



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, September 21, 2020
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, September 21, 2020 to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council Members in attendance:

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

Absent:

Excused:

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Welch.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the agenda of September 8, 2020.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Discussion

Mr. McGhee moved to consent the following items:

Old Business:

- a. Ordinance 20 – 20 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Approve a modifications to US Army Corps of Engineers’ Cooperative Agreement W911KB-19- 2-5200 to increase funding to pay an Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities permit and to increase funding to PDC Engineers for additional work in support of obtaining environmental covenants in Moose Creek.
- b. Ordinance 20 – 21 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2020 Water Utility Operating Budget, Professional Services to Finance Site Characterization Work at The 8th Avenue Pump House and Other Tasks
- c. Request City Council to determine final decision on 546 Ouida Way water utility bill appeal.

New Business:

- a. Resolution 20-07 of the North Pole City Council designating City Officials authorization to sign on the City of North Pole Accounts.
- b. (See below)
- c. Request from North Pole Police Department for approval to use Design Alaska for drafting services utilizing CARES Act Funds.
- d. Request to approve Dispatch Agreement for 2021-2022.
- e. Request to select Municipal Solutions to conduct the Total Compensation Review Project.

Postpone:

- b. Ordinance 20 – 22 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 4, Chapter 08.050 Sales Tax Code to Collect Sales Tax from Online Retailers.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

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

On the Agenda as amended.

Discussion

None

PASSED

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 MINUTES

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

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Energy for Alaska Task Force – Alaska to Alberta Railway
- ECHO Meeting how the State is counting us. We are in Red. 12 on Base.
- Fast Planning Policy Board – McGrath Road is 51% over budget. Evaluated 3 employees. They got a 1% raise.
- Sept 16, 2020 3 Mayors Meeting

- Energy for Alaska Meeting UAF Petroleum Lab
- Eieleson Military Workforce development
- September 25 TIGER Team Meeting
- Oct 1, 2020 MILCIV Meeting Colonel Burkland is coming to the City that day.
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COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- Mr. McGhee When is IGU going to put gas in the line
 - Mayor Welch December 2020
- Mr. McGhee Is there going to be any additional conversion funds for the Citizens of North Pole. They are no longer accepting applications.
 - Mayor Welch I will get with the Borough for an answer.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Issued 1st CARES Act Award.
- Working with Love Inc.
- 3 CARES Act Pending at the Borough.
- Completed training with Clear. Gov and trained Directors.
- Picked up bound Audits from KSH.
- Contacted by Mt. Mckinley bank about collateral levels.
- Bank reconciliations are almost complete.
- \$2,196,737.00 in sales tax collected to date.

Fire Department, Chief Coon

- Written test for the Lieutenant position took place today. Interviews will take place later this week and hopefully we will have a new Lieutenant to report by next council meeting
- We have gone on 1002 emergency calls this year.
- Alaska has had 6,906 Covid-19 cases with 2,226 total recovered and 42 deaths.
- The FNSB area has had 985 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.
- Command truck is being transported from Anchorage today and we will be working to get it registered, insured and accessories ordered. The department already has the Motorola radios for it.

Training:

- 5 students are taking the Firefighter 1 class it will finish up on November 21st
- EMT-1 class starts Sept 28th. Space is still available.

Maintenance Report:

- Medic 21 is still in the shop for a vibration issue.

Building Department, Bill Butler

- Presentation on impact of City of North Pole water wells by PDC Engineers Erica Betts and Keith Hanneman. (See Audio for complete information)

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Request to Council to purchase laptops and move funds from travel.
- Received Notice that we are going to be approved for a \$75,000 Grant and gas detection equipment for the Fire Department.
- Vehicle has been ordered.
- Officer just accepted a job. Moving from DOT commercial vehicle inspector.
- Entire Department training in Delta Junction.
- Major case at Safeway is still using lots of Department resources.
- Citizen came forward during an arrest and helped Officer.
- Crime Data linked across the State.
- Employee Assistance Program specifically for Police Officers

Borough Representative

- Sept 10 Short meeting marijuana license for onsite consumption @ good titrations.
- Revised Flood Insurance rate map plans adopted.

City Clerk

- Early Voting @ City hall
- Municipal Solutions will be good to get Total Compensation Completed
- BIG/FIG help. Borough as 69 only 3 North Pole Businesses
- Technology in Place

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

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

- Amy Geiger – Explore Fairbanks provided a small presentation

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.*

Seconded by Mr. Cromer.

The regular meeting of September 21, 2020 adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Michael Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk