

Introduced by: Peter A. Williams, Interim City Manager
Introduction Date: November 10, 2020
Public Hearing Date: November 24, 2020
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Ordinance #20-35

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL AMENDING CHAPTER 4.04.080 OF THE BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE, BUDGET—CONTROL

WHEREAS, the City's annual budget is an estimate of planned expenditures in the form of line items that rarely conform to the exact amount needed or spent during a fiscal year;

WHEREAS, the current purchasing arena in western Alaska includes many variables that make budget figures impossible to predict accurately in advance, including inflation, shipping costs, and supply and demand factors associated with world events;

WHEREAS, Bethel Municipal Code requires the City Manager to prepare and submit a supplemental appropriation request (budget modification) to City Council for the transfer of more than \$5,000 in any one line item;

WHEREAS, in the past few years, several City Council members have expressed public consternation and dissatisfaction with the budget modification process and criticized City Administration for the number of budget modification ordinances brought to Council throughout the year;

WHEREAS, by applying the Anchorage, Alaska Consumer Price Index as a proxy for inflation to a value of \$5,000 in 1983 yields a value of \$11,528 in 2019 dollars; demonstrating how markedly different the purchasing power of \$5,000 is over the course of 37 years;

WHEREAS, City Administration proposes to change BMC 4.04.080 to allow a \$12,500 line item transfer limit with notification to Council for transfers made equal to or greater than \$5,000, but less than \$12,500;

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, that the Bethel Municipal Code shall be amended and revised as follows:

Introduced by: Peter A. Williams, Interim City Manager
Introduction Date: November 10, 2020
Public Hearing Date: November 24, 2020
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

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

SECTION 2. Amendment. The Bethel Municipal Code Section 4.04.080, is amended as follows (new language is underlined and ~~old language is stricken out~~):

4.04.080 Budget—Control.


Budgetary control is exercised at the departmental level. The city manager may approve intra-departmental transfers of appropriated funds not directed to personnel services and only to the extent such transfers do not exceed five twelve thousand five hundred dollars (~~\$5,000~~) (\$12,500). Any supplemental appropriations that amend the total budgeted expenditures of any department and all inter-departmental transfers of appropriated funds shall be by ordinance. The request for any supplemental appropriation shall be submitted to the council as soon as the city manager becomes aware that the total expenditure for any line item has exceeded or is planned to exceed the budgeted expenditure for that line item by five twelve thousand five hundred dollars (~~\$5,000~~) (\$12,500). The city manager must notify council of any line item transfer within a department in an amount equal to or greater than \$5,000, but less than \$12,500. [Ord. 17-43 § 2; Ord. 04-05 § 2; Ord. 161 § 2, 1985.]

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

ENACTED THIS 24th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020, BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.


Michelle DeWitt, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk
City of Bethel, Alaska

Ordinance #20-35