

ORDINANCE NO. 33

AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING A CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT, AS AMENDED

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Bethel, State of Alaska, that a department to be hereafter known as the Bethel Volunteer Fire Department, the object of which shall be the prevention of fire and the protection of life and property within the limits of the City of Bethel, is hereby created as follows:-

OFFICERS

1. The Department shall consist of a Chief, two Assistant Chiefs and other officers as the Chief and the Board of Governors may deem necessary for the effective operation of the Department.
2. The Chief shall be elected by the membership and confirmed by the City Council for a period of three years, and his tenure of office shall depend upon his good conduct and efficiency. The Chief shall be technically qualified by training and experience and shall have ability to command men and hold their respect and confidence. He shall be removed only for just cause and after a public hearing before the City Council.
3. The Chief shall be held accountable for the Department Membership, and shall make written and verbal reports thereto as the City Council may require. All other Department and Company officers shall be accountable to the Chief only.
4. The Assistant Chiefs and all other Department and Company officers shall be appointed by the Chief upon the recommendation of the Board of Governors. Such officers shall be accountable only to the Chief, and subject to removal by him.
5. The Board of Governors shall consist of the Chief as chairman and 5 members elected by the Fire Department Membership in good standing.

DUTIES OF THE CHIEF

1. The Chief shall formulate a set of rules and regulations to govern the Department, and shall be responsible to the City of Bethel for the personnel, morale, and general efficiency of the Department.
2. The Chief shall determine the number and kind of companies of which the Department is to be composed and shall determine the response of such companies to alarms.
3. The Chief shall at least once a month conduct suitable drills or instruction in the operation and handling of equipment, first aid and rescue work, salvage, a study of buildings in the Bethel area, fire prevention, water supplies, and all other matters generally considered essential to good firemanship and safety of life and property from fire.

4. The Chief is hereby required to assist the proper authorities in suppressing the crime of arson by investigating or causing to be investigated the cause, origin, and circumstances of all fires.
5. Upon request, the Fire Chief or his duly appointed representative shall make fire safety inspections and recommendations to correct any hazardous safety conditions in any private home in Bethel. Request shall be made by the home owner to the Fire Chief.
6. The Chief shall see that complete records are kept of all fires, inspections, apparatus and minor equipment, personnel, and other information about the work of the Department.
7. The Chief shall report monthly to the City Council the condition of the apparatus and equipment; the number of fires during the month, their location and cause, and date of same and loss occasioned thereby; the number and purpose of all other runs made; and the number of members responding to each fire or other run, and any changes in membership.
8. The Chief shall make a complete annual report to the City Council within one month after the close of the fiscal year, such report to include the information specified in Article 7, together with comparative data for previous years and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Department.

#### MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership of the Department shall consist of such persons as may be appointed by the Chief and shall be able-bodied male citizens residing in Bethel or its close environs, preferably property owners whose business activities are normally within the confines of the City and who have telephones in their homes. Determination of whether candidates for appointment are able-bodied shall be made by the Chief after a medical and physical examination has been made in a manner prescribed by the Chief and approved by the Board of Governors.
2. Any member of the Department may be suspended or discharged from the Department by the Chief at any time he may deem such action necessary for the good of the Department. On written request of such member to the Board of Governors he shall be given public hearing on the charges brought by the Chief.

#### EQUIPMENT

1. The Department shall be equipped with such apparatus and other equipment as may be required from time to time to maintain its efficiency and properly protect life and property from fire.
2. Recommendations of apparatus and equipment needed shall be made by the Chief, and after approval by the City Council shall be purchased in such a manner designated by the Council.
3. All equipment of the Department shall be safely and conveniently housed in such places as may be designated by the City Council. Such places shall be heated during the winter.

4. Suitable arrangement or equipment shall be provided for citizens to turn in an alarm, and for notifying all members of the Department so that they may promptly respond.
5. No person shall use any fire apparatus or equipment for any private purpose, nor shall any person willfully and without proper authority take away or conceal any article used in any way by the Department.
6. No unauthorized person shall enter any place where fire apparatus is housed or handle any apparatus or equipment belonging to the Department unless accompanied by, or having the special permission of, an officer or authorized member of the Department.
7. The City of Bethel is hereby authorized to enter into agreements or contracts with nearby incorporated communities or governing bodies of other organizations to provide the members of such communities or organizations with fire protection.

#### GENERAL

1. All motor equipment and all personal cars of Department members shall have the right-of-way over all other traffic when responding to an alarm. Traffic regulations must be obeyed at all times.
2. Each member of the Department driving a car shall be issued a suitable insignia to be attached to the car.
3. No person shall drive any vehicle over fire hose except upon specific orders from the Chief or other officer in charge.
4. No person shall park any vehicle or otherwise cause any obstruction to be placed within twenty (20) feet of the entrance to any fire station or other place where fire apparatus is stored, or within ten (10) feet of any fire hydrant or cistern, if such are in use.
5. No unauthorized person with any vehicle shall follow within six hundred (600) feet of any apparatus belonging to the Department, nor park any vehicle within six hundred (600) feet of a fire.
6. No person shall maliciously turn in or cause to be turned ~~in~~ <sup>in a false alarm</sup>

#### ENFORCEMENT

1. Any person violating the provisions of Section II, Article 6; Section IV, Articles 5 and 6; and Section V, Articles 2,4,5,6, shall upon conviction in the Court of the Magistrate in this City, pay a fine of not less than ten (10) dollars or more than one hundred (100) dollars for each offense.
2. All regularly appointed officers of the Department are hereby given the necessary special police powers for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this ordinance.
3. All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE

1. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon passage by the City Council of the City of Bethel, Alaska.

PASSED THIS 13th day of December, 1966, BY A VOTE OF 6 AYES AND 0 NAYS.

ATTEST:

Judith E. Anderson  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

Joseph N. Pike  
MAYOR