

**CITY OF KOTZEBUE
RESOLUTION NO. 24-07**

**“A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE
DECLARING A CITY-WIDE EMERGENCY DUE TO THE FAILURE OF THE SWAN
LAKE LOOP WATER MAIN”**

- WHEREAS,** the City of Kotzebue is experiencing a critical water infrastructure failure with the Swan Lake Loop, which provides water services to approximately 190 homes in the community;
- WHEREAS,** the failure of the Swan Lake Loop has resulted in over 50 homes being deprived of access to water, posing a significant threat to public health, safety, and well-being;
- WHEREAS,** the inability to access clean and safe water jeopardizes the basic needs and hygiene standards of affected residents, exacerbating the severity of the emergency situation;
- WHEREAS,** the City Council recognizes the urgent need for a disaster declaration to mobilize resources, expedite repairs, and restore water services to the impacted households in Kotzebue; and,
- WHEREAS,** prompt action is imperative to alleviate the suffering and inconvenience endured by residents without water, and to prevent further escalation of the crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Kotzebue:

1. extends its full support for the disaster declaration sought by the Mayor of Kotzebue and Mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough as set forth in Exhibits “A” and “B” attached hereto in response to the Swan Lake Loop failure and its detrimental impact on water services to residential properties.
2. implores the State Government and relevant federal agencies to promptly approve the disaster declaration and allocate necessary resources and assistance to expedite the restoration of water services to affected homes in Kotzebue.

3. authorizes the City Manager to take immediate action, including the allocation of emergency funds and the coordination of repair efforts with relevant authorities and contractors, to restore water services to all households impacted by the Swan Lake Loop failure.
4. directs the City Administration to prioritize the provision of temporary alternative water sources and assistance to affected residents, including the distribution of bottled water and the establishment of temporary water distribution points, until regular water services are reinstated.
5. requests regular updates from the City Manager and relevant departments on the progress of repair works and the restoration of water services to the affected households in Kotzebue.
6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption at the Emergency City Council meeting on Monday, February 12, 2024.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Kotzebue, Alaska, this 12th day of February 2024.

CITY OF KOTZEBUE

Saima Chase, Mayor

[SEAL]

ATTEST:

Rosie Hensley, City Clerk

Attachment: Exhibit "A" – City of Kotzebue Emergency Declaration [2 page]
 Exhibit "B" –Northwest Arctic Borough Emergency Declaration [2 pages]



Tessa Baldwin, City Manager
P.O. Box 46
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-3401 [City Hall]
(907) 442-3742 [City Hall-fax]
tbaldwin@kotzebue.org

February 8, 2024

Mayor Dickie Moto
Northwest Arctic Borough
P.O. Box 1110
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752-1110

Subject: Updated Disaster Declaration and Request for Disaster Relief from the City of Kotzebue regarding Swan Lake Loop Water Main Freeze Up and Failure

Dear Mayor Moto:

As you know from my earlier letter this date, the City of Kotzebue has declared an emergency disaster due to the failure of Swan Lake Loop Water Main. In prior weeks, the city has experienced temperatures of negative fifty (-50) degrees Fahrenheit. The week proceeding caused the development of a line blockage and subsequent bursts in the water main line. This 40-plus year old water main services 190 homes in the City of Kotzebue and as of the morning of February 8, 2024, our community has a reported 42 homes frozen with no running water. This has become a fast-moving, dynamic situation with the situation literally changing by the hour. Hence, the need for this updated letter.

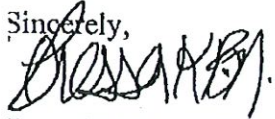
We both agree that the safety and well-being of our residents is our most important obligation. Access to clean, safe water is essential to the health and safety of our residents. Lack of such water causes this to be a serious, life-threatening, public health issue. Not only does the lack of access to water impact the wellbeing of our residents, but the City of Kotzebue fire department has had to make alternative plans to respond to any potential fire on this service line due to the lack of water on this frozen water main.

Pursuant to Northwest Arctic Borough Code 10.04.030 [Duties of the Department of Public Services] and Northwest Arctic Borough Code Chapter 12.16 [Office of Emergency Management] and Alaska Statute 26.23.140 [Local disaster emergencies], the City of Kotzebue would respectfully request that you declare a Disaster Emergency for Kotzebue, because of the unprecedented, catastrophic water main failure has impacted many homes and families and far exceeds the City's financial resources to deal with this public health and safety disaster. (A ROM estimate of the damages to date could be well in excess of a \$1 million.) This would allow the City to start the process of securing funds to ensure that the City of Kotzebue can respond to the water main failure and protect our community from the effects of this unprecedented event.

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As the person responsible for the City's Disaster Emergency Services, pursuant to the Kotzebue Municipal Code 2.41.010, I have determined that a formal Disaster Declaration Resolution must be submitted to the City Council at a possible Emergency Meeting on Monday, February 12, 2024. I will then forward that fully executed Resolution to your attention.

Sincerely,



Tessa Baldwin, City Manager



Northwest Arctic Borough

P.O. Box 1110 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-2500 Fax (907) 442-2930
www.nwabor.org

--DISASTER DECLARATION--

WHEREAS: the City of Kotzebue has experienced an extended cold weather period reaching negative 50 degrees Fahrenheit that resulted in a large-scale water main freeze-up affecting 190 homes, leaving 42 homes with no running water; and

WHEREAS: the City of Kotzebue is a second-class city and a political subdivision of the State of Alaska within the Northwest Arctic Borough; and

WHEREAS: on February 8, 2024, the City of Kotzebue declared a disaster emergency under AS 26.23.140; and

WHEREAS: the widespread freeze-up is beyond the City's capacity for repair and threatens the health, life, and safety of the residents of Kotzebue and the security of the region; and

WHEREAS: if the City is not provided with additional resources to address the freeze-up, it will result in additional damage while creating a significant public health threat; and

WHEREAS: the severity and magnitude of the emergency is beyond the timely and effective response capability of local resources; and

WHEREAS: there are insufficient regularly appropriated funds to cover the expenses of this emergency; and

WHEREAS: the Borough will provide disaster relief funds in the amount of \$30,000 to assist Kotzebue with its immediate response and recovery efforts, which will exhaust the Borough's appropriated and available disaster relief funds for this emergency.

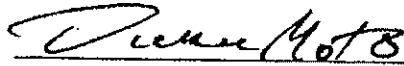
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that Mayor Dickie Moto, Sr., declares a Disaster Emergency under AS 26.23.140 and NABC 12.16.060 to exist in the community of Kotzebue and requests the additional assistance of the State of Alaska for disaster relief aid for Kotzebue to assist with response and recovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the undersigned certifies that the City of Kotzebue has insufficient resources with which to respond to this disaster and therefore

Ambler [Ivisaappaat](#), Buckland [Nunatchiaq](#), Deering [Ipnatchiaq](#), Kiana [Katyaak](#), Kivalina [Kivaliniq](#), Kobuk [Laugviik](#), Kotzebue [Qikiqtagruk](#), Noatak [Nautaaq](#), Noorvik [Nuurvik](#), Selawik [Akuligaaq](#), Shungnak [Isinnaq](#)

requests all available assistance.

DECLARED this 8th day of February 2024.



Mayor Dickie Moto, Sr.