Introduced by: Robb
Date: November 23, 2010
Action: Failed
Passed: 2-5

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 10-47 Substitute

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2012 STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council is a seven-member body elected by resident voters of Bethel to act in the best interest of the community;

WHEREAS, the City intends to exhibit transparency, oversight, and accountability for all funds awarded through this request;

WHEREAS, the priorities established herein are rank-ordered and vital to the well-being of the community and municipality of Bethel;

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

Top Three Priorities	**Request**
1. Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center (new construction)	$4,000,000
2. LED Streetlights	$200,000
3. Donut Hole Road (new construction)	$2,000,000
Total	$6,200,000

#1 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;

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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consultants in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one activity voted on 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 any of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide lifeguard certification courses, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, reduce the onset 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 Bethel Parks and Recreation Committee is a group of concerned citizen volunteers who meet twice a month to assist in the development of the multi-use recreation center, make recommendations to the City Manager, and assure that the project design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs are affordable;

WHEREAS, Architects Alaska, Inc. completed the 65% design development documents in April, 2010, which show that the new facility will cost $23,822,000;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide $4,000,000.00 in its FY 2012 Capital Budget to be matched with other designated and approved funding sources to construct the new Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center.

#2 LED Streetlights

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel owns and operates approximately 492 streetlights in Bethel, all of which are of the high pressure sodium type;

WHEREAS, the city's high pressure sodium light bulbs are considered hazardous and when expired, require special handling, packaging, and shipment to a federally-approved disposal site;

WHEREAS, the City intends to replace the HPS streetlights with LED streetlights that provide 50% more light and a higher quality, bright, white light, which will make the town safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and those operating motor vehicles, fourwheelers, and snowmachines;

WHEREAS, the City anticipates a 50% to 75% savings in annual electricity if it can replace its high pressure sodium streetlights with LED streetlights;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel expects to purchase and install 74 LED streetlights as part of its $50,000 Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant award by December 31, 2010;

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WHEREAS, although the remaining cost to retrofit the high pressure sodium streetlights in Bethel is $350,000, the City is requesting $200,000 from the State as a major contribution toward the goal of 100% LEDs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide $200,000 in its FY 2012 Capital Budget to cover the cost of purchasing and installing LED streetlights in Bethel;

#3 Donut Hole Road

WHEREAS, the primary need of a new road connecting Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway with Ptarmigan Street is to reduce response time for emergency vehicles leaving the Bethel Fire Station or Bethel Police Station and responding to people living in Tundra Ridge and on Ptarmigan Street;

WHEREAS, the closure of Tundra Ridge Road in 2008 put a severe burden on the community in terms of time and cost;

WHEREAS, people living in Tundra Ridge were disproportionately affected by the closure of Tundra Ridge Road because they had to take a longer, circuitous route to access the airport, Larsen subdivision, Kasayulie subdivision, and west-side businesses;

WHEREAS, the 35-mile road system in the community emanates from a large ten-mile oval, referred to as "the donut hole," inside of which is land owned by the city, native allottees, and the Bethel Native Corporation;

WHEREAS, the proposed road would be less than two miles long, a width that ensures one safe lane on each side, ample shoulder space, and a proper hydroseeded slope to the base;

WHEREAS, constructing the road would bisect the Bethel community oval in half, giving nearly equal access to people driving from the east and west of town;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is willing and able to provide sand, heavy equipment, and personnel to assist in the development of the new road;

WHEREAS, a new road between the state highway and Ptarmigan Street is expected to benefit residents by saving time, fuel cost, and vehicle maintenance cost;

WHEREAS, a road through the donut hole would allow for denser development which would benefit the city through savings on infra structure costs;

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WHEREAS, the projected cost of the new road, including environmental compliances, right-of-ways, survey work, engineering, and construction is $2,000,000;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide $2,000,000 in its FY 2012 Capital Budget for design and construction of the Donut Hole Road in Bethel;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and city of Bethel, hereby set and reaffirm the three funding priorities for the FY 2012 State of Alaska Capital Budget as: 1) Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center 2) LED Streetlights, 3) Donut Hole Road.

ENACTED THIS 23rd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2010 BY A VOTE OF _____ IN FAVOR AND _____ OPPOSED.

_____
Eric Middlebrook, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Lori Strickler, City Clerk