



CITY OF BETHEL
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024, 6:30 PM

LOCATION:

JOIN MEETING AT ZOOM.US:

[HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/3350154000?PWD=HYFLQJB5BBF9IUAXHBN9SOZQAFWPLS.1&OMN=81314125060](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3350154000?pwd=HYFLQJB5BBF9IUAXHBN9SOZQAFWPLS.1&OMN=81314125060)

MEETING ID: 335 015 4000

PASSCODE: 140569

US TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBERS: 888 475 4499; 833 548 0276; 833 548 0282; 877 853 5257

MEMBERS

Joy Anderson, Chair
Melanie Fredericks
Farah Sears
Musa Sailu
John Hastie
Jesslyn Elliot
Mikayla Miller, Council Rep.

STAFF

James Harris, Ex Officio Member
Kelsi Kime, Ex Officio Member
Kkime@cityofbethel.net
907-543-3781

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD – FIVE MINUTES PER PERSON

- A. Please submit written public comments to police@cityofbethel.net by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- A. August 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Consideration of BMC Title 5 Amendment to Allow Transportation Network Companies to Operate in Bethel. (Kelsi Kime)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 24-xx: Supporting Neighborhood Watch Programs (Joy Anderson)
B. Discussion for recommending changes PSTC would like to see concerning public intoxication. (Jesslyn Elliott)
C. Ordinance 24-xx Amending BMC Title 6.04 Dog Impoundment to be brought before City Council (Jesslyn Elliot)

VIII. EX OFFICIO REPORT

Posted <<DATE>> at City Hall, AC Co., Swanson's, and the Post Office.

Ex-Officio Staff

IX. MEMBER COMMENTS

X. ADJOURNMENT

Posted <<DATE>> at City Hall, AC Co., Swanson's, and the Post Office.

Ex-Officio Staff

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2024	Special Meeting	Bethel, Alaska
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I. CALL TO ORDER:

A special Public Safety & Transportation Commission Meeting was held on August 15, 2024 at City Hall. Chair Joy Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

II. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Joy Anderson
Mikayla Miller
Melanie Fredericks
Jesslyn Elliott

Also Present:
James Harris – Chief of Public Safety
Kelsi Kime – Recorder

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOVED BY:	Melanie Fredericks	Motion to approve Agenda.
SECONDED BY:	Mikayla Miller	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED BY:	Mikayla Miller	Motion to approve August 8, 2024 meeting minutes.
SECONDED BY:	Jesslyn Elliott	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM
- B. CONSIDERATION OF BMC TITLE 5 AMMENDMENT TO ALLOW TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES TO OPERATE IN BETHEL
- C. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

VII. NEW BUSSINESS:

- A. DRAFTING A RESOLUTION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM
- B. CANCELATION OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 REGULAR PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

MOVED BY:	Melanie Fredericks	Motion to cancel September 4, 2024 Regular PSTC Meeting
SECONDED BY:	Jesslyn Elliott	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

VIII. EX OFFICIO MEMBER REPORT:

- A. Manager's Report
- B. Inspector's Report

IX. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Joy Anderson: Thank you to everyone in attendance and the work being done.

Mikayla Miller: Potential updates on meeting frequency requirements should not impact on next year's PSTC meetings schedule. Will be absent for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Melanie Fredericks: Welcome James Harris and Kelsi Kime. Thank you for moving Neighborhood Watch Program discussion along.

Jesslyn Elliott: No comment

X. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED BY:	Mikayla Miller	Motion to adjourn.
SECONDED BY:	Jesslyn Elliott	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

APPROVED THIS __ DAY OF _____ 2024.

Joy Anderson,
Commission Chair

Kelsi Kime, Ex Officio
Recorder of Minutes

Introduced by: Joy Anderson
Date: August 20, 2024
Action:
Vote:

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of our community is of utmost importance to the City of Bethel and its residents; and

WHEREAS, every resident has a responsibility to promote the safety and wellbeing of the community; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bethel and the Bethel Police Department desire a close working relationship with Bethel residents in order to promote public safety; and

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Watch Programs are a well-known and widely used method to promote community-oriented safety in other Alaska communities, as well as nationally.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL that the City of Bethel encourages and supports the formation of neighborhood watch programs in various residential areas across the City of Bethel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that City of Bethel residents are encouraged to collaborate with the Bethel Police Department and the City of Bethel to facilitate neighborhood watch programs appropriate to their residential areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the City of Bethel will provide support and resources, at its discretion, to assist in the organization and maintenance of neighborhood watch programs, including access to informational materials, training sessions, and appropriate channels for communication with the City of Bethel and the Bethel Police Department.

Introduced by: Joy Anderson
Date: August 20, 2024
Action:
Vote:

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024, BY A ____ VOTE IN FAVOR AND A ____ VOTE IN OPPOSITION.

Mark Springer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kevin Morgan, City Clerk

Introduced by: Public Safety and
Transportation
Commission

Date:
Public Hearing:
Action:
Vote:

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Ordinance #24-xx

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL AMENDING BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE 6.04.030, ANIMALS, LICENSING AND IMPOUNDMENT, ANIMALS AT LARGE-IMPOUNDMENT AND DESTRUCTION

WHEREAS, the city has identified animal control as a priority and is committed to providing the tools necessary to care for and control animals in conjunction with the animal control shelter run by Bethel Friends of Canines;

WHEREAS, the animal control shelter is encountering problems with aggressive and dangerous dogs that are unsafe to be housed at the shelter for the periods of time currently required by code; and

WHEREAS, in such cases, it is reasonable for the animal control officer to exercise their discretion in reducing some of the periods of time wherein dangerous and aggressive dogs are required to be kept at the shelter prior to destruction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA:

SECTION 1. Classification. This ordinance is permanent in nature and shall be placed in the Bethel Municipal Code.

SECTION 2. Amendment. Bethel Municipal Code 6.04.070030, Animals at large-Impoundment and destruction, and Bethel Municipal Code 6.04.070, Animals, Licensing and Impoundment, Impoundment, are amended. Old language is stricken, and new language is underlined.

6.04.010 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

A. "Animal" means all domestic or domesticated members of the animal kingdom, classes Mammalia and Aves.

B. "Animal at large" means any animal not under the immediate supervision of an owner or agent, or found unsupervised, leashed or unleashed, within the city limits on public streets, walkways, rights-of-way, public parks and playgrounds, or otherwise outside the property of an owner or agent.

C. "Animal control officer" means the chief of police or their designee who shall be responsible for the licensing of animals, rabies control of impounded animals, investigation of animal bites and complaints, maintaining the animal control program and the city animal impoundment center, and the destruction and disposal of animals. The animal control officer may participate in public education efforts concerning animal control and safety.

D. "Animal control shelter" means a city-maintained impoundment with pens for dogs and other animals.

E. "Cat" means any domestic member of the family Felidae, commonly referred to as a cat.

F. "Dangerous Animals" Any animal which, unprovoked, commits an attack upon, harms or kills a person or another domestic animal. A dangerous animal shall also include any mammal for which there is no parental rabies vaccine recognized and licensed for use to protect humans, or other species of animals, from the communicability of rabies.

FG "Dog" means any member of the mammalia family Canidae commonly called dogs, but not fox, wolf or other game species the taking of which is regulated by the state. Any game species kept as a pet must have a valid state permit.

G-H "Frequent or prolonged noise" means:

1. Repeated vocalizing by any animal(s), except an animal in a licensed kennel or a commercial facility for animals, in a sixty- (60-) minute period from the time the

noise begins and that lasts for more than twenty (20) consecutive minutes between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.;

2. Repeated vocalizing by any animal(s) for ten (10) consecutive minutes between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

§ I. "Kennel" means a premises or property where four (4) or more dogs six (6) months of age or older are kept.

6.04.030. Animals at large-Impoundment and destruction.

A. Animals at large may be captured by the animal control officer and be impounded.

B. An animal at large that is reported to be aggressively threatening or intimidating a person shall be captured by the animal control officer. If after the first impoundment the animal is again reported as aggressively threatening or intimidating a person, the animal shall be destroyed.

C. An animal at large that has bitten a person unprovoked shall be impounded in isolation for ten (10) days immediately following the incident and destroyed by the animal control officer.

D. An animal at large that has bitten a person once but after investigation and due consideration has been determined by the animal control officer to have been provoked shall be impounded for ten (10) days immediately following the incident, and either released or be destroyed.

E. An animal at large that has bitten a person a second time, even if provoked, shall be impounded for ten (10) days immediately following the incident then destroyed.

F. The animal control officer may reduce the time periods set forth in this section, if the animal is too dangerous or aggressive to remain in shelter for the full time period or if there are documents proving the animal has been vaccinated for rabies. In such cases, the animal control officer shall document in writing the reasons for deviating from the standard time period.

6.04.070. Impoundment.

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A. Any animal impounded within the city animal control shelter shall be held a minimum of four (4) days unless claimed by the owner. If an animal is not claimed by the fourth (4th) business day the animal may be placed up for adoption, or destroyed at the discretion of the animal control officer.

B. Any impounded animal suspected of having rabies shall be impounded in isolation for a minimum of ten (10) days immediately following the incident.

C. Any animal that has bitten or attacked a human being shall be impounded in isolation for a minimum of ten (10) days immediately following the incident. A city agent shall contact the person who has been bitten on the first day of the animal's impoundment and the final day of its impoundment. The city agent shall inform the bitten victim of subsequent action that will be taken with the animal impounded.

D. The city council shall establish and may periodically adjust an impoundment fee schedule and a destruction fee by noncoded ordinance.

E. No animal shall be released from the animal control shelter until all licensing, impoundment, vaccination and adoption fees are paid.

F. Any person adopting an animal from the animal control shelter shall pay any and all impoundment and vaccination fees in addition to an adoption fee as set by the city council.

G. The animal control officer, ~~may~~ reduce the time periods set forth in this section, if, in the judgment and discretion of the animal control officer the animal is too dangerous or aggressive to remain in shelter for the full time period or if there are documents proving the animal has been vaccinated for rabies. In such cases, the animal control officer shall document in writing the reasons for deviating from the standard time period.

6.04.085 Immediate destruction.

A. If after diligent effort the animal control agent is unable to capture an animal at large, whether licensed or unlicensed, if an animal in the care of animal control meets the definition of dangerous animal, sufficient to place any person in reasonable apprehension of bodily injury, the animal control

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officer may immediately destroy the animal by any means reasonably necessary to protect the immediate health, safety, and welfare of the public. If such a destroyed animal is found to be licensed, the owner shall be promptly notified.

B. Any person wishing to have their animal(s) destroyed by the animal control officer may do so upon payment of fees regulated in the BMC ordinance of fees and charges, accompanied by a waiver to relinquish said animal to the city of Bethel and Bethel police department.

C. Upon delivery of an animal to the animal control shelter when no additional facilities exist for the confining of more animals, the animal control officer may destroy summarily whichever animal has been confined at the animal control shelter for the longest period of time, for purposes of providing a place to confine the newly captured animals. Said summary destruction shall occur notwithstanding the provisions of BMC [6.04.070\(A\)](#) otherwise allowing four (4) days for redemption.

D. Reasonable efforts to notify the owner(s) of a licensed animal will be made prior to destroying said animal.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption by the Bethel City Council.

ENACTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____ 2024, BY A VOTE OF _ IN FAVOR AND _ OPPOSED.

Mark Springer,
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kevin Morgan, City Clerk