

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on February 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska.
Mayor Springer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following members were present:
City Council Member Rose Henderson City Council Member Teresa Keller City Council Member Mikayla Miller City Council Member Beth Hessler City Council Member Patrick Snow Vice-Mayor Sophie Swope (<i>arrived after roll call 7:02 p.m.</i>) Mayor Mark Springer
Members Absent:
Also in attendance were the following:
Acting City Manager Arnold, City Clerk Lori Strickler, City Attorney Libby Bakalar

4. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD – Five minutes per person

Jasmin Rios- Spoke against Ordinance 24-01.

Item 4.1. - Written Public Comments

No written comments were submitted.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND REGULAR AGENDA

Main Motion: Approve the Consent and Regular Agenda.

Moved by:	Rose Henderson
Seconded by:	Teresa Keller
In favor:	Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Beth Hessler, Patrick Snow, Sophie Swope, Teresa Keller, Mikayla Miller
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Council Member Henderson removed Item 10.1, Ordinance 24-01 from the consent agenda.

6. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Item 6.1. - *1-23-2024 Regular City Council Meeting

Passed on the consent agenda.

7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Port Commission, Council Member Henderson- A meeting has not been held.

Planning Commission, Council Member Hessler- Discussed the request for Jordan's sandpit to have an address.

Community Action Grant Committee, Council Member Keller- The Committee is still on hold and has not held a meeting.

Community Parks and Recreation Committee- No one present to report.

Finance Committee, Council Member Snow- A meeting has not been held since the last City Council meeting.

Public Works Committee, Council Member Springer- A meeting has not been held since the last City Council meeting.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission, Council Member Miller- Discussed Uber and Lyft. The Commission was also presented with information related to a documentary style television show about the City's Police Department.

Item 7.1. - Committee/Commission Agendas And Draft Meeting Minutes

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item 8.1. - City Manager Candidate Interview- Bert O'Rear

*The Council interviewed City Manager Candidate Bert O'Rear.
Vice-Mayor Swope arrived at 7:02pm.*

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 9.1. - Public Hearing Of Ordinance 23-11(f): Amending the Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget (Acting City Manager Arnold)

Main Motion: Introduction of Ordinance 23-11(f).

Moved by:	Rose Henderson
Seconded by:	Mikayla Miller
In favor:	Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Beth Hessler, Patrick Snow, Sophie Swope, Teresa Keller, Mikayla Miller
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Motion to amend 100-56 30501 to strike \$149,703 and insert \$154,194 under the City Attorney's Budget.

Moved by:	Rose Henderson
Seconded by:	Sophie Swope
In favor:	Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Beth Hessler, Patrick Snow, Sophie Swope, Teresa Keller, Mikayla Miller
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Motion to amend to insert:

WHEREAS, the introduction of teleworking opportunities increases the need for technologies that can better support remote and shared communications;

WHEREAS, administration wishes to provide improved online access for our employees to their personnel documents, City policies and benefits information;

WHEREAS, administration wishes to streamline new hire onboarding, to ensure all required documents are completed timely and tracked to ensure compliance with various state and federal regulations;

WHEREAS, this solution would allow employees to have their own account within the online platform, view their personnel files, view City policies and benefits, complete annual policy acknowledgments, etc.;

WHEREAS, the city will benefit from the ability to store and share employee information, City policies, benefit documents and payroll actions in a secure, cloud-based solution;

WHEREAS, this solution would allow Human Resources to quickly convert current employee documents into a standardized format, allowing supervisors and payroll to get notification of City-directed or employee-initiated actions, all the while tracking and documenting the action;

WHEREAS, the improvements made with this solution will improve communication between administration and employees, reduce errors in personnel documentation, and ensure compliance with state and federal regulations;

F-1 Administration – Operating Budget Amendments

Line item 100-51-6335, to strike \$73,163 and insert \$92,183.

Moved by:	Beth Hessler
Seconded by:	Sophie Swope
In favor:	Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Beth Hessler, Patrick Snow, Sophie Swope, Teresa Keller, Mikayla Miller
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Motion to suspend the rules to hear from Laura Cloward, Human Resources.

Moved by:	Rose Henderson
Seconded by:	Beth Hessler
In favor:	Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Beth Hessler, Patrick Snow, Sophie Swope, Teresa Keller, Mikayla Miller
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

10. NEW BUSINESS

Item 10.1. - *Introduction Of Ordinance 24-01: Amending Bethel Municipal Code 4.17, Excise Tax On Cigarettes And Tobacco Products, To Add Non-Tobacco Nicotine Products To The List Of Other Tobacco Products That Are Subject To The Excise Tax (Acting City Manager Arnold)

Motion to introduce Ordinance 24-01.

Moved by:	Rose Henderson
Seconded by:	Mikayla Miller
In favor:	Mark Springer, Beth Hessler, Patrick Snow, Teresa Keller
Opposed:	Rose Henderson, Sophie Swope, Mikayla Miller
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.2. - *Introduction Of Ordinance 24-02: Amending Chapter 3.12, Administration And Maintenance Of The Classification Plans, To Add A Pay Grade And Job Title For The Grant Manager Position (City Manager Arnold)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.3. - *Resolution 24-02: Authorizing Administration To Evaluate The City's Capacity For The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Last Frontier Housing Initiative Grant Program For Rural Professional Housing, And To Solicit Interest From Other Agencies For Their Passthrough Acceptance Of The Affordable Housing Unit Funding (Mayor Springer)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.4. - *Resolution 24-03: City Of Bethel Priorities For The SFY 2025 State Of Alaska Capital Budget (Acting City Manager Arnold)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.5. - *AM 24-02: Appointment Of Committee And Commission Members For A Term Of Three Years (Mayor Springer)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.6. - AM 24-03: Commitment To Provide Cash Match For State Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Transit Administration 5311 Grant To Fund Transit Operations (Acting City Manager Arnold)

Main Motion Approve AM 24-03.

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Beth Hessler
In favor:	Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Beth Hessler, Patrick Snow, Sophie Swope, Teresa Keller, Mikayla Miller
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.7. - *AM 24-04: Direct Administration To Negotiate And Execute A Services Agreement For A Cloud-Based Human Resources Management Platform To Include - Onboarding, Digital Personnel File Maintenance, Forms Repository And Employee Policy Acknowledgement. Direct Administration To Investigate Future Expansion To Include Integrated Cloud-Based Timekeeping And Payroll Services (Acting City Manager Arnold)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.8. - *IM 24-02: Presentation Of The City's Water & Sewer Services Expenditures Compared To Budget For January 2024-Utilities Maintenance – Water & Wastewater Activity Report (Acting City Manager Arnold)

Passed on the consent agenda.

11. REPORTS

Item 11.1. - Mayor's Report

Item 11.2. - City Manager's Report

Item 11.3. - Clerk's Report

12. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Springer- Watch out for school buses and be careful driving on the roads.

Vice-Mayor Sophie Swope- Attended the Bureau of Land Management(BLM) hearing. Thanked everyone from the community who participated in the BLM meeting.

Council Member Henderson- Shared the story of a recent school fire which almost claimed her husband's life. Thanked the electrician, George Jeffery, and School Resource Officer Neal for their brave actions in saving his life.

Council Member Hessler- Recognized Todd Henderson for his heroism in trying to stop the school fire.

Council Member Snow- Encouraged the public to let the council know what they think about the excise tax on non-tobacco nicotine products.

Council Member Keller- No comment.

Council Member Miller- Invited the community to attend the open house of an apartment building for the chronically homeless in Bethel. It is a community project which took 5 years to achieve. The opening will be on March 11th.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 13.1. - In Accordance With AS 44.62.310.(c)(1) Matters, The Immediate Knowledge Of Which Would Clearly Have An Adverse Effect Upon The Finances Of The Public Entity; And (3) Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Confidential- Anticipated Litigation: Larisa Bogunovic v. Bethel (Acting City Manager Arnold)

Main Motion: Move into Executive Session In Accordance With AS 44.62.310.(c)(1) Matters, The Immediate Knowledge Of Which Would Clearly Have An Adverse Effect Upon The Finances Of The Public Entity; And (3) Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Confidential- Anticipated Litigation: Larisa Bogunovic v. Bethel. Those attending this item are the City Council, City Clerk, City Attorney, Acting City Manager, and outside council Zoe Eisberg.

Item 13.2. - In Accordance With AS 44.62.310(c)(2) Subjects That Tend To Prejudice The Reputation And Character Of Any Person- City Manager Review and Employment

Agreement Development (Note, All City Manager Candidates May be Discussed During the Executive Session) (Mayor Springer)

Main Motion: Move into Executive Session In Accordance With AS 44.62.310(c)(2) Subjects That Tend To Prejudice The Reputation And Character Of Any Person- City Manager Review and Employment Agreement Development (Note, All City Manager Candidates May be Discussed During the Executive Session) Those attending this item are the City Council, City Attorney, City Clerk, and Acting City Manager Arnold.

Moved by: Sophie Swope
Seconded by: Rose Henderson
In favor: Mikayla Miller, Beth Hessler, Patrick Snow, Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Teresa Keller, Sophie Swope
Opposed: None
Results: Motion Carries

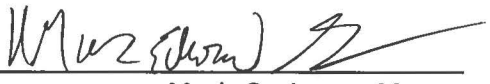
Council went back on the record at 9:13 pm and announced that they will continue the City Manager Search.

14. ADJOURNMENT

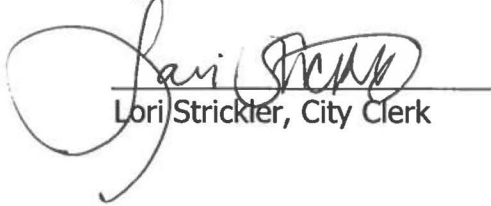
Main Motion: Adjournment.

Moved by: Sophie Swope
Seconded by: Mikayla Miller
In favor: Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Beth Hessler, Patrick Snow, Sophie Swope, Teresa Keller, Mikayla Miller
Opposed: None
Results: Motion Carries

Meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.


Mark Springer, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk