

Introduced by: City Manager Capela
Date: January 27, 2015
Action: Passed
Vote: 5-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 15-01

THE CITY OF BETHEL SUPPORTS THE FULL FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA HARBOR AND FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY-16 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET

- Whereas,** the Bethel City Council recognizes the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the State during the 1960s and 1970s;
- Whereas,** these harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities;
- Whereas,** these harbor facilities are ports of refuge and areas for protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in coastal Alaskan communities;
- Whereas,** the State of Alaska over the past nearly 30 years has transferred ownership of most of these State owned harbors, many of which were at or near the end of their service life at the time of transfer, to local municipalities;
- Whereas,** the municipalities took over this important responsibility even though they knew that these same harbor facilities were in poor condition at the time of transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance;
- Whereas,** consequently, when local municipal harbormasters formulated their annual harbor facility budgets, they inherited a major financial burden that their local municipal governments could not afford;
- Whereas,** in response to this financial burden, the Governor and the Alaska Legislature passed legislation to create the Harbor Facility Grant program, AS 29.60.800;
- Whereas,** the Bethel City Council is pleased with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities administrative process to review, score and rank applicants to the Harbor Facility Grant Program, since state funds may be limited;

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Whereas, for each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost;

Whereas, the municipalities of the Aleutians East Borough, the City and Borough of Sitka, and the City of Seward, City of Ketchikan, City of Coffman Cove, and Municipality of Anchorage have offered to contribute \$14,262,722 in local match funding for FY2016 towards seven harbor projects of significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program;

Whereas, completion of these harbor facility projects is all dependent on the 50% match from the State of Alaska's Harbor Facility Grant Program;

Whereas, during the last eight years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has been fully funded only twice;

Whereas, during the last eight years the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace these former State owned harbors has increased to over \$90,000,000.

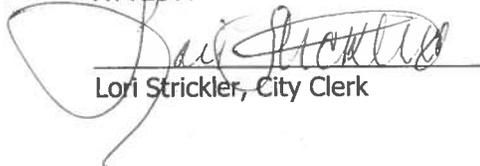
Now therefore be it resolved that the Bethel City Council urges full funding in the amount of \$14,262,722 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2016 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

ENACTED THIS 27 DAY OF JANUARY 2015 BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.



Richard Rob, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Strickler, City Clerk