

City of Bethel, Alaska

Planning Commission Meeting

Dec. 10, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission was held on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015, at 6:30 PM at the City Hall Chambers in Bethel, Alaska. Chair Shantz called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Compromising a quorum of the Commission, the following members were present for roll call: John Guinn, Joy Shantz, Lorin Bradbury, Kurt Kuhne, Kathy Hanson, and Nikki Hoffman. Cliff Linderoth was excused. Also present was Planning Director Ted Meyer, Recorder Betsy Jumper and Port Director Pete Williams.

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: Nobody wished to be heard.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF DEC. 10, 2015

MOVED:	Kathy Hanson	To approve the agenda for the meeting of December 10, 2015.
SECONDED:	Lorin Bradbury	
VOTE ON MOTION	All in favor 6 yes and 0 opposed. Motion carries.	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOV. 12, 2015 PLANNING MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

MOVED:	John Guinn	To approve the Nov. 12, 2015 minutes.
SECONDED:	Nikki Hoffman	
VOTE ON MOTION	All in favor 6 yes and 0 opposed. Motion carries.	

VI. NEW BUSINESS: A. Introduction of Mr. Ted Meyer, Planning Director. Ted introduced himself to the Planning Commission and gave an overview of his experiences and history in Alaska and planning and is looking forward to being in Bethel.

B. City of Bethel owned Property – Lot 1B, Block 7, Plat Number 82-23. The physical address is 251 East Avenue (ACTION ITEM). Port Director Pete Williams presented the history of the building and what the Port would like to use the building for to the Planning Commission.

MOTION MADE TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL THAT THE PORT OFFICE USE THE SHOP.

MOVED:	Lorin Bradbury	To recommend to Council the Port Office use the shop for repairing vehicles, storing boats, etc.
SECONDED:	Kathy Hanson	
VOTE ON MOTION	All in favor 6 yes and 0 opposed. Motion carries.	

The City Attorney spoke to the Planning Commission about upcoming areas that the Planning Commission may need to go over in future meetings. The City Manager also spoke to the Planning Commission about Donlin Gold Creek and the newly released Environmental Impact Statement.

VII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS: **Kathy**—no comments; **Nikki**—glad to be here, this is a very short and sweet meeting and I like the idea of putting a time limit on any extra meetings we may have and I'm glad everyone's here, it's nice to see new faces. Also, the marijuana commission is meeting frequently; I don't know if we'll be meeting as often, but I think if we did, I would be in favor of added meetings with a time limit, just an option, so we don't get burnt out. And, was the Planning Commission satisfied with Council representation about the recommendations of Ordinance 15-32?; **John**—no comments; **Lorin**—I'll mention the Port in relation to Donlin Creek Gold mine, how many acres they would need for example—this topic came up in a Chamber of Commerce meeting-- and I feel this should be discussed with the Planning Commission. Also, the potential for a borough should be discussed as well. Let's be proactive and get moving on it. **Kurt**—I would like those 2 things to be on a future agenda as well (Donlin and borough). The main thing I would like to comment on is the concern I have with Donlin, and the YKHC hospital expansion-- 400 new jobs with the hospital and 3000 with Donlin which potentially may create more development here. How can the City promote development of land? In this town you can let your land sit, and there's no reason to develop it because there's no taxes. In other places you lose money if you don't do something with your land. So, in the near future I would like to see how we can forward think this in getting the administration involved too. Also, in regards to more meetings in the future, I'm not opposed for a temporary period of time. **Joy**—I am very happy to welcome Mr. Meyer to the Planning Director position, much needed and welcome to Bethel. Also, something I wanted to say at the last meeting was Happy Veteran's Day to John—thank you for your service. Another comment is, and I've heard so much about it the past few days, is about the AVEC tower being right on the snow machine trail, and the concern for safety, that somebody might not see the wires. My idea was to make it a giant Christmas tree and light that baby up, that'd be beautiful. It could be like White Alice, a navigational aid. This just illustrates the importance of involving the Planning Commission. This did not come to us-- we were completely skirted and circumvented on that. And, if it would have come to us, we have a lot of minds here that we could put it together and say, look, maybe that's not the best place. These decisions coming to the Planning Commission/and or other Commissions and Committees, are so important. As a Councilmember, if you get something that doesn't have a recommendation—it's the Councilmember's responsibility to say this needs to go to the Commission or the Committee. Don't act on it until all the minds (there's a wealth of knowledge and experience) have been tapped.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED:	Kurt Kuhne	Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45.
SECONDED:	Kathy Hanson	
VOTE ON MOTION 6 yes and 0 opposed. Motion carries.		

The next meeting will be on January 14, 2016

B. Jumper for J. Guinn
 ATTEST: *Betsy Jumper*, Betsy Jumper, Recorder
 John Guinn, Vice-Chairman