

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on August 25, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor Barr 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:
Mayor Perry Barr Council Member Cece Franko (telephonically) City Council Member Alyssa Leary (telephonically) City Council Member Mark Springer (telephonically) City Council Member Michelle DeWitt (telephonically) City Council Member Hugh Dymont (telephonically) Vice-Mayor Haley Hanson (telephonically)
Members Absent:
Also in attendance were the following:
Acting City Manager Lori Strickler, Deputy City Clerk Kevin Morgan, City Attorney Libby Bakalar (telephonically)

4. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD – Five minutes per person

Beverly Hoffman- Spoke concerning the COVID-19 pandemic in regards to Bethel and YK delta. Numbers are spiking. Bethel is a hub for villages. Urges that travelers into the area be tested. Supports a mandate for everyone to mask up. Supports the Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax. Hoping it will fund recreation infrastructure, reduce health problems, support a gym project, and support the fitness center. Supports a multipurpose gym. Disappointed with the turn over of city managers. Noted Bill Howell's retirement. Thanked Bill Howell for his service to the city. Thanked the city council for their work.

Kathy Hanson- Spoke as a Parks and Recreation Aquatic Health and Safety Center

committee member. In support of Sugar tax. The City is not keeping up with recreational needs of the growing city. New housing development will create more demand for parks and maintenance. The Fitness Center and pool need to be financially supported. Mentioned that Bethel only has 2 gyms that are available to the population and that number has not increased in conjunction with the growing population since she has lived here.

Gary Decossas- Supports the diversifying of income for the city but is against the Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax.. It disproportionately taxes lower income citizens. Taxing unhealthy behavior may create more taxes on other unhealthy products/behaviors. Would like to see a more detailed plan on how funds would be spent and would like to hear how the business community feels about it. Does not want the municipality to be overburdened with taxes like other Cities.

Louise Angaiak, the Grant Manager of the COVID-19 Individual Assistance Program at the Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC) -Spoke in favor of AM 20-40. They have helped 28 households and expect more applicants as Bethel is seeing more cases and quarantines. The people receiving the help are very grateful for it.

Eileen Arnold, Executive Director of TWC- In support of AM 20-40. The City of Bethel worked with Bethel Community Services Foundation (BCSF) to help people who need fiscal assistance due to COVID-19. Almost 29 households and 110 individuals have been helped. \$60,000 has been spent and at this rate they will run out of funds in the first week of September. As cases rise, more requests will come. They will need more CARES money if the City wants the program to continue. Also supports the Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax.

Susan Taylor- Concerned with the low Census numbers in the area. If we do not have enough people counted out here, it will affect our community for the next ten years. Would like to see COVID-19 testing mandatory at the airport and travelers to be reminded that testing does not replace quarantine; please test again after arrival. Mentioned how lack of testing in another Alaskan Community led to higher numbers of cases. Reminded the public that Friday is produce give away. It will be the last one from the farmer relief grant. If you know people who are in quarantine; please grab food for them.

Richard Robb- Opposed to the Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax. Currently, the city has a high sales tax. Does not believe the tax is necessary to create funding for the City. Concerned that the tax affects the low income population and will create inflationary pressure. Supports the parks and boardwalks and pools, but states that there is no guarantee that the money collected from this tax would be used for this intended purpose. Also concerned with COVID-19, and believes the City and Council should do more. We are in a unique position to prevent COVID-19 from entering the area.

Supports mandatory testing of incoming travelers, a mask ordinance, and a crowd-limit ordinance.

Corbin Ford- Opposed to the Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax. Concerned about the language of the ordinance in regards to the definition of "Sugar Sweetened." Would like the intent and purpose of this tax to be clearly defined. Believes that sin taxes do not control behavior. Questioned if the excise tax on nicotine products controlled nicotine use. Brought up the concern of adverse consequences from taxes, for instance, the recent online sales tax creating a situation where a vendor would not ship products to him in Bethel due to the burden of tax collection.

Nikki Pollock- Against Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax. Does not want the community to be overburdened with taxes. Thinks more taxes will create unknown adverse effects. Having people drinking less sugar would be healthier for the community but the correct approach to solve that problem may be through educational outreach. Questioned the effectiveness of tax being a deterrent to using sugar. Supports AM 20-40. Would like the City to disperse those funds to those people who are suffering hardships related to COVID-19 and quarantine.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND REGULAR AGENDA

Main Motion: Approval Of Consent Agenda And Regular Agenda.

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Haley Hanson
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymont
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Primary Amendment: Move Item 10.8, AM 20-40 to the top of agenda.

Moved by:	Hugh Dymont
Seconded by:	Mark Springer
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymont
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Removal from Consent Agenda- Item 10.1, Ordinance 20-25- Council Member Dymont.

Removal from Consent Agenda- Item 10.5, Resolution 20-13- Council Member Dymont.

Removal from Consent Agenda- Item 10.2 Introduction of Ordinance 20-12(b)- Council Member Leary

6. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Item 6.1. - *8-11-2020 Regular City Council Meeting

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 6.2. - *8-17-2020 Special City Council Meeting

Passed on the consent agenda.

7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Item 7.1. - Committees/Commissions/Boards Agendas And Draft Meeting Minutes

Port Commission, Hugh Dymont- No meeting due lack of Quorum. Please apply if interested on serving on the Commission.

Planning Commission, Vice- Mayor Hanson- The August 13th meeting was cancelled due to the quarantine of Department heads. Next meeting will be on September 10th.

Community Action Grant Technical Review Board, Mayor Barr- Application period opened August 1st and closes August 30th. The deadline is September 1st. Their next board meeting is on September 9th. They will present to Council the proposed grants on September 22nd and payments will be made on September 25th. Urges the public to please apply.

Parks, Recreation, Aquatic Health and Safety Center Committee, Council Member DeWitt- Had a special meeting last night and discussed the Sugar Sweeteend Beverage tax. Created a vehicle on how to funnel those funds to Park Projects. The Committee made a recommendation to support the ordinance. Next meeting will be September 14th.

Finance Committee, Council Member Franko- Unfortunately the committee did not meet due to turnover in the Finance Department. No recorder was assigned and no meeting took place. No special meetings are scheduled at this time.

Public Works Committee, Council Member Leary- They met last Wednesday. They

discussed: the Bethel Municipal Code in regards to plastic bags; enforcing the code, and possibly amending it. Discussed a partnership with the Department of Corrections to clean up trash/plastic bags. Also discussed drainage from berms on the roads and a recommendation to council from their July meeting to explore ways of helping those who are experiencing hardship with their utility bills to due COVID-19.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission, Council Member Springer- Next meeting is September 7th; encouraged the public to attend.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 9.1. - Public Hearing Of Ordinance 20-24: Amending BMC 4.20 Article VIII, Contract Formation And Modification (Mayor Barr)

Mayor Barr opened the Public Hearing.

No one present to be heard.

Mayor Barr closed the Public Hearing.

Main Motion: Adopt Ordinance 20-24.

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Michelle DeWitt
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymont
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

10. NEW BUSINESS

Item 10.1. - *Introduction Of Ordinance 20-25 Creating An Excise Tax On The Distribution Of Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Products (Council Member Dewitt)

Main Motion: Introduce Ordinance 20-25.

Moved by: Michelle DeWitt
Seconded by: Cece Franko,

Motion to Postpone to the December 8, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting.

Moved by: Hugh Dymont
Seconded by: Alyssa Leary
In favor: Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Hugh Dymont
Opposed: Michelle DeWitt
Results: Motion Carries

Item 10.2. - *Introduction Of Ordinance 20-12(b): Amending The City Of Bethel Fiscal Year 2021 Budget-Heat Trace Loop Relief (City Manager Corazza)

Main Motion: Introduce Budget Ordinance 20-12(b).

Moved by: Alyssa Leary
Seconded by: Cece Franko
In favor: Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer , Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymont
Opposed: None
Results: Motion Carries

Motion to Suspend the Rules to hear from Bill Arnold, Public Works Director.

Moved by: Alyssa Leary
Seconded by: Haley Hanson
In favor: Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer , Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymont
Opposed: None
Results: Motion Carries

Primary Amendment: In the third whereas statement, to strike "dating" and insert "for up to the previous"

Moved by: Hugh Dymont
Seconded by: Alyssa Leary
In favor: Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymont
Opposed: None
Results: Motion Carries

Secondary Amendment: In the third whereas statement, strike "five" and insert "previous and present"

Moved by:	Haley Hanson
Seconded by:	Hugh Dymment
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymment
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Council Member Springer was momentarily disconnected and did not vote on this Secondary Amendment.

Motion to Suspend the Rules to hear from Acting Finance Director John Sargent

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Hugh Dymment
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymment
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.3. - *Introduction Of Budget Ordinance 20-12 (C): Amending The City Of Bethel Fiscal Year 2021 Budget- Professional Services (Mayor Barr)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.4. - *Resolution 20-12: Formally Naming Municipal Parks (Council Member Dewitt)

Passed on the consent agenda..

Item 10.5. - *Resolution 20-13: In Response To The Public Health Emergency, Requiring Municipal Meetings Be Held Virtually Until November 1, 2020, And Providing For The Issuance Of Vouchers To Elected And Appointed Officials To Compensate For Their Virtual Connectivity (Vice-Mayor Hanson)

Council Member DeWitt declared a conflict of interest due to the City of Bethel and her Employer, Bethel Community Services Foundation (BCSF), being involved with CARES money.

Mayor Barr declared that there is no conflict of interest.

Main Motion: Adopt Resolution 20-13.

Moved by:	Haley Hanson
Seconded by:	Alyssa Leary
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymont
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.6. - AM 20-38: Refer, To The Planning Commission, The Review And Prioritization Of Hazards And Nuisance Properties For Municipal Action (Vice-Mayor Hanson)

Main Motion: Approve AM 20-38.

Moved by:	Haley Hanson
Seconded by:	Hugh Dymont
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymont
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.7. - AM 20-39: Authorizing A Waiver To Permit Administration To Hire Leif Albertson, As A Contractor Or Consultant To Act As The Emergency Operations Director In The City's Emergency Operations Center (Council Member Springer)

Council Member DeWitt declares a conflict of interest due to employment by BCSF which is involved with CARES funds.

Mayor Barr rules that Council Member DeWitt has a conflict of interest.

Council Member DeWitt does not take part in discussion or voting on this item.

Main Motion: Approve AM 20-39.

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Hugh Dymont
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Hugh Dymont
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.8. - AM 20-40: Approving a Change in the CARES Act Budget and Spending Plan and Memorandum of Agreement with Bethel Community Services Foundation

For an Additional Funding Amount of \$500,000 (Vice-Mayor Hanson)

Council Member DeWitt declared a conflict of interest. Council Member DeWitt is employed by BCSF.

Mayor Barr rules that there is a conflict of interest and Council Member DeWitt does not take part in the discussion or voting.

Main Motion: Approve AM 20-40.

Moved by:	Alyssa Leary
Seconded by:	Haley Hanson
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Hugh Dymont
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Suspend the rules to hear from Eileen Arnold, Executive Director of TWC.

Moved by:	Hugh Dymont
Seconded by:	Haley Hanson
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Hugh Dymont
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.9. - *Personal Leave-City Clerk-August 21, 2020 (Mayor Barr)

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 Barr- Wear your PFD's when boating. It is getting darker. Boats and debris will be harder to see. Please, wear reflective gear. Commended Council Member Leary's reflective tape program from the previous year. The old school is being demolished. He has heard many suggestions from the public on how to use that space. Encourages more suggestions from the public about how to use space. Met with Senator Hoffman, Representative Zulkosky, City Clerk Strickler, and City Attorney Bakalar to explore what 2nd class cities can do with in regard to COVID-19 mandates, masks, and testing upon entry to Bethel.

Vice-Mayor Hanson- Thanked City Clerk Strickler and election officials who made voting feel safe and comfortable.

Council Member Leary- Reminded the public to keep up the effective measures against COVID-19. When returning from travel, make sure to test. Testing does not replace quarantine. Concerned with how enforcement of COVID-19 mandates would be done.

Council Member Franko- School started this week. Hopes that all the childrens' families and parents are hanging in there and doing their best. Urged the public to be creative with their education choices. Reminder, the Library will be opening soon on a limited basis.

Council Member Springer- Wished moose hunters good luck. Shout out to Janelle Vanasse and the students at Mount Edgecumbe. Echoed what Susan Taylor said earlier about the importance of the Census. If you bring an employee to Bethel, you have the right to ask them to take a COVID-19 test.

Council Member DeWitt- Thanked the Council for the debate. Looks forward to hearing the Council's ideas on how to reduce the Parks and Recreation fiscal gap.

Council Member Dyment- Productive meeting. When the administration was on COVID-19 quarantine, had concerns about Primary City Functions. After speaking with the Department Heads on the matter, has confidence that primary city functions can still continue in such adverse circumstances. Encouraged the public to get flu shots.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

14. ADJOURNMENT

Main Motion: Adjournment.

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Haley Hanson
In favor:	Perry Barr, Cece Franko, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Hugh Dymont
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Meeting ended at 9:28 p.m.


Perry Barr, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kevin Morgan, Deputy City Clerk