

Introduced by: Vice Mayor  
Middlebrook  
Introduction Date: September 22, 2009  
Public hearing date: October 13, 2009  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 5-0

## *CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA*

### **ORDINANCE #09-35**

#### **AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE 7.50.020 OPENING OF THE POLLS**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska open for their elections at 8:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. providing for a full 12 hours of voting;

**WHEREAS**, the City opens their elections at 7:00 a.m. and along with the state close at 8:00 p.m.;

**WHEREAS**, because the City of Bethel and the State of Alaska hold their elections during the same time there is often confusion on the part of individuals who come into vote at 7:00 a.m.;

**WHEREAS**, the election workers have to inform the individuals the state ballot will not be available until 8:00 a.m. and if they are interested in voting a state ballot they will have to come back;

**WHEREAS**, if both ballots were made available at the same time frame the confusion for the first hour would be minimized;

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the City Council of Bethel, Alaska; that:

**Section 1. Classification.** This ordinance is permanent and general in nature and shall be placed in the Bethel Municipal Code.

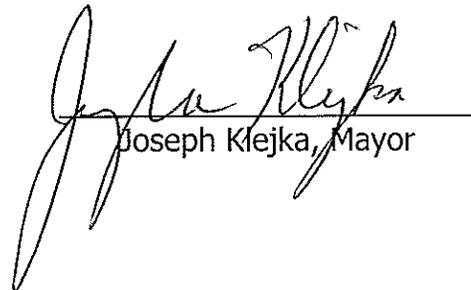
**SECTION 2. Amendment.** Section 7.10.050 of the Code is hereby amended to read as follows (new language is underlined and deleted language is stricken out):

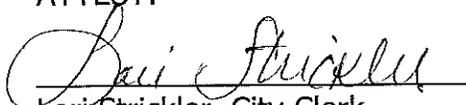
**7.50.020 Opening of polling place.**

- A. On the day of the election, each election board shall open the polls for voting at ~~7:00 a.m.~~ 8:00 a.m., shall close the polls for voting at 8:00 p.m., and shall keep the polls continuously open during the time between those hours. The election board shall report to the polling place by ~~6:30 a.m.~~ 7:30 a.m. so that voting will start promptly at ~~7:00 a.m.~~ 8:00 a.m. The chairman of the election board shall rotate times at which election judges, board members and clerk's may be relieved for breaks and meals; provided, however that at all times at least two (2) judges from the election board are present at the polling place.

**Section 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective when the City receives Department of Justice preclearance under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, or 60 days after the Department of Justice has received the City's Request for preclearance, whichever is earlier.

**ENACTED THIS 13 DAY OF OCTOBER 2009 BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.**

  
Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Lori Strickler, City Clerk