

Introduced by: Council Member Williams  
Date: August 28, 2018  
Public Hearing: September 11, 2018  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 6-0

## *CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA*

### **Ordinance #18-21**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 17.50 OF THE BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE PROPERTY NUMBERING AND STREET SIGNS**

**WHEREAS** Uniform, legible and visible address numbering is critical to the health, safety and welfare of a community;

**WHEREAS** Many Bethel homes have no address numbers or have numbers that are not visible from the street;

**WHEREAS** Bethel homes and businesses often display a multitude of non-standard address numbering;

**WHEREAS** Bethel Municipal Code sets no standard for size, type, color, reflectivity or location of address numbering;

**WHEREAS** Bethel Police, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians routinely have difficulty locating a given address during emergencies, especially at night when address numbers are extremely difficult to see;

**WHEREAS** Bethel residents and visitors also report difficulty, locating addresses, especially at night;

**Whereas** the Bethel City Council excises the term and reference of Lousetown from the Bethel Municipal Code.

**NOW BE IT ORDAINED**, the City Council amends Bethel Municipal Code Chapter 17.50 to establish uniform address signage requirements, new penalties and direct the administration to develop a process to provide signs to property owners.

**SECTION 1. Classification.** This is a Codified Ordinance and shall become part of the Bethel Municipal Code.

**SECTION 2. Amendment.** Bethel Municipal Code Section 17.50 is amended as follows (new language is underlined and old language is stricken):

#### **Chapter 17.50 PROPERTY NUMBERING AND STREET NAMES**

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17.50.010 ~~Number map~~ City of Bethel Address Map.

The ~~property numbering~~ map entitled "~~Property Number Map~~ City of Bethel Address Map" is adopted as the official property numbering map of the city. All property numbers assigned shall be assigned in accordance with the ~~numbering~~ official address map and no other property numbers shall be used or displayed in the city unless in accordance with the official ~~numbering~~ address map. The ~~property numbering~~ City of Bethel Address Map shall be kept on file in the office of the city clerk.

17.50.020 Street names.

Street names shall be determined by planning commission resolution. The planning commission shall review the proposed street names for duplication of names, appropriateness of names, and for overall compliance with the street naming and numbering policy. The planning commission may modify or amend the street name proposed on a plat as it deems necessary in order to bring it into compliance with the street naming and numbering system. The decision of the commission may be appealed to the board of adjustment under the procedures set out in Chapter 18.68 BMC within fifteen (15) days after action by the planning commission.

17.50.030 Final subdivision plats.

The approved street names and property numbers shall be included in all final maps and plats.

17.50.040 Street name signs.

Street name signs will be uniform in appearance.

17.50.050 Numbering blocks.

A. On the official ~~property numbering map~~ City of Bethel Address Map, Ridgecrest Drive, from Ptarmigan Street to Sixth Avenue, is designated the north-south axis. The east-west axis is designated as follows: First Avenue to the east of the State Highway intersection and the State Highway west of the First Avenue intersection.

B. All avenues, streets, and alleys running generally north and south shall be numbered from east-west axis consecutively to the corporate limits of the extremities of such avenues, streets, or alleys. Avenues, streets, or alleys running generally east and west shall be numbered from the north-south axis in the same manner.

C. Whenever possible, one hundred (100) numbers shall be allowed to each block. New blocks shall be numbered each five hundred (500) feet of ground or existing streets shall be assigned the number nearest the five-hundred (500) foot interval.

17.50.060 Numbering individual property.

A. One whole number shall be assigned for every thirty-three (33) feet of ground whether improved property or vacant lot on every street within the corporate limits, excluding U.S.S.

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3790 from south of the bridge (East Avenue) (~~Lousetown~~) and U.S.S. 870 (Mission Lake), which will be assigned whole numbers every twenty-five (25) feet.

B. Odd numbers shall be assigned to the west side of all north-south streets and even numbers on the east side. On east-west streets, odd numbers shall be assigned on the south side and even numbers on the north side. In the case that a street does not run north-south or east-west, the direction to which a street is closest shall be used for the pure of odd/even numbering.

17.50.070 Exceptions.

Block 9, Northwest Addition of U.S. 3770 (City Subdivision) and the Tundra Ridge Subdivision shall retain their present numbers.

17.50.0890 Maintenance of numbers.

Every owner of improved property shall be responsible for displaying in a conspicuous place on said property the number assigned. The owner, occupant or person in charge of a house or building shall affix the number assigned within sixty (60) days of the date of written notice from the city to do so. Within sixty (60) days of the date of written notice from the city to do so, such person shall remove any numbers affixed to the house or building which may be confused with the number assigned.

17.50.090 Address sign requirements

A. New and existing buildings shall have *approved* address numbers, building numbers or *approved* building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches (101.6 mm) in height, high intensity engineer grade, white retro reflective affixed to a minimum of a 6 inches in height, high intensity, engineer grade, green retro reflective background plaque. Background plaques shall provide a minimum 1 inch border around all characters. These numbers shall be reflective with a minimum of 4" height and contrast with their background. Numbers and letters shall be shall be Arabic or alphabetic, upper case, plain block font, minimum of 1/2 (12.7 mm) inch stroke. Signs and numbers shall be placed horizontally on buildings.

B. Where access is by means of a private road or driveway and the building (numbers) cannot be viewed from the public way, address numbers meeting the requirements of this section shall be placed on a monument, pole, sign or other means, at the nearest intersection with the public way in addition to the numbers on the building.

Address Numbers shall not be installed on the handrails or guardrails of exterior decks or landings. Address numbers shall be maintained in good condition and replaced when faded, deteriorated or otherwise unreadable

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C. Said numbers shall be a minimum of four (4") inches (101.6 mm) in height with retro-reflective capability to a minimum of six (6") inches in height and shall contrast with the background in such a manner and location as to be plainly visible from the street.

D. On a corner lot, the business or dwelling number shall face the street named in the address.

E. If necessary to avoid confusion, additional street address signs may be placed along access road and near the entrance to a structure.

17.50.100 Numbers for future buildings.

Each building in which the principal use of a lot takes place shall be assigned a number in accordance with the property numbering map and the owner of said building or structure shall be responsible for the purchase and display of such numbers as set forth in BMC 17.50.0890.

17.50.110 Unlawful to deface number.

It is unlawful for any person to alter, deface, or take down any number placed on any property in accordance with this chapter, except for repair or replacement of such number.

17.50.120 Penalties.

~~In the event that If the owner or occupant or person in charge of any house or building fails to comply with the terms of this chapter by failing to affix the number assigned or to remove any numbers affixed to such house or building which may be confused with other numbers assigned thereto, within sixty (60) days after notification or by failing within said period of sixty (60) days to remove any numbers affixed to such house or building which may be confused with the number assigned thereto, the owner shall be fined subject to denial of utilities \$30 dollars per infraction in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed for violation of this chapter. for failure to comply with the numbering Ordinance.~~

- A. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter or who fails to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter, may be guilty of an infraction and may be issued a citation.
- B. Citations issued under this section shall be correctable within thirty (30) days.
- C. The penalty for these infractions is thirty (\$30) dollars.

~~17.50.130 Use of Address Fines~~

~~The Planning Director shall use fines collected from numbering ordinance violations to purchase and provide compliant address signage for the owner, occupant or person in charge of the house or building.~~

17.50.140 Notification of number change.

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~~Official notification of any change in property number shall be sent to property owners thirty (30) days before the effective date of the change.~~

~~The City Planner shall send official notifications of any change in property number to property owner and occupants at least thirty (30) days before the effective date of a change~~

~~17.50.150 Address Numbering for Large Developments  
Educational, Healthcare and other large campus type developments bearing multiple buildings shall submit an address and signage plan to the Planning Director and Fire Chief for review and approval. Each building shall display numbers or other approved signage meeting the requirements of this chapter.~~

~~17.50.160 Verification of Numbering  
The Planning Director and Police Chief or their designees shall verify that all address numbers issued concur with the Bethel E-911 database and the City of Bethel address map.~~

~~17.50.170 Existing or decorative signage  
Existing or decorative address signs may be left in place or added as long as they do not conflict with or obscure address numbering required in this chapter.~~

~~17.50.180 Deficiency reporting  
The Planning Director shall provide a means for City employees and the Public to report missing, incorrect or non-compliant address numbers to the Planning Department. The Planning Director or their designee shall investigate and seek remedy on reported deficiencies within ten business days.~~

~~17.50.190 City provided address numbers  
The City Manager or their designee shall develop a process whereby the City manages ordering and delivery of address numbers and bills the customer for actual costs.~~

~~17.50.200 Address number installation  
Installation of numbers are the responsibility of the property or building owner. The City Manager or Planning Director may authorize City Employees or an approved contractor or volunteer to install an address sign(s) on the private residence of a disabled person or elder.~~

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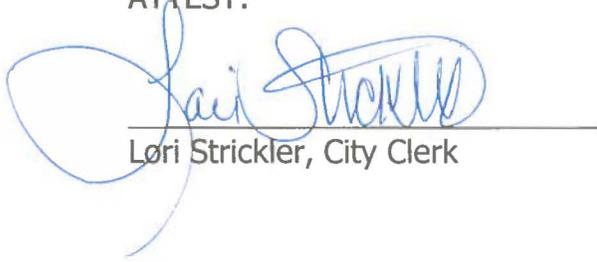
**SECTION 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective ninety (90) days after passage by the Bethel City Council.

**ENACTED THIS 11 DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2018, BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.**



Richard Robb, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Lori Strickler, City Clerk