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# City of Bethel, Alaska

## Finance Committee Minutes

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February 24, 2014

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

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### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on February 24, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers.

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.

### ROLL CALL

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

Willard, Shantz , Albertson and Trantham

Excused absences: Cochrane, Shear

Unexcused absences: None

Also in attendance were the following:

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Shantz	Motion to approve the agenda.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Trantham	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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### MOTION APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Shantz	To table the approval of minutes until the next meeting in March because it needs to be corrected.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Trantham	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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### PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

There were no people to be heard.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. PILT- (Finance Director)** – Stands for Payment in Lieu of Taxes. The City has been receiving PILT since 1976. For the past few months the program has been uncertain. On February of this year it was signed into the Agricultural Act of 2014 so we will be getting

federal funding this year for FY 15. The amount has not been determined yet. For FY14 the City received \$804,163. For FY13 we received \$807,036. For FY12 we received \$832,360. The reason why it was in limbo was because the mandatory spending expired in FY13 so it has to go thru an annual process of appropriations and luckily this year it was passed into law. Next year there will be some uncertainty whether we receive the funds or not.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Senior ID Cards-** More information was gathered regarding the Senior Tax ID exemption cards. I had done some research on other cities in Alaska that offer this to their senior citizens. For instance, Juneau issues them and they do not have an expiration date compared to our 2 year expiration date. I asked them about what they know about fraud with the cards and they said they do not keep track of that information. We also found out that they charge a \$20 one-time fee for the cards. We discussed the possibility of removing the expiration date and there was some concern about the impact it might have on the city’s finances. Member Trantham brought a receipt from AC as an example to show the committee.

**MOTION** to Table this issue until the May meeting

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Shantz	To resume discussion until May.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Trantham	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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**MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Member Trantham-** Said that it’s his understanding that during a budget year there has to be a budget amendment. He expressed concern that when the City went to excise tax, they didn’t do a budget amendment. He thought it may have been illegal and improper to do that. People frown on that type of action and his hope is that there is a budget amendment for the investigation. He apologized in case he was out of line.

**MEMBER SHANTZ-** Thanks the staff for bringing in the information gathered from other cities. He asked how the city is doing on water/sewer delinquencies and said that we can keep it in the back of our minds and take a look at it sometime in the future.

**CHAIR WILLARD-** She is happy that we are able to have a quorum and said that we do have another vacancy on the committee. She said for a long time we were not able to have a quorum and asked the committee to try and think of someone who would be a good fit.

**COUNCIL REP. COMMENTS-** He apologized for missing the last meeting. A lot going on with City stuff, a lot on the agenda and offered to talk to anybody privately. This council has done a good job about going very carefully, very professional.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR COMMENTS-** This is his second meeting and he is learning a lot from this committee. He says that he is taking his time and not rushing into decisions that involve the city’s financials.

**ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Shantz	To adjourn the meeting until Monday, March 24.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Albertson	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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APPROVED THIS \_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

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Carole Jung, Recorder

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Carol Ann Willard, Chair