Introduced by: Finance Committee
Date Introduced: July 27, 2004
Public Hearing Date: None
Action: None
Date Enacted: None

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

ORDINANCE #04-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE AT SECTION 4.04.060 ENTITLED "BUDGET – AMENDMENT" TO REQUIRE THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO REPORT MONTHLY TO THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING MAINTENANCE OF A MINIMUM BALANCE IN THE GENERAL FUND

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel ("City") prepares an annual budget for each fiscal year;

WHEREAS, maintaining a minimum balance in the City's general fund throughout the fiscal year is in the best interest of the City to insure sufficient monies for continued public services so that the City can meet its financial obligations;

WHEREAS, maintaining a minimum balance is difficult because of emergencies or unexpected expenses or shortfalls in projected revenue;

WHEREAS, the general fund balance is not sufficiently monitored throughout the fiscal year to determine whether there are enough funds to meet projected expenses;

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee recommends passage of an ordinance that will require the Finance Department to inform the City Council whether the general fund balance is sufficient to meet projected expenses for the next six months;

WHEREAS, based on the report of the Finance Department regarding the general fund balance, the City will be better prepared to determine whether any amendments need to be made to the budget and/or whether additional revenue generating measures will be needed to meet projected expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee further recommends that within two years of passage of such an ordinance, the City will be required to maintain a minimum fund balance in the general fund throughout the fiscal year that is sufficient to cover projected expenses for the next six months.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, that:

SECTION 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Bethel Municipal Code.

SECTION 2. Amendment. The Bethel Municipal Code at Section 4.04.060 is amended to read as follows (new language is underlined):

4.04.060 Finance department report/Budget – Amendment.

A. The finance department shall submit a monthly report to the council that estimates whether there are sufficient funds in the general fund to meet projected expenses for the following six months.

B. The budget may be amended by the council at any time after adoption provided no such amendment shall be made until after a public hearing upon the same notice as required for the budget estimate under Section 4.04.040 of this chapter. The substance of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be posted with the notice of hearing.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage by the City Council.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2004, by a vote of __ in favor and __ opposed.

_____
Hugh Short, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Selena Malone, Acting City Clerk