

Introduced by: Council Member
Zulkosky
Introduction Date: November 27, 2007
Public Hearing: December 11, 2007
Action: Failed
Vote: 3-4

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Ordinance #07-27

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL AMENDING BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE 2.04, ADDING SECTION 2.04.055-PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & DECORUM

WHEREAS, Section 2.04.050 of the Bethel Municipal Code allows the Council to determine its order of business; and

WHEREAS; it is the desire of the City Council to provide for the conduct of the City's business in an orderly and efficient manner without adversely affecting the public's right to participate in its meetings as required by AS 29.20.020; and

WHEREAS, a structured and well-run business meeting will instill an air of dignity, respect, and professionalism to the public process which the citizens of the City of Bethel expect and deserve;

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

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

SECTION 2. Amendment. Chapter 2.04 of the Bethel Municipal Code is amended as follows, adding section 2.04.055-Public Participation (new language is underlined):

Chapter 2.04.055 Public Participation

- A. Generally. The council shall provide the opportunity to hear from any residents of the City of Bethel on any matter at regular and special meetings as required by AS 29.20.020, which shall be designated on the agenda as "Persons to be heard."
- All persons desiring to address the council, as a "Person to be heard," shall first secure the permission of the presiding officer, approach the podium before the council, and state their name in an audible tone of voice for the record.
 - Unless further time is granted by the governing body, each community member recognized as a "Person to be heard" shall have a maximum of five minutes to address the Council.
 - All remarks shall be addressed to the council as a body and not to any member thereof.
 - No person, other than a councilmember or mayor or the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion without the permission of the presiding officer.

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5. When any group of persons wishes to address the council on the same subject matter, it shall be proper for the presiding officer to request that a spokesman be chosen by the group to address the council, as to avoid unnecessary repetition before the council.
 6. Allotted time for "Persons to be heard" shall not exceed 30 minutes unless approved by a majority vote of council.
- B. Public Hearings. Residents of the City of Bethel, or their authorized legal representatives, may address the council in regard to matters of proposed action.
1. Unless, further time is granted by the governing body, each person testifying under public hearing shall limit his presentation to five minutes. Such time limit may be extended by a majority of the council.
 2. No person who has previously spoken during the public hearing on a particular item may speak again unless authorized by council and all other persons desiring to give testimony at the public hearing have spoken. A person speaking for a second time shall give testimony for not more than two minutes, unless the governing body designates a different time. If the governing body designates a different time for one person seeking to speak for a second time, it will be applicable for all other persons seeking to speak for a second time.
 3. Council members, members of boards, commissions, and committees, staff, and members of the public who speak during public participation will refrain from argument and debate.

Decorum

- A. By council members and other persons. When the council is in session, the council members and public participants must preserve order and decorum and no one shall, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the council, nor disturb any person while speaking, nor refuse to obey the orders of the council or the presiding officer. Any council member or other persons making personal, impertinent, threatening or slanderous remarks, or who shall become boisterous during a council meeting, shall immediately forfeit the floor to the presiding officer.

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

ENACTED THIS DAY OF 2007, BY A VOTE OF IN FAVOR AND OPPOSED.

Mary Kenick, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sandra Modigh, City Clerk