

CITY of BETHEL

P. O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559

543-2297 — Area Code 907

RESOLUTION 238

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL URGENTLY REQUESTING GOVERNOR JAY HAMMOND, OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY OF THE BETHEL RIVER FRONT.

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel, Alaska sustained sever losses, resulting from storms that included high winds and pounding rain causing accelerated erosion and under cutting of the river front commencing on June 1, 1978; and further damage is imminent during the traditional fall storms; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is a public entity within the State of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist in Bethel as a result of the disaster:

"Homes, private property, regional fuel storage facilities and the hospital grounds, are subject to imminent destruction as a result of the continued erosion of the Bethel river front" and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is requesting immediate action to safeguard and/or relocate homes that are threatened and provide continued emergency services access; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is requesting immediate action to insure that the Regional fuel storage facility is functional throughout the summer and winter seasons to enable fuel distribution to 50-60 dependent villages and Bethel; and

WHEREAS, MANY private homes that are threatened with or are being destroyed as a result of the erosion are of historical and cultural value to the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta; and

WHEREAS, homeowners have little opportunity to leave their homes and are suffering from the strain of living on the edge of a disaster area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel has taken action in the past to alleviate this problem as stated as follows:

- a.) Citizens advocacy group and the City of Bethel have researched, prepared and delivered a cost benefit study to the Corp. of Engineers for remedial action;
- b.) In cooperation with private business, public institutions and individuals, the City has erected temporary measures to hold back the erosion that included: sand and gravel fill, wooden posts and planking with steel tie backs, discarded vehicles, etc; and


WHEREAS, the aforementioned actions have had no effect in retarding the erosion and we have exhausted all affordable alternatives; and

WHEREAS, these actions have exhausted the resources of City and its citizens and we are urgently requesting State and/or Federal government support,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF BETHEL REQUEST THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA TO PROVIDE DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT IF APPROPRIATE DISASTER RELIEF IS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF STATE RESOURCES, THAT THE GOVERNOR IS REQUESTED TO SEEK A DISASTER DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE BETHEL WATER FRONT.

PASSED AND APPROVED:


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

JUNE 22, 1978