

Introduced by: Mayor DeWitt
Public Hearing and Adoption Date: October 12, 2021
Action: Passed
Vote: 6-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE #21-49

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE 13.04.290 TO PREVENT WATER SHUTOFF FOR NON-PAYMENT OF CHARGES FOR CERTAIN ACCOUNT-TYPES AND DOLLAR AMOUNTS

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified COVID-19 as a significant public health risk;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic;

WHEREAS, since June 2020, there has been a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases throughout Alaska and within Bethel and surrounding communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region;

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel Finance Department has records of a number of residential and business accounts that face water shutoff because of delinquencies in payment;

WHEREAS, clean running water is a critical public health tool to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and during this public health emergency, it is imperative for the City of Bethel continue to provide water services to help prevent the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the City wishes to provide customers flexibility during the pandemic to help prevent water shutoff because of nonpayment of charges;

WHEREAS, the City also wants to help ensure the customer account debt is not so high as to prevent reasonable opportunity for repayment;

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

Section 1. Finding of Emergency. The Bethel City Council finds that an emergency exists in the City of Bethel due to the outbreak of COVID-19, which has been declared a global pandemic and a state and national public health emergency.

Section 2. Classification. This is a non-codified Ordinance of general and permanent nature and shall not become part of the Bethel Municipal Code.

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Section 3. Bethel Municipal Code 13.04.290 is suspended and the City will not shut off water accounts due to nonpayment of charges for the effective period of this ordinance, unless a residential customer exceeds an account balance of \$5,000 and a commercial customer exceeds an account balance of \$10,000. This ordinance will only apply to a residential or commercial account with a debt greater than \$1,000 if the customer coordinates a repayment plan pursuant to BMC 13.04.270 with the City of Bethel within thirty (30) days from the date of the account delinquency.

Section 4. Effective and Expiration Date: This ordinance is effective immediately upon adoption by the City Council and shall remain in effect for a period of sixty (60) days.

ENACTED THIS 12th DAY OF OCTOBER 2021 BY A VOTE OF 6 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.


Michelle DeWitt (Oct 13, 2021 11:00 AKDT)

Michelle DeWitt, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk

Ordinance 21-49 Exempting Chapter 13.4.290 Water Utility Shutoff Extending Action from COVID-19 Emergency Extension with Limitations

Final Audit Report

2021-10-13

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"Ordinance 21-49 Exempting Chapter 13.4.290 Water Utility Shutoff Extending Action from COVID-19 Emergency Extension with Limitations" History

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