

**MINUTES
of the
ANCHORAGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 8, 2007
6:00 PM**

The Council members in attendance were as follows: Susan Mitchell, Brian Rublein, Jim Holtman, Bill Wetheron, Dan Heiskell, and Roger Durham. Mayor Tommy Hewitt presided. Also in attendance were Assistant to the Mayor Alice McKinley; City Attorney John McGarvey; Treasurer Jim Johnson; City Clerk Nan Schlindwein; Director of Public Works Erwin Booth; Police Chief Chris Winders; and guests John Beyke and Bob Anderson with FMSM, Lance Williams with ConTech Bridge Solutions, Mrs. David Shively, Nadine Brewer, Ann Stivers, Julie Pogue, Stephen Kottkamp, and Eric Taylor.

Mayor Hewitt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes from the December 11, 2006, regular meeting were presented. Durham made the motion, seconded by Rublein, and unanimously approved by Council to accept the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The City's check register and financial report for December 2006 were presented. Durham asked about the large revenue from zoning fees. Johnson replied that this is due to a lot of new construction in the City. He also asked why the line item of insurance premium taxes had gone down from 2004. Johnson said that fewer employees were getting onto the City's health insurance plan. Durham asked if the capital expense increases in administration and the police department had been anticipated to which Johnson replied that it had.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Winders presented the December 2006 police report. No questions or concerns were raised.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Mitchell presented the HPC report for the month of December 2006.

OLD BUSINESS

McKinley presented updates on the City's contract with Industrial Disposal. At the last City Council meeting she presented the contract showing an increase of 6% from the previous year. In the interim she had met with representatives of the company and had gotten the increase lowered to 4%. As the contract is currently on a year-to-year basis and rolls over January 1st and the City runs on a fiscal year, in the future Industrial Disposal will give sufficient notice of the yearly increase to facilitate the City's budgeting. McKinley stated that ID wants to pursue a 5 ½ year contract with the City. The City's trash contract was last bid out in 2003. Holtman made the motion to accept the revised one-year contract which was seconded by Heiskell and unanimously approved by Council. Mitchell asked about the increase of service problems reported at the last Council meeting. McKinley reported that they have been taken care of.

NEW BUSINESS

John Beyke with FMSM was introduced to discuss the Bellewood Bridge's headwall collapse. He began by addressing an article recently in The Courier Journal. He clarified that nothing City Council had done had contributed to the collapse of the bridge. He commended Police Chief Winders and Fire Chief Lage for closing Bellewood Road to vehicular traffic and pedestrians. The east wall of the bridge has collapsed and there is the possibility the barrel and other wall may as well. Abel Construction had begun the repair project by putting up scaffolding and drilling holes for a foundation. This movement may have triggered the collapse of the unstable east wall. Adding to the stress on the bridge is the paving which was about 1½ feet thick. Three alternatives were presented on possible plans of action: 1) completely replace two headwalls and culvert barrel with pre-fabricated replacements; 2) reinforce failed headwall; and, 3) re-build failed headwall. With options two and three there is no guarantee on the life of the bridge. Using option one, the Corp of Engineers estimated the life of the bridge to be between 75 and 100 years. Lance Williams with ConTech Bridge Solutions presented the pre-fabricated structure that could be used in option one. The structure comes in 8-foot sections and is hoisted by a crane to place. The construction would be a two-step process. First, create the structure, and then cover the façade to Historic Preservation standards. Holtman asked if the old stone could be reused. Mr. Williams replied that some pieces could but what had been originally used was in varying degrees of thickness. He suggested that perhaps some of the old stones could be cut to fit the new bridge. Heiskell suggested the old barrel be tested for strength in case the City did not need to go to the expense of replacing the barrel. Beyke said that the bridge was constructed about 105 years ago and geared at that time to essentially support horse and buggies. McKinley asked how much of the estimated cost of option one was for the prefabricated barrel and headwalls. Anderson said that about one-quarter of the estimate was to ConTech Bridge Solutions. It was decided upon to declare the project an emergency, have FMSM re-bid it to the two interested parties, and present the bids to a special meeting of City Council in the next two weeks. McKinley stated that safety measures to close the bridge are OSHA and safety compliant. Beyke placed the cost of replacing the façade at \$32,000.00 and said that engineering fees and consultations were worked into the pricing presented.

Wetherton asked that the replacement of the structure match the original structure. Mr. Williams said that the new bridge would have a greater arch than the original but Beyke said that the façade work could be done in such a way as to mimic closely the original work. Rublein made the motion to declare the project an emergency and re-bid the revised project which was seconded by Mitchell and unanimously passed by Council. Julie Pogue and Council member Mitchell said that many children walk to school, access this area, and that residents were concerned for their safety. The street has been closed off and does not allow for pedestrian traffic. As some youth going to and from school may walk through yards on the side of the road around the bridge, Chief Winders said that during times that water runs high in the creek, officers will transport youth in a police vehicle around the blocked off area.

The police and maintenance departments presented lists of items that were not used any longer in their departments and asked them to be deemed surplus. Durham made the motion, seconded by Rublein to do so and the motion passed unanimously. These items will be put on the website [GovDeals](#) to be auctioned off.

A variance request for signage was presented by realtor Julie Pogue and Mrs. David Shively who lives on Cherry Lane. The home is for sale and, as the property is off Bellewood Road, she has asked to put secondary signage at the corner of Bellewood and Cherry. Permission has been received from the homeowner at that address. The Council voiced concern that Ms. Pogue had already placed the secondary signage without the Council's approval and that she has additionally put up pointer signs that are not allowable in the City. Mitchell made the motion to allow secondary signage for a 90-day period. Heiskell seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

McKinley presented the hazardous tree bids. Nine bids were received by the City with the substantially lowest bid from Tree Care. Rublein reported that the company has received a bad rating from Better Business Bureau. McKinley explained that in past experience with the City Tree Care has worked fast and clean while other companies had simply worked the City's trees in between other jobs. Heiskell expressed concern that Tree Care's bid was so far below the other bids he was hesitant to support them. Rublein made the motion to accept the bid presented by Tree Care, which was seconded by Durham and unanimously approved by Council.

Durham did the first reading of an ordinance making amendments to an ordinance relating to a moratorium to new construction. This ordinance makes calculations easier than the original and allows greater flexibility on building to long-term homeowners.

Nadine Brewer was introduced and reminded Council about pedway repairs that were approved several months ago for Osage Road along Wagner Park. These repairs have not taken place and she sees the pedway as dangerous. Booth explained to Council that he had pursued bids, but because of the small size of the project, has gotten little interest. As it is nearly impossible to lay asphalt this time of year, he will get little response until the spring. He assured Mrs. Brewer that he will make contacts in early spring and get the repair done. The Mayor suggested he talk with companies that do driveways.

The meeting went into executive session at 7:05 p.m. Council came back into session at 7:20 p.m. and adjourned.

W. Thomas Hewitt,
Mayor

Nan Schlindwein,
City Clerk