

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE #21-43

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL EXEMPTING 13.04.290 OF THE BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE TO PREVENT WATER SHUT OFF FOR NON-PAYMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL 60 DAYS BUT UP TO SPECIFIC DOLLAR AMOUNTS DEPENDING ON ACCOUNT TYPE

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified COVID-19 as a significant public 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 Utility Billing department has a number of residents and businesses that face water shut off because of delinquencies in payment, during this public health emergency it is imperative the City of Bethel continue to provide this necessary service to help prevent the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the City wishes provide customers flexibility during the pandemic to help ensure the prevention of utility cut off because of nonpayment;

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 become part of the Bethel Municipal Code.

Section 3. Bethel Municipal Code Chapter 13.04.290 will not be in effect and the City will not shut off water accounts due to lack of payment for the effective period of this ordinance unless the residential customer exceeds an account balance of \$5,000 and

Introduced by: Council Member Henderson
Public Hearing and Adoption Date: August 10, 2021
Action:
Vote:

commercial customers exceed an account balance of \$10,000 for businesses and only if those customers with debt greater than \$500 coordinate a repayment plan with the City of Bethel within 30 days from the date of this ordinance.

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 24th DAY OF AUGUST 2021 BY A VOTE OF _ IN FAVOR AND _ OPPOSED.

Michelle DeWitt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk