

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on May 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Richard Robb called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following members were present:	
Mayor Rick Robb	Council Member Leif Albertson
Vice-Mayor Fred Watson	Council Member Naim Shabani
Members Absent:	
Council Member Mark Springer	Council Member Norman Ayagalria
Council Member Alisha Welch	
Also in attendance were the following:	
City Manager Pete Williams	Asst. City Clerk Kevin Morgan
Jim Chevigny Finance Director	

IV. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

John Ahrens- Fire Dept./EMT- Spoke in favor of a new Fire Department Position and upgrading the Fire Department's vehicles.

Ann Kosacheff-BFD Budget- Pleaded to increase staff at the Fire Department. Thanked the City for the funding the medic 6 Ambulance. She presented an info flyer which showed an 86% increase in Fire Dept. calls in 10 years. The same amount of staff is doing twice the amount of work. She is concerned that the Fire Dept. will lose staff to the high demands of the job and in the long run it would be cheaper to hire an extra position.

Casey Burke- as 27yr. Veteran of the Fire Dept., he supports extra staff and new vehicles for the Fire Dept. The ladder truck is not usable for its purpose. Thanked the council for the new ambulance.

John Sargent- Grant Manager for the City- pursuing grants for the City's Transit System. The State has extended some deadline for matching grant for new buses if the city want to take advantage of them. If the city contributed \$83,612 for a match grant, there will be two buses available. Having new buses will reduce maintenance costs on the other buses. The Transit system in Bethel averages a 100 rides a day.

Mary Nanuwak- Spoke in support of the transit system. It is not only used by Bethel Residents, but by people from the surrounding villages as well. She encouraged the City to find other partners to support the transit system. She proposed a one day a week "free ride day" to promote the use of the Transit System. Please support the transit system to reduce long wait times as well.

Peter Twitchell- Long-time Bethel resident and former Council Member. In support of the matching grant for the new buses. The transit system is important for people who cannot afford money in their budget for Cab rides.

Darin Solsbee- Fire Captain- In support of Fire Dept. adding a new position. There is a large work load that needs to be spread out to prevent burnout and employee turnover. 1700 calls a years is too much for 10 volunteers to handle. In support of a new ladder truck. The current one is inadequate and is used only to ferry equipment.

Dalton Beaver- In support of Fire Dept. Position and new vehicles. They average 100 calls a month. Last month they had 200. The ladder truck does not perform its function. He is concerned with personnel leaving due to the high workload depressing volunteer participation and increasing the duties of an already overworked staff.

Anita Patterson- Depends on the bus to travel to work, store, and the post office. She would like the transit system to be supported.

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDA

Main Motion: Approve the Agenda.

Moved by: Shabani

Seconded by: Watson

Action: Motion carries by a vote of 4-0

In favor: Robb Albertson Watson Shabani

Opposed: -0

Primary

Amendment: Move Item A of New Business before Unfinished Business

Moved by: | Watson
Seconded by: | Shabani
Action: | Motion carries by a vote of 4-0
In favor: | Robb Albertson Watson Shabani
Opposed: | 0

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Item A – Introduction Of Budget Ordinance 16-17 (n): Amending The Adopted FY 2017 Budget To Purchase A Dumpster Truck.

Main Motion: Introduce Ordinance 16-17(n).

Moved by: | Albertson
Seconded by: | Watson
Action: | Motion carries by a vote of 4-0
In favor: | Robb Albertson Watson Shabani

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8:31pm- Council Member Shabani declares a conflict of interest when the Council begins to discuss the Transit Budget as he is the Co-owner of Kusko Cab. Mayor Robb decides that there is no conflict of interest as there is not significant financial interest.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Main Motion: Adjournment.

Moved by: | Albertson
Seconded by: | Watson
Action: | Motion carries by a vote of 4-0
In favor: | Robb Albertson Watson Shabani
Opposed: | 0

Time of Adjournment- 9:15pm



Richard Robb, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lon Strickler, City Clerk