



***CITY OF NORTH POLE***  
**Special Meeting April 27, 2020**  
**North Pole Council Chambers**  
**125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska**  
[www.northpolealaska.com](http://www.northpolealaska.com)

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***Monday, April 27, 2020***  
**Special City Council Meeting – 5:30 p.m.**

**MAYOR**

Michael Welch  
488-8584

**CITY CLERK**

Kim Kiehl  
488-8583

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Perry Walley – Mayor Pro Tem	347-0135
Santa Claus – Deputy Mayor Pro Tem	388-3836
Aino Welch – Alt. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem	488-5834
DeJohn Cromer	347-2808
David Skipps	750-5106
Thomas McGhee	455-0010

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag**
- 3. Invocation**
- 4. Approval of the Agenda**
- 5. Citizens Comments (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)**
- 6. New Business**
  - a. Resolution 20-04, A Resolution Renewing the Mayor’s Declaration of a Disaster Emergency for the City of North Pole Due to COVID-19 Pandemic and Requesting State and Federal Assistance.
  - b. Request for wage determination for two lateral hires in the NPPD.
- 7. Executive Session**
  - a. Provide direction to City Attorney RE: North Pole vs Williams litigation.
- 8. Council Comments**
- 9. Adjournment**

Detailed information and copies of agenda documents may be obtained at the Office of the City Clerk, 125 Snowman Lane or on the City website [www.northpolealaska.com](http://www.northpolealaska.com) . Notice of Council Action is available at City Hall and on the City website following the meeting.

### **How to Offer Public Testimony at Council Meetings**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and local/state regulations requiring residents to stay at home, practice social distancing, and limit gatherings, the City of North Pole has created a process for citizens to stay connected with the Council regarding agenda items.

**Written testimony** is encouraged. You may submit your comments by calling the Clerk's Office at 488-8583 or by sending an email to [kkiehl@northpolealaska.org](mailto:kkiehl@northpolealaska.org) prior to 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please indicate which agenda item you are providing written testimony for. Examples: Ordinance or Resolution number, agenda item#, or description of subject.

To sign-up for **telephonic testimony** call the Clerk's Office at 488-8583 or email [kkiehl@northpolealaska.org](mailto:kkiehl@northpolealaska.org) prior to 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please indicate that you wished to be called, for what item you will provide testimony on, and what number you can be reached at.

Council Meetings are aired **live via audio streaming** from the City's website at <https://www.northpolealaska.com/citycouncil/page/council-meeting-audio-stream>.

Inquiries concerning ADA compliance or accommodations should be directed to the City Clerk.

**CITY OF NORTH POLE**

**RESOLUTION 20-04**

**A RESOLUTION RENEWING THE MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF A  
DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF NORTH POLE DUE TO COVID-  
19 PANDEMIC AND REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

**WHEREAS**, on April 10, 2020, Mayor Welch issued a Declaration of a Disaster Emergency for the City of North Pole Due to COVID-19 Pandemic and Requesting State and Federal Assistance; and,

**WHEREAS**, under the provisions of AS 26.23.140, a declaration of emergency by the Mayor may not be continued beyond seven days without the consent of the City Council; and,

**WHEREAS**, the following "whereas statements" were set out in the Mayor's Declaration and are repeated here to reinforce the seriousness of the COVID-19 Pandemic:

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus, a new strain of the coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and is easily transmittable person to person; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization designated the outbreak of COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified COVID-19 as a significant public health disaster emergency in response to the COVID-19 anticipated outbreak in the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the State of Alaska received the first confirmation of the presence of COVID-19 in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020 President Trump declared a National Emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020 Alaska Governor Dunleavy issued a COVID-19 Health Mandate closing all bars, breweries, restaurants, food and beverage kiosks or trucks, other establishments serving food or beverages within the State of Alaska to public dine-in service and closing all exertainment facilities until rescinded by the Governor; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020 Governor Dunleavy issued a COVID-19 Health Mandate continuing the closure of all public and private schools through May 15, 2020 and is now extended to May 21, 2020, the end of the 2020 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020 Governor Dunleavy Issued a COVID-19 mandate closing all businesses, congregations, or gatherings in the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Ketchikan Gateway Borough where individuals are within six feet of each other. This includes: Hair Salons, Day Spas, Esthetics, Barber Shops, Tattoo shops, Body piercing locations, Massage therapy locations and Tanning facilities; and

39 **WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020 the Fairbanks North Star Borough activated the Borough  
40 Emergency Operations Center and is assisting the state and local health partners as  
41 requested; and

42 **WHEREAS**, as of March 29, 2020 Retail business was down 48% and Grocery with Pharmacy  
43 was down 34% borough wide; and

44 **WHEREAS**, on April 9, 2020 President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster  
45 exists in the State of Alaska and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and  
46 local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
47 pandemic; and

48 **WHEREAS**, as of April 10, 2020 The Fairbanks North Star Borough has 76 cases of COVID-  
49 19 with 15 of those being in the North Pole community and is deemed the "Hot Spot" of  
50 Alaska; and

51 **WHEREAS**, the City of North Pole has a population of 2,100, there is an estimated one  
52 quarter of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (27,000 citizens) living in Zip Code 99705 just  
53 outside our city limits (4.2-square mile radius) which the North Pole Police Department  
54 patrols and enforces the laws, and the North Pole Fire Department with its ambulance EMS  
55 services responds to 1,400 calls annually of mutual assistance. The North Pole Water and  
56 Sewer utility is critical to public health and essential services within and outside of the city  
57 limits to approximately 1,000 residential and commercial customers; and

58 **WHEREAS**, the City of North Pole has 43 full time employees, and as of today there have been  
59 9 employees that have used the FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT for  
60 Emergency Paid Sick Leave that exceeds 300 hours and at a cost that is now greater than  
61 \$15,000; and

62 **WHEREAS**, the City of North Pole relies heavily on its sales tax revenue that is two thirds  
63 of the revenue budgeted for 2020 (\$4 million of \$6.4 million), and this is certain to greatly  
64 impact a disastrous negative outcome to the future economy of the City, mainly due to  
65 mandates from the State of Alaska in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic; and

66 **WHEREAS**, the City of North Pole has a major hotel and bed and breakfasts establishments  
67 that depend on tourism, which their business is now at a complete standstill, and for which  
68 the city realizes approximately \$100,000 annually in bed tax receipts, which in turn are  
69 distributed to community organizations to conduct events that promote the City throughout  
70 the entire year; and

71 **WHEREAS**, to contain any more harm that may be caused by the virus, State and Federal  
72 assistance may be needed to supplement local efforts to respond to this public health  
73 emergency; and

74 **WHEREAS**, State assistance in response to the virus, including assistance for fire  
75 protection, emergency medical services, and the provision of funds, services, functions,  
76 supplies, or materials determined by the Mayor, in consultation with local emergency  
77 agencies and partners, may be necessary to meet the public safety and welfare needs arising

78 incidental to COVID-19 and to recover for the damages caused; and

79 **WHEREAS**, we have not hit the apex of this virus and we do not know where we stand as  
80 we do not have enough testing for the entire Fairbanks North Star Borough.

81 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the North Pole City Council that the Mayor's  
82 April 10, 2020 Declaration of a Disaster Emergency for the City of North Pole Due to COVID-  
83 19 Pandemic and Requesting State and Federal Assistance may be renewed by the Mayor until  
84 further advised, unless extended or terminated by resolution of the City Council.

85 **FURTHERMORE**, the Council joins in the Mayor's request that the State of Alaska and the  
86 federal government provide State and Federal Public Assistance and Individual Assistance to the  
87 City of North Pole in its response and recovery from this event.

88 **PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council this  
89 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Michael W. Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

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100 Kim Kiehl, North Pole City Clerk

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PASSED/FAILED TO PASS Yes: No: Absent:
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