

Introduced by: Pete Williams, City Manager
Date: October 23, 2018
Action: Passed
Vote: 4-1

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 18-16

CITY OF BETHEL PRIORITIES FOR THE FY 2020 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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Five Priorities	Request
1. The Avenues Water and Sewer Improvements	\$8,250,000
2. Bethel Heights Water Loop A	\$9,024,803
3. Dust Control Measures	\$2,000,000
4. City Hall Roof	\$1,468,842
TOTAL	\$20,743,645

#1	The Avenues Water & Sewer Improvements	\$8,250,000
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WHEREAS, Engineer firm DOWL generated a Preliminary Engineering Report and Environmental Report (June 2018) that was approved by USDA Rural Development as a precursor to a grant/loan funding package;

WHEREAS, the Avenues project includes above-ground water and sewer connections to 112 residential and commercial customers and the purchase of six new water haul trucks;

WHEREAS, the water trucks are sorely needed to meet the Alaska Department of Transportation’s axle weight restrictions and allow the City to operate with full capacity water trucks;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel applied to the USDA Rural Development for a grant/loan to cover the cost of constructing the \$13,490,000 water and sewer project in the Avenues;

WHEREAS, the City cannot afford to pay back the proposed \$8,250,000 USDA loan over 40 years and must reduce the loan amount by securing State of Alaska Capital funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$8,250,000 in its FY 2020 Capital Budget to partially fund the Avenues piped water and sewer improvements and purchase of six new water trucks.

#2	Bethel Heights Water Loop A	\$9,024,803
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WHEREAS, Bethel Heights Water Loop A, constructed in 1977, currently serves 150 residential and commercial customers;

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WHEREAS, Loop A is 20,700 linear feet and has more water customer connections than Loop B;

WHEREAS, the galvanized 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, blocked air valves, pipes to freeze when clogged, and brown water to be delivered occasionally 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 Loop A and form Loop C would solve the problems identified for this section of Bethel Heights and last the community 50 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$9,024,803 in its FY 2019 Capital Budget to fund the reconstruction Loop A.

#3	Dust Control Measures	\$2,000,000
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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, purchasing and applying gravel, calcium chloride, and hydroseed to road slopes have proven to be effective dust control measures for Bethel, Alaska;

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 must purchase and apply gravel and other implements in bulk quantities on its subdivision roads, which are currently underserved because the City has had to focus on its 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;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$2,000,000 in its FY 2020 Capital Budget to fund the Dust Control Measures project;

#4	City Hall Roof Replacement	\$1,468,842
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WHEREAS, Architects Alaska came to Bethel, assessed the condition of the City Hall roof, and produced a 19-page Existing Conditions report that recommends its replacement;

WHEREAS, Structural engineers from Architects Alaska determined that the sealants have failed, old roof patches are likely leaking, windows are in poor condition, and documented the heavy water damage to the interior of the building from years of water leaks;

WHEREAS, the current R-value of the roof is 17.18, vastly different from the current energy standard of R-35;

WHEREAS, the total cost to replace the flat City Hall roof with a modern sloped roof is \$1,468,842;

WHEREAS, the City prefers to install a new roof structure that would solve the drainage and pooling problems, bring natural light into the building, and protect walkways and access ramps below by diverting rain, ice, and snow;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Bethel City Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska provide \$1,468,842 in its FY 2020 Capital Budget to fund the construction of a new roof structure for City Hall, Bethel's seat of government;

ENACTED THIS 23rd DAY OF OCTOBER 2018 BY A VOTE OF 4 IN FAVOR AND 1 OPPOSED.


Thor Williams, Vice-Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk