

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 10-17

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FFY 2011 UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING CYCLE

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council annually reviews its congressional funding priorities and approves a resolution identifying those priorities for use by the President of the United States of America and United States Congress in development of the federal budget;

WHEREAS, the City carefully evaluated and selected the most essential and obligatory projects and ranked them herein according to the City's federal funding needs;

WHEREAS, Alaska's congressional delegates, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Mark Begich, and Congressman Don Young, will accept funding requests from municipalities, like the City of Bethel, if received on or before February 16 and 19, 2010;

WHEREAS, a summary of the City of Bethel's requisite priorities and requested funding amounts are listed in the following table:

Top Six Priorities	Request
1. River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2	\$3,000,000
2. Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center (new construction)	\$4,000,000
3. Dredging of Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach	\$3,000,000
4. Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigation	\$100,000
5. Bethel Fire Station	\$1,000,000
6. Bethel Police Station	\$3,000,000
Total	\$14,100,000

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

#1 River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2

WHEREAS, Port of Bethel projects requiring assistance, oversight, and direction from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, must receive funding from a congressional appropriation in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers greatly assisted the community of Bethel when it constructed the Eastern Addition Seawall, a 1,200 linear foot wall protecting residents and property, including the Small Boat Harbor;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed Phase 1 of the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project in 2007, when it deposited basketball sized rocks at the base of the seawall to reduce scour and hold the pipe piles in place;

WHEREAS, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 entails the replacement of tiebacks, steel rods that are welded to a group of ten pipe piles as a set and anchored 54 feet back to “deadmen,” frozen in the permafrost;

WHEREAS, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 is vital to repair a section of seawall that protects people, homes, personal and commercial property, and the Small Boat Harbor from the ravages of the river: floods, erosion, and floating debris;

WHEREAS, the Eastern Addition Seawall serves to support a portion of the City Dock and the mooring of large vessels at the behest of the Port of Bethel;

WHEREAS, the Eastern Addition Seawall serves the City Cargo Dock and the Cargo Dock serves approximately 25,000 people in 54 villages that occupy 57,826 square miles in the Yukon-Kuskokwim River drainage;

WHEREAS, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 is expected to cost \$4,000,000 with a useful life of fifty (50) years, according to Corps projections;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is committed to provide 25% of the project costs, or an expected \$1,000,000, to the project from its dedicated seawall maintenance account, per the funding requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs \$3,000,000 in the FY 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill to complete the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2, a construction project in Bethel, Alaska;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the Federal Government provide \$3,000,000.00 in the FY 2011 United States Congressional Funding Cycle to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that will be dedicated to completion of Phase 2 of the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project.

#2 Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that included a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consultants in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one need voted by community members to include in the Aquatic Training and Health Center;

WHEREAS, the pool in the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center would provide the following benefits to all of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, aid in the reduction of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, provide a venue for physical therapy, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

WHEREAS, the City's Parks and Recreation Committee is a group of volunteer community members that meet once a month to assist in the development of the multi-use recreation center, make recommendations to the City Council in an effort to ensure that the project design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs are affordable;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center is on track to be the first pool in Alaska to achieve silver LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel signed a contract with Architects Alaska, Inc. in January 2009 and agreed to pay \$390,933 for the architects to complete the 35% schematic design by July 31, 2009, which has been accomplished;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager

Date: February 9, 2010

Action: Passed

Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, Architects Alaska, Inc. will complete the 65% design development portion and 100% construction-ready documents in fulfillment of the contract at a cost of approximately \$1,300,000 – a cost borne entirely by the City;

WHEREAS, the City requests that \$4,000,000 be put in the FY 2011 Capital Budget of the United States of America for the City of Bethel to pay for the first phase of construction of the new Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and city of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$4,000,000.00 in the FY 2011 United States Congressional Funding Cycle to aid in the new construction of the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center.

#3 Dredging of Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach
--

WHEREAS, Port of Bethel projects requiring assistance, oversight, and direction from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, must receive funding from a congressional appropriation in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act;

WHEREAS, residents who live along the Kuskokwim River visit Bethel by boat to purchase goods and services, access government services, participate in educational opportunities, meet family members and friends, and return to their village by boat;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor is used extensively by subsistence hunters and fishers as they exercise their rights to harvest fish and wildlife from the Kuskokwim River and adjoining streams, rivers, ponds, and riverbank access points;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor is a "harbor of refuge" for boaters caught on the Kuskokwim River during storms, natural disasters, or other life-threatening events;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel sells boat slip permits annually in the small boat harbor in an effort to provide sufficient space for personal watercraft on its eight floating docks;

WHEREAS, a hydrographic survey completed by WH Pacific in 2010 revealed a zero footage depth at the deepest part of the Bethel Small Boat Harbor at the mean low water mark, representing scientific evidence of the need to dredge the harbor because navigability is impractical and nearly impossible;

WHEREAS, in January 2010, the grant review committee for the Denali Commission's Transportation Program recommended that the City of Bethel's dredging design project be funded;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the dredging design will include the entrance channel, identify the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' area of dredging responsibility, and the City's dredging responsibility;

WHEREAS, completion of the dredging design and permitting will prepare the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for construction dredging, making this congressional funding request timely and appropriate;

WHEREAS, the lack of maintenance dredging by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the last 12 years has created a situation in which the amount of dredging required at the Bethel Small Boat Harbor basin and entrance channel qualify this project as a capital construction project;

WHEREAS, over the last twelve years, the Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach have experienced severe erosion and fill through runoff and river current deposits;

WHEREAS, dredging of the Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach will cost approximately \$3,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act in the Construction section so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can oversee completion of the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and city of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$3,000,000.00 in the FY2011 U. S. Congressional Funding Cycle for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use as dedicated funding in dredging the Bethel Small Boat Harbor and it's channel approach.

#4 Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigation

WHEREAS, the Kuskokwim River is the largest river in the State of Alaska along which 23 villages and towns are located;

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel, with a population of approximately 6,000 people, is the largest town located along the Kuskokwim River and serves as the river transportation hub for Kuskokwim River villages in the southwest quadrant of Alaska, an area that encompasses slightly more than 57,000 square miles;

WHEREAS, the city of bethel is home to the only medium draft port in western Alaska, providing a regional maritime transportation corridor that is absolutely essential in a roadless and isolated area;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for ensuring that the Kuskokwim River remains a viable navigable waterway;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

WHEREAS, the Bethel Cargo Dock and Petro Port can only moor two vessels over 300 feet at a time, requiring vessels to moor and anchor in the river at large;

WHEREAS, barges, pilot boats, and large vessels over 300 feet long are finding it impossible or severely difficult to moor and anchor safely in the wide section of the Kuskokwim River in front of Bethel due to changing river characteristics, increased river traffic, and use of the river by larger vessels over the years;

WHEREAS, the amount of goods, supplies, equipment, vehicles, housing units, and fuel being shipped up the Kuskokwim River to Bethel, villages, and the Donlin Creek mine site have increased markedly over the last ten years as the Delta populations and economic activity have increased;

WHEREAS, City of Bethel administrators and Port of Bethel continually hear complaints about the lack of navigability of the Kuskokwim River from commercial fishers, subsistence users, sport fishers and hunters, and commercial boating operators;

WHEREAS, a reconnaissance study of Kuskokwim River navigability will cost approximately \$100,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act in the Investigations section so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can oversee completion of the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and city of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$100,000.00 in the FY 2011 U.S. Congressional Funding Cycle to be used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete this critical Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigability.

5 Bethel Fire Station Repairs

WHEREAS, the Bethel fire station is more than 28 years old and has deteriorated over time due to water intrusion, a faulty roof design that allowed no ventilation in the roof cavity, and the use of sprayed foam insulation instead of fiberglass insulation as required in the original building plans;

WHEREAS, the station's failing structural condition that includes roof trusses and sheeting, rotted top wall plates, delaminated siding/plywood, decayed wall studs and disintegrating beams, while temporarily mitigated through emergency repairs, has not been sufficient to extend the operational life of the facility;

WHEREAS, since starting the first emergency repairs to the Bethel Fire Station in the fall of 2006, the City has spent a total of \$424,439.97 of its own money in a failing effort to salvage and retain the current structure;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel was awarded \$1,200,000 in a Legislative Grant from the State of Alaska to repair, or replace, the fire station roof, and plans to use the funds

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

requested herein, if approved, to affect the additional repairs necessary to sustain the facility and extend its life expectancy;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as a regional emergency assistance hub for fire and emergency medical services, search and rescue support throughout a remote and isolated area encompassing more than 57,000 square miles, and as the Emergency Operations Center for the community of Bethel, Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives for the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$1,000,000 in the FY 2011 U. S. Congressional Funding Cycle to assist in implementing and completing repairs to the current fire station that will extend its operational life expectancy.

#6 New Bethel Police Station

WHEREAS, the current Bethel Police Station is more than 30 years old and was constructed by combining three mismatched smaller structures that are incapable of supporting the twelve sworn officers, five dispatchers, and one administrative assistant who provide public safety needs for a roadless, isolated community of approximately 6,000 residents in the southwest quadrant of western Alaska;

WHEREAS, the present facility is almost impossible to heat, is cramped to the point of seriously restricting internal performance duties, projects a consistently offensive odor that cannot be eliminated, has mold buildup in the walls, no protection for police vehicles in periods of extreme inhospitable weather, and no place to interview victims or crime suspects;

WHEREAS, the deplorable conditions stated herein have had a negative impact on recruitment and retention of police officers and dispatchers;

WHEREAS, if this request is approved, the City intends to construct the new facility so as to minimize impact on current operations and the department's ability to serve the public;

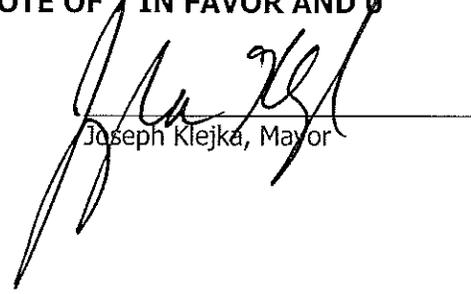
WHEREAS, the essential nature of the emergency services that are provided to this remote section of Alaska by Bethel Police department personnel require that a new, improved, and healthy environment be created by constructing a totally new police station;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community of Bethel, Alaska do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$3,000,000.00 in the FY 2011 U.S. Congressional Funding Cycle to be used by the City of Bethel for construction of a new police station.

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager
Date: February 9, 2010
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

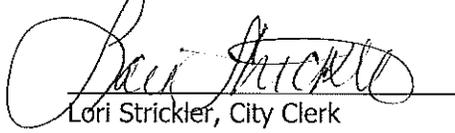
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, hereby set and affirm that these six critically needed projects are prioritized according to the needs of the community.

ENACTED THIS 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2010 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.



Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk