Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18,2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 08-14

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FFY 2010 UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING CYCLE

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 Council carefully selected its priorities and intends to communicate those priorities to the President of the United States and United States Congress in its effort to secure funding for important projects;

WHEREAS, each priority project is needed by the City and community of Bethel, the City carefully evaluated each project and ranked them according to the City's funding needs;

1. Bethel Fire Station Repair/Replacement

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds to 1,000 calls for assistance a year, of which about 800 are for emergency services and up to 200 are fire-related;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department responds once a week to a real fire emergency;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department assists regional villages when requested by supplying trained personnel, equipment, and supplies, e.g., in 2006, Bethel responded to the Hooper Bay fire and was immediately given the command role;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station as a base of operations for all emergency and non-emergency services it provides;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as a regional training facility that offers courses in fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, national incident management system, first aid/CPR, and equipment use;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Department relies on the Fire Station to protect its fire trucks, ambulances, communication equipment, hazardous materials response equipment, life-saving search and rescue equipment, computers, medical supplies, and full-time and volunteer Firefighter/EMTs who occupy the building 24 hours a day;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18,2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station serves as the Emergency Operations Center for the community of Bethel and contains high-tech communication equipment, latptop computers, planning room, bunk beds, and apartment;

WHEREAS, two engineers, four construction companies, and one certified building inspector have examined the Bethel Fire Station and determined that a new building may be warranted due to rotting beams under the four-bay garage foundation, weakened walls due to moisture intrusion, and rotting roof trusses and sheeting, broken sheetrock, and water-damaged electrical fixtures;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Fire Station needs emergency repairs or to be replaced at an expected cost of $5,200,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

2. Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase II

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 I 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 II is 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 City of Bethel is committed to provide 25% of the project costs, as it did for the completion of Phase I, per the requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs $1,607,550 in the 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill to complete the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase II, a construction project in Bethel, Alaska, and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

WHEREAS, Andrea Elconin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager spearheading the project, publicly stated that upon completion, the project has a useful life of fifty (50) years;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18,2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

3. Regional Law Enforcement Center or Bethel Police Station Repair /Replacement

WHEREAS, the Bethel Police Station is outdated, in poor condition, and in need of major renovation or replacement;

WHEREAS, a regional law enforcement center could serve the 5,650 residents of Bethel and the 26,000 residents living in surrounding Yukon-Kuskokwim villages;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Troopers and Bethel Police Department would be the primary occupants in a regional law enforcement center;

WHEREAS, a regional law enforcement center would serve as a regional training facility for Village Public Safety Officers, Bethel Police Officers, Community Service Officers, and 911 dispatchers;

WHEREAS, law enforcement agency personnel that share a building will be able to achieve economies of scale in resource utilization, cooperate with each other on criminal investigations, arrests, and prosecutions, and more effectively assist each other during mutual response calls;

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Bethel Police Department received 15,688 calls for service and is currently working 1,262 cases;

WHEREAS, exit interviews completed between October 2004 and March 2005 revealed that the insufficient condition of the police facility was the number one reason why Bethel police officers and dispatchers resigned from their positions, contributing to the Bethel Police Department's high turn over rate;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Transportation Commission recognizes that the Bethel Police Station needs a larger evidence room, better building security, greater armory storage capacity, interview and training rooms, holding cells, office space, exercise room with lockers, heated garage bays for vehicles, and evidence gathering area;

WHEREAS, the City has land ideally suited to construction of a new regional law enforcement center—it is located on a high point outside the flood zone in the center of town;

WHEREAS, the design phase for a new law enforcement center or new Bethel Police Station is expected to cost $1,500,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 State of Alaska Budget for the City of Bethel;

4. Multi-Use Recreation Center

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18,2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that includes 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 Consulting in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one facility voted on by community members to include in the recreation center;

WHEREAS, the Recreation Center Committee is a group of 12 concerned citizens formed in November 2007 that meets 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, the City of Bethel will pay an architect to design the facility by July 31, 2009;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel passed an ordinance allocating one percent of sales tax collected or approximately $1,050,000 each year for two years and half percent or approximately $525,000 each year for eighteen years to support the operation and maintenance of a multi-use recreation center;

WHEREAS, the pool in the Multi-Use Recreation 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 courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, reduce the onset of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

WHEREAS, the initial construction phase for a Multi-Use Recreation Center is expected to cost $2,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

5. Dust Control

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18,2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel lies 330 miles downriver from the source of the Kuskokwim River and sits on land composed of a thin layer of top soil and tundra vegetation, and thousands of feet of sand, silt, and sandy silt;

WHEREAS, dust emanates from all of Bethel's sixteen miles of roads and road shoulders that are composed of sand and gravel;

WHEREAS, airborne dust is stirred from all of Bethel's seventeen miles of paved roads in Bethel because light sand blows onto the road from the dirt shoulders and surrounding area;

WHEREAS, airborne dust causes, aggravates, and perpetuates severe health problems, including asthma, sinusites, bronchitis, and can scar the lungs and reduce their capacity to take in and let out air;

WHEREAS, individuals have moved to Bethel only to experience life-threatening respiratory ailments triggered by dust inhalation and had to be "medivaced" to Anchorage and relocated to safer communities;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel actively manages dust on its dirt roads to the best of its ability by hydroseeding roadsides, applying calcium chloride and sodium chloride to dirt roads, and depositing gravel, but cannot solve the problem on a city-wide basis without financial assistance;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs $300,000 for the purchase of calcium chloride, sodium chloride, hydroseed, and gravel to continue its efforts to reduce dust in the community of Bethel and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

6. Energy Improvements and Upgrades

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel owns and uses 20 buildings to provide its services to the public, many of which are 30 years old, were constructed without regard to energy efficiencies, and have been severely battered by the weather, and have suffered damage as a result of shifting and sinking due to thawing permafrost;

WHEREAS, Bethel Utilities Corporation stopped providing the City with waste heat in December 2006, causing the City to have to purchase heating oil for three buildings at a 25% premium to its cost for waste heat;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs $500,000 to make energy improvements to its buildings, including the application of siding, exterior sheathing, insulation, vapor barriers, and

sheetrock to reduce its heating costs, and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel's Property Maintenance Division is funded annually and is capable of maintaining the buildings, once the energy improvements are made;

7. Bethel Seawall Repairs and Upgrades

WHEREAS, the Bethel Seawall is comprised of 40-foot long steel pipe piles placed upright, welded together, and supported at riverside base by loose rocks and secured at the top by steel rod tiebacks buried and anchored by "deadmen;"

WHEREAS, the Bethel Seawall is continually being degraded by Mother Nature as the river eats away at the bottom, overflow, seepage, and rain rot out the tiebacks, and winter ice floes cause dents, loosening, and removal of caps and safety fencing;

WHEREAS, as part of its annual maintenance efforts, the City stationed life rings at strategic locations along the riverbank and welded ladders to riverside of the seawall in hopes that more people will be rescued and be able to save themselves, and less will drown;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Seawall needs significant repairs above and beyond what the City is able to provide in its annual seawall maintenance fund;

WHEREAS, repairs to the Bethel Seawall include replacing caps on the pipe piles, welding, depositing rocks, replacing tiebacks, constructing new "deadmen," securing ladders to the outside of the wall; and signage;

WHEREAS, the cost of essential Bethel Seawall repairs and upgrades will cost the City of Bethel $1,500,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

8. Dredging of Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach

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

WHEREAS, the 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 City of Bethel sells out of boat slips annually as it works to provide sufficient space for personal watercraft on its five floating docks;

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18,2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

WHEREAS, over the last ten years, the Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach have experienced normal erosion and fill through runoff and deposits left by river currents;

WHEREAS, the increased demand on the Small Boat Harbor by local residents and villagers visiting Bethel necessitate dredging of the harbor and channel approach to insure that adequate room exists for users to operate safely, users do not run aground, damage their prop in shallow water, or at worse case become unusable;

WHEREAS, dredging of the Small Boat Harbor and Channel Approach will cost the City $2,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

9. Alternative Energy

WHEREAS, Bethel is the largest community in western Alaska and is the economic hub for 26,000 people living in 56 surrounding villages;

WHEREAS, Bethel Utilities Corporation is a privately-held utility in Bethel that provides electricity to residents through the use of 30-year old diesel generators that produce approximately 13 kilowatt hours per gallon of fuel consumed;

WHEREAS, the cost of electricity to Bethel consumers rises as the price of diesel fuel rises;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel, on behalf of the community, is actively seeking solutions to its high energy costs and recently succeeded in securing $400,000 from the Alaska Energy Authority to purchase, install, and operate a 100 kW wind turbine;

WHEREAS, Electric Power Systems, a wind energy consulting engineering firm, estimates that the City could purchase and install 1,500 kW worth of wind power without causing harm to the equipment, distribution system, or power-producing generators operated by Bethel Utilities Corporation;

WHEREAS, By the time the FY 09 State of Alaska capital budget is finalized, the City will have completed a milestone in its effort to be an independent power producer and be in a position to capitalize on its wind energy development experience with a privately held electric utility;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel needs $3,350,667 to purchase and install 600 kW of additional wind turbine capacity to further its role as in independent power producer and this amount should be included in the FY 2010 Budget of the United States Government for the City of Bethel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community of Bethel, do hereby establish priorities for the FY 2010

Introduced by: Lee Foley, Acting City Manager
Date: August 5, 2008
August 18,2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

United States congressional funding cycle and encourage the President of the United States and United States Congress to approve this funding request in its entirety;

ENACTED THIS 19th DAY OF AUGUST 2008 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

Eric Middlebrook, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk