

City of Bethel, Alaska

Finance Committee Minutes

May 24, 2007

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on May 24, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers.

Committee Chair Wimmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Gomes
Johnson

Hippler
Trantham

Wimmer

Excused absence(s): none

Unexcused absence(s): none

Also in attendance were the following:

Richard Wallace, Acting Finance Director
Bobby Sutton, Acting Assistant Finance Director

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

No one was present to speak

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Hippler	To approve the amended minutes of the regular meeting of April 26, 2007.
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	

MOVED BY:	Hippler	To amend the minutes to read under Unfinished Business, Item B: Water and Sewer Cost and Rate Schedule: to remove the words "Mr. Hipler voiced concern and replace with the words "Mr. Hipler reported that the Public Works Department stated"
SECONDED BY:	Trantham	
MOVED BY:	Hippler	To amend the minutes to read under Unfinished Business, Item B: Water and Sewer Cost and Rate Schedule: to add to the second sentence the words, ", due to the implication that the average user of the piped system could potentially pay more than the user of the hauled water system."
SECONDED BY:		

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

MOVED BY:	Hipler	To approve the agenda as presented.
SECONDED BY:	Gomes	

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

Item A: City of Bethel Liquor Store Feasibility Study

MOVED BY:	Gomes	To keep the City of Bethel Liquor Store Feasibility Study on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Johnson	

Assistant Finance Director Richard Wallace updated the committee on the current status of the study. He stated that Mr. Gomes was welcome to utilize the City's phone to make calls to gather more information. Mr. Gomes stated that he would be willing to do so. After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded and carried unanimously to keep the City of Bethel Liquor Store Feasibility Study on the agenda for the next meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Item B: Water and Sewer Cost Formula and Rate Schedule Finalization and Proposed Recommendation for City Council

After discussion regarding the Proposed Recommendation, it was determined that the recommendation from the Finance Committee concerning this matter had been approved in the April 24, 2007 regular meeting and that the recommendation should be forwarded to City Council for consideration.

Item C: Exempt Water and Sewer from Sales Tax and Increase Rates by 5%

MOVED BY:	Hipler	To exempt water and sewer from city sales tax and increase water and sewer rates by 5%
SECONDED BY:	Gomes	

The committee discussed details regarding the impact that an exemption of water and sewer from sales tax and an increase of water and sewer rates of 5% would cause. After much discussion, the Committee approved the motion by unanimous consent to be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

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

Item A – Sales Tax Holiday

Discussion regarding the Sales Tax Holiday included the potential for the City of Bethel to build goodwill with the business community of Bethel. The need for proper advertising should the Sales

Tax Holiday be approved was addressed. It was assumed by the Committee that local businesses would advertise the Sales Tax Holiday in their sales advertisements.

The decision of when to schedule the holiday was discussed at length. Concerns were shared by some committee members that continuing the Sales Tax Holiday too long would negatively affect the City's cash flow. After much discussion, it was decided that the subject should continue to be on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting and that Mr. Hippler should bring potential days to conduct the Sales Tax Holiday to the meeting.

Item B— Possibility of Taxing Monies Leaving Bethel

Within the discussion of the possibility of taxing monies leaving Bethel, several ideas were considered including a tariff on monies and an income tax. Concerns were shared that local businesses already face many challenges to operate in Bethel and that adding to those challenges would seriously hinder new business growth in the future. After much discussion, it was decided not to proceed with future discussion of this item.

Item C – FY08 Budget Review by Finance Committee as Requested at City Council Workshop May 15, 2007

Assistant Finance Director Richard Wallace stated to the committee that City Council would like for the Finance Committee to review the proposed budget. Any input concerning the budget would be welcomed. Chair Wimmer stated her frustration that the budget included such a large loss in the Utility Enterprise Fund. Mr. Wallace encouraged that the comments should be brought to the City Council.

Finance Director's Comments

Assistant Finance Director shared his optimism regarding the City's books. He stated that Bobby Sutton would be working as Assistant Finance Director. Mr. Sutton was asked to share about himself. After offering some personal history, he stated that he looked forward to working with the Committee.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Trantham – requested that the Assistant Finance Director elaborate on the changes in Audit procedures which he did.. Also, inquired of the need to select a new Chair with Chair Wimmer's departure from the committee. It was decided that Vice Chair Hippler should assume the role until a new Chair is selected.

Member Gomes – no comments

Member Johnson – would be an ideal time with the low river level to dump some gravel near the Lomack Building to assist the float planes in taking off.

Member Hippler – no comments

Chair Wimmer – its been good working with each one. She stated that she has enjoyed much of her time on the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

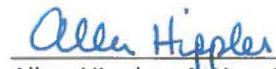
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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With no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF JULY, 2007



Bobby Sutton, Acting Finance Director



Allen Hippler, Acting Chair

City of Bethel, Alaska

Finance Committee Minutes

June 28, 2007

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Acting Chair Allen Hippler.

ROLL CALL

Failing to have a quorum, the following members were present:

Hippler Trantham
Malus

Excused absence(s): Gomes

Unexcused absence(s): Johnson

Also in attendance were the following:

Bobby Sutton, Acting Assistant Finance Director

APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF JULY, 2007



Allen Hippler, Acting Chair



Bobby Sutton, Acting Finance Director