

**City Council Meeting
City of Bethel, Alaska
Regular Meeting
February 27, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on February 27, 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:
Vice-Mayor Sophie Swope (telephonically) City Council Member Rose Henderson City Council Member Mikayla Miller City Council Member Patrick Snow City Council Member Beth Hessler City Council Member Teresa Keller Mayor Mark Springer
Members Absent:
Also in attendance were the following:
Acting City Manager Arnold, City Clerk Lori Strickler, City Attorney Libby Bakalar (telephonically)

4. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD – Five minutes per person

Frances Samuelson, Bethel resident- Spoke in opposition to the amendment presented in Ordinance 24-01.

Item 4.1. - Written Public Comments

No written comments submitted.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND REGULAR AGENDA

Main Motion: Approve the Consent and Regular Agenda.

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

6. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Item 6.1. - *2-6-2024 Special City Council Meeting

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 6.2. - *2-13-2024 Regular City Council Meeting

Passed on the consent agenda.

7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Port Commission, Council Member Henderson- A meeting was not held due to a lack of a quorum.

Planning Commission, Council Member Hessler- A meeting has not been held since the last city council meeting.

Community Action Grant Committee, Council Member Keller- A meeting has not been held since the last city council meeting.

Community Parks and Recreation Committee, Council Member Swope- Discussed the equitable access program at the YK Fitness Center. Discussed a city grant that was applied for but was not supported by the Committee because of the large match requirements.

Finance Committee, Council Member Snow- At the last meeting held, the Commission considered amending the senior citizen tax exemption card renewal process by removing the expiration date.

Public Works Committee, Council Member Springer- A meeting was not held due to a lack of a quorum.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission, Council Member Miller- A meeting has not been held since the last city council meeting.

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

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item 8.1. - Fiscal Year 2021 Audit Report From BDO (Mayor Springer)

Bikky Shrestha, BDO Assurance Partner, and Amy Roberts, PacNW Assurance Market Managing Partner, provided a presentation of the Fiscal Year 2021 audit summary.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 9.1. - Public Hearing 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)

Mayor Springer opened the Public Hearing.

Will Buckey, Bethel Resident- Supported the tax. Suggested that Nicotine Replacement Products be exempt and, perhaps, subsidized and/or use the tax to fund youth activities.

Emma Nelson, Bethel Resident- Supported the tax.

Victoria Galanopoulos, Bethel Resident- Presented information about vaping in the community.

Carrie Nyssen, American Lung Association- Presented Information about electronic cigarettes in Alaska and that higher prices reduce the use by young people.

Supported the exemption of FDA approved cessation devices.

Mayor Springer closed the Public Hearing.

Main Motion: Adopt Ordinance 24-01.

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

Motion to amend to:

Under Section 8

Strike "But not including a cigarette as defined in this section or a tobacco substitute prescribed by a licensed physician":

Insert a new Section 9 that says:

Any noncombustible device that provides a vaporized and aerosolized liquid nicotine or other tobacco product to the user or relies on vaporization or Aerosolization of any liquid or solid nicotine or other tobacco product, including devices manufactured or marketed as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, or any other product name.

Insert a new Section 10 that says:

Other Tobacco Products excludes:

a. Cigarette as defined in this section,

b. Tobacco substitute prescribed by a license physician, and

c. Nicotine patches, gum, lozenges, and other products approved by the Federal Drug Administration to be nicotine replacement therapy and/or tobacco cessation products intended to help quit tobacco use and minimize symptoms of nicotine addiction.

Moved by: Beth Hessler

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

Motion to amend to insert under Section 10:

d. Nicotine pouch as defined as a small bag that contains the chemical nicotine.

Moved by: Rose Henderson
Seconded by: Mikayla Miller
In favor: Rose Henderson, Teresa Keller, Patrick Snow
Opposed: Mikayla Miller, Mark Springer, Sophie Swope, Beth Hessler
Results: Motion Does Not Carry

Item 9.2. - Public Hearing 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)

Mayor Springer opened the Public Hearing.

No one present to be heard.

Mayor Springer closed the Public Hearing.

Main Motion: Adopt Ordinance 24-02.

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

10. NEW BUSINESS

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- Commented on the cold weather. Encouraged people to pay attention to the search and rescue reports.

Vice-Mayor Sophie Swope- No comment.

Vice-Mayor Swope departed the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Council Member Henderson- Encouraged people that have a complaint against a cab to contact the Police Department. Suggested people forward complaints about council members to the City Clerk's Office.

Council Member Hessler- No comment.

Council Member Snow- No comment.

Council Member Keller- No comment.

Council Member Miller- Reminded everyone that the Permanent Supportive Housing Building will be hosting an open house on March 11th.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 13.1. - 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 City Council, City Attorney, City Clerk, and Acting City Manager.

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

Council entered Executive Session at 8:14 p.m.

Council exited Executive Session at 8:36 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Main Motion: Adjournment.

Moved by: Mikayla Miller

Seconded by: Teresa Keller

In favor: Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Beth Hessler, Patrick Snow, Teresa Keller, Mikayla Miller

Opposed: None

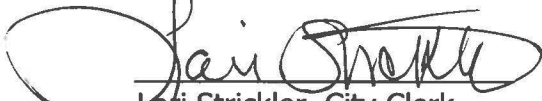
Results: Motion Carries

Meeting ended at 8:37 p.m.



Mark Springer, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk