

City of Bethel, Alaska

Special Planning Commission Minutes

July 19, 2011

Special Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Bethel Planning Commission was held on July 19, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 1st Floor City Hall Bethel, Alaska.

John Guinn, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, the following were present:

John Guinn	Joy Shantz	Abe Palacios
Mike Walter	Eric Middlebrook	

Excused absence(s):

Unexcused absence(s): Arthur Freitas

Also in attendance were the following:

Chris Beck-Agnew::Beck Heather Steward-Agnew::Beck (Teleconference)
 Jody Malus-Advisory Greg McIntyre-Advisory Kathy Hansin

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD –

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Joy Shantz	To approve the agenda for the July 19, 2011 Planning Commission Special Meeting as amended.
SECONDED BY:	Abe Palacios	

VOTE ON MOTION	5-0 yes motion (carried)
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COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM A. Bethel Comprehensive Plan Final Review with recommendations to be sent to City Council through resolution for their review and final approval .

Planning Director Daniel Shea presented the 2035 Comprehensive Plan final draft with Chris Beck & Heather Steward of Agnew::Beck offer support for the plan and recommended changes from the planning commission and Bethel residents.

ACTION ITEM

MOVED BY:	Eric Middlebrook	Recommend City Council approval Public Review Draft as a resolution with the following Changes
SECONDED BY:	Abe Palacios	

VOTE ON MOTION	5-Yes 0-No Motion (Carried)
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Following Changes:

Chapter 1. About the Plan

- Add language that clarifies intent regarding the rigidity of plan language and language that clarifies options for modifying the plan:

The Comprehensive Plan is a guide for the provision of City services and the development of the community. To be of greatest value, the plan needs to set clear goals and strategies for the long term, but also allow flexibility to respond to unexpected challenges and opportunities.

The plan is adopted by City ordinance. Once adopted, it is included in the body of City regulations, but it does not have to be followed strictly like an ordinance, statute or other law. Rather, the policies included in the plan are intended to guide the decision-making of City staff and City Council. Individual decisions should be consistent with the plan, but at times may not be, as the specific conditions of any given decision will dictate the most appropriate action.

The plan sets a course for the future, but must be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changing circumstances in the community. Simple clarifications and corrections may be made by City staff on an ad-hoc basis. Significant policy changes may be made at any time, but require approval by City Council. The plan should be reviewed by City departments on an annual basis, and the plan should be updated to accommodate major revisions about every 5 years.

Chapter 4. Land Use

- Modify map to show different “potential port sites”: 1) across the river at the old airport site, 2) on the same side as Bethel, slightly upriver from the small boat harbor

Support other items.

Chapter 5. Transportation

- Add the ONC road (get map from Dan). Opportunity for ONC, BNC and City of Bethel to partner for grant funding to build it.
- Support other items.

Chapter 6. Economic Development

- Add or reference in the economic development chapter, (Objective D) Technology Action 1b to encourage the competition and expansion of services and service providers in communications technology.
- Support other items.

Chapter 7. Energy

- Correct and broaden background note regarding natural gas (current note blurs two separate projects – Cook Inlet Donlin related gas and North Slope bullet line gas). Instead make reference to various options with an e.g. to two above
- In background section? Or in priorities:
 - Cite importance of reduction in water use as an important energy reduction strategy.
 - Broaden reference to better efficiency in transportation to include hydrogen, transit, city fleet, and “other”. (GOAL 1, Action 2c, p9-23)
- Goal 2, Actions 3a and 3b: include community energy cooperative as Lead.
- Support other items.

Chapter 8. Public Facilities + Services

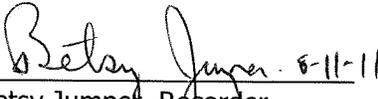
- Add to technology actions: "Explore the costs and benefits of the City providing wi-fi service to the entire city, and to city employees only.
- Revise (Objective C) Solid Waste, Strategy 1 (improve existing solid waste services and facilities)
Action 1c: Improve the function and appearance of existing dumpsters, by for example, screening them with fencing, relocating or providing additional dumpsters as needed, working with businesses to find alternatives for commercial use of residential dumpsters, etc.
- Support other items.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Mike Walter	To adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.m. July 19, 2011.
	Joy Shantz	
SECONDED BY:		

VOTE ON MOTION	5 Yes 0 No Meeting Adjourned
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Next meeting on August 11, 2011


Betsy Jumper, Recorder

ATTEST: 
John Guinn, Chairman