the matter of inadequate mechanics with the city council.
 - d. On the inspection forms cite the BMC that enforces the inspection where the owner signs.
 - e. Random inspections will have to be held same day as vehicle inspection by mechanic so that there is no wiggle room for mechanic.
- D. DMV ROAD TEST PROCTOR
 - a. Initially brought up because four hours of overtime was being used by the proctoring officer. Animal Control Officer Gary Watson is now proctoring the road tests.
 - b. Takes time out of job duties.
 - c. Police Department would like to see the road tests go out of the department.
 - d. Brainstorm ideas on moving this task out of the Police Department's realm of duties.
 - e. Currently ACO Watson spends about 10 hours a week proctoring driving tests.
 - i. He averages three driving tests a day, and about 2 hours each morning.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. DISCUSSION ON DETERIORATING FENCE AROUND THE SEA WALL
 - a. A young boy drowned last year while swimming in the area of sea wall behind mission road.
 - b. Children jump off the sea wall regularly to swim.
 - c. Port is responsible for the sea wall protections. Have a PS & TC member sit down with the Port commission to see what we can do to protect the deteriorating areas of the sea wall fence.
- Mayor Dyment arrived 8:45
- B. DISCUSSION ON REWORDING THE DOG BITING ORDINANCE
 - a. There is a dog that has bitten two children in a year
 - b. The current ordinance states that an animal may be put down if it bites two times in a year unprovoked.
 - i. The word "unprovoked" in there is a problem because its hard to define what constitutes provoked.
 - c. There is nothing in the ordinance that states anything on dogs who kill other dogs.
 - d. Discussion on when a bite becomes a mauling.
 - e. Wording in ordinance that states "upon discretion of Animal Control Officer and Chief of Police" instead of provoked.
 - C. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # PS & TC 05-02

MOVED BY:	Dyment	A resolution by the Public Safety & Transportation Commission supporting a new public safety building housing the Bethel Police Department and other law enforcement agencies.
SECONDED BY:	Dickens	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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X. COMMISSION MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Dickens visited the dog pound and was astounded at the good condition ACO Watson has kept the place and at the improvements he has made. Mr. Dickens is also impressed with the recruiting efforts of Chief Dudley.

Mayor Dyment commented that the City Attorneys are working on an ordinance with the new Animal Control Fee Schedule and will be introduced to the City Council in 3-4 weeks.

Mr. Springer informed the commission on the new amateur radio repeater that has been installed on the roof of KYUK. He informed the commission of the benefits of this radio and on a few of the features it has.

Mr. Hastie has observed a lot of out of state license plates and wonders how many of them have been here over 30 days.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOVED BY:	Springer	June 6 th , 2005
SECONDED BY:	Dickens	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Next meeting on Monday – July 11th, 2005



John Hastie, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Brodie Broerman, Recorder