

Introduced by: Dan Leinberger, Council Member
Date: December 13, 2005
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution # 05-42

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A SMALL COMMERCIAL WIND TURBINE

WHEREAS, preliminary analysis of wind data collected from a meteorological tower stationed in Bethel since December 2004 revealed average wind speeds of 17 miles per hour and a Wind Class 6 power rating, indicating strong wind power development potential;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Energy Authority expressed interest in having Bethel serve as a wind energy hub that could help share its wind energy project experience, host training sessions, deliver technical expertise, and distribute parts and supplies to villages in the Kuskokwim River area actively engaged in wind power development;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Energy Authority expects to issue an announcement in December 2005 for \$1.2 million in federal and state grant funds that must be used for wind power infrastructure, including the purchase and installation of wind turbines;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council passed Resolution #05-31 on August 9, 2005 supporting wind power development in Bethel as a way to reduce/eliminate the cost of electricity to the City, other profit- and not-for-profit entities, and/or the community as a whole;

WHEREAS, the Alternative Energy Committee, a volunteer administrative committee for the City of Bethel, is pursuing its short-term goal of installing and operating a small commercial wind turbine as a demonstration project and its long-term goal of owning and operating a commercial wind farm that would have the potential to lower the cost of electricity for Bethel residents;

WHEREAS, the Alternative Energy Committee recommended on December 2, 2005 that the City Manager prepare and submit a proposal to the Alaska Energy Authority requesting grant funds to purchase and install a small commercial wind turbine as a way to reduce energy costs associated with one City building;

WHEREAS, initial conversations with a Bethel Utilities representative indicate that the City can attach a second electricity meter to a city building so that the city could receive electricity generated from the wind turbine and slow the draw of electricity from the grid—amounting to a savings for the city of the City's net retail rate per kilowatt hour (\$.195/kwH) for the renewable electricity generated;

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WHEREAS, a 65 Kilowatt wind turbine situated on a 110 ft. tower providing 130,000 kilowatts of electricity per year could save the City \$25,458 per year in electricity costs;

WHEREAS, a small commercial wind power project like the one proposed herein offers major benefits to the City, community, and other entities considering similar projects: (1) the provision of purchase, installation, and operating revenue and expense data for Bethel, (2) results on wind characteristics (intensity, duration, frequency, direction) for a location in city limits, (3) City and Alternative Energy Committee experience in the preparation and submission of wind energy grants; (4) jobs for residents to transport, install, and maintain the wind turbine; and (5) the first test in western Alaska of a municipality working with a private utility so the municipality could own and operate a wind turbine connected to the utility grid;

WHEREAS, the City expects to request a grant from AEA to fund total project costs of \$200,000 to \$250,000;

WHEREAS, the grant requirement of a 25% local match will be met by maximizing in-kind contributions and a cash match from the City's general fund not to exceed \$62,000;

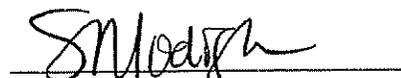
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council supports the preparation and submission of a grant application to the Alaska Energy Authority to fund the purchase and installation of a small commercial wind turbine for use on one of its city buildings as a demonstration project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council commits no more than \$62,000 from the City's general fund as part of the local match required to receive this grant.

ENACTED THIS 13th DAY OF December 2005 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.


R. Thor Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sandra Modigh, City Clerk