

Introduced by: Vice-Mayor Leinberger
Introduced: December 16, 2008
Public Hearing: January 13, 2008
Action: Passed
Vote: 5-2

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Ordinance #08-20

AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 2.04.055 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TO THE BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE

Whereas, in accordance to Alaska Statutes 29.20.020 the governing body shall provide reasonable opportunity for the public to be heard at regular and special meetings,

WHEREAS, during the people to be heard portion of the agenda the citizens are given the opportunity to give oral or written testimony on an agenda item or matters not listed on the agenda,

Whereas, the city has determined an addition to the Bethel Municipal Code related to people to be heard is appropriate to receive public comment, while maintaining legislative efficiency,

Whereas, providing five minutes for each person signed up under people to be heard and five minutes for each person wishing to give testimony at a public hearing will furnish reasonable opportunity for the public to be heard.

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

SECTION 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Bethel Municipal Code.

SECTION 2. Amendment. The Bethel Municipal Code is to be amended as follows, adding section 2.04.055 Public participation (new language is underlined):

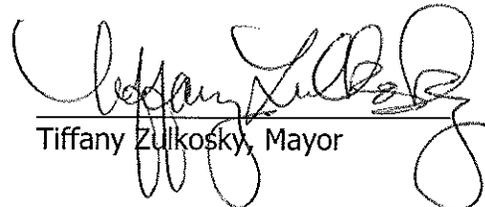
2.04.055 Public participation

- A. Any person or group of persons wishing to address the city council at a regular or special city council meeting must first sign the people to be heard register no later than the scheduled starting time and indicate the agenda item or items on which they wish to address. The individual(s) shall only address the city council at the "People to be Heard" portion of the council meetings only once and shall have a time limit of five (5) minutes to address the council, unless otherwise specified by a majority vote of the council.

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- B. Any person or group of persons wishing to address the city council at a regular or special city council meeting on an item or items not on the agenda must sign the people to be heard register no later than the scheduled starting time and indicate the subject or subjects they wishes to address. The individual(s) shall only address the city council at the "People to be Heard" portion of the council meeting only once and shall have a time limit of five (5) minutes to address the council, unless otherwise specified by a majority vote of the council.
- C. People signed up for People to be Heard will be called upon in the order to which their name appears on the people to be heard register.
- D. A council member may ask a person or persons signed up under people to be heard a question only if the question pertains to an item on the agenda.
- E. If a council member has a question of a person or persons signed up under people to be heard and is or has addressed the council during people to be heard they may do so only if the question addresses an item on the agenda.
- F. During People to be Heard the chair or a majority vote of the council may extend the public hearing time limit for any person or group of persons, depending on the relevance of the issue.
- G. Any person or persons wishing to address the city council at a regular or special city council meeting under public hearing will be given the opportunity during the time of the public hearing. The chair will open the public hearing and ask if anyone wishes to speak on the public hearing item. After being called upon the person or persons must approach the council, sign the public hearing register and shall have a time limit of five (5) minutes to address the council, unless otherwise specified by a majority vote of the council.

ENACTED THIS 13th DAY OF JANUARY, 2009 BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 2 OPPOSED.


Tiffany Zulkosky, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk