



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, Aug 17, 2020  
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

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Mayor Pro - tem Walley called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, Aug 17, 2020 to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro-tem Wally  
Santa Claus  
Thomas McGhee  
David Skipps  
Aino Welch  
DeJohn Cromer

Absent:

Excused: Mayor Welch

Also Present: Steve Dutra, Police Chief  
Geoff Coon, Fire Chief  
William Butler, Director of City Services  
Tricia Fogarty, Chief Financial Officer  
Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk/HR Manager

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Pro-tem Walley asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by Mayor Pro-tem Walley.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. McGhee moved to approve the agenda of August 17, 2020.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch.**

**Discussion**

**Mr. McGhee moved to consent the following items:**

**Old Business:**

- a. Ordinance 20 – 18 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend 2020 Operating Budget and Other Funds

**New Business:**

- a. Recommendation for acquiring office space for the City Services that include the Building, Public Works and Utility Departments administrative functions.

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

*On the amendment.*

**PASSED**

YES: 6 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Pro-tem Walley** declared the MOTION CARRIED

*On the Agenda as amended.*

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

YES: 6 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Pro- tem Walley** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to approve the Minutes of August 3, 2020.*

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

YES: 6 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Walley Pro-tem** declared the MOTION CARRIED

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- a. 2 Changes to MOU with the FNSB for CARES Act from “Memorandum of Agreement” to “Memorandum of Understanding” and change dates from “Aug 19 to Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>”.
- b. Welcome to New Clerk Aaron M. Rhoades

### **COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

- Councilman Claus asked about will an applicant be eligible for \$15,000 from the Borough and \$15,000 from the City. What does this mean?
  - Mayor Pro-tem yes that means \$30,000 total. \$15, 000 from each.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK**

#### **Fire Department, Deputy Chief Heineken**

- We have a Lieutenant in the final hiring stage for a position with Fairbanks Fire Department. I would urge the council to take immediate action on the pay scale to help with recruiting.
- We received notification that the Fire Department has been awarded \$45,171.43 to replace our attack fire house. Most of our fire house was purchased in the 1980s and was in desperate need of replacement. There is a 5% match (\$2,259.00). These grants are extremely competitive and we feel lucky to receive one. This grant will need to come before council for approval at next meeting.
- We have gone on 847 emergency calls this year.
- Alaska has had 4,309 Covid-19 cases with 1,250 total recovered and 28 deaths.
- The FNSB area has had 495 cases total. These numbers are sent out daily from Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.
- Please continue to work on those three ICS classes.
- We are expecting the new command truck in a couple of weeks. It has arrived in Washington. It will still need to be outfitted with siren, lights, Ipad mount,

Radio, etc. The cost of outfitting will come out of the fleet fund as it is still part of the vehicle.

- We were featured on Channel 11 on August 14th. Please check it out if you get a chance.

#### Training:

- We have members completing an online EMT class.
- Fall FF-1 academy starts Sept 15th.
- EMT-1 class starts Sept 28th. Space is still available.

#### Maintenance Report:

- Captain's Hamlin and McGilvary have been working on electrical problems with Platform 21 and Engine 21.
- Medic 21 will need to go to the alignment shop for a vibration.

### **Building Department, Bill Butler**

#### **Building Department**

- Permits issued since last Council meeting:
  - Veterinary Clinic expansion
  - 4-Plex on Cross Way
  - Tri-Plex on Santa Claus Lane
  - Single family home

#### **Public Works**

- City Hall sign being rebuilt.
- Landscaping remains major activity for Public Works

#### **Utility Department**

- Utility Department is engaged in routine summer maintenance—lift station cleaning, exercising valves.
- Utility Department staff are routinely supporting Moose Creek project activities.

#### **North Pole Expansion Project**

- Of the 480 possible connections in Zones 3 & 4, 436 (91%) have applied for service.
  - Contractors averaging a total of 25 new service line installation per week.
  - 313 (72%) of new account applicants' services have been installed in Zones 3 & 4.

#### Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Areas with deep excavations are still a problem when in PFAS contaminated area related to contaminated ground water.
  - Areas of concern are locations where auger drilling and jack and boring mains under DOT roads and AK Railroad.
  - Still waiting on a determination by EPA & DEC to approve alternative means to dispose of de-watering water.
- Pump house pumps, piping and electrical equipment still being installed.
- Installation of water mains in the Northern section of Moose Creek is 95% completed and Southern section water main installation is 45% completed.
- Piping modifications started in water treatment plant to support larger pumps and an additional water filter.
- Department of Natural Resources issued a public notice of City's request to increase the maximum draw rated from City wells.
  - Engineers have assessed increased draw and it should not affect wells of property owners adjacent to City wells.
- Environmental covenant response rate is low and that is concerning—approximately 10%. Discussing with USAF mechanisms to increase response rate—will take extra funding and will contract much of this work with PDC Engineers.

#### **City Services Office Space**

- Results of proposals to be presented to Council and recommendation on next step.

#### **Police Department, Chief Dutra**

- Police Appreciation Day and Gene's Chrysler Governor Attended
- Wage Analysis from 2020 AML Survey Wages

#### **Finance, Tricia Fogarty**

- Sent information off to Clear Gov.
- Need signed for payroll for tomorrow afternoon.

#### **Borough Representative**

- Criteria for getting properties amnesty with Code violations that had happened in the past was discussed. Potentially Grandfathering properties that have code violations that were unintentional or not done maliciously.
- Reallocated \$1,000,000 to University for their COVID -19 Response
- Capital Improvement \$11.3
  - The Nenana
  - Carlson Center
  
- Renegotiated Price for Property for New Transit Facility.

**City Clerk**

- Primary Elections Tuesday August 22, 2020
- Election filings for this election
  - Aino Welch
  - DeJohn Cromer
  
- Updated Website
- Created Election Section on the Website

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

- Councilman Claus provided and update on the losses incurred by FMH provided in relation to CARES Act Funding.

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

**Meeting Suspended for 5 minutes at 8:43pm**

**Meeting resumed at 8:48PM**

**OLD BUSINESS**

b. Ordinance 20 – 19 An Ordinance to Appropriate Cares Act Funds for City of North Pole, Healthcare, Businesses/Non-Profits and Individuals/Families

**MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE 20-19, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE CARES ACT FUNDS FOR CITY OF NORTH POLE, HEALTHCARE, BUSINESSES/NON-PROFITS AND INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES**

**Mr. McGhee moved to Adopt Ordinance 20-19**

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch.**

**Mr. McGhee moved to Amend Ordinance 20-19 in 1 place.**

- **Line 29 from \$15,000 to \$10,000**

**Seconded by Mr. Skippis**

**Discussion**

- Discussion was held regarding the request to approve Amendments.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE 20-19, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE CARES ACT FUNDS FOR CITY OF NORTH POLE, HEALTHCARE, BUSINESSES/NON-PROFITS AND INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES:

YES: 6 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skippis, Mr. Walley, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer,

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Pro-tem Walley** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 20-19, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE CARES ACT FUNDS FOR CITY OF NORTH POLE, HEALTHCARE, BUSINESSES/NON-PROFITS AND INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES**

**Mr. McGhee moved to Advance Ordinance 20-19.**

**Seconded by Mr. Skippis**

**Discussion**

- Discussion was held regarding the request to approve.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE 20-19, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE CARES ACT FUNDS FOR CITY OF NORTH POLE, HEALTHCARE, BUSINESSES/NON-PROFITS AND INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES

YES: 6 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skippis, Mr. Walley, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Claus, Mr. Cromer

NO: 0 -

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Pro-Tem Walley** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.*

**Seconded by Mr. Cromer.**

The regular meeting of August 17, 2020 adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Perry Walley, Mayor Pro-tem

**ATTEST:**

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Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk