

City of Bethel
City Council Meeting
May 26, 2020

City Manager's Report

I have four items to report to the Council. They include:

1. Memorial Day Event for City Employees
2. Reopening City Facilities
3. Transit System Back Running
4. Taxi Voucher System for Elders

Memorial Day Event for City Employees

- On Friday, at 2:00 PM, City staff held a Memorial Day Event for city employees.
- Members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars also participated.
- It was held at the Fire Department to include a wonderful speech, playing of Taps and concluded with city employees going to the Alaska Territorial Guard Cemetery to pick up trash and tighten up the cemetery.

Reopening of City Facilities

- As of today, City Hall, Fire Station, Police Station, Public Works Complex and the Port Office are open to the public.
- Limited hours from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Masks are required for both the public and city employees interfacing with the public.
- Property Maintenance are currently working on points of entry upgrades.

Transit System Back Running

- One City Bus has been retrofitted with a driver Plexiglass shield and is back running.
- Thanks to Gary Poe and Carlie McIntyer for working diligently to get that protection in place so we can restart our bus service.

Taxi Voucher System for Elders

- As of today, the taxi fares are back to the shuttle/shared ride system
- This means the drivers can pick up multiple passengers enroute to a destination
- It is not social distance friendly as you're sitting next to strangers
- For the Elderly population this can present a problem
- I've consulted with our City Attorney and we've confirmed that we can use CARES Act funding to implement a voucher system for Elders.
- Hopefully by June 1, we will have the vouchers available for Elders to come, present their Elder Tax Exemption Card to City Hall and we would give them a certain number of vouchers.
- They show their Elder Tax Exemption Card to the Taxi Drivers along with a voucher and the Driver promises to not pick up any other passengers along the route.
- At the end of the month, the Taxi Companies submit these vouchers to the City and we will give them 3x the amount of an Elder Fare.