
City of Bethel, Alaska

Finance Committee Minutes

April 28, 2014

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on April 28, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Willard at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Committee, the following were present:

Willard, Shantz, Albertson, Shear, Trantham, Cochrane

Excused absences: Egoak (Alt.)

Unexcused absences: None

Also in attendance were the following:

Hansel Mathlaw, Finance Director
Tonya Hendrix, Assistant Finance Director
Douglas Hoffman, Sales Tax Accounting Specialist
Carole Jung, Recorder

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Lorin Bradbury- Came in support of exempting churches from paying local sales tax.

MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 24, 2014 Meeting

MOVED BY:	Shantz	This was tabled until the next meeting due to the minutes being incorrect. (Shantz was marked as absent when he was present and Shear was marked as present when she was absent. (We did not have a quorum)
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES of Corrected Minutes of Dec. 30 & Jan. 27 Meeting

MOVED BY:	Shantz	To approve the corrected minutes of these two meetings.
SECONDED BY:	Cochrane	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Sales Tax Code Revision- (Finance Director)** The New Sales Tax Code Revision is being presented. Douglas Hoffman was present to answer any questions that the Finance Committee may have. It was discovered that there were no copies of the old sales tax ordinance provided for the committee to reference to. The committee decided to make a motion to table this item until the June meeting.

MOTION: to table the Sales Tax Code Revision item until the June meeting.

MOVED BY:	Cochrane	To table this item until the June meeting or until the finance dept. is able to gather the information.
SECONDED BY:	Shantz	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

- B. FY15 Swimming Pool Budget- (Trantham)** Trantham voiced concerns that he heard from the public regarding the swimming pool budget. Wants to make it clear that he is not an opponent to the swimming pool. This is in regards to the sustainability, cost and the operating procedure. Will it be run as an enterprise fund or under the general fund? Trantham has been contacted by the public regarding the filling of the pool. It has been filled twice and leaked both times. Citizens are interested to know who is paying for the test water. Is the test water included in the price of the contract, or are the citizens paying for it?

The swimming pool budget was not integrated into the FY15 budget because we don't have a winner for the RFP for the operation of the pool. Until we award the contract the costs are up in the air and we do not have any historical data from which to gather. The pool is now metered as of February so the unit company is paying for the filling of the water. Prior to that there were several fill ups. The contract that we have with the unit company is that they will be reimbursing the city for the fill ups that were not metered up to 409,000 gallons which is more than they actually used. These numbers were given to us by our project development manager who is overseeing the building of the pool.

MOTION: to schedule a meeting in June (Finance Committee has historically taken a hiatus in June and July)

MOVED BY:	Cochrane	To schedule a regular finance committee meeting the 4 th Monday in June.
SECONDED BY:	Albertson	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

MOTION: to table the operating budget of the pool until the June meeting.

MOVED BY:	Cochrane	To table this item until the June meeting until after we have awarded the contract for the pool.
SECONDED BY:	Shear	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

- C. Water/Sewer Rate Increase-** There was a very lively discussion of the water/sewer rate increase. There was an idea of increasing the subscription fee to \$40. The idea of meters was brought up. There will be a city council meeting on Tuesday, May 27 on this subject. Council Rep. Albertson encouraged the finance committee to read the water/sewer rate study that was done by CH2M Hill last year.

MOTION: to agree on a statement to give to council on behalf of the Finance Committee.

MOVED BY:	Cochrane	To give a statement to Council regarding the water/sewer
------------------	----------	--

SECONDED BY:	Trantham	rate increase.
---------------------	----------	----------------

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

The Finance Committee made a suggestion that will be given to the Council rep that states, "We recognize the necessity of a rate increase to meet costs, however, we support further public hearings on the topic."

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business on the agenda.

COUNCIL REP. COMMENTS

He encouraged all the committee members to come to the council meeting on May 27. It makes a tremendous difference and does a lot to sway the opinions.

FINANCE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

The finance department has a lot of things going on right now, including the budget meeting on Thursday for the FY15 budget. Thanked the committee for tabling the sales tax and the swimming pool back a couple months. That will lift a load off me and the finance department.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Shantz- No comment.

Member Cochrane- No comment.

Member Shear- Great discussion tonight, it was great to hear lively debate.

Member Trantham- Thanked the committee for showing up to the meeting, it's good to have a quorum. Thanked everyone for making the community better. Reminded everyone that the ATG memorial park is open for volunteers and there are picnic tables for families to come out and enjoy the park.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Shantz	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Shear	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
-----------------------	-----------------------------------

APPROVED THIS 28th DAY OF MAY, 2014.

Carole Jung, Recorder


Carol Ann Willard, Chair