



**Committee of the Whole – 6:30 P.M.
Regular City Council Meeting – 7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the North Pole City Council was held on Monday, July 18, 2016 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Ward called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, July 18, 2016 to order at 7:02 p.m.

There were present:

**Mr. McCarthy – Mayor Pro Tem
Mr. Smith – Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Ms. Holm – Alt. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Ms. Dawson
Mr. McGhee
Mr. Claus
Mayor Ward**

Absent/Excused

**Excused

Excused**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilwoman Dawson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the Agenda of July 18, 2016*

Seconded by Ms. Dawson

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Smith, McGhee, Dawson, Claus, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – McCarthy, Holm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Smith *moved to Approve the Minutes of July 5, 2016*

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 5 –Smith, McGhee, Dawson, Claus, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – McCarthy, Holm

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Presentation on Interior Energy Project by Gene Therriault (see attached document)
- I would like to publicly thank North Pole Worship Center for their ‘Servolution’ community project. They have been working on cleaning up the community and doing community service projects, of which the City has benefited. Thank you for your commitment to making the City a better place!
- I was able to meet with Governor Walker and the other local mayors after his announcement regarding his 1.2 billion dollars in veto’s including vetoing part of the PFD payout. The Governor explained that he did what he had to because the legislature did not bring forth a balanced budget. As an example it would be like the council approving our 5.5 million dollar budget and planning on spending 2.2 million from the General Fund (piggy bank). The Governor said this would be unacceptable for local government and was unacceptable for state government.
- Zane and I had a safe trip to Seattle where we took part in settlement negotiations, we worked late each day we were there and although we do not have anything to report yet we are hoping to have something to report to the council at the next meeting.

I am continuing to do muffins with the mayor. The next muffins will be August 19th here at City Hall

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Department, Sgt. Bellant

- Chief Dutra is on vacation until July 25th.
- Lt. Rathbun is out due to a death in his family.
- 2 new vehicles have arrived. Waiting to get decals on and all the other bells and whistles.

Fire Dept., Chief Lane

- This is his last council meeting.
- Hose testing is complete and hydrant testing is ongoing. No complaints from residents.
- Applications are being taken for firefighter position.
- Chief Lane talked about all the changes that have been made since 1977 when he first started at the fire department and thanked the council for their support over the years.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Should have received financials on Friday through the Clerks office.
- Delinquent reports are before council tonight and she will answer any questions they may have.
- Updated council on ordinance passed on property tax that the City will pay. The City will only need to pay \$2,700.

Mr. Smith asked about account #2241 and what action will be taken. Ms. Fogarty stated that the business has been sent a letter and action will be taken after the date on the notice.

Mr. Smith asked about another business that had moved. Ms. Fogarty stated that they are taking action on that business and that the owner will be coming in.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- One new building permit issued since last Council meeting.
- Stop Work Order issued for construction on Park Way for beginning work without a permit.

Public Works

- North Pole Worship Center held a volunteer work day two Sundays ago and cleared brush at City Hall and cut dead trees at the dog park.
- Landscaping continues to be major activity for Public Works.

- Rainfall this summer has resulted in not having to do any supplemental watering of turf yet this summer.

Utility Department

- Construction activity for Lift Station Phase 3 began last week.
- Municipal Matching Grant Questionnaire for \$1 million submitted last week.
- Alaska Clean Water Loan application for \$2 million submitted last week.
- Water main repair on Holiday Road scheduled for Wednesday, July 20
 - Permanent repair to water main that was patched last spring.
 - Estimate customers will lose service no longer than 4 hours—if everything goes according to plan.
 - Customers who will lose water service have been sent a notice by mail and Utility staff placed door-hanger notices on residences this afternoon.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- Negotiations continue for a gas supply and cost of that gas.
 - Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is responsible for leading the negotiation.
 - IGU and Fairbanks Natural Gas are participating in the negotiations
-

Borough Representative

- FNSB ordinance 2016-36 will be before the Borough this week in the committee of the whole; it will rearrange the process and structure of zoning appeals. The current process gives the cities the authority to be the appeals board for zoning decisions. The City of North Pole recently passed a resolution to support this action. City of Fairbanks passed a resolution not supporting it. I plan on being present to answer any questions from the City of North Pole.

City Clerk's Office, Kathy Weber

- The Municipal Election for the City of North Pole will be held Tuesday, October 4, 2016. Declaration of Candidacy may be filed with the North Pole Clerk's Office at 125 Snowman Lane, from July 15, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. through July 29, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. for the following:

CITY OF NORTH POLE COUNCIL SEATS
(All offices serve at-large)

City Council Seat.....3-year term
City Council Seat.....3-year term

QUALIFICATIONS

A qualified voter who has resided within the state and the City of North Pole for at least **one year** prior to filing his/her declaration of candidacy is eligible to be a candidate for the City Council.

All elected officials are elected at large.

A completed sworn Declaration of Candidacy and Public Official Financial Disclosure Statement must be filed with the City Clerk at the time of filing along with a \$25.00 non-refundable filing fee.

Withdrawal Deadline: A candidate desiring to withdraw may do so by filing a written request with the clerk no later than 5:00 p.m., August 5, 2016.

Kathy Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk
488-8583
Website: www.northpolealaska.com

- An initiative/referendum was filed on June 21st was approved to prohibit marijuana businesses in the City of North Pole. Two petitions were turned in on Friday, July 18th. There were 96 signatures submitted, 25 insufficiencies, and 71 qualified signatures. They have been notified by email and certified letter that they have until Wednesday, July 27th at 1:00 p.m. to submit the required signatures.
- 160 days until Christmas.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- None

ONGOING PROJECTS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATION OF CHARTER COMMISSION FOR ITEMS ON THE BALLOT

The Charter Commission gave an update on the changes in the Charter and each of the changes by chapter.

Ms. Hunter came forward and gave her recommendation to council and reasons behind them.

Mr. Jacobson came forward with his interpretation of changes to the chapters.

Public Comment

Buddy Lane – gave a department head perspective. He is in favor of the changes in proposition #6 and encouraged the council to approve the changes to go on the ballot. He felt that department heads have their hands tied now.

Doug Isaacson, 1003 Shirley Turnaround

Thanked the Charter Commission for their work on this. When he heard about it he was concerned that this would not be transparent. However, it is the executives need to be able to clearly administer the City and there may be a need for it. The nuance allows the flexibility how you might allow the chief executive to administer the City. There is no council that will surrender its authority and any ordinance you might come up with. He doesn't have the concern he had in the past. On 6.2, he likes the way it reads but had some changes for council to discuss.

Mr. McGhee *moved* to approve the recommendations the Charter Commission for items to go on the ballot

Seconded by Ms. Dawson

Discussion

Mr. McGhee *moved* to amend Proposition 3, Section 6.5 by adding the language after approved budget, "or approved amendments thereto"

Seconded by Ms. Dawson

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 5 –Smith, McGhee, Dawson, Claus, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – McCarthy, Holm

Mr. McGhee moved to Amend Proposition 3, Section 604, by putting it back to the original language.

Seconded by Mr. Claus

Discussion

Mr. McGhee said that as a senior member of the council that he does not agree with the amendments that have been submitted. He said it is the responsibility as council members to maintain the level of authority of change.

Mayor Ward said this doesn't take away power from the council. The council still has full authority because it's done by ordinance. He felt that at least this would bring forth flexibility and open discussion.

Mr. Claus felt the Charter Commission should meet again before this is put on the ballot.

Mr. Smith asked when the Charter was last changed.

Mrs. Weber stated that the Charter was last changed was 10 years ago.

PASSED

Yes: 3 –Smith, McGhee, Claus

No: 2 – Ward, Dawson

Absent: 2 – McCarthy, Holm

Mr. Claus moved to Amend Proposition #3, Chapter 6, Section 6.2 revert to its original language.

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Discussion

Mr. Claus said that the Charter Commission believed that this section needed to stay the way it was so that council had the flexibility to change at any time. He asked for Mrs. Weber to comment on this.

Mrs. Weber stated that by changing the date to November 1 would make the City stay at a calendar year and not be able to change to a fiscal year unless it went to a vote of the people.

Mrs. Fogarty said that we would need to go to a vote of the people for any change.

PASSED

Yes: 4 – Dawson, Claus, McGhee, Ward

No: 1 – Smith

Absent: 2 – Holm, McCarthy

Mr. McGhee moved to delete Proposition #4 and renumber the corresponding proposition numbers.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Dawson, Claus, McGhee, Smith, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Holm, McCarthy

On the Charter as Amended

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Dawson, Claus, McGhee, Smith, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Holm, McCarthy

ORDINANCE 16-16, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO AMEND TITLE 13, PUBLIC SERVICES, TO ESTABLISH THE PROCESS FOR PROVIDING UTILITY SERVICES OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF NORTH POLE AND TO UPDATE THE ORDINANCE

Bill Butler introduced the ordinance and updated council.

Public Comment

Francie Cork

Ms. Cork state that it is uneasy to provide services to anyone that doesn't want to be annexed into the City. She wondered if this would generate enough revenue to compensate the expense of bringing utilities to other people.

Mr. McGhee moved to Introduce and Advance Ordinance 16-16, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to amend Title 13, Public Services, to establish the process for providing utility services outside the City limits of North Pole and to update the ordinance

Seconded by Mr. Claus

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to amend line 1196 – 1198 by returning to the original text and striking “certified”*

Seconded by Ms. Dawson

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Dawson, Claus, McGhee, Smith, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Holm, McCarthy

On the main motion as amended

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Dawson, Claus, McGhee, Smith, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Holm, McCarthy

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. McGhee – many years have transpired between Buddy Lane and himself to the point that they have Discussed on lawn chairs, on city streets, the business of the City and have never argued once, just civilly debated. He hasn’t agreed with him 9 out of 10 times unless it was about personnel and then they agreed on everything. All in all, thank you.

Mr. Smith – looking forward to Chief Lanes presentation but it wasn’t a budget session. He thanked Chief Lane for all his time. It’s great to see everyone out and about and wished them a good evening.

Mr. Claus – congratulations on Chief Lane’s retirement and his sterling and selfless service to our City.

Ms. Dawson – thanked Chief Lane and is thankful that their paths crossed. She thinks he is something special so is his family. She said he did an amazing job and it shows in his staff and it is a reflection of his leadership. Ms. Dawson thanked him for his service.

Mayor Ward – said he appreciated Chief Lane’s service and time as a department head. He looks forward to seeing where your future carries you. There is a shindig going on July 23rd and 29th is City picnic.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee *moved to Adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m.*

Seconded by Mr. Claus

The regular meeting of July 18, 2016 adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, August 1, 2016.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk