

**Public Safety Commission  
November 4, 1996 Minutes  
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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was convened at 6:05 PM, at the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska by Chairman Vanasse.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Gary Vanasse, Tom Hildreth, John Hastie, Shari Neth, Bruce Day, Wally Richardson, Helena Andrews

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion** M/M by Ms. Neth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Richardson to approve the minutes of the October 14, 1996, regular Commission meeting.

**Vote** Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Hildreth request that we add under Old Business, Item D, Alcohol Use Tax Follow - Up, and add under New Business, Item C, Village Motel.

Ms. Neth requests that due to her schedule that we move the Alcohol Use Tax to Item A, and other items to follow.

**Motion** M/M by Ms. Richardson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Neth, to approve the Agenda as amended.

**Vote** Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. CHIEF'S REPORTS**

Police Chief Eilers had no reports to give at this time.

Ms. Neth asked if Chief Eilers had a guestimate of the number of calls are related to alcohol. Chief Eilers estimates that 40% of calls are alcohol related.

Chairman Vanasse asked about the clerical support for the Commission. Chief Eilers will have Kathy Coker start attending at the December meeting. Chairman Vanasse would like to see more planning and preparation of the meetings, more information put into the packets, and getting information to and from other committees and commissions. Chairman Vanasse also inquired about shift schedules, possibly being more creative to cover traffic at peak hours and school zone enforcement.

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Chief Eilers stated that the Police have been trying to work on coverage, especially for the school zones.

Mr. Day inquired about having the police vehicles park in the rear of the building out of the public eye. Chief Eilers responded as this was a directive of the City Manager to have the vehicles parked in front due to parking problems for City Hall, and also the Court Building. Chairman Vanasse asked about the Smoking Policy. Chief Eilers responded that the Police Station is a No Smoking Facility, but the officers are allowed to smoke in the vehicles except for Public Contact or when they are transporting prisoners and other individuals. Chairman Vanasse then asked about how the Police are involved in the Stella Evon case. Chief Eilers reported that the Police are involved, have done some follow-up work, talked with friends, working with Bethel Search and Rescue and the State Troopers. One officer has been kind of assigned to the case. Mr. Hastie asked if it has been determined if she is a runaway, a victim of a crime, etc.. Chief Eilers is not sure at this time. Officer Scott Vukich and Investigator Jerry Evan have been working on the case, along with the other officers.

Ms. Neth was very pleased that Investigator Jerry Evan attended the SART Training. Chief Eilers reported that Inv. Evan has come back with good ideas, and will hopefully be implementing those into the department.

Mr. Day asked about current staffing. Chief Eilers reports 2 Police Officer positions are open at this time.

Chief Young from the Fire Department had just returned from emergency leave, and did not have time to prepare anything for the Commission when the packets went out. He did hand out 2 management reports.

Ms. Richardson expressed her condolences for the passing of Chief Young's mother.

## **VI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Hastie**            No Comments

**Andrews**        She went to the Bethel Inn on Ptarmigan Street recently, and was shocked to see the Inn full of drunks, and also a child running around inside. She did call the Police Department regarding the matters. She also made comment that the front door was locked, and had to knock on the window for someone to answer the front door.

Ms. Andrews would also like to see a street light placed on East Avenue between Bruce Crows and 116 East Avenue for safety reasons.

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**Motion** To request that a Street Light be installed on East Avenue between Bruce Crows and 116 East Avenue in the interest of Public Safety.

M/M by Ms. Andrews, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Hildreth

**Vote** Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hildreth requested that the Police Department look at all areas of town for problems, lack of lighting. Chief Eilers said that he will direct his officers to do this and identify areas needing lighting.

Ms. Andrews finally requested that the guard rail at the intersection of Bridge Street, Hanger Lake Road and East Avenue be replaced as cars can slide into the ditch, or possibly into the Quonset Hut at that intersection.

Ms. Richardson said that the City Council will get with DOT on that matter.

Chief Young requested that he be notified in case of a call similar to the Bethel Inn as Ms. Andrews reported so that he can take action for Fire and Building Codes.

**Day** Is happy to see Chief Eilers out working the streets. This is a welcome change and enhances the department image. Mr. Day also inquired about the qualifications of the Lieutenant, Sergeant, etc. of the Police Department. Chief Eilers responded appropriately.

**Richardson** No Comments

**Hildreth** No Comments

**Vanasse** Also happy to see the Chief is responding. Condolences were given to the Young family. Chairman Vanasse stated that his term is expiring at the end of the year, December will be his last meeting. He is not seeking re-instatement to the Commission. The City Clerk should start advertising the vacancy, and that selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman needs to be placed on the January Agenda.

## **VII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

None

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**VIII. OLD BUSINESS****ITEM A: Alcohol Sales Tax Follow - Up**

Ms. Neth reported via written correspondence that City Manager Ken Weaver talked with Mike Scott in Kotzebue who said that tax collection at the point of sale as been poor. Mr. Weaver sees an Alcohol Beverage Delivery Site as the most feasible way of enforcing and ensuring collection of sales tax.

Chairman Vanasse stated that it is the goal to have a delivery site in Bethel, and is supported by the Troopers/WAANT Unit.

Ms. Richardson says that City Administration has formed a small committee regarding this, and should be keeping the Public Safety Commission updated.

Chairman Vanasse would like to recommend that an RFP be prepared for the collection points for alcohol. General discussion resulting in all cargo companies should be involved in the collection of sales tax for all alcohol shipments.

The following commissioners have volunteered to meet with cargo representatives and Ken Weaver to establish a most efficient, least cumbersome collection site and routine: Shari Neth, Wally Richardson, Bruce Day and Tom Hildreth.

The Public Safety Commission shall have this as a monthly agenda item indefinitely.

**ITEM B: Animal Control Fee Schedule**

Chief Eilers reports that he has not had a chance to meet with Animal Control Officer Burley due to illness and has nothing to report to the Commission. Chief Eilers stated that he can have something for the December meeting.

**Motion** To table this agenda item to the December meeting.

M/M by Ms. Richardson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Hildreth

**Vote** Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM C: Oil Spills - Follow Up**

Chief Young requested this as he was absent at the last meeting and would like to answer any additional questions. The Fire Department will respond to the incident, do some containment, but it is the responsibility of the Owner/Tenant for the clean-up. The Fire Department does work with DEC and the Police Department, and in some instances, the Coast Guard if it falls in their jurisdiction.

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**ITEM D: Fire Prevention Month, After Action Report**

Chief Young reports a very successful fire prevention month for Bethel and very full of activities. He would like to thank all the business' who donated materials to the Fire Department. Also hats off to Sr. Captain Bruce Perry who is the Fire Prevention Officer for putting this all together, and to several volunteers who assisted in the activities.

**IX. New Business**

**ITEM A: Appreciation Letters for Fire Prevention Donation**

Chairman Vanasse would like to see a thank you letter written to all the business' on behalf of the Public Safety Commission appreciating their generous donations for Fire Prevention Materials.

General discussion regarding letters, and Ms. Richardson suggested that City Clerk L.J. Tanner prepare Certificates instead for the Public Safety Commission.

**ITEM B: Fast Food Delivery Ordinance**

Mr. Hildreth brought this to the Commission as he had received complaints from individuals regarding fast food delivery drivers. We should look for an ordinance similar to Vehicle for Hire.

Ms. Richardson says the Transportation Commission has looked at this in the past but could not remember the outcome. However, we cannot just regulate the fast food industry, but would have to be all Commercial Delivery Drivers.

After general discussion, it was recommended that all Commercial Delivery Drivers have some sort of identification on their vehicles, i.e.: door signs, which identify which company they work for, and vehicle numbers that would assist in identifying the vehicle for complaint purposes. Since this falls under the Transportation Commission, it is recommended that the Transportation Commission review and take appropriate action if necessary.

**Motion** To refer to the Transportation Commission to Re-Review an Ordinance dealing with Commercial Delivery Drivers.

M/M by Mr. Hildreth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Andrews

**Vote** Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

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**ITEM C: Village Motel**

Mr. Hildreth brought this to the Commission regarding recent activity and events, and is concerned about what is going on.

Ms. Richardson re-iterated a comment made at the last Council meeting she made that Bethel cannot babysit the individuals that come from the villages. The individuals must be responsible for their own actions.

Mr. Day recommended that the Police Department put informants into the motel to set-up bootlegging operations. Ms. Richardson states that this might already be in place. She also had meetings with AVCP and YKHC regarding this problem. It was recommended that AVCP talk with the tribal leaders to help inform the villagers that they need to be responsible for their actions when they come to Bethel. This was not well received by AVCP. AVCP however requests that the City of Bethel require a liability policy for Hotels, Motels and Bed and Breakfasts.

General Discussion followed, and the City Council will be discussing this further.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** To adjourn the Public Safety Commission meeting at 8:09 PM. The next Public Safety Commission meeting will be December 2, 1996 at the Log Cabin.

M/M by Mr. Hildreth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Richardson

**Vote** Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 1996.**

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**Gary Vanasse, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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**L.J. Tanner, City Clerk**