



City of Emmonak

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CITY OF EMMONAK Resolution No. 2020-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE EMMONAK CITY COUNCIL SEEKING FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM REPAIRS AND SERVICES AND HEATING FUEL.

WHEREAS: on March 23rd, 2020, the Emmonak City Council declared a Public Health Emergency because of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pursuant to Section 8.10.020 of the City Code; and

WHEREAS: Section 8.10.040 of the City Code gives the City Manager emergency procurement powers; and

WHEREAS: the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that one of the most effective ways to protect yourself from contracting COVID-19 is to clean and wash your hands using soap and water; and

WHEREAS: the City provides water and sewer services to residents through a City-owned water and sewer utility as described in City Code Chapter 13.08; and

WHEREAS: during this Public Health Emergency, the City plans to keep the water plant and Community Washeteria operational so that residents can continue to practice good hygiene during this critical time; and

WHEREAS: City Code allows for the City to shut off water and sewer service for non-payment and require payment of delinquent amounts before water and sewer is reconnected; and

WHEREAS: until the current Public Health Emergency ends, the City will not shut off water or sewer services for non-payment and will not require payment of delinquent amounts before service is reconnected; and

WHEREAS: the residents are required to maintain water and sewer lines from the outside wall of the consumer's home while the City maintains all other portions of the lines; and

WHEREAS: certain repairs are necessary in order to reconnect homes that have been disconnected due to nonpayment and also to maintain connections for homes currently connected to the water and sewer system; and

WHEREAS: new units of housing were recently built in the City but have not been connected to the water and sewer system because the cost of connection is prohibitive; and

WHEREAS: other homes within the City are not currently connected to the water and sewer system; and

WHEREAS: the City has identified 34 homes that either need connections to the water and sewer system or that require major repairs to the lines; and

WHEREAS: using estimates from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the City calculates the cost of connecting these 34 homes at \$4,284,000; and

WHEREAS: residents need access to clean water in order to follow the CDC guidelines to protect themselves and the community from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: the City wishes to contract with a plumbing company and/or a construction firm to repair lines, repair water and sewer infrastructure, and reconnect homes that were disconnected for non-payment; and

WHEREAS: funds for these projects and repairs typically comes from payments from the consumer as well as grant funding from State and Federal sources; and

WHEREAS: the amount of outstanding water and sewer delinquent payments for homes that have already been disconnected from service is over \$7,000; and

WHEREAS: the City does not have the funds to undertake this work without State or Federal assistance; and

WHEREAS: the City does not have sufficient funds to pay for infrastructure projects to connect the housing units that are currently not connected to the water and sewer system; and

WHEREAS: the City does not have sufficient funds to maintain the water and sewer system without regular payments from customers; and

WHEREAS: the City is also experiencing a critical fuel shortage due to extended cold weather this winter; and

WHEREAS: in order to operate critical infrastructure, including the water and sewer system and Community Washeteria, the City requires an additional 20,000 gallons of heating fuel to get through the winter season; and

WHEREAS: the current cost of heating fuel is \$3.60 per gallon; and

WHEREAS: the City does not have the \$72,000 for the heating fuel it will need to keep critical services running; and

WHEREAS: these repairs, connections, and related heating fuel are critical to the health and safety of residents, especially in light of the CDC recommendations, during this Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS: both the State and Federal declarations provide for emergency funding to address this Public Health Emergency; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Emmonak City Council formally requests State and Federal funding related to this Public Health Emergency to fill the gaps in funding caused by nonpayment by customers, fund repairs to the water and sewer system, fund infrastructure projects, and fund the purchase of 20,000 of heating fuel to ensure all residents of Emmonak have access to critical water and sewer services for hygiene.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23rd **DAY** March **2020.**

Wilbur Hootch

Wilbur Hootch, Mayor

SIGNED AND ATTESTED THIS 23rd **DAY** March **2020.**

Lilly Westlock

Attest: Lilly Westlock, City Clerk