

City of Bethel, Alaska Planning Commission

May 14, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Planning Commission was held on May 14, 2015 in the City of Bethel Council Chambers room, in Bethel, Alaska.

Vice-Chair John Guinn called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

Compromising a quorum of the Committee, the following members were present for roll call: John Guinn, Heather Pike, Kathy Hanson, and Cliff Linderoth. Joy Shantz was excused. Also present was recorder Betsy Jumper.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF May 14, 2015

MOVED:	Heather Pike	To approve the agenda, but postpone Item B, Tall Tower Ordinance.
SECONDED:	Cliff Linderoth	
VOTE ON MOTION	All in favor 4 yes, 0 opposed.	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2015

MOVED:	Heather Pike	To approve the minutes of April 9, 2015.
SECONDED:	Kathy Hanson	
VOTE ON MOTION	All in favor 4 yes, 0 opposed	

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS : None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Minor Replat of USS 3230, vacating a common lot line between lots 6 & 7, Block 12, to create a single lot 1 Block 12 to create JWS subdivision.

MOVED:	Cliff Linderoth	Motion to introduce Item A.
SECONDED:	Heather Pike	
VOTE ON MOTION	All in favor 4 yes, 0 opposed	

A discussion ensued.

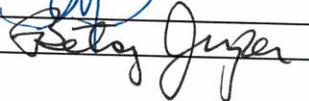
MOVED:	Kathy Hanson	To take no action on Item A until the applicant has been contacted for further clarification.
SECONDED:	Cliff Linderoth	
VOTE ON MOTION	All in favor 4 yes, 0 opposed.	

IX. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS: **Kathy:** Asked what did the City Council do for the budget request for \$61,000 to subcontract for Planning Services—also inquired if the Planning Director job is being advertised. Plus, we need more members on the commission; it’s an interesting commission—all about the future of Bethel and it’s very important. And we need a Planning Director. **Cliff:** Nothing really, except saw the 1st mosquitoes—they’re here, and also the swallows. The cavalry is here. **Heather:** The only comments I have—unless the majority of the Planning Commission doesn’t want me to—is to continue to lobby against the \$61,000 expenditure. I think 679.00 per day in Bethel is too much, especially after consulting with the City Attorney and Betsy—we have nothing pending for the Planning Commission. We don’t need an acting Planning Director to come out here and sit with us for our monthly meetings. That’s not justification for \$61,000 for 90 days. The other thing that’s exciting is that I asked the City Attorney to look into the legalities of a 2nd class city versus a 1st class city. With a 1st class city, a City Planner is needed/required; with a 2nd class city, a Planning Director is not required. I think that that’s a real viable option and something I want to talk further about is if Betsy or whoever the employee that is in the position already, if they had interest, with Code Enforcement training and possibly entering into some courses to become a Planner 1 where we can develop from within. We already have a long term employee that’s worked under two Planning Directors. Why do we need to hire an outsider who may only stay for a year? Why not invest in the employee we already have that is knowledgeable about working in this field?—just food for thought. **John:** had no comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED:	Kathy Hanson	Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20.
SECONDED:	Cliff Linderoth	
VOTE ON MOTION	All in favor 4 yes, 0 opposed	

Next meeting will be on June 11, 2014

ATTEST:  Joy Shantz, Chairperson
 Betsy Jumper, Recorder

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