

City of Bethel, Alaska

Finance Committee Minutes

September 22, 2005

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Finance Committee meeting was held on September 22, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers.

Chair Wimmer called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Committee, the following were present:

Hippler	Johnson
Thompson	Wimmer

Excused absence(s): Baland,
Unexcused absence(s): Bailie, McGowan

Also in attendance were the following:

Laurie Walters, Acting Finance Director

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Thompson	To approve the May 26, 2005 regular meeting minutes as presented.
SECONDED BY:	Hippler	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Thompson	To approve the agenda as amended, removing New Business Item C: Incentives for businesses/entities to attach themselves, at their own expense, to the water/sewer pipe system.
SECONDED BY:	Hippler	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item A. Creation of New Utility Rates Structure

Acting Finance Director Walters provided a draft copy of the water and sewer rate analysis prepared by General Ledger Accountant Dave Groller, pointing out a few errors and highlighting a few points of the report. She indicated the report (with corrections) would serve as the financial basis for the new rate structure, but that other variables such as a delivery charge versus the cost of water charge, hauled rates versus piped rates, and the inclusion of maintenance cost for repairing grinder stations in City Subdivision, etc., were additional components that the Finance Department, Public Work and City Administration would be considering as they move towards developing a draft rate structure to present to the City Council.

Item B. Sales Tax Audit Update

Acting Finance Director Walters reported that no progress has been made in the way of performing sales tax audits, primarily due to training of new personnel in the customer service department and the daily work taking up any time that the Staff Accountant might otherwise be working on conducting sales tax audits. Training of the new personnel is taking longer than expected, but Acting Finance Director Walters indicated she and the Staff Accountant will work together after the annual audit is completed in early October to develop a plan to start getting audits done.

Although sales tax audits are not currently being done, a lot of time is being spent reviewing utility accounts and catching billing errors, some of which are shaping up to be significant dollar amounts.

NEW BUSINESS

None

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Acting Finance Director Walters noted that a DMV Clerk was hired the previous day and DMV should reopen on October 10th. She also reported that the alcohol beverage delivery control site is an issue again and will be discussed at the September 27th Council meeting.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Bailie –

Member Baland –

Member Hippler – no comments.

Member Johnson – no comments.

Member McGowan –

Member Thompson – sorry about being late; hard to leave before the store closes. Maybe he can call in ahead of time for meetings to establish a quorum so Committee doesn't have to wait.

Chair Wimmer – no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Hippler	To adjourn the meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Thompson	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2005.

Lisa Wimmer, Chair

Laurie J. Walters, Acting Finance Director