
City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

September 1st, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on September 1st, 2015 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:04PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Joan Dewey *Chair*
Alisha Welch *Vice Chair*
Chuck Herman *Council Representative*
Naim Sabani

Ex-Officio Present: Bill Howell *Fire Chief*
Andre Achee *Chief of Police* (via telephone conference)
Christina Him *Recorder and Transportation Inspector Designee*

Other Present: Patty Burley *City Attorney*

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Frank Mazzaro – Kusko Cab Driver: *Wanted clarification on what a Public Hearing is, specifically agenda item (VI) BMC 5.40.080 Carrying Alcoholic Beverages. Doesn't want to speak in "People to be Heard", but would speak when topic is brought up later on in the meeting.*

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to approve the agenda.
SECONDED:	Welch	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 2 nd , July 7 th , and August 10 th , 2015.
SECONDED:	Sabani	

VI. SPECIAL ITEM OF BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing: On the price and quality of service provided by all regulated vehicles, chauffeurs and dispatch services.

Frank Mazzaro – Kusko Cab Driver: *Would like to know if there is anything specific PSTC will be talking about.*

Per Bethel Municipal Code 5.20.030 C: The Public Safety and Transportation Commission is required to hold two Public Hearing meetings to investigate the quality of services rendered by regulated vehicles, permittees, chauffeurs and dispatch services and shall make such recommendations to the city council as it deems necessary for the improvement of such services.

This is an open discussion, and the public can attend and say what they need to say. This is the first Public Hearing, and another will probably be conducted before the year is over.

VII. CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Chief Bill Howell- *The good news is, the Fire Department is fully staffed for all of the allotted positions, however it is still down one position that was eliminated by fiscal year '15. The department is attempting to seek grant funding through a federal safer grant that was previously awarded to get a position restored.*

Currently the department is training three people, one of which is a local hire, and two are from out of state. The trainees are doing great, and the most recent hire was here on August 21st; it is exciting and nice to have some help.

One ambulance is out of service and is getting repaired at the City Shop; however it should be repaired hopefully this week.

The Fire Department is gearing up for Fire Prevention and are in the process of purchasing fire hats, lollipops, and rulers for the kids, as well as scheduling the schools for fire prevention visits. This is done every October, so there are a lot of on-going preparations.

The EMT-1 course will begin on Sept 21st through December 4th. If anyone is interested in volunteering as an EMT and would like to take the course, it would be a great way to serve the community. Recruitment is encouraged and if qualified applicants are obtained, there will be incentives (hat, buttons, supporter t-shirt) for the referral.

The department will be getting a new pick up/plow truck that should be coming in on the last barge. Hoping the plow won't be a cooler for the snow coming this year, trying to stay optimistic and hope that we do have some snow.

Chief Andre Achee – *See Report in Commission Packet*

VIII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

See Report in Commission Packet

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Council Member Herman –*Met with the Department of Transportation (DOT) officials along with the city manager in regards to Ridgecrest Drive. The City is trying to revamp the whole roadway in front of the high school, however it is unclear which way council is going on financially, as the City would have to come up with \$260,000.00 for a \$3 million dollar project. Essentially, revamping the big stretch of road would help in reducing traffic congestion, dust, and pedestrian walkways as well as help the kids around the area. Also spoke with Senator Sullivan about board walks during his visit in Bethel and how important boardwalks are for the community. Currently boardwalks are classified as under “recreation” by the federal government, which means that money from the transportation budget cannot be spent on board walks. In Bethel, boardwalks are used for transportation to get around. He will continue to look at this issue with Council.*

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Drug Screening Policy for Chauffeurs

Discussed, no action taken. Commission member Sabani – will speak to Bethel Family Clinic or other agencies in regards to random drug testing services.

B. Taxi Permit Number and Vehicle Numbers

Taxi permit numbers will match its corresponding vehicle numbers and will be implemented with the next scheduled semi-annual inspection of Alaska Cab. A drafted letter notifying cab owners of the change of permit numbers to match their vehicle numbers will be sent out. Schedule of fees for BMC approved decals will need to be sent over to finance department before implementation of selling the decals at the police department.

C. Revocation of Vehicle Permit (BMC 5.20.110)

Per last PSTC meeting, the commission successfully passed the motion to recommend proposed changes of the amended language of BMC 5.20.110 to strike 45 consecutive and 90 consecutive days and add 180 days in a 12 month period, to Council. This will be forwarded to Council before the next Council meeting.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. BMC 5.40.080 Carrying Alcoholic Beverages (Commission Member Sabani)

Please see (B). Council Recommendations for BMC Changes as this matter is directly related.

B. Council Recommendations for BMC Changes

(i). Ordinance #15-19 / Ordinance #15-20

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to not recommend Ordinance #15-19 – An ordinance amending Bethel Municipal Code Chapter 5.40.070, Chauffeurs, Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances and repealing 5.40.080, Chauffeurs Carrying Alcoholic Beverages. This motion also simultaneously voids Ordinance #15-20, An Ordinance by the Bethel City Council Amending Bethel Municipal Code Chapter 5.20.120F, Penalties and Remedies.
SECONDED:	Sabani	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

(ii). Ordinance #15-21

MOVED:	Welch	Motion to not recommend Ordinance #15-21, An Ordinance by the Bethel City Council Amending Bethel Municipal Code, Chapter 5.30, Taxicab, River Taxi, Limousine and Global Positioning System Capabilities.
SECONDED:	Herman	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

C. Community Preparedness – PFD (Chair Dewey)

The Public Safety and Transportation Commission discussed ways in which the commission can assist with community preparedness during PFD (Permanent Fund Dividend) season, as there is a significant increase of intoxicated individuals and child welfare situations during the month of October. This includes the opening of the Winter House, which should be fully staffed for the homeless and the Sobering Center for inebriates who are unable to care for themselves. Additionally with the support of the Bethel Police Department's CSP (Community Service Patrol) Program, the police department is confident that they will have sufficient staffing to handle the work load during PFD season. Other resources include the Fire Department, which have in the past helped with providing transportation of intoxicated individuals to protective custody or a safe residence.

Providing a safe haven for inebriates during this time of the year is important. The public have in the past been helpful and continue to do so by notifying the police department of intoxicated individuals. Inebriates are not always transferred to the jail or the sobering center first; typically if they have a safe residence to go to, they are transported there. It is a preference that they go home to their families, however the reality at times, they have to be taken into protective custody.

One of the CSP protocols includes asking the intoxicated individuals if they have somewhere to go to, a friend or a relative that can help take care of them. CSPs are typically cross trained, and the next EMT class starts in September, most of the time they take advantage of it. The Fire Department is fully staffed with firefighters and EMT personnel. There are 38

total volunteers, and about half of the volunteers are medics. There are also two ambulances available.

D. City Council Candidacy (Vice Chair Welch)

Vice Chair Welch is running for City Council, and if elected would not be able to be a part of PSTC. However, she is encouraging someone who is interested in applying to be a part of the commission. She will continue to encourage people to apply, so that meetings can continue.

I. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Joan Dewey- Would like all commission members to think about and keep promoting the service aspect of being on a committee. Values PSTC in terms of the issues that come here for of the community. Hopes that commission members can think of other candidates that might be able to help. Also hopes that the community has a safe PFD season, as too many kids feel the effect.

Naim Sabani- Good luck and congratulations to Alisha. She will be missed here if she gets elected.

Chuck Herman- First Tuesday of October is Election Day, which is also the next scheduled PSTC meeting. Proposes to change the next meeting to Monday, October 5th, 2015 at the same time.

Alisha Welch- No comments.

MOVED:	Herman	Move to change the date of the next meeting from October 6 th to October 5 th at 7:00pm.
SECONDED:	Sabani	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

II. ADJOURNMENT

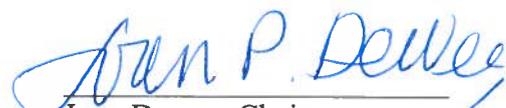
MOVED:	Welch	Motion to adjourn.
SECONDED:	Herman	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

Meeting adjourned at 9:48pm

APPROVED THIS 5th DAY OF October, 2015.



 Christina Him, Recorder



 Joan Dewey, Chair