CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Ordinance #22-24

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF BETHEL, ON OCTOBER 4, 2022, A BALLOT PROPOSITION INITIATED THROUGH PETITION:

BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE 8.06.010 MASK MANDATES

WHEREAS; Following the certification of an initiative petition, Bethel Municipal Code 7.100.140, Initiative Election, requires the clerk to submit the matter to the voters at the next regular election;

WHEREAS; Bethel Municipal Code 7.100.060 provides that if the municipality has fewer than 7,500 people, the petitioners must obtain the signatures of qualified voters of at least 25% of the votes cast at the last regular election in order to have the measure placed before the voters;

WHEREAS; as of the 2020 census, the municipality has a population of 6,325;

WHEREAS; following review by the City Attorney, the City Clerk’s Office certified the initiative petition application on February 25, 2022 and the petition booklets were issued to the petitioners on March 11, 2022;

WHEREAS; the petition sponsors had 90 days from March 11, 2022 to obtain 117 signatures from qualified Bethel voters;

WHEREAS; on June 7, 2022, the City Clerk’s Office received the petition booklets, and the petition was certified by the City Clerk’s Office on June 9, 2022;

WHEREAS; the petition sponsors obtained the minimum 117 qualifying signatures required by code;

WHEREAS; pursuant to Bethel Municipal Code 7.10.070, an ordinance placing propositions and questions before the voters must be adopted by the council not later than forty-five calendar days before a regular or special election, which based on the next scheduled regular or special election makes the ordinance adoption deadline August 20, 2022;
SECTION 1. ELECTION. An election is scheduled for October 4, 2022, in and for the City of Bethel, for the purpose of submitting a ballot proposition to the qualified voters of the City of Bethel for approval or rejection.

SECTION 2. PROPOSITION. The proposition must receive a majority vote of the qualified voters in the City of Bethel voting on the question to be approved. The Proposition shall be substantially in the following form:

Shall the City of Bethel Municipal Code be amended by adding a new section 8.06 Mask Mandates to read as follows:

8.06.010 The City of Bethel shall not enact any mandates requiring masks or face coverings.

☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPARTIAL SUMMARY OF THE CODE AMENDMENT:
A YES vote on this ballot question means you DO NOT WANT the City of Bethel to have the authority to require masks or face coverings.
A NO vote on this ballot question means you DO WANT the City of Bethel to have the authority to require masks or face coverings.

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

SECTION 4. Classification. This ordinance is not of permanent nature and shall not become a part of the Bethel Municipal Code.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon approval by the Bethel City Council.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL ALASKA, THIS 12th DAY OF JULY 2022, BY A VOTE OF _ IN FAVOR AND _ OPPOSED.

_________________________________________
Mark Springer, Mayor

ATTEST:

________________________________________
Lori Strickler, City Clerk