Introduced by: Mayor Klejka
Date: September 25, 2012
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution #12-20

RESOLUTION TO THE STATE OF ALASKA REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS CEASE AND REVERSE MOTHBALL OPERATIONS AT THE OLD BETHEL ARMORY AND CONTINUE TO ALLOW USE OF THE SPACE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE COMMUNITY AS A STOPGAP MEASURE UNTIL AN AGREEMENT CAN BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE CITY OF BETHEL, THE LOWER KUSKOKWIM SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD FOR CONTINUED OPERATIONS OF THE FACILITY AND A PLAN FOR DISPOSAL OF THE FACILITY AT END OF USEFUL LIFE OF THE BUILDING

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is owner of the property located beneath the old Army National Guard Armory and has leased the property to the Alaska National Guard for $1 per year since August of 1976;

WHEREAS, the Alaska National Guard has graciously allowed use of the facility by many community organizations as well as the Lower Kuskokwim School District Ayaprun Immersion School since the construction of the facility;

WHEREAS, with the new National Guard Facility completion at the Bethel Airport, the guard is no longer occupying the old facility and has abruptly closed the area to not only the school district but also the many community organizations that utilize the only publicly available gym space in Bethel;

WHEREAS, the community of Bethel, and especially our youth, no longer have a safe indoor facility to exercise and congregate within,

WHEREAS, the City Council of Bethel and the Lower Kuskokwim School District believed meaningful discussions with the Alaska National Guard had been ongoing as to the eventual disposal of the building;

WHEREAS, both agencies believed they had much more time to work out the details regarding the operation of the facility having not received an update from the Guard since August at which time they had not determined a closure date;

WHEREAS, the closure of the facility has impacted this community greatly, with ~~175~~ 265 students having no means of indoor recreation, therefore making it difficult for the school district to find acceptable means for those children to receive the required credits for graduation;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Bethel is requesting the State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as a stopgap measure, reopen and allow use of the facility by the Lower Kuskokwim School District and the community of Bethel, and work with the City of Bethel and the Lower Kuskokwim School District in maintaining operations of the facility during the short term while plans can be arranged between all three entities for continued operations in the short-term, and long range plans for eventual disposal of the building at end of life.

ENACTED THIS 25 DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2012, BY A 7 VOTE IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk