



CITY OF BETHEL
PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025, 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
Musa Sailu
John Hastie
Jesslyn Elliot
Teresa Keller, Council Rep.

STAFF

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

- A. Lack of Quorum 12/4/2024

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Consideration of BMC Title 5 Amendment to allow transportation network companies to operate in Bethel. (John Hastie)
B. Discussion recommending changes PSTC would like to see considering 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. (John Hastie)
B. 2025 PSTC goals/tasks
C. 2025 Meeting Dates
D. Election of Chair, Vice Chair for 2025

Posted <12/26/2024> at City Hall, AC Co., Swanson's, and the Post Office.

Ex-Officio Staff

- E. Discussion about On Patrol: Live. (Lori Strickler)

VIII. EX OFFICIO REPORT

- A. Ex Officio Reports

IX. MEMBER COMMENTS

X. ADJOURNMENT

Posted <12/26/2024> at City Hall, AC Co., Swanson's, and the Post Office.

Ex-Officio Staff

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2024

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular Public Safety & Transportation Meeting was held on December 4, 2024.

II. ROLL CALL:

The following members were present for Roll Call:

Musa Saliu

John Hastie

Jessilyn Elliott

Absent:

Teresa Keller

Joy Anderson

Melanie Fredericks

Also Present:

James Harris

Sophie Poe

A meeting was not held due to a lack of a quorum.

Joy Anderson
Commission Chair

Sophie Poe
Recorder of Minutes

8.35.400 Consuming alcoholic beverage in public place.

- A. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly consume any alcoholic beverage when the person is:
 - 1. On, in or upon any public place, except as permitted by ordinance, regulation, statute or permit; or
 - 2. Outdoors on property adjacent to a public place, and without consent of the owner or person in control thereof.
- B. For purposes of this section, "public place" means a place to which the public or a substantial group of persons has access and includes, but is not limited to, streets, highways, sidewalks, alleys, transportation facilities, parking areas, convention centers, sports arenas, schools, places of business or amusement, shopping centers, malls, parks, playgrounds, and hallways, lobbies, doorways and other portions of apartment houses and hotels not constituting rooms or apartments designed for actual residence.
- C. This section shall not apply where consumption is authorized by a state permit or license, or authorized by a municipal permit or lease.
- D. Violation of this section is a minor offense punishable as set forth in the minor offenses fine schedule.

(AO No. 2014-42, § 4, 6-21-14)

8.35.410 Intoxicated persons on roadway.

- A. It is unlawful for any person to be upon any public street, road, or highway while intoxicated in such a manner as to be hazardous to motor vehicle traffic.
- B. Violation of this section is a minor offense punishable as set forth in the minor offenses fine schedule.

(AO No. 2014-42, § 4, 6-21-14)

Introduced by: Public Safety & 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 6.04.070(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

Article IV. Public Safety and Transportation Commission

2.60.120 Establishment of the public safety and transportation commission.

There is established a public safety and transportation commission (PSTC). The PSTC shall act as the regulating body for taxicabs, river taxis, buses, limousines or airport limousines, chauffeurs and dispatch services in accordance with this chapter, Chapters [5.20](#) through [5.50](#) BMC and other applicable law. [Ord. 21-20 § 4, 2021.]

2.60.130 Public safety and transportation commission powers and duties.

A. The public safety and transportation commission shall:

1. Review and make recommendations to the council on the adoption of and changes to taxicabs, river taxis, buses, limousines or airport limousines, chauffeurs and dispatch services operations in accordance with Chapters [5.20](#) through [5.50](#) BMC and other applicable laws.
2. Monitor and provide recommendation to the council on the operations, management, regulations, and control of the city's public and private ground transportation facilities in accordance with Chapters [5.20](#) through [5.50](#) BMC, and other applicable laws.
3. Recommend to council the adoption of maximum rates and may recommend the establishment of minimum rates to be charged for services provided by regulated vehicles as defined under BMC [5.20.010](#).
4. Hear appeals from a decision of the transportation inspector.
5. Review citizen complaints against chauffeurs of regulated vehicles or against the condition of a regulated vehicle.
6. Hold at least one (1) public hearing annually to investigate the quality of services rendered by regulated vehicles, permittees, chauffeurs, and dispatch services.
7. Collect, process, and adjudicate complaints against chauffeurs of regulated vehicles.
8. Review and make recommendations to the council on progress toward achieving goals set forth in the city's comprehensive plan as they relate to public safety and transportation.
9. Review and make recommendations to the council on the development of transportation systems, transportation codes, traffic movement, road repair, and walking paths.
10. Provide a forum for public comment and input regarding public transportation and public safety.

11. Perform such other duties and functions as are provided for in Chapter [5.20](#) through [5.50](#) BMC and other provisions of this code or as may be referred by the city council.
- B. The public safety and transportation commission may make recommendations to council on:
1. Existing or proposed federal, state, and city issues relevant to public safety and transportation.
 2. Necessary or proposed public improvements and the prioritization of the projects in the city's annual and long-term capital improvement programs related to public safety and transportation.
 3. The annual police department and fire department budget and work program. [Ord. 21-20 § 4, 2021.]

The Bethel Municipal Code is current through Ordinance 24-15, passed November 12, 2024.

Disclaimer: The city clerk's office has the official version of the Bethel Municipal Code. Users should contact the city clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

City Website: www.cityofbethel.org

[Hosted by General Code.](#)

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

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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, Officer 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 ignition 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

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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
New Chauffeurs	none	none	4
Chauffeur Renewals	3	1	8
Chauffeur Transfers	0	0	0
Vehicle Permit Renewals	0	0	36
Vehicle Transfers	1	0	1
Inspections	0	0	36
Revocations	0	0	0
Temporary Permits	0	0	0

Date	Cab	Chauffeur	Reporting Party	Complaint	Action Taken	Date/Time
10/2/2024	Kusko #7	Vulnet Adili		RP STATED THAT SHE WAS YELLED AT BY KUSKO CAB 7. CAB HAD PARKED IN THE WATER. WHILE SHE WAS GETTING OUT OF THE CAB SHE ACCIDENTALLY SLAMMED THE DOOR, CAB DRIVER YELLED AT HER AND SAID TO WALK IN THE WATER NEXT TIME EVEN IF THERES WATER.	Mus was informed, who then had a conversation with Vulnet, who indicated that the passenger was highly intoxicated and everything was done (to the best of the driver's ability) to maintain professionalism given the situation.	10/2/2024
10/2/2024	Kusko #5	Hea Min		RP STATED KUSKO CAB 5 WAS BLOCKING TRAFFIC AT AC MAIN. SAID THAT KUSKO CAB DRIVER WENT UP TO HIM AND ASKED FOR HIS NUMBER AND LICENSE PLATE NUMBER. PICKED UP PASSENGERS AND LEFT WHILE HE MADE THE REPORT, WANTED TO FILE FOR A COMPLAINT	Musa was informed. He indicated that all Kusko drivers are encouraged to be careful and follow traffic laws.	10/2/2024
10/31/2024	Kusko #9	Linda Son		[Reporting Party] reporting that she has an issue with Kusko Cab driver. She was saying how he was arguing and hollered at her this morning while bringing her to her destination about what happened a year ago. He was upset that her outside light wasn't on and brought up that he was still mad at her for that. Her landlord was the one who was supposed to fix the issue.	Musa was informed. Driver was encouraged keep all disputes with individuals outside of working/driving hours. Personal grievances impact professionalism in the industry so Musa advised Linda on the situation.	11/1/2024

Public Safety & Transportation Commission Attendance 2024

Regular Meetings

Member Name	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Joy Anderson, Chair								P		P	A	
Melanie Fredericks								A		A	A	
Farah Sears								A		A		
Musa Saliu								A		P	P	
Jesslyn Elliott								P		P	P	
John Hastie								A		P	P	
Mikayla Miller								P				
Teresa Keller										P	A	

Special Meetings

Member Name	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Joy Anderson, Chair								P				
Melanie Fredericks								P				
Farah Sears								A				
Musa Saliu								A				
Jesslyn Elliott								P				
John Hastie								A				
Mikayla Miller								P				
Teresa Keller												

Vacancy shall be declared by the body when a member:

Fails to attend 3 regular meetings without being excused by the body
 Fails to attend 3 special meetings without being excused by the body
 Fails to attend 65% of regular meetings
 Fails to attend 65% of special meetings.

P=Present
E=Excused
U=Unexcused

Chair determines excused/unexcused during roll call. If a member disagrees with the the chair, a motion to overule the decision of the chair can be made.

A = Absent (Undetermined Excused or Not)