City Council Meeting
City of Bethel, Alaska

Regular Meeting
April 13, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Bethel City Council was held on April 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., in the council chambers, Bethel, Alaska.

Mayor DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following members were present:
City Council Member Rose Henderson (telephonically) City Council Member Conrad McCormick (telephonically) City Council Member Mark Springer (telephonically) City Council Member Alyssa Leary (telephonically) Vice-Mayor Haley Hanson (telephonically) City Council Member Perry Barr (telephonically) Mayor Michelle DeWitt (telephonically)
Members Absent:
Also in attendance were the following:
Interim City Manager Peter Williams (telephonically), City Clerk Lori Strickler (telephonically), City Attorney Libby Bakalar (telephonically)

4. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD – Five minutes per person

Eileen Arnold-Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Proposed that the businesses could choose not to pass the tax onto the consumer.

Ana Hoffman- Spoke in opposition to Ordinance 20-25. Spoke of other factors that lead to tooth decay such as: eating habits, difficulty of accessing dental care, and lack of access to water with fluoride. Listed the multiple taxes that Bethel already has and believes that more tax would not achieve the goals of the ordinance.

Beverly Hoffman- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25 to improve community health and infrastructure. Discouraged the corporate influence from the beverage industry and encouraged the Council to adopt the suggested amendments presented by the Parks, Recreation, Aquatic Health and Safety Center Committee.

Cezary Maczynski - Spoke in opposition to Ordinance 20-25. The question should go to a vote of the people instead of the City Council. Suggested that the tax would disproportionately affect the Alaskan Native population.

Kathy Hanson- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. If passed the revenue would be dedicated to the recreational opportunities for the community residents. Presented information on the effects of consuming sugar sweetened beverages and that reduced consumption will improve the health of our residents.

Rick Robb- Spoke in opposition to Ordinance 20-25. The tax will cost people money, create inflationary pressure, and will affect lower income people the most. Suggested the City has a balanced budget and does not need the additional revenue. Regulating what people eat or drink is not a duty of the City Council.

Ellen Hodges- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25, Communities that have the tax consume less sugar sweetened beverages. The excise tax is paid by the businesses. The City should use polices to limit use of these products and increase recreational opportunities.

Shadi Rabi- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Suggested the excise tax would help improve our community health.

Liz Bates- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Spoke of the detrimental and addictive effect of sugar which mainly affects those with lower income. Spoke in favor of the AM authorizing the purchase of a groomer to increase healthy exercise in the community.

Luz Meenk-The beverage industry is paying large amounts of money to market sugary sweetened beverages to our children, The excise tax has shown to help reduce the amount of sugary sweetened beverages. Spoke in favor of recreational opportunities.

Mary Beth Whalen- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Suggested food and nutrition policies work when small manageable steps are taken.

City Clerk Strickler read the written testimony into the record:

Dane Lenaker- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Spoke of the negative impacts of sugar sweetened beverages and sugar. Listed health problems from tooth decay in our region. Other communities that have implemented this tax have shown positive effects. The city may also need the revenue as State funding may continue to decline in the future.

Eileen Arnold- In support of the partial opening of the fitness center. Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC), in pre-pandemic times, used the facility for the children in shelter, the teens in the Teens Acting Against Violence Group, and as a benefit to the staff. Looks forward to a time when the facility can be fully re-opened, but is grateful for whatever services can be offered in the meantime.

Eric Middlebrook- Ordinance 20-25 is a new tax on people. To have the funds go into Parks and Recreation projects directly, circumvents the city budget process. Tax dedication by ordinance should be discussed on its own merit. The tax should be debated on its own and preferably voted on by the public or an advisory vote.

Henrietta Knight- Spoke in opposition to Ordinance 20-25. Should be put to a vote; not decided by council members.

Josh Anderson- Spoke in opposition to Ordinance 20-25. Small businesses are struggling through COVID times. The ordinance would have a negative impact on the cost of goods, especially in rural areas.

Mark Reynolds- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Spoke of the dental decay of the region and the lifelong negative impacts.

Susan Taylor- Recommended that the Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax be put into the next election to be voted on; the city council should prioritize its time on other issues.

William Eggiman- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Sugary beverages have no nutritional value and negative health effects such as diabetes and tooth decay. Spoke of the detrimental effect of these problems on children in the region. Excise taxes discourage purchase of these products and do not affect sales tax items. Recommends the revenue from the tax could fund health related activities and facilities.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND REGULAR AGENDA

Main Motion: Approval of Consent and Regular Agenda.

Moved by:	Haley Hanson
Seconded by:	Mark Springer
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Remove from Consent Agenda- New Business Item 10.3 Budget Ordinance 20-12(l)-

Mayor DeWitt

6. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Item 6.1. - *3-23-2021 Regular City Council Meeting
Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 6.2. - *3-30-2021 Special City Council Meeting
Passed on the consent agenda.

7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Item 7.1. - Committee/Commission/Board Meeting Minutes And Draft Agendas

Port Commission, Council Member Springer- Nothing to report.

Planning Commission, Vice-Mayor Hanson- Met on April 8th, Reviewed the land lease ordinance with YKHC concerning the PATC building, and the Commission will review the lease at the next meeting on May 13th.

Community Action Grant Technical Review Board, Council Member Barr- Stated the Council will be considering an AM to approve the last quarter grant awards. Encouraged the public to submit grant requests to "Green Up" Bethel.

Parks, Recreation, Aquatic Health and Safety Center Committee, Mayor DeWitt- The Gym feasibility study is starting to happen. Two resolutions will be coming soon to the council: suggested parks names for unnamed parks; and changing the name of the committee to the Community Parks and Recreation Committee. Discussed the Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax, FY2022 budget for contracting recreational services, the Boardwalk project from YKHC to the college, Clean Up Green Up, and a winter access trail with BNC and community volunteers.

Finance Committee, Council Member McCormick- Have not met since the last meeting.

Public Works Committee, Council Member Leary- Have not met since the last meeting.

Public Safety and Transportation Commission, Council Member Henderson- Discussed goals of the body, ideas and recommendations for community involvement for the Fire and Police department, and recruitment. Reviewed an ordinance concerning taxi fees; expects the recommendation at the next meeting. Will hold a special meeting on the 13th to discuss the proposed operating budget for the Fire and Police department.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 9.1. - Public Hearing Of Ordinance 20-25: Creating An Excise Tax On The Distribution Of Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Products (Parks Recreation Aquatic Health And Safety Center Committee)

Mayor DeWitt opened the Public Hearing.

Hugh Dyment- Doesn't have a position on the excise tax itself but suggested the City Council present an advisory vote on the ballot.

Pamela Conrad-Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Would like to prevent diabetes for future generations. Buying a product with an excise tax is the choice of the consumer. Filters to improve the taste of water are easy to obtain. Reducing consumption could also reduce our carbon footprint.

Jim Krieger- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. He provided statistical information to support his position that sugary drink taxes work to address the health impacts and harm caused by sugary drink consumption without raising grocery prices or job loss. The tax could be used to raise money for recreation.

David Hicks- Spoke in opposition to Ordinance 20-25. The tax is something that will affect the surrounding communities and the tax will have no effect on the health and recreation opportunities for these communities. There are other reasons for tooth decay in the region such as: access to fluoridated water, lack of oral hygiene, and inaccessibility of dental care. The tax should be put to the will of the people.

Christy Inman - Spoke in opposition to Ordinance 20-25. The tax should be presented to the voters of Bethel. Spoke of the difficulty of finding soda to sell and other goods at this time. Unfair to tax goods that are difficult to find and it is unfair to tax people who will not be able to use the benefits of the tax. Spoke of the low quality of water in the surrounding communities.

Amber Jones- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Spoke of the harm of sugary drinks which target youth and people with lower incomes. Advocates for education to acknowledge the role Sugar Sweetened Beverages have in our community.

Emily Nenon- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Worked on a tobacco tax excise and found that an increase of price leads to a decrease in consumption. Spoke of cancer and its relationship with obesity. A Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax reduces consumption. Would reduce obesity and future cancer risk for the youth.

Jamie Morgan- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Provided information and statistical information on sugar drinks as they relate to heart health. Spoke of the high rate of consumption of sugary drinks in the area compared to the recommended amount.

Brian Lefferts, as the Chair of the Parks Recreation, Aquatic Health and Safety Center Committee- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Also spoke in favor of the suggested amendments which were passed unanimously by the Committee.

City Clerk Strickler read the written public testimony from:

Gary Decossas- Spoke in opposition to Ordinance 20-25, Provided suggestions for the council to outline their funding goals and establish a sunset for the tax. Raised concerns of the Finance Department's ability to implement the tax.

Victoria Hardwick- Spoke in favor of Ordinance 20-25. Recommended that tax and education be used to lower the amount of tooth decay in the region.

Mayor Dewitt closed the Public Hearing.

Main Motion: Adopt Ordinance 20-25.

Moved by:	Haley Hanson
Seconded by:	Conrad McCormick

Motion to Amend Section 4.17a.010 Definitions to (new language is underlined removed language is stricken):

~~"Beverage for Medical Use" means a beverage suitable for human consumption and manufactured for use as a:~~

~~1. Source of necessary nutrition due to a medical condition, or~~
~~2. For use as an oral rehydration electrolyte solution for infants and children formulated to prevent or treat dehydration due to illness.~~

~~It shall not include drinks commonly referred to as "Sports Drinks" or any other common names that are derivations thereof.~~
"Beverage for Medical Use" means a beverage suitable for human consumption and manufactured for use as an oral nutritional therapy for Persons who cannot absorb or metabolize dietary nutrien from food or beverages, or for use as an oral rehydration electrolyte solution for infants and children formulated to prevent or treat dehydration due to illness.

"Beverage for Medical Use" shall also mean a "medical food" as defined in section 5(b)(3) of the Orphan Drug Act (21 U.S.C. 360ee(b)(3); this Act defines medical food as "a food which is formulated to be consumed or administered externally under the supervision of a physician and which is intended for the specific dietary management of a disease or condition for which distinctive nutritional requirements, based on recognized scientific principles, are established by medical evaluation."

"Beverage for Medical Use" shall not include drinks commonly referred to as "sports drinks" or any other common names that are derivations thereof.

"Bottle" means any closed or sealed container regardless of size or shape, including, without limitation, those made of glass, metal, paper, plastic, or any other material or combination of materials.

"Bottled Sugar-Sweetened Beverage" means any sugar-sweetened beverage in a ~~container~~ bottle that is ready for consumption without further processing, such as, and without limitation, dilution or carbonation.

"Consumer" ~~means a natural person who purchases a sugar-sweetened beverage product in the city for a purpose other than resale in the ordinary course of business.~~

means a Person who purchases a Sugary Drink for consumption and not for sale to another.

"Distributor" ~~means any person who distributes sugar-sweetened beverage products in the city.~~ means any Person, including manufacturers and wholesale dealers, who receives, stores, manufactures, bottles, and/or distributes Bottled Sugary Drinks, Syrups, or Powders, for sale to Retailers doing business in the State, whether or not that Person also sells such products to Consumers.
"Natural Fruit Juice" means the original liquid resulting from the pressing of fruits, or the liquid resulting from the dilution with water of dehydrated natural fruit juice.

"Natural Vegetable Juice" means the original liquid resulting from the pressing of vegetables, or the liquid resulting from the dilution with water of dehydrated natural vegetable juice.

"Non-nutritive Sweetener" means any non-nutritive substance suitable for human consumption that humans perceive as sweet and includes, without limitation, aspartame, acesulfame-K, neotame, saccharin, sucralose, stevia, and other artificial sweeteners. "Non-nutritive Sweetener" excludes Sugars. For purposes of this definition, "non-nutritive" means a substance that contains fewer than 5 calories per serving.

"Person" means any natural person, partnership, cooperative association, limited liability company, corporation, personal representative, receiver, trustee, assignee, or any other legal entity.

"Place of Business" means any place where Sugary Drinks, Syrups, or Powders are manufactured or received for Sale in the State.

"Powder" ~~means any solid mixture, containing one or more caloric sweetener as an ingredient, intended to be used in making, mixing, or compounding a sugar-sweetened beverage by combining the powder with one or more ingredients.~~
means any solid mixture of ingredients used in making, mixing, or compounding Sugary Drinks by mixing the powder with any one or more other ingredients, including without limitation water, ice, Syrup, simple Syrup, fruits, vegetables, fruit juice, vegetable juice, carbonation, or other gas.

~~"Retailer of Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Products" means a person, other than a distributor, manufacturer, or wholesaler who receives, stores, mixes, compounds, or manufactures a sugar-sweetened beverage and sells or otherwise dispenses the sugar-sweetened beverage to the ultimate consumer.~~
"Retailer" means any Person who sells or otherwise dispenses in the State a Sugary Drink to a Consumer whether or not that Person is also a Distributor as defined in this section.

"Sale" means the transfer of title or possession for valuable consideration regardless of the manner by which the transfer is completed.

"Simple Syrup" ~~means a mixture of water and one or more natural or common sweeteners without any additional ingredients.~~ means a liquid mixture of ingredients used in making, mixing, or compounding Sugary Drinks using one or more other ingredients including, without limitation, water, ice, a Powder, simple Syrup, fruits, vegetables, fruit juice, vegetable juice, carbonation, or other gas.

"Sugars" means any monosaccharide or disaccharide nutritive sweetener such as glucose, fructose, lactose, and sucrose. Examples include, without limitation, cane sugar, beet sugar, high-fructose corn syrup, honey, fruit juice concentrate, and other caloric sweeteners. For purposes of this definition, "nutritive" means a substance that contains 5 or more calories per serving.

~~"Sugar-Sweetened Beverage" means any non-alcoholic beverage which contains at least 5 grams of caloric sweetener per 12 fluid ounces.~~

"Sugar-Sweetened Beverage " means any nonalcoholic beverage, carbonated or noncarbonated, which is intended for human consumption and contains any added Sugars. As used in this definition, "nonalcoholic beverage" means any beverage that contains less than one-half of one percent alcohol per volume. The term "Sugary-sweetened beverage" does not include beverages sweetened solely with Non-nutritive Sweeteners; Natural Fruit or Vegetable Juice; Milk; infant formula, Beverages for Medical Use; or Water.

1. "Sugar-Sweetened Beverage" includes all drinks and beverages commonly referred to as "soda," " pop," "cola," "soft drinks," "sports drinks," "energy drinks," "sweetened ice teas," "sweetened coffees," or any other common names that are derivations thereof.

2. "Sugar-Sweetened Beverage" does not include any of the following:
   a. Any beverage in which milk is the primary ingredient, i.e., the ingredient constituting a greater volume of the product than any other;
   b. Any beverage for medical use;
   c. Any liquid sold for use for weight reduction as a meal replacement;
   d. Any product commonly referred to as "infant formula" or "baby formula";
   e. Any alcoholic beverage;
   f. Any beverage consisting of 100 percent natural fruit or vegetable juice with no added caloric sweetener. Natural fruit juice and natural vegetable juice is the original liquid with or without water added resulting from the pressing of fruits or vegetables;
   g. Sweetened medication such as cough syrup, liquid pain relievers, fever reducers and similar products; or
   h. Any product commonly used exclusively to mix with alcohol that may exceed 5 grams or more per serving of caloric sweetener per 12 ounces of fluid that is not a sugar sweetened beverage, including without limitation margarita mix, bloody mary mix, daiquiri mix or similar products.

Moved by:	Conrad McCormick
Seconded by:	Haley Hanson
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	Mark Springer
Results:	Motion Carries

Motion to Amend Section 4.17a.090 Dedication of Revenue (old language is stricken and new language is underlined):

4.17a.090 Dedicated Revenues.

~~A.~~ All revenues collected from the excise tax imposed by this chapter shall be deposited monthly in an interest-bearing account dedicated to the park development fund. ~~and shall be designated for the funding of park and recreational design and development, park maintenance and other recreational opportunities in the City of Bethel.~~

The revenue generated and held in the interest-bearing account shall be allocated to supplement the difference in sales tax revenue and operations revenue to support the operations and maintenance of the YK Fitness Center and planning and construction of YK Fitness Center Phase II. The remaining annual revenue shall be dedicated in the park development fund and shall be designated for the funding of park and recreational design and development, park maintenance, other recreational opportunities, and water projects in the City of Bethel.

Moved by:	Conrad McCormick

Seconded by:	Alyssa Leary
In favor:	Alyssa Leary, Michelle DeWitt, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Mark Springer, Rose Henderson
Results:	Motion Fails

Motion to Amend Section 4.17a.020 Excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverage to strike one cent and insert two cents.

4.17a. 020 Excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages.

A. In addition to any other taxes imposed by the city, the city hereby levies an excise tax of ~~one cent ($0.01)~~ <u>two cents ($0.02)</u> per fluid ounce on the privilege of distributing sugar-sweetened beverage products in the city. The tax is imposed only when the supply, acquisition, delivery or transport is for the ultimate retail sale of the sugar-sweetened beverage products within the city.

Moved by:	Rose Henderson
Seconded by:	Conrad McCormick
In favor:	None
Opposed:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Results:	Motion Fails

Motion to Amend Ordinance 20-25 to insert whereas statements the reference health impacts sugary-sweetened beverage consumption.

<u>**WHEREAS,** sugar-sweetened beverages are leading sources of added sugars in the American diet according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention;</u>

<u>**WHEREAS,** the average American drinks nearly 42 gallons of sweetened beverages a year, the equivalent of 39 pounds of extra sugar, every year;</u>

<u>**WHEREAS,** the CDC states in 2011-2014, 6 in 10 youth and 5 in 10 adults drank a sugar-sweetened beverage on average each day;</u>

<u>**WHEREAS,** a study conducted in 2015 reviewing the association between added sugar intake and dental caries in Yup'ik children using a novel hair biomarker, showed:</u>

- <u>49% of children consumed sugar-sweetened fruit drinks (e.g., Tank, Kool-Aide) 2-3 times per day and 15.7% of the respondents reported consuming sugar-sweetened beverages more than 4 times a day at home;</u>
- <u>Nearly 14% consumed soda 2-3 times per day, 43.1% consumed sodas 1-4 times per week;</u>
- <u>Over 45% consumed 100% juice drinks (e.g., orange, apple, grape) and 65%;</u>

WHEREAS, another study conducted characterizing beverage patters among Alaska Natives living in rural, remote communities found that, sugar-sweetened beverages contribute to more than 75% of beverage intake among Yup'ik youth who on average derive 328 kcals and 83 grams of added sugar from sugar-sweetened beverages;

WHEREAS, according to a study evaluating beverage consumption in an Alaska native village, consisting of 25 adults, 21 adolescents 12-17, 21 children 3-11:

- ·nearly half (46%) of all added sugars consumed by the U.S. population ages 2 and older come from sugary drinks;
- 72% of adults reported consuming sugar sweetened beverages at least once per week and 20% reported daily consumption;
- Sweetened just beverages such as Tank or Kool-aid were consumed most frequently with 100% of adolescents and 76% children reporting some consumption, 38% reported daily consumption;
- Children in the village were more than twice as likely as U.S. children to report ever consuming sweetened juice beverages (76% vs. 34%). as were adults (33% vs. 17%);
- children (29%) and adolescents (52%) in the village were more likely to report ever consuming sports and energy drinks than U.S. children (7%) or adolescents (12%);
- about 23% of Alaska adults and almost 50% of Alaska high school students drink one of more sugary beverages every day;
- 31% of Alaska 3-year-olds drink some amount of sugary beverages every day;

WHEREAS, a review of consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages among adults in rural Alaska finds:

- participants in communities with in-home piped water reported a mean sugar-sweetened beverage consumption frequency of 7.8 times per week while participants in communities without in-home piped water reported a mean frequency of 12.5 times per week;
- participants who lived in a community without in-home piped water reported consuming sugar-sweetened beverage 46% more often than those who lived in a community with in-home piped water;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services found:

- ·overall, 23% of Alaska adults consumed 1 or more sugary drinks daily in 2017, including sugar-sweetened sodas as well as non-carbonated beverages;
- Alaska Native adults (40%) and adults from other races (32%) were more likely to drink 1 or more sugary drinks daily than White adults (18%);
- ·overall, 49% of Alaska high school students consumed a daily average of 1 or more sugary drink servings (glass, bottle or can) in 2019 (such as Gatorade or PowerAde), energy drink (such as Red Bull, Rockstar, or Monster), or another sugar-sweetened beverage (such as lemonade, sweetened tea or coffee drinks, flavored milk, Snapple, or Sunny Delight) with 15% drinking three or more services per day;
- Alaska Native students (58%) were significantly more likely than White students (43%) and those of other races (46%) to consume at least 1 sugary drink a day;

in 2016-2018, 13% of Alaska 3-year-olds drank soda daily, and 28% drank sweetened non-soda drinks daily, one in ten (10%) of Alaska 3-year-olds drank 2 or more cups of sweetened non-soda beverages on a given day;

- ·over one third of 3-year-olds (39%) drank more than 1 cup of 100% fruit juice, and 17% drank less than 1 cup;
- 3-year-old Children of Alaska Native mothers (53%) were significantly more likely than other children to drink any sugary drinks daily, and children of other non-Native race mothers (37%) were also significantly more likely than children of White mothers (19%) to drink any sugary drinks daily
- children in Northern (74%) and Southwest (70%) Alaska were more likely than those in other regions (range: 14% to 28%) to drink any sugary drinks daily;

WHEREAS, the American Heart Association suggests a daily added-sugar limit of no more than 100 calories per day which equates to about **6 teaspoons** or 24 grams of sugar for most women and children under 18, and no more than 150 calories per day which equates to about **9 teaspoons** or 36 grams of sugar for most men;

WHEREAS, drinking one 20-ounce bottle of soda which contains the equivalent of approximately **17 teaspoons of sugar**, results in almost three times the recommended limit of sugar for women and children, and almost twice the recommended limit of sugar for men;

WHEREAS, overconsumption of sugary drinks by people of all ages is associated with weight gain/obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, kidney diseases, non-alcoholic liver disease, took decay and cavities, gout and rheumatoid arthritis;

WHEREAS, in Alaska 32 % among children 6 to 11 years of age, and 65 % among children 12 to 17 years of age;

DIABETES FOCUS

WHEREAS, over the past 30 years, adult diabetes rates have nearly tripled in the United States with 9 percent of adults have diabetes and more than one-third have prediabetes, 14% of the people in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta are diagnosed with diabetes or pre-diabetes;

WHEREAS, over the past 10 years, the number of people diagnosed with prediabetes has almost doubled;

WHEREAS, over the past 10 years, the percentage of teens nationwide that have diabetes or prediabetes has increased from 9 percent to 23 percent;

WHEREAS, by consuming one sugar-sweetened beverage a day increases the risk of developing Type Two Diabetes by 25%;

WHEREAS, one if five people with diabetes are under the age of 45;

WHEREAS, one in three children born today is expected to develop diabetes in their lifetime, if measures are not taken to reduce consumption of sugar sweetened beverages, we are increasing risks for youth in our community to face complications from diabetes such as heart disease, nerve damage, gum infections, kidney disease, hearing impairment, blindness, amputation of toes, feet, or legs, and increased risk of Alzheimer's disease;

WHEREAS, 85% of the people diagnosed with Diabetes in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta experience obesity or excess weight;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Diabetes Coalition Strategic Plan 2020-2025 states:

- as of 2016, 7.5% of adults in Alaska have known diabetes and 11.1% of adults have known prediabetes and more than 100,000 Alaska adults have been diagnosed with diabetes or prediabetes, but more—over 80% are likely at risk and do not know it;
- diabetes is the 8th leading cause of death in Alaska, identified as a cause of death for 3,662 Alaskans between 2007 and 2016 – 889 as the underlying cause of death (i.e., direct cause), and 2,773 as a contributing cause of death;
- in total during 2016, diabetes contributed to the need for services in 70,487 hospital visits – 9,067 of these were inpatient visits, where the person was admitted to a hospital, and 7% indicated diabetes as the primary diagnosis, or reason care was needed;
- more Alaska Native people and Black or African American people have diabetes or prediabetes than Whites in Alaska;

WHEREAS, a review in the International Journal of Circumpolar Health finds evidence indicating that while Alaska Natives have a low prevalence of diabetes compared with other Native Americans, they are experiencing a more rapid rate of increase than other groups;

WHEREAS, the evidence shows three changes have occurred concurrently over the past few decades; an increased proportion of carbohydrate in the diet, increasing prevalence of obesity, and increasing prevalence of diabetes additionally, there is evidence that elements of the traditional diet, specifically frequent seal oil and salmon intake, correlate with a lesser risk of glucose intolerance

OBESITY FOCUS

WHEREAS, there is overweighing evidence linking obesity and the consumption of sweetened beverages, such as soft drinks, energy drinks, sweet teas, and sports drinks and currently the Unites States as a 42%, this marks an increase of 26% since 2008;

WHEREAS, obesity rates have tripled for adolescents and quadrupled for children 6 to 11 years of age;

WHEREAS, an evaluation of risk factors for obesity at age 3 in Alaskan children, including the role of beverage consumption shows:

- ·obesity prevalence among all 3-year olds was 24.9% and among Alaska Native children 42.2%;
- among Alaska Native children, obesity risk was greater among residents of the Northern/Southwest region of the state in comparison with other areas, such as Anchorage (51.6% versus 32.4%; p = 0.04);
- adult obesity prevalence has more than doubled from 13% in 1991 to 31% in 2018, while overweight prevalence has remained relatively consistent;
- between 1991 and 2018, adult obesity prevalence increased among Alaska Native adults (16% to 34%) and White (non-Hispanic) adults (13% to 30%);
- ·overweight/obesity prevalence was not significantly different between any additional race groups, including Black adults (70%), Hispanic adults (70%), Alaska Native adults (67%), and White adults (66%);
- in 2019, about 2% of Alaska high school students were underweight, 68% were at a healthy weight, 15% were overweight, and 15% were obese;
- ·overweight/obesity prevalence was significantly lower among 3-year-old children of White mothers (27%) than among children of Alaska Native / American Indian mothers (57%);

DENTAL FOCUS

WHEREAS, there is evidence that shows a positive relationship between sugar intake and cavities;

GENERAL CLOSING

WHEREAS, drinking one or two sodas a day increases the risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 26 percent, drinking just one soda a day increases an adult's likelihood of being overweight by 27 percent, and for children, the likelihood doubles to 55 percent;

WHEREAS, evidence suggests that sugar sweetened beverage tax can reduce consumption of these harmful products, sugary drink taxes have led to a significant decline in sugary drink consumption in Mexico and Berkeley, CA;

WHEREAS, in 2012, 50,000 deaths were associated with drinking too many sugary drinks. Of that, 40,000 deaths in the U.S. were attributed to heart problems and 10,000 deaths were attributed to type 2 diabetes caused specifically by consuming too many sugary drinks;

WHEREAS, an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages is intended to protect the health, safety and well-being of the people in our community;

Moved by:	Perry Barr
Seconded by:	Alyssa Leary
In favor:	Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Michelle DeWitt, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	Perry Barr, Mark Springer, Rose Henderson
Results:	Motion Carries

Motion to Amend Section 4.17a.020 Excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverage to insert a .0025 per ounce excise tax for sugar-sweetened beverages made from powders.

4.17a. 020 Excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages.

A. In addition to any other taxes imposed by the city, the city hereby levies an excise tax of one cent ($0.01) per fluid ounce on the privilege of distributing sugar-sweetened beverage products in the city. The tax is imposed only when the supply, acquisition, delivery or transport is for the ultimate retail sale of the sugar-sweetened beverage products within the city.

B. For the purposes of this Chapter, the volume, in ounces, of a sugar-sweetened beverage product shall be calculated as follows:

1. For a bottled sugar-sweetened beverage the tax shall be calculated on the volume, in fluid ounces, of sugar-sweetened beverages distributed to any person in the course of business in the city.
2. For sugar-sweetened beverage made from syrups ~~and powders~~ the tax shall be calculated on:
   a. The manufacturer's suggested serving size for the volume of fluid ounces of sugar-sweetened beverages produced from syrup ~~or powder~~ upon the initial distribution of syrup ~~or powder~~; or
   b. If the labeling or packaging does not specify the recommended number of servings per container, the tax shall be calculated using the largest volume of fluid ounces of sugar-sweetened beverages that could be produced from syrup ~~or powder~~ upon the initial distribution of syrup or powder.

3. For sugar-sweetened beverage made from powders the excise tax shall be $.0025 per ounce.

Moved by:	Alyssa Leary
Seconded by:	Perry Barr
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Motion to postpone until the next regular City Council Meeting.

Moved by:	Haley Hanson
Seconded by:	Mark Springer
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose

	Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Motion to take a ten minute break.

Moved by:	Haley Hanson
Seconded by:	Mark Springer
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 9.2. - Public Hearing Of Ordinance 21-12: Authorizing The Acquisition Of Interest In Land For A Utility Easement From Benjamin Kawagley Involving The Bethel Avenues Piped Water And Sewer Project - Phase I (Interim City Manager Williams)

Mayor DeWitt opened the Public Hearing.
No one present to be heard.
Mayor Dewitt closed the Public Hearing.

Main Motion: Adopt Ordinance 21-12.

Moved by:	Rose Henderson
Seconded by:	Alyssa Leary
In favor:	Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick, Perry Barr
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Council Member Barr momentarily departed the meeting due to connectivity issues.

Item 9.3. - Public Hearing Of Budget Ordinance 20-12(k): Amending The City Of Bethel Fiscal Year 2021 Budget- Airport Incentive Program- YK Fitness Center Water Usage- Preliminary Engineering Report And Environmental Assessment (Interim City Manager Williams)

Mayor DeWitt declared a conflict of interest as Executive Director of Bethel Community Services Foundation (BCSF) which is involved with CARES funded *projects.*

Motion to Confirm Mayor DeWitt has a conflict of interest.

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Haley Hanson
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Mayor DeWitt did not participate or vote on this item of business.
Vice- Mayor Hanson presided over this item of business.

Vice-Mayor Hanson opened the Public Hearing.
No one present to be heard.
Vice-Mayor Hanson closed the Public Hearing.

Main Motion: Adopt Budget Ordinance 20-12(k).

Moved by:	Alyssa Leary
Seconded by:	Conrad McCormick
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

10. NEW BUSINESS

Motion to Suspend the rules to extend the meetings past 11:00 p.m.

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Haley Hanson
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.1. - *Introduction Of Ordinance 21-13: Authorizing The Acquisition Of Interest In Land For A Utility Easement From Irvin L. Kreider And Diana S. Kreider, Co-Trustees Of Kreider Revocable Trust Involving The Bethel Avenues Piped Water And Sewer Project - Phase I (Interim City Manager Williams)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.2. - *Introduction Of Ordinance 21-14: Amending Bethel Municipal Code 4.16.160 Sales Tax Exemptions And Limitations (Interim City Manager Williams)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.3. - *Introduction Of Budget Ordinance 20-12(l): Amending The City Of Bethel Fiscal Year 2021 Budget-Water Sewer Study- COVID Food Distribution- Community Action Grant- Bethel Heights Water Treatment Facility- Hauled Refuse (Interim City Manager)

Mayor DeWitt declared a conflict of interest as her place of employment (BSCF) is a potential recipient of funding from the budget modification.

Motion to confirm Mayor DeWitt has a conflict of interest.

Moved by:	Haley Hanson
Seconded by:	Mark Springer
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Mayor DeWitt did not participate or vote on this item of business.
Vice- Mayor Hanson presided over this item of business.

Motion to introduce Budget ordinance 20-12 (l)

Moved by:	Alyssa Leary
Seconded by:	Perry Barr
In favor:	Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.4. - *Resolution 21-07: Authorizing Consulting Services For The City Council To Evaluate And Improve The Investigation, Processing, And Prosecution Of Reported Sexual Assault Cases Within The Criminal Justice System In Bethel (Council Member McCormick)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.5. - AM 21-07: Authorize And Direct City Administration To Issue Checks

Totaling $101,474.93 To Year 4, Quarter 1 Community Action Grant Awardees Based On The Community Action Grant Technical Review Board's (CAGTRB) Work On Scoring Applications And Deciding How Much To Award Each Applicant (Interim City Manager Williams)

Mayor DeWitt declared a conflict of interest as her place of employment (BCSF) has the potential to obtain grant funding from the approval of this agenda item.

Motion to confirm Mayor DeWitt has a conflict of interest.

Moved by:	Perry Barr
Seconded by:	Haley Hanson
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Mayor DeWitt did not participate or vote on this item of business.
Vice- Mayor Hanson presided over this item of business.

Main Motion: Approve AM 21-07.

Moved by:	Rose Henderson
Seconded by:	Alyssa Leary
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Item 10.6. - *IM 21-05: Presentation Of The City's Water And Sewer Services Expenditures Compared To Budget From July 1, 2020 To March 31, 2021 – Utilities Maintenance – Water And Wastewater Activity Report (Interim City Manager Williams)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.7. - *IM 21-06: Transfer Of Funds Over $5,000, Under $12,500 Within The Public Works Department, Hauled Utilities Division (Interim City Manager Williams)

Passed on the consent agenda.

Item 10.8. - *Personal Leave- City Attorney- April 16th and 19th, 2021 (Mayor DeWitt)

Passed on the consent agenda.

11. REPORTS

Item 11.1. - Mayor's Report

Item 11.2. - City Manager's Report

Item 11.3. - Clerk's Report

12. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor DeWitt- Thanked all the people who worked on developing Ordinance 20-25.

Vice-Mayor Hanson-Thanked the many people that participated in the discussion this evening. Explained to the public the need to postpone the consideration of adoption.

Council Member Barr- Thanked the YKHC employees for supporting better heath for our community and region. Thanked all the participants that called in this evening and participated in the public hearing and people to be heard.

Council Member Leary-Thanked everyone from the public that participated in the discussion this evening.

Council Member Springer- Thanked everyone from the public that participated in the discussion this evening. Encouraged everyone to be careful traveling; the ice road is closed. The city roads are rough. Drive slowly and be considerate of other drivers and pedestrians.

Council Member Henderson- Thanked all the drivers that slow down at the puddles when people are walking pass them. Suggested the City include pictures of the parks on the website.

Council Member McCormick-Thanked everyone that reached out to him prior to the meeting and for those that participated in the meeting. Hopes to see more public engagement on other issues. Check your nutritional facts; know what you are consuming.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 13.1. - In Accordance With AS 44.62.310.C(2)- Subjects That Tend To Prejudice The Reputation And Character Of Any Person, Provided The Person May Request A Public Discussion- City Manager Six Month Evaluation (Mayor DeWitt)

No motions made.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Main Motion: Adjournment.

Moved by:	Mark Springer
Seconded by:	Alyssa Leary
In favor:	Perry Barr, Haley Hanson, Alyssa Leary, Mark Springer, Michelle DeWitt, Rose Henderson, Conrad McCormick
Opposed:	None
Results:	Motion Carries

Meeting ended at 11:32 p.m.

Michelle DeWitt
Michelle DeWitt (May 13, 2021 18:50 AKDT)
Michelle DeWitt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler
Lori Strickler, City Clerk

4-13-2021 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report 2021-05-14

Created:	2021-05-14
By:	Lori Strickler (lstrickler@cityofbethel.net)
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