



**Committee of the Whole – 6:30 P.M.
Regular City Council Meeting – 7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the North Pole City Council was held on Monday, January 2, 2024, in the North Pole City Hall Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tem Clack called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, January 2, 2024, to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Chandra Clack – Mayor Pro Tem
Anton Keller – Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Larry Terch – Alt. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Jeffrey Jacobson
Benny Williams
David Skipps

Absent:

Mayor Welch

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Pro Tem Clack

INVOCATION

Given by Mr. Williams

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Jacobson *moved* to approve the agenda of December 18th, 2023

Seconded *by* Mr. Skipps

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 2024-01 – City of North Pole - Legislative Priorities
- b. Resolution 2024-02 – Northern Alaska Railroad - Legislative Priority
- c. Memo – Appointment to the FNSB Historical Preservation Committee
- d. Memo – Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Williams V. City of North Pole

On the Agenda

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Williams, Terch, Jacobson, Skipps, Clack, Keller

No: 0

Absent: Welch

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Skipps *moved to approve* the minutes from the December 11, 2023, meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Williams

On the Minutes

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Williams, Skipps, Terch, Keller, Jacobson, Clack

No: 0

Absent: Welch

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- a. 2024 City of North Pole Committees

Mayor Pro Tem Clack asked Council members to consider dates they would have available to attend Borough Assembly Meetings, Mr. Jacobson, and Mr. Williams chose dates. Mayor Pro Tem Clack asked Patricia (Buttons) Bodiker if she would like to sit on the Ethics Committee, she accepted. Buttons is currently serving on the 2024 Bed Tax Committee.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

CITIZENS COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE

Public Works/City Utility, Paul Trissel

Mr. Trissel spoke to the hard pack snow removal that is happening within city limits. He reported that the RFP for the Water Main Replacement project is being advertised on the city website and in the newspaper with a deadline of 2:00 pm January 17th. Mr. Trissel asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr. Skipps asked about the light pole that is down, Mr. Trissel stated the replacement is on order but that there are supply line issues and he has no date for report for its arrival.

Police Department, Chief Dutra

Chief Dutra thanked the Council for allowing him to take leave and his staff for doing such a wonderful job in his absence. Chief Dutra stated Allison Moore started as the evidence custodian earlier in the day and that she will be a wonderful addition to the department. Chief Dutra stated that he has asked for an extension from the Legislature for the range project which pushed the deadline to 2025. Chief Dutra shared that he attended several meetings while he was away and again thanked the Council for allowing him to work remotely. Chief Dutra stated he met with Ms. Fogarty and went over the year-end budget numbers. Chief Dutra thanked Ms. Braniff for hiring Maggie Kimmel and shared that he has already met with her and that she is not afraid to tell him no and that he looks forward to working with her as Human Resources going forward. Chief Dutra asked Council members to come and speak with him if they have questions on the traffic ordinance, he stated he will be happy to answer any questions.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

Ms. Fogarty shared it is a very busy time in the Finance Department, she reported Ms. Terch has been working diligently getting business' compliant with 2024 business license requirements. Ms. Fogarty reported she has more things to do on her to do list than she has on her done list. She stated the budget is almost wrapped up and that she has been working on buttoning all items up and then she will send them to Ms. Braniff to submit to the Council.

Mr. Skippis asked if the money for the alcohol purchase on a city credit card was reimbursed, Ms. Fogarty reported it was deducted from their last paycheck.

Fire Department, Chief Heineken

Chief Heineken shared that he spent the holidays in east Texas and that he missed having snow on the ground at Christmas. He reported the annual Christmas truck was well received by the community and the staff worked hard to get it decorated but that they enjoyed doing it. Chief Chambers stated he may ask Public Works for assistance in decorating the following year because they do such an amazing job decorating the city. Chief Chambers shared that he is happy to report his department had 100 less calls in 2023 compared to the previous year. He reported 2024 has started out very busy with new years calls.

City Clerk, Emily Braniff

Ms. Braniff stated the busy back-to-back December meetings were interesting learning tool and a whirlwind. Ms. Braniff introduced Maggie Kimmel the new Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Administrator and shared she has been wonderful to work with over the past month, echoing Chief Dutra's praise of her strong emphasis on learning City Code.

ON GOING PROJECTS

Scott McCrea wished the Council a happy new year and explained why Explore Fairbanks withdrew from the Bed Tax Grant at the last moment. Mr. McCrea shared the Board of Directors met the same day as the meeting and made the decision. Mr. McCrea shared statistics from the 2023 visitor industry and shared how proud he is of the destination marketing video that Explore Fairbanks put out. He shared that there are several images of North Pole in the video and encouraged Council members to check it out, he stated it is posted on their

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website. Mr. McCrea reported on international travel trends and the impact of inflation on travel. Mr. McCrea stated Explore Fairbanks started several charities called Golden Heart Giving which donates to the Fairbanks Rescue Mission, the Breadline and the City of Fairbanks mobile response unit. Mr. McCrea stated Explore Fairbanks is partner organization and this year they have opened a membership that is free to members that live in the City of North Pole, the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. He shared opening up a complimentary membership to residents helps to gather information from local residents, that will in turn help the visitor industry.

Mr. Jacobson stated he watched the video and that it is a wonderful representation of the community and reminded Mr. McCrea of what an amazing resource the Parking Garage Downtown is. Mr. McCrea stated they have been in communication with the Parking Garage.

Mayor Pro Tem Clack asked Mr. McCrea which charities Explore Fairbanks donated to, he stated the Fairbanks Rescue Mission, the Breadline Stone Soup Café, the City of Fairbanks mobile response unit and that they also donated to The Door in December. Mayor Pro Tem Clack asked if they have identified who they will support in 2024, Mr. McCrea stated their partners drive who they end up donating to. Mayor Pro Tem Clack thanked Mr. McCrea for attending the meeting and bringing his report.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 2024-01 – City of North Pole - Legislative Priorities

Mr. Jacobson *moved to adopt* Resolution 2024-01 City of North Pole Legislative Priorities

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

On the Resolution

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Clack, Terch, Skipps, Jacobson, Williams, Keller

No: 0

Absent: Welch

- Resolution 24-02 – Northern Alaska Railroad Legislative Priority

Mr. Jacobson *moved to adopt* Resolution 2024-02 – Northern Railroad Legislative Priority

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

On the Resolution

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Keller, Clack, Terch, Skipps, Williams, Jacobson

No: 0

Absent: Welch

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- Memo – Appointment to the FNSB Historical Preservation Committee of John Porrier

Mr. Jacobson *moved* to approve the Memo - Appointment to the FNSB Historical Preservation Committee of John Porrier

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

On the Memo

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Skipps, Williams, Terch, Keller, Clack, Jacobson

No: 0

Absent: Welch

- Memo – Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Chief Dutra reported that this is the largest JAG award they have ever been granted and that he is pleased with the offer, he shared they have been applying for it since 2009. Chief Dutra acknowledged the help he received from Lieutenant Smith in writing the grant which came in \$27,000 above any other grant they have received.

Mr. Jacobson *moved* to accept the Memo – Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Seconded by Mr. Williams

On the Memo

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Skipps wished everyone a happy new year and asked everyone to stay safe.

Mr. Jacobson stated the new year brings new opportunities to be better and his goal in 2024 is to be kinder because the world needs more kindness today. Mr. Jacobson thanked Mayor Pro Tem Clack for all of the additional work she is doing while Mayor Welch is out healing.

Mr. Williams shared it is important to treat people the way that you would want to be treated.

Mr. Terch wished everyone a healthy and happy new year. Mr. Terch thanked Mayor Pro Tem Clack for the job that she is doing, filling in for the mayor and thanked the rest of the staff for the jobs that they do.

Mr. Keller wished everyone a happy new year and echoed Mr. Williams' thoughts, sharing that he who does not have sin casts the first stone. Mr. Keller stated it is a new year, a new you and a new outlook on North Pole as being a good goal.

Mayor Pro Tem Clack thanked the Council for helping to make the community a better place. Mayor Pro Tem

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Clack welcomed Ms. Kimmel to the City of North Pole and thanked her for joining the team.

Mr. Jacobson *moved* to close the Regular Council meeting and to enter Executive Session

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

ROLL CALL

Yes: Skipps, Clack, Terch, Keller, Williams, Jacobson

No:

Absent: Welch

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Williams V. City of North Pole

RECONVENE

The Council Reconvened after Executive Session about Williams V. City of North

Mr. Jacobson *moved* to accept the terms of the Williams V. City of North Pole settlement

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

ROLL CALL

Yes: Jacobson, Williams, Terch, Skipps, Clack, Keller

No: 0

Absent: Welch

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Keller *moved* to adjourn.

Seconded by Mr. Terch

The regular meeting of Monday, January 2, 2024, adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, January 16, 2024.

ATTEST:


Emily Braniff, CMC
City Clerk




Mayor, City of North Pole, Alaska