

City of Bethel
City Council Meeting
June 9, 2020

City Manager's Report – Talking Points

In addition to the City Manager's Report submitted in the Council packet, I have four items to report to the Council. They include:

1. Taxi Single Ride Coupon
2. Personnel Appointments
3. June 18 CARES Act Public Forum
4. July 4 Driving Parade

Taxi Single Ride Coupon for Elders

- As previewed in my verbal report on May 26, Administration will be rolling out a single ride coupon for Elders
- Starting on June 15, 2020 until October 31, 2020
- Elder Exemption card holders can come to City Hall
- Purchase (deposit) a \$4, \$6 or \$10 coupons for face value – these are the discounted Elder fares as found in BMC 5.20.050
- Coupon holder gives the coupon to the Taxi Driver who has agreed to not pick up additional passengers on that trip
- Taxi companies turn in these coupons at the end of the month for their face value (deposit) plus 3x face value from CARES Act funds – so 4x face value total
- The 3x face value is essentially the City buying up the 3 empty seats in a typical ride-share taxi operation

Personnel Appointments

- This week is Acting Police Chief Amy Davis last week of employment with the City
- Therefore I am working with her to learn and transition into the Acting Police Chief position on an administrative capacity (not operational functions)

- This would mean I would serve in four roles: City Manager, Emergency Operations Center Director, Acting Finance Director and Acting Police Chief. This would be too much on my plate
- Therefore, as of Monday, I've appointed John Sargent to be the Acting Finance Director
- He has been with the City for 16 years, holds two masters degrees, one of which is an MBA
- After a trial period, if Mr. Sargent fits with the Acting appointment, enjoys it and wants to make it permanent, then I will come back to Council for a confirmation to make it official. Otherwise, if I or he doesn't find the arrangement fitting, he can go back to his old job as Grants Manager and we will recruit externally
- We also have a Temporary Grant Manager Assistant position advertised and Purchasing Agent duties have been reassigned to IT Director Bo Foley

June 18 CARES Act Public Forum

- As indicated on the agenda items 10.4 and 10.5, the City Council has approved [*assumed*] receiving the CARES Act funding as well as direct Administration to work with Bethel Community Services Foundation to solicit projects/programs and administer these funds to the community
- So on June 18, 2020 we will have a Public Forum at the ONC Multi-purpose building starting at 10:00 AM. Thank you ONC for making this venue available
- We currently are soliciting public comment and ideas – there's a survey out for businesses on the City's website and an email for the community to provide feedback. The email address is cares@cityofbethel.net . Kudos to City Clerk Lori Strickler for leading this effort
- After the June 18th Public Forum, AML, City Attorney, BCSF and/or others will work together to verify CARES Act eligibility for proposed projects or programs
- We will then submit the budget and spending plan for Council to approve in July and then forward that onto the State for review/approval/filing

July 4 Driving Parade

- Due to COVID-19, we will NOT have the mass carnival food event at Pinky's Park like we have in previous years

- After internal staff discussion, getting feedback from the community COVID-19 task force, as well as the Parks, Recreation, Aquatic, Health & Safety Center Committee, Administration is pursuing a 4th of July Driving Parade as THE event of the holiday
- In-Car activities have been green-lighted by the State of Alaska as COVID-friendly..i.e. Drive-In Church Services, Graduation Driving Parades/Parking Ceremony
- The routes are being formulated and I hope to have several alternatives for Public feedback soon
- Participants will just need to register with the City and get a contestant number that they can display externally on the vehicle/float. We hope to have a judging event of the best float/vehicle with monetary prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, honorable mentions
- The point of contact for this event will be Charlie Dan in Public Works, who did a fantastic job last year

[This ends my report, back to you Mr. Mayor]