

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: November 28, 2017
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 17-20

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2019 STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is proactively pursuing funding strategies with Federal and State agencies, as well as private funding sources;

WHEREAS, the City partners with other entities, such as the local tribe, Orutsararmuit Native Council, to work collaboratively for residents' needs;

WHEREAS, Bethel has had several recent community needs successfully funded by collaborating with Federal, State, and Tribal entities, including the Sewer Lagoon Rehabilitation Project and Water and Sewer truck replacement grants;

WHEREAS, Bethel City sales taxes and Port of Bethel dock and petro port revenues are used to fund the City's operating budget and major maintenance needs;

WHEREAS, in recent years, the City of Bethel raised its water and sewer subscription rate fees to fund capital depreciation and to better meet basic human health and sanitation needs;

WHEREAS, as a hub community for the 30,000 living in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region, the City of Bethel often supports projects and expenditures that benefit tens of thousands of Alaskans who do not reside in City limits;

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:

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Four Five Priorities	Request
1. Road Around H-Marker Lake	\$2,000,000
2. Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System – Phase 2	\$4,500,000
3. Water and Sewer Trucks	\$3,618,098
4. Bethel Heights A & B Loops & New Kilbuck Lift Station	\$17,504,390
5. Bethel Small Boat Harbor Improvements	\$2,500,000
TOTAL	\$25,622,488 \$30,122,488

#1	Road Around H-Marker Lake	\$2,000,000
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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;

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

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 that will connect the public part of Tundra Ridge Road with Ptarmigan Street to complete the circuit again;

WHEREAS, the new road will be designed by the City’s Engineer firm and 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

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response times, less drive time to town, lower fuel cost, and reduced vehicle maintenance cost;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$2,000,000 in its FY 2019 Capital Budget to fund the construction of a Road Around H-Marker Lake.

#2 Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System—Phase 2 \$4,500,000
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WHEREAS, the State of Alaska provided the City of Bethel with \$7,000,000 from the FY 2014 Alaska Capital Budget to fund more than half of the Institutional Corridor Water Delivery System project, which left the City with a shortfall of \$4,500,000;

WHEREAS, the City worked with DOWL engineers to design the project, such that the project now requires less linear feet of pipe at less cost to accomplish the same number of institutional connections;

WHEREAS, once the entire project is completed, the City will receive a net gain from water sales to the institutions and three of the institutions will be able to close their water plants for good, eliminating the hardship of well management and proper water treatment.

#2 3 Water and Sewer Trucks \$3,618,098
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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 buildings 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 old Stirling brand 3,000-gallon size water and sewer trucks, 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 unavailable, the prices are usually very high;

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- 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,** the number of new buildings and planned subdivisions coming online in Bethel is adding pressure to the City's overworked water and sewer trucks to make reliable deliveries;
- WHEREAS,** in July 2017, the Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division of the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, performed a site inspection of the City' water and sewer trucks;
- WHEREAS,** The Division discovered that the City's trucks are overweight and out of compliance when filled to capacity, and have the potential to deteriorate the State Highway and pose a safety risk to City drivers, other motor vehicle operators, and pedestrians;
- WHEREAS,** the City's aged fleet of 3,000-plus-gallon trucks may only carry 2,000 gallons, a 33% reduction, and the City's five new 4,000-gallon trucks may only carry 3,000 gallons, a 25% reduction;
- WHEREAS,** the problem is the way the trucks were configured, with too much weight over the axles;
- WHEREAS,** the City investigated retrofit options and determined that the cost was not worth the end result in light of the fact that the trucks are so outdated;
- WHEREAS,** the City must replace its entire fleet to be able to function at full capacity for the next ten years;
- WHEREAS,** the City has an immediate need for 8 water trucks and 7 sewer trucks;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$3,618,098 in its FY 2019 Capital Budget to fund the purchase of 8 water trucks and 7 sewer trucks for the City;

#34 Bethel Heights A & B Loops & New Kilbuck Lift Station \$17,504,390

Water Loops A & B

WHEREAS, Bethel Heights Water Loops A and B, constructed in 1977, currently serves 250 residential and commercial customers;

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WHEREAS, Outermost Loop A, is approximately 20,700 linear feet, and innermost Loop B, is approximately 10,500 linear feet;

WHEREAS, the steel water pipes are ten years past their 30-year lifespan;

WHEREAS, Engineer studies reveal that interior pipe galvanization has worn off, causing rust to form, sediment to clog the filters of homeowners, air valve blockage, pipes to freeze when clogged, and brown water to be delivered to end users;

WHEREAS, Engineers warned the City not to use its "high demand pump" to facilitate water flow to fire hydrants for fear that the rushing water from its use would cause a blow-out in the weakened pipe;

WHEREAS, the purchase and installation of HDPE pipe to replace Loops A and B would solve the problems identified and last the community 50 years;

Kilbuck Lift Station

WHEREAS, the Kilbuck Lift Station, located on the corner of 5th Avenue and Main Street has exceeded its useful life and must be replaced;

WHEREAS, the City's Utilities Maintenance Division spends a considerable amount of time and money repairing the lift station every year;

WHEREAS, a new lift station will cost approximately \$450,000 and be able to serve residential and commercial customers in "The Avenues" area, when a future piped sewer project is installed in the subdivision;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$17,504,390 in its FY 2019 Capital Budget to fund the purchase of new Water Loops A and B and a new Kilbuck Lift Station;

#-4-5 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 six years;

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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 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;

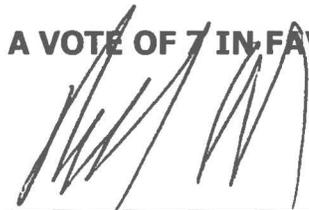
WHEREAS, nearby villagers depend on the Harbor when they travel by boat to Bethel for medical appointments, vocational training, college attendance, conferences/workshops, government services, shopping, employment, air transportation to Anchorage and points beyond, and to visit friends and relatives;

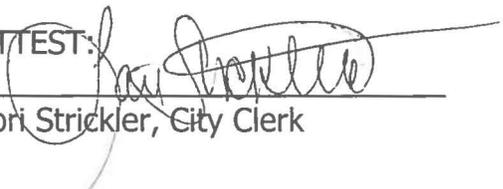
WHEREAS, the Bethel Small Boat Harbor was officially designated a "harbor of refuge" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and provides protection for small boaters from storms, high seas, and other natural hazards;

WHEREAS, great strides have been made to improve the Harbor over the last six years and this project represents the final bank stabilization effort needed to complete the Harbor;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide ~~\$25,622,488~~ \$30,122,488 in its FY 2019 Capital Budget to fund the four priority projects described herein.

ENACTED THIS 28 DAY OF NOVEMBER 2017 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.


Richard Robb, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Lori Strickler, City Clerk