



# KENAI

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Brian Gabriel and Kenai City Council

**THROUGH:** Paul Ostrander, City Manager

**FROM:** Scott Curtin, Director of Public Works

**DATE:** October 13, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance No. 3252-2021

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The purpose of this memo is to request Council's approval to appropriate additional funding from the Water and Sewer Special Revenue fund in support of operations to cover unanticipated expenses totaling \$39,892.

The public works department received word in July, shortly after a June 2021 fire (possible electrical failure, see link [Longview chlorine plant downtime causes shortage of chemical used to treat water supplies across West Coast | The Spokesman-Review](#)) that severely damaged a chemical manufacturing facility in Longview, Washington, that chemical shortages should be expected imminently. Our counterparts at DEC reached out and requested we do everything possible to remain within permitting requirements. Staff immediately began calling to source materials and were successful in securing a three month supply of Sodium Hypochlorite.

The department generally maintains a month's supply on hand. In the current environment we are targeting closer to three months now, to ensure the City's ability to maintain our permitting requirements as well as our obligations to the community. This unanticipated emergent expense totaled \$9,892 and we are requesting those funds are now added to our operational budget.

Additionally, the forty year old dump truck the department has used for hauling sludge to the landfill finally reached the end of its useful life in mid-July. The Shop division has performed admirably to keep this vehicle in service for as long as it has, however due to the ongoing expense of maintenance including tires, brakes, general availability of parts, etc. it was time to move on.

The Public Works department in coordination with the Finance Department, in an effort to maintain a reasonable fleet size, are not recommending replacement of this truck at this time. We have been researching the benefits of utilizing a dumpster service and will weigh out the benefits over the next 12-24 months. Immediate benefits include the roll off dumpster is larger than our truck bed, 30CY vs 10CY, and while we cannot fully fill a 30CY dumpster based on the weight, it does afford operations a longer runtime on the press between hauls. The dumpster is lower to the ground than the truck, making it easier for staff to see and level the load. The

screenings have now been separated. Previously the screenings, which are very wet, were placed in the dump truck. The moisture added to the weight of the sludge, adding cost, and were disposed of at the higher landfill rate of \$45/ton. Today they are placed in a separate smaller dumpster and disposed of as standard household trash.

The net result is sludge sent to the landfill is dryer, which the landfill regulators prefer, and is costing us slightly less by volume. The potential liability of having staff travel icy roads with a loaded dump truck have been removed as well as the costs associated with the ownership of the truck including fuel, insurance, maintenance, etc. Staff are able to be more efficient as the time spent offsite traveling to the landfill can now be refocused on plant operations.

We are asking at this time to approve a purchase order to Alaska Waste in the amount of \$30,000 to cover these costs. Approximately 110 hauls to the landfill are anticipated with these funds, which equates to one trip every 3.3 calendar days year round. As this expense was not included in the original FY22 budget we are requesting approval of appropriation of funds to supplement the budget at this time to avoid budget shortfalls in the spring.

Approval of this Ordinance is in the best interest of the City and will allow the department to continue operations in support of permitting requirements and community expectations.

Council's support is respectfully requested.

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/jun/18/longview-chlorine-plant-downtime-causes-shortage-o/>

