
City of Bethel, Alaska

Finance Committee Minutes

August 25, 2014

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on August 25, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the office behind the Council Chambers.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Carol Willard at 6:31 PM.

ROLL CALL

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

Albertson, Cochrane, Shear, Trantham, and Willard

Excused absences: Shantz, Egoak

Unexcused absences: None

Also in attendance were the following:

Hansel Mathlaw, Finance Director
Tonya Hendrix, Assistant Finance Director
Carole Jung, Recorder

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

There were no people to be heard.

MOTION: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Albertson	To approve the agenda for the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Cochrane	

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

MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES of July 28, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOVED BY:	Cochrane	To approve the minutes.
SECONDED BY:	Shear	

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

NEW BUSINESS

Sales Tax Protest- Finance Director

Epic Aviation is protesting sales tax for Crowley. Epic Aviation is renting space at the Crowley tanks. Crowley is taxing on the space rental. Two parts to this: 1. Epic are renting space. Crowley is charging

sales tax on that rental and 2. Crowley is calling it a thru-put tax to move the fuel from the barge to the tank and the tank to the truck. Epic is taking that fuel and selling it to North Star and a couple of other vendors. Epic Aviation filed an appeal for those two parts. They have quoted that there is a 10,000 limit on the tax and I have agreed with that. The part that I have not agreed with is the thru-put tax. The advice from the city attorney is that we will have to set up another meeting with Epic, the finance committee and myself. The Finance Committee is going to have to make a recommendation on what to do next. When a buyer protests, they first protest to the finance director. If they come to an agreement, then the protest stops but if the buyer disagrees with my determination, the buyer has the right to either go to the finance committee or to the city manager. Epic has read the BMC and has decided to go thru the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee recommendation is advisory only and is not appealable. The Finance Committee members read the appeal and are in complete agreement with the Finance Director's decision. Epic Aviation is a new business in town that have just started up this summer. It looks like Epic made the appeal on the August 1st, 2014. They had ten days from the invoice date to file the appeal. After the finance director received the appeal I have 30 days to respond to their appeal. After my determination of my appeal they have 20 days. After that there is no timeline, according to the BMC. Epic Aviation is in Salem, OR. So it will be 8:00 pm their time, 7pm ours and we will meet at our regular scheduled time of 6:30pm. Member Trantham stated that he hopes that if there is any additional information that we will have it well before the meeting.

MOTION: To Schedule the Epic Aviation appeal to the Finance Committee to the next Regular Meeting.

MOVED BY:	Cochrane	To schedule the Epic Aviation appeal to the Sept. 22,
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	2014 meeting.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Sales Tax Revision-Finance Director

The Sales Tax Revision has been going on for a long time. The city attorney re-wrote it and it has moved onto the city council for their approval. The Finance Director wanted to know if any of the members had additional recommendations or suggestions. At the last meeting we had, Hansel made some recommendations and they were approved by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee asked that the changes be updated for the next meeting. The Finance Committee asked that the Finance Director have the updated tax revision with the mark out and the new recommendations emailed out to the committee members as soon as possible. That gives some time to review before the meeting.

COMMENTS

COUNCIL REP COMMENTS-We have been busy at the city council meetings, and I have missed a lot of these meetings lately so sorry about that. The fire chief has tendered his retirement so we will be asking Greg to fill that position. We have been narrowing down candidates for the city manager position. It sounds like we may have our city manager chosen, he is coming to Bethel for a site visit soon. Greg Moyer (Interim City Manager) might be staying a little bit longer than originally anticipated.

FINANCE DIRECTOR COMMENTS-We had Caselle training a couple of weeks ago. Caselle is the accounting software that the city uses. Traditionally, the finance director went to a Caselle training down in the states. This time we had two trainers come up to Bethel and train everyone for three days. Our audit is October 9 and we will continue to be working on that.

MEMBER COMMENTS

MEMBER SHEAR- I just want to remind everyone there is a city council election coming up. The chamber is going to try and have those running come to a chamber meeting in September and I hope everyone can make it. Please come with your questions and concerns.

MEMBER TRANTHAM- I want to thank all the members for coming tonight. I'm grateful for the quorum. I have expressed concerns about the budget at the last meeting. We have a budget that is high in personnel and low in materials. I predict many budget amendments this year.

MEMBER COCHRANE- I would just encourage everyone to hear the candidates out. If anybody doesn't normally attend chambers, that would be a good use of your time.

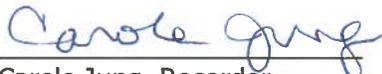
CHAIR WILLARD- I just want to thank you all for showing up and it was very helpful to get that reminder phone call.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

APPROVED THIS 22ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2014.


Carole Jung, Recorder


Carol Ann Willard, Chair

