



CITY OF BETHEL
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024, 6:30 PM

LOCATION:

JOIN MEETING AT ZOOM.US:
<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	STAFF
Joy Anderson, Chair Melanie Fredericks Musa Sailu John Hastie Jesslyn Elliot Teresa Keller, Council Rep.	James Harris, Ex Officio Member Sophie Poe, Ex Officio Member spoe@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**
- VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. Consideration of BMC Title 5 Amendment to Allow Transportation Network Companies to Operate in Bethel (John Hastie)
 - B. Discussion for Recommending Changes PSTC Would Like to See Concerning Public Intoxication. (Jesslyn Elliott)
 - C. Ordinance 24-xx Amending BMC Title 6.04.03c Draft Approval. (Jesslyn Elliott)
- VII. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Review of BMC 5.30: Taxi Cabs and inspection requirements
- VIII. EX OFFICIO REPORT**
 - A. Ex Officio Reports
- IX. MEMBER COMMENTS**
- X. ADJOURNMENT**

Posted <11/27/2024> at City Hall, AC Co., Swanson’s, and the Post Office.

Ex-Officio Staff

Posted <11/27/2024> at City Hall, AC Co., Swanson's, and the Post Office.

Ex-Officio Staff

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Ordinance #24-xx

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL AMENDING BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE 6.04.070(C), ANIMALS, LICENSING AND IMPOUNDMENT, IMPOUNDMENT

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 commission believes that the adjustment to kenneling fees may have a positive impact on animal owner accountability

Whereas, increasing kenneling fees at the pound will increase revenue for the city

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, that:

SECTION 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Bethel Municipal Code.

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

6.04.070. Impoundment

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

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.

C. Any animal that has bitten or attacked a human being shall be impounded in isolation for a minimum of ten (10) days. 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. 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. [Ord. 23-08 § 2, 2023; Ord. 11-12 § 2; Ord. 01-09 § 6; Ord. 177, 1987.]The city council shall establish and may periodically adjust an impoundment fee schedule and a destruction fee by noncode ordinance.

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

~~F. E. No animal shall be released from the animal control shelter until all licensing, impoundment, vaccination and adoption fees are paid. Upon providing proof of licensing as required by BMC 6.04.050, an impounded animal may be released upon payment of the following fees:~~

(1) Owners of animals will be charged an impound fee of fifty dollars for the first impounding, seventy-five dollars for the second impounding, and one hundred dollars for the third or subsequent impounding(s), within each twenty-four-month period beginning on the date of the first offense or each subsequent offense.

(2) For each day the animal is held at the animal shelter, an additional twenty-five-dollar kenneling fee will apply. This fee shall apply the day the animal is impounded as well as the day it is released.

(a) In addition to payment of the fees set forth in subsection (1) of this section, an owner whose animal is taken into protective custody and for which a finding of cruel or inhumane treatment is made must pay all reasonably incurred costs and expenses associated with taking the animal into protective custody before they may reclaim their animal. Such costs include, but are not limited to, the payment of veterinary costs, medication and other extraordinary costs for care and maintenance of the animal. The owner must also agree to any written release order required under this chapter.

(b) Fees in the section are for the cost of impounding and kenneling and treating the animal and are in addition to any citations issued for conduct leading to impoundment.

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

Rose Henderson,
Mayor

ATTEST:

City of Bethel, Alaska

Ordinance #24-xx__
3 of 4

Introduced by: Public Safety &
Transportation
Commission

Date:
Public
Hearing:
Action:
Vote:

Kevin Morgan, City Clerk

DRAFT



CITY OF BETHEL
OFFICE OF
JAMES C. HARRIS
CHIEF OF PUBLIC SAFETY
harrisjc@cityofbethel.net



November 2024 Monthly Report
Police Department

Personnel:

Current Staffing			
Position	Allocated	Staffed	Vacant
Safety Patrol (three grant funded)	3	3	0
Community Service Officer	2	2	0
Evidence and Record Custodian	1	1	0
Administrative Assistant/Taxi Inspector	1	0	1
Public Safety Dispatcher (one E911 funded)	5	2	3
Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor	1	1	0
Peace Officers (one grant funded/reimbursed SRO)	20	12	8

Operations:

Operations Tempo				
	November 2024	October 2024	October 2023	2024 Total
Calls Total	958	1566	1102	18313
Reports Total	91	179	79	1383
Intoxicated Pedestrian Calls	150	308	189	1816
Driving Under Influence Calls	13	12	7	155
Domestic Violence Reports	9	22	27	285
Disturbance Calls	73	105	93	981
Subject Removal Calls	83	112	85	797
Animal Calls	40	29	27	393
Animal Bite Reports	1	1	0	10
Sexual Assault Reports	4	8	3	42
Death Investigation Reports	0	2	0	12

Dispatch: (907) 543-3781 FAX: (907) 543-5086



CITY OF BETHEL
OFFICE OF
JAMES C. HARRIS
CHIEF OF PUBLIC SAFETY
harrisjc@cityofbethel.net



PERSONNEL:

Evidence Tech Watson and Detective Floyd Attended Crime Scene and evidence collection training. Detective Saulters attended child first training.

Background has been completed on Mr. James Harrington, Certified officer from Indiana, request to hire has been submitted. Mr. Harrington is going to move to bethel to live full time.

Background has begun on Ceaira Preuett, certified officer out of Fairbanks.

Officer Cohen resigned for a job in Sitka, Office Sullivan resigned for a job in West Slope. Lt. Wigner resigned for a job in Montana.

Karen Pitts has been hired as dispatch supervisor, will start work 01/06/2025

Bethel Fire Department October Report

Total Calls: 218

Fire Calls: 22

EMS Calls: 196

Most fire calls were either false alarms or vehicle/house lockouts.

Notable Fire Calls

On 10/09/2024 at 0200 Firefighters responded to a structure fire. All engines responded due to a fully involved single story structure fire. The IC asked for a loader to assist with knocking the building down to smother the flames. The fire is considered undetermined by the investigator due to 5 past structure fires at address and that the building was demolished.

On 10/16/2024 at 13:17 Firefighters responded to BRHS for a report of a fire in the girls bathroom. FF's arrived on scene to find the fire to be extinguished by BRHS staff using extinguishers. Upon further investigation, the investigator found 3 ignitions points and determined the fire to be intentionally started. BRHS security cameras caught only one student entering and exiting the bathroom with smoke following after. After conducting an interview with the student and officer Floyd, the student admitted to starting the fire saying that she was curious.

Notable EMS Calls

Dispatch: (907) 543-3781 FAX: (907) 543-5086



CITY OF BETHEL
OFFICE OF
JAMES C. HARRIS
CHIEF OF PUBLIC SAFETY
harrisjc@cityofbethel.net



On 10/30/2024 at 0058 EMS responded to a report of an intoxicated male with a head wound. EMS found signs of a sever concussion. EMS transported the pt to the hospital.

STAFFING

Career staffing 10 out of 12 positions are filled

Volunteer Staffing 26 Volunteers

Injury's: BFD has one staff member injured and will be out for 3-6 weeks

Bethel Fire department November Report.

Total Calls: 111

Fire Calls: 12

EMS Calls: 99

Most fire calls were lockouts/false alarms.

Notable fire calls:

On 11/04/2024 Engine 5 responded to the report of a propane gas leak inside a residence. E-5 responded to the report, assessing the homeowner and pets of the resident. Firefighters then used the gas detector and monitored the house finding 0.1% of natural gas. Firefighters then opened the windows and assessed the air until the gas monitor detected 0.0% of natural gas. Firefighters was instructed to ventilate the house if the smell of gas persisted.

On 11/25/2024 Truck 1 responded to a vehicle collision at the intersection of Swansons. The pt did not need extrication but was assessed by medics. Pt refused transportation and was brought to the ER by a relative.

Notable EMS calls:

On 11/07/2024 M-5 responded to a vehicle vs pedestrian accident. A volunteer was already on scene giving chest compressions when M-5 arrived. Ventilations were given via Bag Valve Mask. The lucas device was attempted to be used, complications due to the size of the pt prevented usage. Defib pads were applied to the pt's chest, The rhythm that was found was Asystole. Pt's injuries were severe.

On 11/17/2025 M-5 responded to a call for a pt in cardiac arrest. Chest compressions were initiated by law enforcement. EMS used a BVM to deliver breaths. The pt was too large for the Lucas Device.

Career Staff: Lt warren put in a resignation letter and will be departing BFD in December after 3 years of service. Staff member EMT Beha also confirmed that he will be departing BFD in the month of December.

Volunteer: 26 members

Injuries: Cpt. Haviland has been cleared to return to work Dec. 3, 2024.

Transportation Inspector Report

Activity	2024	August	September	October	November	
	New Chauffeurs	none	none	4	2	
	Chauffeur Renewals	3	1	8	0	
	Chauffeur Transfers	0	0	0	0	
	Vehicle Permit Renewals	0	0	36	0	
	Vehicle Transfers	1	0	1	0	
	Inspections	0	0	36	2	
	Revocations	0	0	0	0	
	Temporary Permits	0	0	0	0	
Date	Cab	Chauffeur Name	Reporting Party	Complaint	Action Taken	Date/Time
11/12/2024	#2	Won Geu Jang	Joann Waska	minor cab accident - reporting party requesting "compensation"	Kelsi met with chauffuer to discuss the complaint as well as view any video footage from the incident. It was apparent that the video footage for this incident, and quite some time prior to the accident, was not recorded. A warning was issued to Won Geu Jang, as he does not have any prior offenses in his file	11/13/2024
				Camera not working properly	Chief Harris met with the chauffeur and gave a verbal warning. Chauffeur provided proof that cameras are working and in compliance with city ordinance	11/17/2024