

Introduced by: Council Member Robb
Date: October 11, 2011
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 11-32

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2013 STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL BUDGET ADDITION

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council is a seven-member body elected by resident voters of Bethel to act in the best interest of the community;

WHEREAS, the City intends to exhibit transparency, oversight, and accountability for all funds awarded through this request;

WHEREAS, the need for a multi-use recreation facility that included a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

WHEREAS, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consultants in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one activity voted on by community members to include in the Aquatic Training and Health Center;

WHEREAS, the pool in the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center would provide the following benefits to any of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide lifeguard certification courses, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, reduce the onset of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, provide a venue for physical therapy, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

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WHEREAS, the Bethel Parks and Recreation Committee is a group of concerned citizen volunteers who meet twice a month to assist in the development of the multi-use recreation center, make recommendations to the City Manager, and assure that the project design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs are affordable;

WHEREAS, Architects Alaska, Inc. completed the 65% design development documents in April, 2010, which show that the new facility will cost \$23,822,000;

WHEREAS, to ensure the City can afford to construct and operate the planned facility, the City of Bethel applied for and was accepted by the Foraker Group to have all project documents produced thus far reviewed and assessed for accuracy and appropriateness; The review was completed in April of this year, and affirmed the project and its plans are accurate, appropriate, and in line with similar projects in the state;

WHEREAS, According to the Foraker Group, 72% of Bethel residents expressed high support for the BATH Center, 15% expressed moderate support, and only 13% expressed low support. Of people living in nearby villages, 60% expressed high support, 27% expressed moderate support, and only 13% expressed low support;

WHEREAS, Numerous people of Bethel have spoken, signed petitions, written letters, and expressed support for the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

WHEREAS, The people of Bethel voted in 2007 and in 2009 to raise our sales tax in order to help pay for planning, construction, and operational costs of the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

WHEREAS, The willingness for the people to tax themselves may be interpreted as a tremendous demonstration of support for the project;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center is on track to be the first pool in Alaska to achieve silver LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council;

WHEREAS, Community and regional organizations are forming a partnership, Kuimarvik, A Place to Swim, to help acquire capitol funding and to direct the eventual operations of the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

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WHEREAS, Organizations that are forming and/or have expressed interest in joining Kuimarvik, A Place to Swim include: Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Bethel Community Services Foundation, Calista Corporation, Yuut Elinaurviat-People's Learning Center, Orutsararmiut Native Council, Association of Village Council Presidents, University of Alaska-Kuskokwim Campus, Lower Kuskokwim School District, Association of Village Council Presidents-Regional Housing Authority, and the Alaska National Guard B Co, 1-143rd UB (ABN);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide \$24,000,000.00 in its FY 2013 Capital Budget to be matched with other designated and approved funding sources to construct the new Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

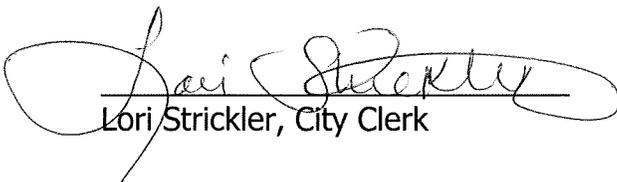
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, requests this as an additional and important capital request for the people of Bethel.

ENACTED THIS 11th DAY OF OCTOBER 2011 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.



Rick Robb, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk