

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on March 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following members were present:
City Council Member Perry Barr (telephonically) Vice-Mayor Haley Hanson (telephonically) City Council Member Alyssa Leary (telephonically) City Council Member Mark Springer (telephonically) Mayor Michelle DeWitt (telephonically) City Council Member Rose Henderson (telephonically) City Council Member Conrad McCormick (telephonically)
Members Absent:
Also in attendance were the following:
Interim City Manager Peter Williams (telephonically), City Clerk Lori Strickler (telephonically), City Attorney Libby Bakalar (telephonically)

4. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD – Five minutes per person

Ruth Abigail Miller- Read from a Facebook post regarding a sexual assault and presented allegations that the Police Department was not handling the issue in a timely manner. Identified concerns with the delay of processing evidence in the Justice system. Presented other concerns about police policies regarding the handling evidence. Suggested that relatives of people accused of a crime should not be part of the chain of custody if that is happening. Advised, that if the Police Department has systemic problems or policies which hinder the processing of evidence, they need to be changed.

Anny Cochran –Presented concerns related to the Police Department. Suggested, that when a call is made to 911, it is important that the agencies make sure the after care of that call is handled appropriately. Stated victims have the right to have their case handled in a timely manner and should not have to constantly reach out to the agencies to receive updates. Advised, that staffing levels need to be improved to ensure that the Police Department can adequately protect and serve the public. Asked the council to identify a way to have checks and balances for systems that are broken which allow for confidentiality.

Item 4.1. - Notice: Public Testimony By Email Will Be Accepted.

To Qualify, It Must:

- 1) Be Emailed To cityclerk@cityofbethel.net By 4pm The Day Of The Meeting.
- 2) Specifically Request That It Is To Be Read At People To Be Heard.
- 3) Contain The Full, Real Name Of The Person Sending It.

Note: Depending On The Amount Of Emails Received, The Mayor May Summarize The Content Of The Email.

Ryan and Stephanie Butte submitted an email to be heard. Both are Tundra Ridge Residents, in support of Resolution 21-03. Listed public benefits of having a complete route around Bethel: the economic benefit of reducing driving time, the reduction of "rush hour traffic" at Watson's corner, and reducing the time for emergency services to reach locations. Also presented safety concerns of using 9100 Tundra Ridge Road as a main roadway such as: narrow streets, houses with little to no easement, and bends and turns which present a danger to children playing in the area. They hope that the State of Alaska will choose " Location A" and make the city safer by creating better road access to all sections of Bethel.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND REGULAR AGENDA

Main Motion: Approve the Consent and Regular Agenda.

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Haley Hanson
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Removal from consent agenda- New Business Item 10.3, Resolution 21-03, Council Member Springer.

6. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Item 6.1. - *2-23-2021 Regular City Council Meeting
Passed on the consent agenda.

7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Port Commission, Council Member Springer- A meeting has not held since the last City Council Meeting.

Planning Commission, Vice-Mayor Hanson- A meeting will be held on Thursday of this week and will: consider a junk vehicle program action memorandum, elect a chair and vice chair, and hold a public hearing on a conditional use permit for a single story triplex at 228 Akiak drive.

Community Action Grant Technical Review Board, Council Member Barr- The Board met on March 3, there were a number of applications reviewed. Those applications will be considered at another meeting tomorrow evening.

Parks, Recreation, Aquatic Health and Safety Center Committee, Mayor DeWitt- Park's names were considered for our unnamed parks. Park name recommendations will be sent to the Council for consideration. Discussed the scope of work on the Phase II feasibility study for the recreation center and the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Excise Tax. The committee will be presenting amendments to the Council for consideration. Changing the name of the committee will be on the next agenda.

Finance Committee, Council Member McCormick- A meeting has not been held since the last City Council Meeting. Provided condolences to the family and friends of the Heidi Hoffman, Finance Employee that worked with the Finance Committee.

Public Works Committee, Council Member Leary- Made an initial attempt for establishing goals for 2021. Reviewed a public works department capital improvement item to fund a new public works building. Discussed and received an update on the Avenues Project.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission, Council Member Henderson- A meeting was not held due to a lack of a quorum.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

Item 10.1. - *Introduction Of Ordinance 21-07: Establishing Chapter 9.10. Prohibiting Defacement Of Public Property (Public Works Committee)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.2. - *Introduction Of Budget Ordinance 20-12 (j): Amending The City Of Bethel Fiscal Year 2021 Budget-Outsourced Services (Interim City Manager Williams)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.3. - *Resolution 21-03: Opposing The Statewide Transportation Plan's Tundra Ridge Road Project And The State's Use Of Eminent Domain To Carry Out The Project (Interim City Manager Williams)

Main Motion: Adopt Resolution 21-03.

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Alyssa Leary
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.4. - *IM 21-04: Presentation Of The City's Water And Sewer Services Expenditures Compared To Budget From July1, 2020 To February 28, 2021 – Utilities Maintenance – Water And Wastewater Activity Report (Interim City Manager Williams)

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 DeWitt- Provided condolences to the family and friends of Heidi Hoffman.

Vice-Mayor Hanson- No comment.

Council Member Barr- No comment.

Council Member Leary- Provided condolences to the family and friends of Heidi Hoffman.

Council Member Springer- Brought attention to the comments made by members of the public related to the Police Department and asked the City Manager, the supervisor of the Police Chief, to address these statements with the department. Additionally stated, the Bethel Fire and Police Department should provide more resources to support Bethel Search and Rescue. Provided thanks to Streets and Roads for all their hard work. Provided condolences to the family and friends of Heidi Hoffman.

Council Member Henderson- Provided condolences to the family and friends of Heidi Hoffman. Thanked Clerk Strickler and the City Manager for the support they provided the family in their time of loss. Thanked the City Manager and City Clerk for their reports. Looked forward to receiving the recommendations on resuming in-person public meetings. Encouraged everyone to get vaccinated. Provided thanks to the city employees for all their hard work with the snow this year.

Council Member McCormick-Thanked the many people that reached out to him about the Tundra Ridge Road Resolution. Thanked Anny Cochrane and Ruth Miller for their testimony this evening. In recognition of Women's History Month, thanked all the women he works with for their work and thanked his Mother.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

14. ADJOURNMENT

Main Motion: Adjournment.

Moved by:	Rose Henderson
Seconded by:	Haley Hanson
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Meeting ended at 8:12 p.m.

Michelle DeWitt

Michelle DeWitt (Mar 26, 2021 09:39 AKDT)

Michelle DeWitt, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk