



FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Monday, September 25, 2023 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

Our Vision. To have an infrastructure and city workforce that supports a sustainable, diversified and growing economy. We will partner with others to achieve economic development and other common goals that assure a high quality of living, and excellence in education.

MEETING INFORMATION

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

141 Main Street, Dillingham, AK 99576 (907) 842-5212

This meeting will also be available at the following online location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86018469915?pwd=WWZqcIBQd1Z2RVFXRmdmdG9aRFZBZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 1846 9915; passcode: 740157

or dial (346) 248-7799; or (669) 900-6833

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM by Chair.

ROLL CALL

Attendance:

- Present: Alice & Kim (via teleconference), Anita (in person), Curt (in person)
- Absent: Axel (school event)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Previous Meeting Minutes Not Available
 - No minutes presented; a misunderstanding on responsibility for preparation delayed them.
 - Previous meeting minutes will be on the next agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Motion made by Kim, Seconded by Alice
 - Motion passed without objection.
 - Additional items clarified under staff reports: forklift discussion, salary comparison.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Revenue & Expense Report (July 2023):**
 - General Fund revenues at 41% due to property tax billing.
 - PILT funding received above budget (\$522,000 vs. \$460,000).
 - Dock revenues delayed due to late invoicing.
 - Overall expenditures at 7%; City Schools at 25% (quarterly payment).
 - Special revenues, grants, and bonds within expected ranges.
- **Audit Updates:**
 - FY22 audit in progress; auditors scheduled for Nov 27, 2023.
 - FY23 audit preparation underway; auditors scheduled Jan 8, 2024.
- **Staffing:**
 - Executive Assistant transition: Serena Tilden moved to HR.
 - Recruitment ongoing for open positions.
 - Basil Tilden attending AML Tax Conference focusing on sales tax.
 - Finance Director to attend RUBA training in October.
- **Property Taxes:**
 - 2023 taxes due Nov 1 (first half payment required).
 - September statements contained date errors; corrected versions to be mailed.
 - Assessment process clarified—values updated on a three-year cycle, lagging market trends.
- **Personal Property Tax:**
 - Efforts made to capture taxable vessels; unpaid vessels to be placed on denied service list.
 - Code loophole identified: threshold of \$10,000 allows underreporting.
 - Recommendation to require all personal property returns, with council setting thresholds during mill rate adoption.
 - Committee members expressed concerns about enforceability and cost-effectiveness; further review referred to Code Committee.
- **Collections:**
 - Water collections stalled due to staff turnover; letters being prepared.
- **Grants:**
 - Quarterly reporting due in October; significant grant workload expected.
- **Budget Planning:**
 - Working on revisions for December/January adoption.
 - **Wages:** Discussion on citywide wage competitiveness. Proposal to raise all positions one pay level (12%), estimated FY24 cost ~\$369,000.
 - Some members noted prior increases (8.2% compromise in FY23).
 - Concerns raised about long-term sustainability versus recruitment/retention needs.
 - Staff provided comparative wage data showing City salaries below local and regional employers.
 - Discussion ongoing; no action taken.
- **Dock & Equipment:**
 - Heister 800 forklift trade-in value: ~\$55,000. Shipping cost estimated at \$25,000.
 - Alternatives discussed:
 - Continue city-operated model.
 - Explore “Bethel model” (barge companies provide equipment; city leases space).
 - Explore dock lease models (similar to Unalaska).
 - Consensus: more information needed; continue evaluation.
- **Nerka Road Project:**

- Tribe unable to fund full paving due to \$654,000 shortfall from unforeseen excavation costs.
 - Treasury ruled that ARPA funds can now be applied to roads; project may be completed in 2024.
 - Discussion: potential state funding opportunities; members expressed road priority concerns (e.g., ***** Creek Road).
2. Finance and Budget memo 2023 Staff Report
 3. July 2023 Revenue and Expense Report

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4. Fish Tax

Fish Tax: Placeholder item; no new updates.

PUBLIC/COMMITTEE COMMENT(S)

Concern raised regarding library/museum storage: materials from Territorial School being stored at the museum, impacting displays.

- City Manager to review and address; suggested Friends of the Library hold book sale for stored materials.
- Emphasis on protecting museum's cultural and financial assets.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:12 PM.

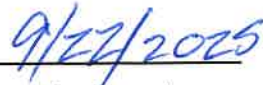
ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:02 PM.

ATTEST:


Abigail Flynn, Acting City Clerk

[SEAL]


Date Approved: