



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 27, 2020  
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

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Mayor Welch called the Special City Council meeting of Monday, April 27, 2020 to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Santa Claus  
Thomas McGhee  
David Skipps  
Aino Welch  
Perry Walley  
DeJohn Cromer  
Mayor Welch

Excused:

Also Present: William Butler, Director of City Services  
Tricia Fogarty, Chief Financial Officer  
Steve Dutra, Police Chief  
Kim Kiehl, City Clerk/HR Manager  
Geoff Coon, Fire Chief  
Zane Wilson, City Attorney

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Welch asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Council Member Mr. McGhee.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. McGhee moved to approve the agenda of April 27, 2020.**

**Seconded by Mr. Walley.**

**Discussion**

**Mr. McGhee moved to amend the agenda by removing new business item (b), request for wage determination for two lateral hires in the NPPD, from the agenda.**

**Seconded by Mr. Perry**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee requests to have item (b), request for wage determination for two lateral hires in the NPPD, removed from the agenda. Supporting documentation for the lateral hires and the wage determination request were not provided in the Agenda packet. This information is public record and by not providing it in advance of the Special Meeting violates the Open Meetings Act.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA OF APRIL 27, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 7 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS AMENDED**

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA APRIL 27, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 7 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley, Mr. Cromer, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)**

None

**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

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 20-04**

**Mr. Walley** moved to approve Resolution 20-04.

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch.**

**Discussion**

Mayor Welch introduced Resolution 20-04 and provided background information. The declaration was made April 10, 2020 and contained both qualifying and quantifying factors. This impacts how much money we are receiving and allowed for businesses to put in for pay protection plan (PPP). Mayor Welch thanked Councilman Walley for providing the background for the declaration. Mayor Welch indicated one change since the declaration was filed, which is

the COVID-19 count for North Pole had increased by 1 to a total of 16 as of April 27, 2020. Mayor Welch invited councilmembers to join as co-sponsors of the declaration. Mr. McGhee requested a copy of the original declaration. Mr. McGhee cited AS 26.23.140, Local Disaster Emergencies. Mr. McGhee stated his concern regarding the date of and where the application went. The declaration was applied for April 10<sup>th</sup> and 17 days have passed since we are adjourning for a meeting. State Statute is clear about the 7 days. Mayor Welch stated the declaration was provided to all required parties on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Welch stated he discussed the fact we were not meeting again until May 4<sup>th</sup>. The City Attorney recommended the declaration be filed as time was of the essence. Mr. McGhee restated his concern regarding the time lapsed from the original declaration to the Special Meeting on April 27, 2020 and understands we are following the recommendation of the City Attorney. Mrs. Welch asked what other options we had other than to renew the declaration. Mr. McGhee referred back to State Statute. Mr. McGhee stated his intent is not to kill the resolution, but that he wanted his concerns on record. Mr. Walley stated he agreed with Mr. McGhee, but expressed the scrambling in the background that was happening to follow mandates with safety the primary concern. Mr. Walley moved to amend starting at line 48 of the resolution to reflect 16 North Pole cases and 80 borough wide cases as of April 27, 2020. All councilmembers requested to be co-sponsors of the resolution.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 20-04 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 7 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

#### **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 20-04 AS AMENDED**

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED RESOLUTION 20-04 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 7 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley, Mr. Cromer, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

#### **MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO BREAK UNTIL THE CITY ATTORNEY ARRIVES**

**Mr. Claus** *moved to suspend the rules to break until the City Attorney arrives.*

**Seconded by Mr. Walley.**

**Discussion**

None

**MOTION TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. Walley moved to move into executive session**

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch.**

**Discussion**

Meeting with City Attorney to discuss North Pole vs. Williams litigation. Mr. Butler is present.

**READJOURN AT 7:29 P.M. FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. McGhee moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch.**

The special meeting of Monday, April 27, 2020 adjourned at 7:31 p.m.



*Michael W. Welch*

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Kim Kiehl*

Kim Kiehl, City Clerk