

Introduced by: Lee Foley, City Manager  
Date: October 9, 2012  
Action: Passed  
Passed: 5-0

## *CITY OF BETHEL*

### **Resolution # 12-22**

#### **CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2014 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;

**WHEREAS**, the City 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:

<b>Five Priorities</b>	<b>Request</b>
1. Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Dredge	\$11,500,000
2. Petro Port/Multiuse Expansion and City Dock Repair	\$29,000,000
3. Construction of Donut Hole Road and Dust Control Measures	\$6,400,000
4. Network Wiring and New Telephone System	\$265,431
5. New Animal Control Facility	\$426,010
Total	\$47,591,441

#### **#1 Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Dredge**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel provides hauled sewage service to 1,306 buildings and piped sewage service to 430 buildings;

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

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**WHEREAS**, the lagoon capacity and simple technological design of using earthen berms without liners and two curtains to filter particles by size are no longer adequate for a community the size of Bethel;

**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 discharged 295 million gallons of effluent into the Kuskokwim River last year in order to lower lagoon volume and avoid a cataclysmic breach or 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 rehabilitation;

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

**WHEREAS**, these recommendations comprise the majority of this project: construction of a new third 30-acre holding cell, construction of a 20-acre treatment area, use of a dredge to remove sludge from the bottom of the lagoon and increase capacity, use of 80 geobags to contain the sludge removed from the lagoon and help it dewater and decompose, replacement of curtains, and complete overhaul of the sewer truck discharge area;

**WHEREAS**, potential fines up to \$25,000/day could be levied by the Department of Environmental Conservation if remediation efforts are not undertaken immediately;

**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 State of Alaska provide \$11,500,000 in the FY 2014 Alaska Capital Budget for Bethel to fund the Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Dredge project.

<b>#2 Petro Port/Multiuse Expansion and City Dock Repair</b>
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**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel owns and operates a petroleum port where millions of gallons of petroleum products are off-loaded safely to storage tanks or smaller fuel barges every year;

**WHEREAS**, the Petro Port in Bethel serves the 56-village region surrounding it by accepting ocean-going fuel barges from Seattle and Anchorage and offering a safe fuel transfer facility;

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**WHEREAS**, rural Alaskan towns like Bethel and surrounding villages rely on petroleum-based products to produce electricity, heat homes, and engage in subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities;

**WHEREAS**, the City has a concept plan outlining the proposed Petro Port expansion and the construction of a seawall and its related set-down area for cargo containers;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel City Dock receives ocean-going barges from Seattle and Anchorage from May 28 to October 5 every year;

**WHEREAS**, Bethel City Dock serves as the receiving and transshipment center for the 56-village region for essential goods, materials, equipment, vehicles, and buildings;

**WHEREAS**, the poor structural condition of the East Timber Wall renders useless its upland area (375 feet by 50 feet) and renders its Brown's Slough water space unusable for moorage;

**WHEREAS**, the poor structural condition of the East Sheet Pile Wall qualifies its uplands area (408 feet by 50 feet) for light duty only and its Brown's Slough water space unusable for moorage;

**WHEREAS**, the City Dock's old timber wall on its east side must be replaced with an open cell sheet pile wall with fenders, bull rail, bollards, and lighting in order to put the upland area near the wall to productive Port use;

**WHEREAS**, the population growth of the Yukon-Kuskokwim region and hub community of Bethel, coupled with the prospect of large-scale economic development projects coming online, like Donlin Gold Mine, support the need for the Petro Port/Multiuse expansion and City Dock Repair project;

**Whereas**, the City proposes that the replacement of the City Dock East Timber Wall and the Petro Port/multiuse expansion be considered as Phase 1 of this project and that the replacement of the City Dock East Sheet Piling Wall be considered as Phase 2 of this project—both of which can be completed in three years;

**WHEREAS**, professional engineering firm PND Engineers estimates the cost of this project to be \$29,000,000;

**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 \$29,000,000 in its FY 2014 Capital Budget to fund the Petro Port/Multiuse Expansion and City Dock Repair project;

**#3 Construction of Donut Hole Road and Dust Control Measures**

**Construction of Donut Hole Road**

**WHEREAS**, the primary need of a new road connecting Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway with Ptarmigan Street is to reduce response time for emergency vehicles leaving the Bethel Fire Station or Bethel Police Station and responding to people living in Tundra Ridge and on Ptarmigan Street;

**WHEREAS**, the closure of Tundra Ridge Road in 2008 put a severe burden on the community in terms of time and cost;

**WHEREAS**, people living in Tundra Ridge were disproportionately affected by the closure of Tundra Ridge Road because they had to take a longer, circuitous route to access the airport, Larsen subdivision, Kasayulie subdivision, and west-side businesses;

**WHEREAS**, the 35-mile road system in the community emanates from a large ten-mile oval, referred to as "the donut hole," inside of which is land owned by the city, native allottees, and Bethel Native Corporation;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed "donut hole road" would be 1.5 miles long with a 100-foot easement, ample shoulder space, and a proper hydroseeded slope to the base;

**WHEREAS**, constructing the road as a continuation of Caslista Drive that runs by the Post Office would shorten the required length of the new road, link a new low-income housing development (under construction), connect up with the City's new aquatic center (under construction), and require permission from only two land owners;

**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 benefit residents by saving time, fuel cost, and vehicle maintenance cost;

**Dust Control Measures**

**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 addition of a new water truck and sander to augment limited on-hand equipment would enhance the City's Streets and Roads Division personnel ability to apply their experience and expertise to more fully apply dust control measures to the City's streets;

**WHEREAS**, proven dust control measures on City streets include the application of gravel and calcium chloride to road surfaces, and the act of hydroseeding road slopes;

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**WHEREAS**, funding dust control measures in large sum allocations allow the City to purchase gravel and other materials in bulk quantities, saving money and time;

**WHEREAS**, the City has the heavy equipment, trained personnel, and operating costs in its budget to support and maintain the new donut hole road and the dust control measures once employed;

**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 \$6,400,000 in its FY 2014 Capital Budget to fund the Construction of Donut Hole Road and Dust Control Measures project;

<b>#4      Network Wiring and New Telephone System</b>
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**WHEREAS**, the Bethel City Hall building contains multiple generations of wires strung throughout the building, resulting in a patchwork of interties, patch panels, and terminations;

**WHEREAS**, the mass of CAT5 wire above the ceiling in City Hall and in the network equipment room hinders repairs and new installations by City Information Technology personnel, United Utilities, Inc. servicemen, and the telephone repairmen;

**WHEREAS**, the wiring at several City building (e.g., City Hall and Public Works building), has been identified as the cause for slow data transmission and related lower worker productivity;

**WHEREAS**, the City's Information Technology Director recommends the purchase and installation of CAT6 network cable and an Internet Protocol (IP) telephone system in order to save \$3,000 per month in telephone charges or \$36,000 per year;

**WHEREAS**, contemporary network wiring installations adhere to standards, which dictate specific requirements for the type of wiring, outlets, patch panels, and routing parameters;

**WHEREAS**, the new IP telephone system will be easier to maintain than the current system and support modern telephone services, like Caller ID;

**WHEREAS**, after installation of CAT6 network cable, City personnel can expect an experience an increase in transmission efficiency of 30%;

**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 \$265,431 in its FY 2014 Capital Budget to fund the Network Wiring and New Telephone System project;

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**#5 New Animal Control Facility**

**WHEREAS**, the City's leash law that prevents loose dogs from roaming neighborhoods, harming children, and being bitten by rabid foxes is enforced by Bethel Police Department personnel;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel owns and operates the animal control facility and pays community safety officers to collect and care for loose animals;

**WHEREAS**, the City's current animal control building is ill-suited to house animals due to a multitude of reasons, including poor to non-existent ventilation, insufficient and exceptionally cramped kennel space, inadequate sanitation removal capability, rotted flooring, inhumane conditions in general, and is located in an out-of-the-way section of the City that greatly increases the difficulty in providing animal care and fostering animal adoption;

**WHEREAS**, the animal shelter's current six-dog capacity is woefully inadequate relative to the daily demand to house fifteen or more dogs;

**WHEREAS**, the City Manager, Police Chief, and Public Works Director recommend the demolition of the existing "dog pound" and construction of a new, state-of-the-art animal facility;

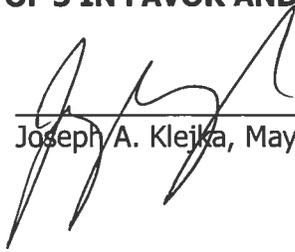
**WHEREAS**, the new animal facility would be constructed on the grounds of the City's new police station in Blueberry Subdivision in order to facilitate: care and feeding of animals, adoption of animals by residents, and time and money savings in animal control operations;

**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 \$426,010 in its FY 2014 Capital Budget to fund the construction of a new Animal Control Facility;

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council, as elected representatives of the community and City of Bethel, hereby set and affirm five projects for the City's FY 2014 State of Alaska Capital Budget funding request as: 1) Sewage Lagoon Rehabilitation and Dredge, 2) Petro Port/Multiuse Expansion and City Dock Repair, 3) Construction of Donut Hole Road and Dust Control Measures, 4) Network Wiring and New Telephone System, and 5) New Animal Control Facility in the amounts indicated herein.

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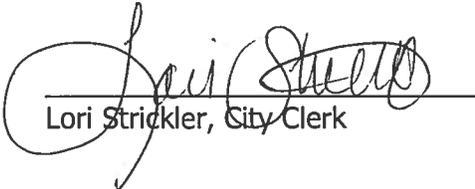
**ENACTED THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2012 BY A VOTE OF 5 IN FAVOR AND 0  
OPPOSED.**



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Joseph A. Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Lori Strickler, City Clerk