

CITY OF BETHEL

City Council Meeting Agenda, October 20, 2025 – 6:00 PM

Website: <https://www.cityofbethel.org/council>

Location: Council Chambers, City Hall, 300 Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway, Bethel

Council Members: Mayor Rose Henderson, Vice-Mayor Teresa Keller, Mark Springer, Alicia Miner, Pamela Conrad, Kelsi Kime, Greg Schiedler



Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4888456188?pwd=bkN1dGl4MHpGZ1kwOUVYWU5kd0xhZz09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 488 845 6188

Zoom Meeting Passcode: 13871

Zoom Meeting Conference Line Numbers: 833 548 0276 US Toll-free

833 548 0282 US Toll-free

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD – FIVE MINUTES PER PERSON

- 4.1. *Written Public Comments can be submitted by opening your phone camera and hovering over this URL code. The link to the submission form will appear. You may also go to www.cityofbethel.org. Written public comment must be submitted 24 hours before the meeting.*



5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1. a) Election Of The Mayor
b) Election Of The Vice-Mayor
c) Appointment Of Committee/Commission Council Representatives
1. Council Committees And Commissions
a. Planning Commission
b. Finance Committee
c. Public Safety And Transportation Commission
d. Port Commission
e. Public Works Committee
f. Community Parks And Recreation Committee
g. Community Action Grant Committee
2. Yuut Elitnaurviat
- 7.2. Public Hearing Of Emergency Ordinance #25-18: An Emergency Ordinance By The Bethel City Council Finding The Existence Of A Local Disaster Emergency Related To Damage From Hurricane Force-Winds And Flooding Caused By The Remnants Of Typhoon Halong (City Manager)

Posted October 15, 2025 Reposted October 16, 2025 at AC Co., Swanson's, City Hall, and the Post Office.

Kevin Morgan, City Clerk's Office

City Clerk's Office Contact Information: Email cityclerk@cityofbethel.net Phone 907-543-1384

Items noted with an asterisk (*) are consent agenda items, unless removed from the consent agenda they are approved upon the approval of the agenda. Ordinances introduced at this meeting may be set for public hearing at the next regular meeting.

The Council may by unanimous consent, after 12:00 AM Fix the Time to Which To Adjourn until the following day at 6:30 PM

- 7.3. *Introduction Of Ordinance #25-08(c) An Ordinance By The Bethel City Council Amending The Adopted Annual Operating Budget For Fiscal Year 2026, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 (City Manager Strickler)

8. ADJOURNMENT

Posted October 15, 2025 Reposted October 16, 2025 at AC Co., Swanson's, City Hall, and the Post Office.

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City of Bethel, Alaska

City Clerk's Office

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council Members
FROM: Kevin Morgan
DATE: October 16, 2025
SUBJECT: Election of Mayor and Vice-Mayor

At the Special City Council Meeting on October 20, 2025, the election of Mayor and Vice-Mayor will be on the Agenda.

The Mayor is the ceremonial head of the city and shall preside at meetings of the council, sign all ordinances and resolutions passed by the council and execute deeds and other documents on behalf of the city, when authorized by the council.

The Vice-Mayor shall have the powers and perform the duties of the Mayor during their absence from the city or from a temporary disability of the mayor.

The council will meet on the first Monday after certification of the regular election (October 20th at 6pm) and elect from among its members a Mayor and a Vice-Mayor who shall take office immediately. Since this vote concerns the Council Organizing itself, it is one of the few times that the council will vote by a secret ballot.

Process:

- 1) There will be a motion to open nominations for Mayor, that will be moved and seconded and voted on.
- 2) Council Members may then nominate candidates for Mayor.
- 3) Once all Nominations have been made, there will be a motion to close the nominations that will be moved and seconded and voted on.
- 4) The Clerk will then distribute ballots to the Members to select their choice.
- 5) The Clerk will collect the ballots, and publicly read the vote results (it will be a secret ballot and the Clerk will not state the name of the voter)
- 6) If a candidate receives a majority of the votes (minimum of 4 votes, due to quorum requirements) that Member will be elected Mayor and will preside over the rest of the meeting.
- 7) If no candidate receives a majority (with a minimum of 4 votes) the Clerk will distribute ballots for another round of voting.
- 8) This will continue until a Mayor is elected.

The process to elect the Vice-Mayor will use the same process.

The term of the Mayor expires upon the election of a new Mayor or the swearing in of the newly elected councilmember who replaces the councilmember who is the Mayor. The Mayor may serve only while a member of the council regardless of the term established for the office of Mayor.

The term of the Vice-Mayor expires in the same manner as provided for the Mayor.

After the election of the Mayor and Vice-Mayor, the Mayor shall appoint councilmembers to council committees/commissions and appoint councilmembers to standing committees. Appointees to council committees serve at the pleasure of the council. The term of a council committee member will expire annually upon the election of the Mayor.

The Code provisions which govern this process can be found in Bethel Municipal Code 2.04 <https://bethel.municipal.codes/BMC/2.04>

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Ordinance #25-18

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL FINDING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY RELATED TO DAMAGE FROM HURRICANE FORCE-WINDS AND FLOODING CAUSED BY THE REMNANTS OF TYPHOON HALONG

WHEREAS, pursuant to AS 26.23.140, the City Manager issued a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency on October 14, 2025 related to damage from hurricane-force winds and flooding caused by the remnants of Typhoon Halong that impacted Bethel and the surrounding villages of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta on or about October 12, 2025, consistent with all powers and duties conferred to them under the Bethel Municipal Code, Title 29 of the Alaska Statutes, and other State and Federal Law;

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2025, Governor Dunleavy amended and updated his emergency declaration of October 9, 2025, to include all areas impacted by Typhoon Halong;

WHEREAS, the impact of the high winds and flooding on the City and surrounding communities meets the definition of "disaster" set forth in AS 26.23.900(2)(A);

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council concurs with all statements and findings in the above-referenced Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency and seeks to fully incorporate it by reference into this Emergency Ordinance as Appendix A;

WHEREAS, under AS 29.25.030, "to meet a public emergency," the Bethel City Council "may adopt an emergency ordinance effective upon adoption," provided such ordinance contains a finding by the Council that an emergency exists and may be adopted, amended and adopted, or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced; and

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council seeks to exercise the maximum degree of local authority available to the City in order to contain and mitigate the impact of winds and flooding in the City of Bethel and its surrounding communities.

Introduced by: City Manager Strickler

Introduction Date/Adoption Date in Accordance with AS 29.25.030: October 20, 2025

Action:

Vote:

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

Section 1. Finding of Local Disaster Emergency. The Bethel City Council hereby adopts and incorporates by reference the City Manager Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency, dated October 14, 2025 and attached hereto as Appendix A; finds and affirms that a Local Disaster Emergency exists within the City of Bethel; and confers all powers on the City Manager described in the Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency dated October 14, 2025 and not otherwise prohibited by State or Federal law. A copy of this Emergency Ordinance and Appendix A shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Specific Findings for the City of Bethel – Typhoon Halong Event (October 2025)

Observed Impacts and Damages:

- Roof panels and building siding were blown off or detached from multiple structures.
- Public street and agency signs were blown down or broken.
- Electrical lines were damaged or downed, and several utility poles shifted from their original positions.
- All-terrain vehicles and boats were rendered inoperable or displaced by floodwaters.
- Small outbuildings, including outhouses and smokehouses, were moved from their foundations.
- High-water areas show evidence of displaced fuel and oil drums and accumulation of debris, posing environmental and safety hazards.
- One house was moved from its foundation.

City of Bethel Response Actions:

- Relunched boats that were displaced onto land and detached from floats.
- Implemented multiple road closures and initiated emergency repairs to sections impacted by washouts.
- City crews assisted with the barge incident at Brown's Slough Bridge to prevent further infrastructure damage.
- Clean-up crews were deployed to City Dock, Beach One and Two, Main Street, East Avenue, South Harbor Road, North Harbor Road, and Hangar Lake Road to remove debris of various sizes.

Introduced by: City Manager Strickler

Introduction Date/Adoption Date in Accordance with AS 29.25.030: October 20, 2025

Action:

Vote:

- Public Safety personnel and community volunteers coordinated with the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) to respond to downed power lines and electrical hazards.
- Committed to providing discounted water and sewer services to Bethel residents who are sheltering displaced families or friends.
- Continues to support regional response efforts, including assistance with transportation, public facility access for people and supplies, and other emergent and evolving community needs.

Section 2. Request for State and Federal Funding Assistance. The Bethel City Council requests that the Governor of Alaska provide such State assistance as may be available to meet the ongoing emergency created by the remnants of Typhoon Halong and to request additional assistance from federal agencies where state capability is not adequate.

Section 3. Civil Immunity Asserted. In adopting and enforcing this ordinance, the City and its agents, officers, and employees assert and maintain all immunities and indemnifications provided for under AS 09.65.070, BMC 2.48, and any other immunities or indemnifications available in law or equity.

Section 4. Effective Date. Consistent with AS 29.35.030(c), this Emergency Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Bethel City Council and shall remain in effect for sixty (60) days, or until the wind and flooding is no longer declared a State emergency, whichever occurs first. The Council may meet in sixty (60) days to assess the status of the emergency and consider renewing this Emergency Ordinance, as necessary and appropriate, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Section 5. Classification. This ordinance is not permanent in nature and is a non-codified ordinance that shall not become part of the Bethel Municipal Code.

ENACTED THIS [REDACTED] DAY OF [REDACTED] BY A VOTE OF [REDACTED] IN FAVOR AND [REDACTED] OPPOSED.

Rose Henderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kevin Morgan, City Clerk

Ordinance #25-18
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CITY OF BETHEL



DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO TYPHOON HALONG AND REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, on or about October 12, 2025, the remnants of Typhoon Halong caused severe wind and flood damage throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, bringing hurricane force winds and high flood waters;

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2025, Governor Dunleavy issued an amended state emergency disaster declaration related to the storm;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel ("City") is a political subdivision outside the organized borough with a population of approximately 6,500 people located in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta ("YK Delta"), an area with a population of approximately 25,000 people, and is the hub community for the YK Delta;

WHEREAS, neither the City nor any community in the YK Delta is connected to the State of Alaska road system and there are no direct flights to the Lower 48 States to or from Bethel;

WHEREAS, many areas of the YK Delta have been devastated by wind and flooding caused by Typhoon Halong, and Bethel is a hub community out of which many emergency response operations are being based;

WHEREAS, the City has already made the following observations and taken the following actions related to the storm:

Observed Impacts and Damages:

- Roof panels and building siding were blown off or detached from multiple structures.
- Public street and agency signs were blown down or broken.
- Electrical lines were damaged or downed, and several utility poles shifted from their original positions.
- All-terrain vehicles and boats were rendered inoperable or displaced by floodwaters.
- Small outbuildings, including outhouses and smokehouses, were moved from their foundations.
- High-water areas show evidence of displaced fuel and oil drums and accumulation of debris, posing environmental and safety hazards.
- One house was moved from its foundation.

City of Bethel Response Actions:

- Relaunched boats that were displaced onto land and detached from floats.
- Implemented multiple road closures and initiated emergency repairs to sections impacted by washouts.
- City crews assisted with the barge incident at Brown's Slough Bridge to prevent further infrastructure damage.

- Clean-up crews were deployed to City Dock, Beach One and Two, Main Street, East Avenue, South Harbor Road, North Harbor Road, and Hangar Lake Road to remove debris of various sizes.
- Public Safety personnel and community volunteers coordinated with the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) to respond to downed power lines and electrical hazards.
- Committed to providing discounted water and sewer services to Bethel residents who are sheltering displaced families or friends.
- Continue to support regional response efforts, including assistance with transportation, public facility access for people and supplies, and other emergent and evolving community needs.

WHEREAS, Typhoon Halong poses a grave threat to the health, safety, order, and welfare to the residents and visitors of the City and YK Delta;

WHEREAS, the impacts of Typhoon Halong have the potential to cause death or injury to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the health, safety, order, and welfare of people in the City and surrounding communities;

WHEREAS, it is essential to implement local emergency powers given the potential ability of the storm to cause death or injury to people, necessitating measures to protect the public health, safety, order, and welfare;

WHEREAS, without emergency powers available, City infrastructure and resources will likely be insufficient to cope with the impacts of Typhoon Halong on the health, safety, order, and welfare of the City's residents and visitors;

WHEREAS, in order to contain damage that may be caused by Typhoon Halong, State and Federal Assistance is needed to supplement local efforts to respond to this disaster;

WHEREAS, the City Manager may declare a local emergency;

WHEREAS, the City Manager deems it necessary to declare a local emergency at this time to protect the health, safety, order, and welfare of the residents and visitors to the City;

WHEREAS, the City Manager requests State assistance to the City in its response to Typhoon Halong, including assistance for fire protection, law enforcement, and the provision of other funds, services, functions, supplies, or materials determined by the City Manager, in consultation with local emergency agencies, to be necessary to meet the public safety and welfare needs arising from or incidental to Typhoon Halong and to recover from the damage caused;

WHEREAS, to the extent not otherwise prohibited by law, the City Manager seeks to cooperate with the State and Federal government with respect to any State or Federal orders, directives, mandates, or guidelines issued for the purpose of mitigating the impacts of Typhoon Halong, while exercising the maximum authority available under the Bethel Municipal Code for these purposes;

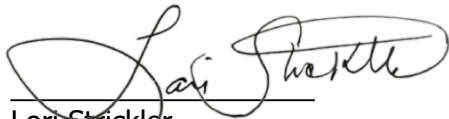
WHEREAS, the provisions of BMC chapter 4.20 related to purchasing may be suspended as provided under BMC 4.20.180 for the purchase of supplies, services, and items during and for

the purpose of addressing a wind and flood emergency;

WHEREAS, all resources of the City government, including City personnel, should be made available as necessary to deal with the emergency, and City departments, agencies, and/or personnel may be transferred or altered in function for the purpose of performing or facilitating performance of services in response to this emergency; and

WHEREAS, this declaration of local emergency shall remain in effect for sixty days or until the storm is no longer declared a State emergency, whichever occurs first.

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Bethel City Manager hereby declares a Local Disaster Emergency and asks the Council to adopt an Emergency Ordinance incorporating by reference the foregoing Declaration, and empowering the City Manager to act in all necessary manners to protect the safety, order, health, and welfare of those in Bethel and surrounding communities, and to seek all necessary available funding as described herein.



Lori Strickler
City Manager

Introduced by: City Manager Strickler
Introduction Date: October 20, 2025
Public Hearing: October 28, 2025
Action:
Vote:

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

ORDINANCE #25-08 (c)

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE ADOPTED ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, JULY 1, 2025-JUNE 30, 2026 TO ALLOCATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, pursuant to AS 26.23.140, the City Manager issued a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency on October 14, 2025 related to damage from hurricane-force winds and flooding caused by the remnants of Typhoon Halong that impacted Bethel and the surrounding villages of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta on or about October 12, 2025, consistent with all powers and duties conferred to them under the Bethel Municipal Code, Title 29 of the Alaska Statutes, and other State and Federal Law;

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2025, Governor Dunleavy amended and updated his emergency declaration of October 9, 2025, to include all areas impacted by Typhoon Halong;

WHEREAS, the impact of the high winds and flooding on the City and surrounding communities meets the definition of "disaster" set forth in AS 26.23.900(2)(A);

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council concurs with all statements and findings in the above-referenced Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency and seeks to fully incorporate it by reference into this Ordinance as Appendix A;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council seeks to exercise the maximum degree of local authority available to the City in order to contain and mitigate the impact of winds and flooding in the City of Bethel and its surrounding communities.

Whereas, the City is incurring expenses responding to the needs of its' citizens and those of surrounding communities as a result of the October storm;

Whereas, the City is in contact with the State of Alaska's Office of Emergency Management concerning local responsibility and reimbursement of expenses incurred related to the October storm;

Whereas, \$250,000 will be coming out of the city’s expected revenue over expenditures from the FY26 General Fund operating balance but eligible expenses will be reimburse by recovery funding;

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, as follows:

SECTION 1. Classification. This is a noncodified ordinance amending the City of Bethel Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

SECTION 2. Amendment. The adopted FY26 Annual Operating Budget is amended as follows:

Administration Department				
Line Item	Description	Approved Appropriations	Proposed Amendment	Proposed Total Appropriations
100-51-6315	Emergency Response	\$0.00	\$250,000	\$250,000
FY26 General Fund Operating	Revenues over Expenditures	\$1,499,737	(\$250,000)	\$1,249,737

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon passage by the Bethel City Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA, that the Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget modifications are adopted for a period of one year, from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

ENACTED THIS 20 DAY OF OCTOBER 2025, BY A VOTE OF X IN FAVOR AND X OPPOSED.

Rose Henderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kevin Morgan, City Clerk