

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager  
Date: January 10, 2012  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 5-1 Whitney opposed

## *CITY OF BETHEL*

### **Resolution # 12-02**

#### **CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FFY 2013 UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING CYCLE**

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel City Council annually reviews its congressional funding priorities and approves a resolution identifying those priorities for use by the President of the United States of America and United States Congress in development of the federal capital and operating budgets;

**WHEREAS**, the City carefully evaluated and selected the most essential and obligatory projects and ranked them herein according to the City's federal funding needs;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel's funding requests are listed in the following table:

<b>Top Five Priorities</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1. Dredging Bethel Small Boat Harbor Mooring Basin	\$2,000,000
2. River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2	\$3,000,000
3. Kuskokwim River Navigation Reconnaissance Study	\$100,000
4. Network and IP Phone System Upgrade	\$500,000
5. Police 911 Dispatch Center Communication Software Upgrade	\$280,000
Total	\$5,880,000
<b>Additional Funding Request</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center	\$4,000,000

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**#1 Dredging Bethel Small Boat Harbor Mooring Basin**

**WHEREAS**, Port of Bethel projects requiring assistance, oversight, and direction from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, must receive funding from a congressional appropriation in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act;

**WHEREAS**, residents who live along the Kuskokwim River often visit the Bethel Small Boat Harbor by boat to purchase goods and services, access government services, participate in educational opportunities, meet family members and friends, and return to their village by boat;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor is used extensively by subsistence hunters and fishers as they exercise their rights to harvest fish and wildlife from the Kuskokwim River and adjoining streams, rivers, ponds, and riverbank access points;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers considers the Bethel Small Boat Harbor a "harbor of refuge" for boaters caught on the Kuskokwim River during storms, natural disasters, or other life-threatening events;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel sells boat slip permits annually in the small boat harbor in an effort to provide sufficient space for personal watercraft on its eight floating docks;

**WHEREAS**, a hydrographic survey completed by WH Pacific in 2010 revealed a zero feet depth at the deepest part of the Bethel Small Boat Harbor at the mean low low water mark, representing scientific evidence of the need to dredge the harbor because navigability is impractical and nearly impossible;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel is responsible for dredging the mooring basin (approximately one-third) while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Alaska District is responsible for dredging the maneuvering basin and the entrance channel (approximately two-thirds) of the Bethel Small Boat Harbor every seven years;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor has not been dredged since 1997, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers led a winter time excavation (dredging) effort and the City of Bethel contributed funding;

**WHEREAS**, the lack of maintenance dredging by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the last 13 years has created a situation in which the amount of material to be removed from the Bethel Small Boat Harbor basin and entrance channel qualify this project as a capital construction project;

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**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Alaska District completed the Plans, Specification and Estimates and preliminary engineering for the mooring basin dredging construction project, and will ascertain the NEPA, environmental permitting, and Right Of Way documents by March 2012;

**WHEREAS**, dredging of the Small Boat Harbor mooring basin will cost approximately \$2,000,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2013 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act in the Construction section so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can oversee completion of the project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$2,000,000 in the FY 2013 United States Budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use as dedicated funding to dredge (excavate) the Bethel Small Boat Harbor mooring basin.

**#2 Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2**

**WHEREAS**, Port of Bethel projects requiring assistance, oversight, and direction from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, must receive funding from a congressional appropriation in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers greatly assisted the community of Bethel when it constructed the Eastern Addition Seawall, a 1,200 linear foot wall protecting residents and property, including the Bethel Small Boat Harbor;

**WHEREAS**, the Eastern Addition Seawall serves to support a portion of the City Dock and the mooring of large vessels at the behest of the Port of Bethel;

**WHEREAS**, the Eastern Addition Seawall serves the City Cargo Dock and the Cargo Dock serves approximately 26,000 people in 54 villages that occupy 57,826 square miles in the Yukon-Kuskokwim River drainage;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed Phase 1 of the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project in 2007, when it deposited basketball sized rocks at the base of the seawall to reduce scour and hold the pipe piles in place;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 entails the replacement of tiebacks, steel rods that are welded to a group of ten pipe piles as a set and anchored 54 feet back to "deadmen," frozen in the permafrost;

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**WHEREAS**, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 is vital to repair a section of seawall that protects people, homes, personal and commercial property, and the Bethel Small Boat Harbor from the ravages of the river: floods, ice scour during breakup, bank destabilization, and floating debris;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2 is expected to cost \$4,000,000 with a useful life of fifty (50) years, according to Corps projections;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel is committed to provide 25% of the project costs, or an expected \$1,000,000, to the project from its dedicated seawall maintenance account, per the funding requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs \$3,000,000 in the FY 2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act to complete the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project – Phase 2, a construction project in Bethel, Alaska;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the Federal Government provide \$3,000,000.00 in the FY 2012 United States Budget to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that will be dedicated to completion of Phase 2 of the Bethel River Bank Stabilization Project.

### **#3 Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigation**

**WHEREAS**, the Kuskokwim River is the second longest river in the State of Alaska along which 23 villages and towns are located;

**WHEREAS**, the community of Bethel, with a population of 6,080 people, is the largest town located along the Kuskokwim River and serves as the river transportation hub for Kuskokwim River villages in the southwest quadrant of Alaska, an area that encompasses slightly more than 57,000 square miles;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel is home to the only medium draft port in western Alaska, providing a regional maritime transportation corridor that is absolutely essential in a remote, rural and isolated area;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for ensuring that the Kuskokwim River remains a viable navigable waterway;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Cargo Dock and Petro Port can only moor two vessels over 300 feet at a time, requiring vessels to moor and anchor in the river at large;

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**WHEREAS**, barges, pilot boats, and large vessels over 300 feet long are finding it impossible or severely difficult to moor and anchor safely in the wide section of the Kuskokwim River in front of Bethel due to changing river characteristics compounded by increased river traffic;

**WHEREAS**, the amount of goods, supplies, equipment, vehicles, housing units, and fuel being transported on the Kuskokwim River to Bethel, other Kuskokwim river villages, and the Donlin Creek mine site have increased markedly over the last ten years as the Delta populations and economic activity have increased;

**WHEREAS**, commercial fishers, subsistence users, sport fishers and hunters, and commercial boating operators routinely complain to City of Bethel administrators and Port of Bethel personnel about the lack of navigability of the Kuskokwim River;

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a reconnaissance study of Kuskokwim River navigability will cost approximately \$100,000 and this amount should be included in the FY 2013 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act in the Investigations section so that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can oversee completion of the project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$100,000.00 in the FY 2013 United States Budget to be used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete this critical Reconnaissance Study of Kuskokwim River Navigability.

#### **#4 Network and IP Phone System Upgrade**

**WHEREAS**, at least ten City of Bethel buildings lack the proper cable and equipment to meet the City's need for rapid internet connectivity and planned implementation of an internet protocol (IP) telephone system;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel's 68-telephone system is over ten years old and is no longer supported by the original manufacturer;

**WHEREAS**, removing old wire and installing new wire, will not only improve internet speed and performance by 30%, but, maintenance work will be needed less often, be easier to complete, and be less expensive;

**WHEREAS**, use of the IP telephone system is expected to save the City \$3,000 per month in telephone charges or \$360,000 over ten years;

**WHEREAS**, the City's Information Technology Coordinator, Sam Blankenship, estimated the cost to remove old cable and equipment from City buildings and install new CAT6 cable and equipment to be \$500,000;

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel will use the bidding process to ensure it receives the best value for federal funds invested in this and every capital project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$500,000 in the FY 2013 United States for the removal of outdated cable and equipment and the purchase and installation of new network cable, equipment, and IP phone system;

**#5 Police Department E-911 Dispatch Communication Software Upgrade**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel Police Department provides dispatch service for the Alaska State Troopers between the hours of 5:00 pm and 8:00 am, Monday through Friday, and 24 hours a day on Saturday and Sunday;

**WHEREAS**, the Police Department's current dispatch center software, *Rescue Star*, is outdated and is no longer being manufactured, sold, or supported by the company who made and distributed it;

**WHEREAS**, the new software needed will provide automatic caller telephone number identification, which allows dispatchers to call back and collect information that can be used to save lives, prevent/reduce injury, and minimize the risk of property damage;

**WHEREAS**, the cost estimate of \$280,000 provided by an Anchorage vendor includes software, hardware, accessories, shipping, and training;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$280,000 in the FY 2013 United States Budget to purchase and install E-911 dispatch communication software, hardware, and training;

**Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center**

**WHEREAS**, the need for a multi-use recreation facility with a swimming pool has been expressed by the community of Bethel in numerous community plans since the early 1970s;

**WHEREAS**, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region experiences one of the highest drowning rates in Alaska—largely because residents and visitors live near the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, engage in boating and water play activities, do not know how to swim, do not know how to rescue individuals from the water, and do not know how to resuscitate victims;

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel Multi-Use Recreation Facility Plan, completed by Agnew Beck Consultants in 2005, identifies a swimming pool as the number one need voted by community members to include in the aquatic training and health center;

**WHEREAS**, the pool in the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center would provide the following benefits to all of the YK-Delta's 26,000 residents: allow children and adults to learn how to swim, provide courses to certify lifeguards, provide a place where families and friends come together to recreate and exercise, aid in the reduction of diabetes, obesity, and other health problems, provide a venue for physical therapy, and provide special programs for seniors, youth, and people with physical disabilities;

**WHEREAS**, the City's Parks and Recreation Committee is a group of volunteer community members that meet once a month to assist in the development of the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center by providing discussion, analysis, and making recommendations to City Council;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel paid Architects Alaska, Inc. to complete 65% design development, the majority of preconstruction architectural and engineering work necessary for construction;

**WHEREAS**, three studies by reputable Alaskan companies proved that once constructed, the City's half percent sales tax subsidy and planned service revenues would be sufficient to cover expenses;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center is on track to be the first pool in Alaska to achieve silver LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council;

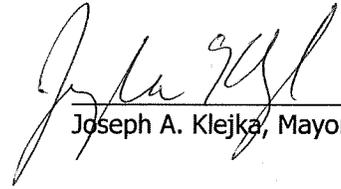
**WHEREAS**, the City requests that \$4,000,000 be put in the FY 2013 Capital Budget of the United States of America for the City of Bethel to pay for the first phase of construction of the new Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, do hereby formally request that the U.S. Government provide \$4,000,000.00 in the FY 2013 United States Budget to aid in the new construction of the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center.

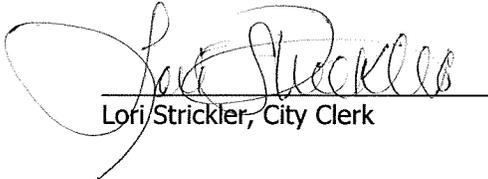
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**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, Alaska, hereby set and affirm that these five critically needed projects are prioritized according to the needs of the community and that the sixth project, the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center, is strongly desired.

**ENACTED THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2012 BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 1 OPPOSED.**

  
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Joseph A. Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Lori Strickler, City Clerk