

Introduced by: Peter Williams, Acting City Manager
 Date: October 14, 2014
 October 28, 2014
 November 3, 2014
 November 11, 2014
 Action: Passed
 Passed: 5-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 14-14

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2016 STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council is a seven-member body elected by resident voters of Bethel to act in the best interest of the community and intends to exhibit transparency, oversight, and accountability for all funds awarded through this request;

WHEREAS, the priorities established herein are rank-ordered and vital to the well-being of the community and municipality of Bethel;

WHEREAS, a summary of the City of Bethel’s priorities and requested funding amounts are listed in the following table:

Six Priorities	Request
1. Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Excavation	\$9,608,906
2. Water and Sewer Trucks	\$2,660,000
3. Bethel Small Boat Harbor Improvements – Final Phase	\$2,500,000
4. Alternative Road Around H-Marker Lake	\$1,820,752
5. Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System - Phase 2	\$5,187,742
6. Dust Control Measures (Gravel, Calcium Chloride, Hydroseed)	\$1,200,000
Total	\$22,977,400

#1	Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Excavation	\$9,608,906
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel provides hauled sewage service to 1,318 buildings and piped sewage service to 424 buildings;

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WHEREAS, all sewage is deposited into the City's sewer lagoon, which is divided into two cells that occupy 61.7 acres;

WHEREAS, the lagoon capacity is steadily shrinking every year as solids settle on the bottom and the berms remain fixed;

WHEREAS, the City is given an administrative extension from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation each year to discharge effluent into the Kuskokwim River with the understanding that the City is actively pursuing lagoon remediation efforts;

WHEREAS, the City must discharge 220 million gallons of raw effluent into the Kuskokwim River every year in order to lower lagoon volume and avoid a cataclysmic breach or an overflow situation;

WHEREAS, the fact that a portion of the upper lagoon cell wall breached in 2005, causing the discharge of thousands of gallons of effluent onto open tundra, underscores the need for lagoon rehabilitation;

WHEREAS, professional engineering firm, Larsen Consulting Group, LLC , completed a preliminary engineering report in 2010 in which they described the poor condition of the lagoon and made recommendations for improvement;

WHEREAS, a letter from the compliance manager at the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation dated June 27, 2013, summarized the City's lagoon facility problem by saying, "Therefore, the risk to human health of waterborne disease as a result of exposure to partially treated sewage effluent will persist until a replacement wastewater treatment facility can be put into place;"

WHEREAS, recommendations from Larsen Consulting and CH2MHill comprise the majority of this project: replace sewage truck dump site, excavate existing lagoon cells and replace baffles, and construct a new 30-acre holding cell and 20-acre treatment area;

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2014, the City raised the residential and commercial hauled and piped water and sewer service rates so that the annual amount collected will cover the previously subsidized amount of \$643,000 and allow the City to break-even on the cost to provide these services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide \$9,608,906 in the FY 2016 Alaska Capital Budget for Bethel to fund the Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Excavation project.

#2	Water and Sewer Trucks	\$2,660,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel provides hauled water and sewer service to 1,318 households six days a week throughout the year because only 424 Bethel households are on piped service;

WHEREAS, Approximately 3 million gallons of water are delivered each month and 2.5 million gallons of sewage is evacuated each month;

WHEREAS, the City currently owns and operates ten 3,000-gallon Stirling brand water trucks manufactured between 1999 to 2007 and seven 3,000-gallon Stirling brand sewer trucks manufactured between 2000 to 2007;

WHEREAS, Stirling closed their factory in 2008 and no longer manufactures water and sewer truck chassis or parts, making it extremely difficult for the City to acquire parts to repair the vehicles in its fleet;

WHEREAS, the proliferation of Stirling trucks in use across the globe, the advent of few after-market parts makers, and high demand for parts have created severe parts shortages and if parts are available, the prices are usually sky high;

WHEREAS, One City diesel mechanic and two assistants spend 130 hours of their time each week diagnosing problems on water and sewer trucks, searching for parts, and completing the repairs when possible;

WHEREAS, Bethel City Council recently approved a community-wide water and sewer rate increase to begin in January 2015 that will produce sufficient revenue to cover 100% of the service costs, but not capital vehicle costs;

WHEREAS, the number of new buildings and planned subdivisions coming online in Bethel is adding pressure on the City's overworked water and sewer trucks to make reliable deliveries;

WHEREAS, the City created a special fleet replacement fund years ago that currently has \$491,000 in it, which will allow the City to buy two water trucks this winter as match for this project;

WHEREAS, the City requests \$2,660,000 in State Capital funding to purchase five water trucks and five sewer trucks — giving the City full fleet replacement for the next seven years and allowing the City to meet its current and near-future demand for reliable service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide \$2,660,000 in its FY 2016 Capital Budget to fund the purchase of 10 water and sewer trucks;

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#3	Bethel Small Boat Harbor Improvements	\$2,500,000
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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel received funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Denali Commission, and State of Alaska for improvements to the Bethel Small Boat Harbor over the last five years;

WHEREAS, three sections of bank encompassing 1,300 feet are all that are left to improve with webbing and gravel in order to stabilize 100% of the banks, thereby reducing slough-off and the need for dredging;

WHEREAS, several culverts are needed to improve the parking lot and north side road access to the harbor;

WHEREAS, the Harbor allows Bethel residents easy, convenient, and inexpensive access to the Kuskokwim River for subsistence harvest of fish and game, access to fish camps, recreational uses, commercial fishing, commercial birding/guiding, wood gathering, and transportation to and from villages on the river;

WHEREAS, nearby villagers depend on the Harbor when they travel by boat to Bethel for medical appointments, vocational training, college attendance, conferences/workshops, government services, shopping, employment, air transportation to Anchorage and points beyond, and to visit friends and relatives;

WHEREAS, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor was officially designated a "harbor of refuge" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and provides protection for small boaters from storms, high seas, and other natural hazards;

WHEREAS, great strides have been made to improve the Harbor over the last five years and one more "shovel-ready" bank stabilization effort is needed to finish the changes needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide \$2,500,000 in its FY 2016 Capital Budget to fund the Small Boat Harbor Improvements Project;

#4	Alternative Road Around H-Marker Lake	\$1,820,752
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WHEREAS, the community of Bethel has been severely hampered by the closure of Tundra Ridge Road in 2008 because it broke the circuit, causing all traffic to flow in a "U" pattern from the State Highway to Ptarmigan Street;

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WHEREAS, the City worked diligently with the State and private landowners to re-open the road, but after six years, the impasse remains steadfast;

WHEREAS, the community continues to suffer in terms of increased response time for emergency response vehicles to reach the Tundra Ridge Subdivision and residents of the subdivision are enduring additional time and cost to get to work, to the store, to the airport, and other places;

WHEREAS, the City's proposed solution is to construct a new gravel road around H-Marker Lake to connect the public part of Tundra Ridge Road with Ptarmigan Street, that will complete the circuit again;

WHEREAS, the new road will follow the shortest route from existing road to existing road;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is willing and able to provide sand, heavy equipment, and personnel to assist in the development of the new road;

WHEREAS, a new road between the state highway and Ptarmigan Street is expected to save lives and reduce injuries as a result of faster emergency vehicle response times, lessen drive time to town, lower fuel cost, and reduce vehicle maintenance cost;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide \$1,820,752 in its FY 2016 Capital Budget to fund the Alternative Road Around H-Marker Lake project;

#5	Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System – Phase 2	\$5,187,742
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WHEREAS, the State of Alaska provided the City of Bethel with only \$7,000,000 in FY 2014 to complete the Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System project that cost \$12,187,742, requiring the City to break the project into Phase 1 and 2;

WHEREAS, the City is currently using the bidding process to hire an engineer firm to develop design, plans, and specifications to construct Phase 1 and Phase 2;

WHEREAS, while Phase 1 is slated to connect piped water to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation's hospital and administration building, Phase 2 funding is needed to provide piped water to the adult correction facility, youth correction facility, and remaining institutions along Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel owns and operates the City Subdivision Water Treatment Plant that has sufficient capacity to provide water to all institutional corridor project users;

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WHEREAS, once the City begins providing piped water to institutional corridor users, the City foresees an increase in revenue over expenses, which will help the City demonstrate its fiscal responsibility to USDA and other funders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide \$5,187,742 in its FY 2016 Capital Budget to fund the Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System – Phase 2;

#6	Dust Control Measures, Gravel, and Calcium Chloride	\$1,200,000
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WHEREAS, the community of Bethel is plagued by airborne dust and the ill-health effects associated with its inhalation, ingestion, and contact with eyes, ears, and skin;

WHEREAS, the City learned over its 55-year existence that purchasing and applying gravel, calcium chloride, and hydroseeding road slopes are effective dust control techniques;

WHEREAS, the City will purchase one new water spray truck with project funds so that it can apply water to the dusty streets throughout the summer;

WHEREAS, the City plans to purchase gravel and other materials in bulk quantities and use them in subdivisions, which are currently underserved because the City must focus its efforts on major thoroughfares;

WHEREAS, the City has the heavy equipment, trained personnel, and operating costs in its budget to apply gravel, calcium chloride, and hydroseed to the City's roads as needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, do hereby formally request that the State of Alaska provide \$1,200,000 in its FY 2016 Capital Budget to fund the Dust Control Measures, Gravel, and Calcium Chloride project;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, hereby set and affirm the following six projects for the City's FY 2016 State of Alaska Capital Budget funding request: (1) Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Excavation, (2) Water and Sewer Trucks, (3) Bethel Small Boat Harbor Improvements, (4) Alternative Road Around H-Marker Lake, (5) Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System – Phase 2, and (6) Dust Control Measures, Gravel, and Calcium Chloride.

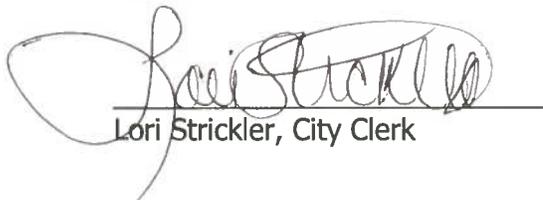
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**ENACTED THIS 11th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2014 BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 0
OPPOSED.**



Richard Robb, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk