Introduced by: Councilmember Jorgensen
Introduction Date: February 13, 2007
Public Hearing: February 27, 2007
March 13, 2007
March 27, 2007
Action: Passed
Vote: 5-1

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Ordinance #07-08

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING AN ANNUAL BUDGETARY ALLOTMENT FOR THE PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A MULTIUSE RECREATION CENTER

WHEREAS the Bethel City Council has the authority to designate funds for certain projects within the City of Bethel;

WHEREAS the community of Bethel, with approximately 5,900 permanent residents, currently has no public or private facility that offers a variety of indoor recreation opportunities, such as the use of a swimming pool, fitness center, or gymnasium on a daily basis;

WHEREAS the need for a community recreation facility was expressed by the public as a priority in the 1979 Community Comprehensive Plan and has been mentioned in every community plan since 1982;

WHEREAS the Community Economic Development Strategy Plan (2003), co-produced by the City of Bethel and Orutsararmiut Native Council, is a plan containing input from the Bethel community over the course of one year that recommends that the City of Bethel work with other partners to "develop healthy activities for youth and adults" and "obtain funds to construct and build a recreational center;"

WHEREAS the City of Bethel Multiuse Recreation Facility Plan (2005) states that "significant local financial support over the long term will be required," to develop a recreation facility, and that "the larger the percentage of total cost contributed locally, the quicker the project will move from idea to reality;"

WHEREAS a multiuse recreation facility that offers people a range of activities in which to engage, such as swimming, racquetball, volleyball, running, arts and crafts, karate, ballet, and aerobics, offers many benefits to residents and visitors, including increased health and longevity, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, a place to socialize and be a spectator or participant, and incentive for the recruitment and retention of employees;

WHEREAS the City of Bethel previously passed Resolution #05-38 supporting development of a Multiuse Recreation Facility in Bethel;

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

SECTION 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a permanent nature and shall not be codified within the Bethel Municipal Code.

Designation of Annual Budgetary Allotment.

A. The City of Bethel shall designate an allotment of $500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) annually for the purpose of construction, operation, and/or maintenance of a multiuse recreation facility to be built within the city limits of Bethel, Alaska.

B. The $500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) must be spent each year or saved in an interest bearing account for up to two years.

C. That at no time shall the designated interest bearing account accumulate more than $1,050,000.

D. All funds expended from the designated interest bearing account shall be used for the promotion, construction, operation and maintenance of a City of Bethel Multiuse Recreation Facility.

E. The City Manager and/or his designee shall be responsible for administering the funds and insuring that the proceeds from said designated interest bearing account are spent for the purposes stated.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon passage of a 2 year 1% sales tax increase in the October, 2007 General Election.

ENACTED THIS 27th DAY OF MARCH 2007, BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 1 OPPOSED.

Daniel C. Leinberger, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sandra Modigh, City Clerk