

Introduced by: Council Member Charles  
Introduction Date: April 23, 2019  
Public Hearing: May 14, 2019  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 4-3

## *CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA*

### **Ordinance #19-05**

#### **AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL AMENDING TITLE 2.04 TO PROVIDE FOR COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS FOR BETHEL CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**WHEREAS**, Bethel City Council members are all currently volunteers;

**WHEREAS**, being a City Council member requires a commitment of a significant amount of personal time;

**WHEREAS**; most months the City Council meets twice in the month with meetings lasting an average of 4 hours each;

**WHEREAS**, in order to prepare for a City Council meeting, each City Council member must spend between 5-8 hours per week reviewing the extensive council packets;

**WHEREAS**, even when not at City Hall, City Council members are always working since citizens have the right and privilege to contact them with concerns, questions, suggestions, criticisms, etc.;

**WHEREAS**, in addition to their duty to attend City Council meetings, each City Council member is a member of at least one Committee or Commission for the City;

**WHEREAS**, these members add additional volunteer time for the City Council members;

**WHEREAS**, City Council members are also expected to attend special meeting and to attend budget meetings which can last for several weeks;

**WHEREAS**, all of this time is uncompensated and takes the City Council member away from their paying jobs and from their families;

**WHEREAS**, a review of 37 communities throughout Alaska, shows that 31 of the 37 (or 84%) of the communities in Alaska provide the City Council members with some sort of compensation;

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Statute 29.20.620 allows for compensation of City Council members by ordinance;

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**THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, as follows:

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

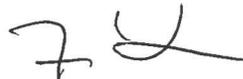
**Section 2. Amendment:** Section 2.04 of the Bethel Municipal Code is hereby amended, new language is underlined and old language is stricken.

2.04.95 Compensation of Council Members.

- A. Council member compensation shall be fixed by Ordinance and may be amended at any time except during the 60-day period immediately preceding the City's Regular Election.
- B. Compensation changes become effective on the first Monday immediately following the certification of the next Regular City election subsequent to the adoption of the salary change.
- C. For each calendar month served as an elected official, each council member shall receive compensation of ~~Three Hundred (\$300) Dollars~~ One Hundred (\$100) per regular city council meeting and Twenty Five (\$25) per special city council meeting to be paid the month following the month of service. ~~Partial months of service will not be compensated.~~
- D. ~~Councilmembers shall be provided with water and sewer utility benefits on the same level and basis as provided for City Department Heads. Taxes associated with this benefit shall be deducted from the monthly compensation.~~
- E. ~~A Councilmember may decline compensation and/or water sewer benefits by completing the appropriate form and submitting it to the City Clerk for Payroll Processing. A decision to decline or accept compensation and/or utility benefits cannot be amended more than twice in a Fiscal Year.~~

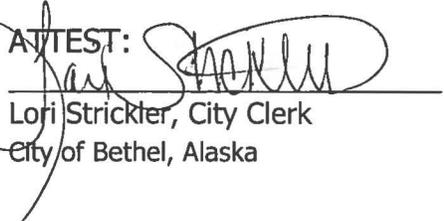
**SECTION 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective ~~upon passage~~ following the certification of the City's 2019 Regular Election and only if the majority of the qualified voters voting on an advisory question summarizing this ordinance modification vote in the affirmative.

**ENACTED THIS 14TH DAY OF MAY 2019 BY A VOTE OF 4 IN FAVOR AND 3 OPPOSED.**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Watson, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Lori Strickler, City Clerk  
City of Bethel, Alaska