



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 15, 2020
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, June 15, 2020 to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council Members in attendance:

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

Absent:

Excused: Mayor Welch
DeJohn Cromer

Also Present: Steve Dutra, Police Chief
Aaron M. Rhoades, Temp. City Clerk/HR Manager
Geoff Coon, Fire Chief

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem 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 June 15, 2020.

Seconded by Mr. Clause.

Discussion

Mr. McGhee moved to amend the agenda by changing the order of New Business item a. to item b and item b. to item a.

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

On the amendment.

PASSED

YES: 5 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem declared the MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Claus *moved to amend the agenda by* adding item d. to New Business Accepting Kim Kiehl’s resignation as the City Clerk/HR Manager and appoint Aaron Rhoades and Temporary City Clerk/HR Manager.

On the amendment.

PASSED

YES: 5 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem declared the MOTION CARRIED

On the Agenda as amended.

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES: 5 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem declared the MOTION CARRIED

Old Business:

- a. Reconsideration: Request to Approve the Borough Ambulance Contract

New Business:

- a. Resolution 20-06, A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Authorizing The City of North Pole To Accept Coronavirus Relief Funds From The State of Alaska.
- b. Ordinance 20-13, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 2, Administration and Personnel, Section 2.36.400 Holidays
- c. Request to Approve use of a Request for Proposal approach to solicit construction contractor for the Old Water Treatment Plant Remodel Project.
- d. Accept Kim Keihl’s resignation as City Clerk/HR Manager and appoint Aaron M. Rhoades as Temporary City Clerk/HR Manager.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. MGhee moved to approve the Minutes of June 1, 2020 City Council Meeting

Seconded by Mr. Claus.

Discussion

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF June 1, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 5 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley, Mayor

Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem declared the MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

None

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Department, Chief Coon

- Fire danger is moderate and burning is allowed.
- 557 emergency calls this year, average of 3.6 per day.
- Alaska has had 467 COVID-19 cases with 368 total recovered, 10 deaths.
 - FNSB are has had 85 total cases (unchanged from last report).
- Please continue to work on the ICS classes.
- The Command truck is scheduled to be done in August.
- NPFDD is fully staffed at this time.
 - Request the Council to look at and revise the pay scale.
- Training – One member completed their FF-2 testing and is awaiting results.
- Maintenance Report – Half way done with testing over 200 fire hydrants.
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- 557 emergency calls this year, average of 3.6 per day.
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- Please continue to work on the ICS classes.
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- NPFED is fully staffed at this time.
 - Request the Council to look at and revise the pay scale.
- Training – One member completed their FF-2 testing and is awaiting results.
- Maintenance Report – Half way done with testing over 200 fire hydrants.

Building Department, Bill Butler

Building Department

- Two residential home permit applications submitted.
- One condominium permit application submitted.
- Received a variety of “small” permit applications—boiler, kitchen remodel, plumbing.

Public Works

- Homestead Road pedestrian path extension completed.
- Public Works activities are focusing mostly on landscaping efforts.

Utility Department

- Field Inspector has been on staff since May 19.
- Utility has taken delivery of the off-road vehicle as part of emergency preparedness project approved as part of 2020 budget.

North Pole Expansion Project

- Field Inspector has completed 59 service line installation inspections this afternoon.
- Of the 479 possible connections in Zones 3 & 4
 - 107 installations occurred to date (22%).
 - 423 property owners have submitted applications for new installations (88%).

Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Work has begun on the pump house site—walls going up and tank foundation is in place.
- Water main installed across the flood control project.
- Water main installation along Laurance Road is nearing completion.
- In late May, EPA & ADEC approved Remedial Action Work Plan that allowed work in PFAS contaminated areas.
 - Expect to begin water main installation in community of Moose Creek early July.
- Department of Natural Resources has scheduled a public meeting for July 14 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Hotel North Pole to gather public input about creating a Critical Water Management (CWMA).
 - Creating a CWMA would restrict use of groundwater in the community of Moose Creek.

City Services Office Space

- Before the Council this evening is a request to allow use of a request for proposals (RFP) versus an invitation to bid (ITB) approach.
 - RFP approach allows using criteria other than lowest cost bidder
- Much of exterior of building has asbestos siding that will need to be removed.
 - Quote requested from an environmental firm for removal and disposal of the siding.
- If use of RFP approach is approved, hope to release RFP within a week.
 - Contractor submissions will provide actual versus estimated construction costs.
 - Will bring recommendation to fund or not fund to council after review of proposals.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- General Liability audit \$5,800 Premium returned to City.
- Workers Comp reivwe with Hale and Associates
- PFD Garnishments \$133,948.00 of possible recovered garnishments.
- Financial audit continues.

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Swearing in off Ofc. Rosenbalm - Introduction
- Met with Rep. Prax about status of policing in North Pole (discuss)
- Stats will be available next council
- Myself and Lt. Lindhag will be out of the area Friday-Sunday evening. Sgt. McBroom will be in charge.
- Memorial Park – seeding project moving ahead. Thank you, Ben Otis at Better Way for donation – Thanks to the 50 people who showed, along with Councilmen Claus.
- Attended ALMJIA meeting on Policing in Alaska. Great conversation.
- Camera systems are entering final stages of install.

Borough Representative

- Pass through grants from the Feds.
- They sold some foreclosed properties. Tourist Properties.
- Christopher Crist is the new Presiding Officer.

City Clerk

None

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

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

None

OLD BUSINESS

- Reconsideration: Request to Approve the Borough Ambulance Contract

MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST TO APPROVE THE BOROUGH AMBULANCE CONTRACT.

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the Request to Approve the Borough Ambulance Contract.

Seconded by Mr. Clause.

Discussion

- Discussion was held regarding the request to approve the Borough ambulance contract.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO APPROVE THE BOROUGH AMBULANCE CONTRACT.

YES: 5 –Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley, Mr. McGhee, Mr. Walley, Mr. Claus

NO:

ABSTAIN:

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem declared the MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 20-06, A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Authorizing The City of North Pole To Accept Coronavirus Relief Funds From The State of Alaska.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ACCPET CARES ACT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA.

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve Resolution 20-06, A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Authorizing The City of North Pole To Accept Coronavirus Relief Funds From The State of Alaska.

Seconded by Mr. Clause.

Discussion

- Discussion was held regarding the request to accept funding.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO APPROVE THE BOROUGH AMBULANCE CONTRACT.

YES: 3 –Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley, Mr. Claus

NO: 2 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps

ABSTAIN:

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem declared the MOTION FAILED

- b. Ordinance 20-13, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 2, Administration and Personnel, Section 2.36.400 Holidays.

MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-13, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA AMENDING TITLE 2, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, SECTION 2.36.400 HOLIDAYS

Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the Ordinance 20-13, An ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 2, Administration and Personnel, Section 2.36.400.*

Seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Discussion

- Discussion was held regarding Ordinance 20-13.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-13, ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA AMENDING TITLE 2, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL, SECTION 2.36.400 HOLIDAYS.

YES: 5 –Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley, Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus

NO: –

ABSTAIN:

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem declared the MOTION PASSED

- c. Request to Approve use of a Request for Proposal approach to solicit construction contractor for the Old Water Treatment Plant Remodel Project.

MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST TO USE PROPOSAL APPROACH TO SOLICIT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR FOR THE OLD WATER TREATMENT PLANT REMODEL PROJECT

Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the Ordinance 20-13, An ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 2, Administration and Personnel, Section 2.36.400.*

Seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Discussion

- Discussion was held regarding request to use Proposal Approach to solicit construction contractor.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO USE PROPOSAL APPROACH TO CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR FOR THE OLD WATER TREATMENT PLANT REMODEL PROJECT.

YES: 5 –Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley, Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus

NO: –

ABSTAIN:

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem declared the MOTION PASSED

- d. Request to accept City Clerk Kim Keihl’s resignation and to appoint Aaron Rhoades as temporary City Clerk.

MOTION TO ACCEPT CITY CLERK KIM KEIHL’S RESINGATION AND APPOINT NEW TEMPORARY CITY CLERK AARON RHOADES.

Mr. Claus *moved to Accept City Clerk Kim Keihl’s resignation and to appoint Aaron Rhoades as the Temporary City Clerk.*

Seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Discussion

- Discussion was held regarding the acceptance of City Clerk Kim Keihl’s resignation and appointment of Aaron Rhoades as Temporary City Clerk.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ACCEPT CITY CLERK KIM KEIHL’S RESIGNATION AND APPOINT AARON RHOADES AS CITY CLERK.

YES: 5 –Mrs. Welch, Mr. Walley, Mr. Clause. Mr. Skipps, Mr. McGhee

NO:

ABSTAIN:

Councilman Walley Mayor Pro Tem declared the MOTION PASSED

MOTION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Walley *moved to Go into Executive Session.*

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

Council Comments

Mrs. Welch be careful out there. Hats off to Officer Miln.

Santa Claus wish Mayor Welch

Mr. McGhee thanked everyone and for working together and working through tough issues.

Mr. Walley thanked everyone for their participation and help.

Mrs. Welch *moved to suspend adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m.*

Seconded *by Mr. McGhee.*

The regular meeting of Monday, June 15, 2020 adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk