



**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, February 5, 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, February 5, 2024, to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Mayor Welch  
Anton Keller – Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

**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 February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Seconded* by Mr. Terch

Mr. Jacobson *moved to amend* the agenda to allow citizen comments on Ordinance 2023-17 under Citizens Comments

*Seconded* by Mr. Williams

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Ordinance 2023-17, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, to Amend Title 10, Unsafe and Hazardous Vehicles and Title 1, Minor Offense Fee Schedule (Ordinance 2023-17 was postponed from the Regular City Council meeting of November 20, 2023)

*Minutes*

- b. Ordinance 2024-01, an Ordinance to Accept Board of Adjustment Duties from the Fairbanks North Star Borough to Hear and Decide Appeals of Certain Land use Decisions for Land Located Within the City of North Pole

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Memo – Appointment to FNSB Planning Commission, Greg Corbett
- b. Request to Council – Purchase Two (2) 2024 Dodge Durango Police Vehicles \$94,142.50
- c. Request to Council – Water Meter Purchase \$242,598.31 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
- d. Request to Council – Lead Line Survey - Respec \$48,000
- e. Request to Council – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application -Two Bears Environmental Consulting \$6,300

## **On the Agenda**

### **DISCUSSION**

None

### **PASSED**

Yes: Clack, Terch, Jacobson, Skippis, Williams

No: 0

Absent: Welch, Keller

## **On the Agenda, as Amended**

### **DISCUSSION**

None

### **PASSED**

Yes: Williams, Terch, Clack, Jacobson, Skippis

No: 0

Absent: Welch, Keller

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Pro Tem Clack *moved to approve* the minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting.

Seconded *by* Mr. Skippis

## **On the Minutes**

### **DISCUSSION**

None

### **PASSED**

Yes: Skippis, Terch, Jacobson, Clack, Williams

No: 0

Absent: Welch, Keller

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- a. Employee Recognition – 25 Years of Service Paul Trissel

*Minutes*

Mayor Pro Tem Clack asked Danny Wallace City Services Director to come forward to award Paul Trissel, Utilities Supervisor, a 25-year plaque. Mr. Wallace spoke about Mr. Trissel's 25-year history working with the City of North Pole. The Council and the chambers recognized Mr. Trissel's accomplishments with a standing ovation.

## COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

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

Rita Trometer spoke against the traffic hazard ordinance.

Barbara Haney spoke against Ordinance 2023-17 and wished Mayor Welch well. Ms. Haney thanked the Council for including a prayer at the Council meeting.

Tammy Wilson shared her disappointment that there was no work session to discuss the ordinance and asked if there is another ordinance of its kind if they could hold a town hall to include community input.

Chief Dutra reported he has asked the Council to fail the ordinance and spoke to some of the statistics that back up his recommendation. Chief Dutra thanked everyone for coming out to share their thoughts about the ordinance.

Rich Ide shared that he has lived in North Pole since 1983 and that the traffic hazard ordinance seems unnecessary, and it gives him a dark cloud feeling.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE

### Finance, Tricia Fogarty

Ms. Fogarty shared all the January sales tax payments have come in and they are working to close out the month. Ms. Fogarty reported they have met with the auditor, Elgee Rehfeld for their first meeting and it seems to be going very well.

### Fire Department, Assistant Chief Tod Chambers

AC Chambers reported Chief Heineken is in Juneau at the Fire Chief's Leadership Association. He shared the trainings the department has been involved in. AC Chambers stated the apprenticeship program at the Fire Department is getting a wonderful number of inquiries and one actual application already.

### Public Works/City Utility, Danny Wallace

Mr. Wallace reported Moose Creek water expansion will officially end on March 31, 2024. Mr. Wallace stated the system still has a year's warranty and that there are a few minor items that need to be taken care of, but he will stay on top of it.

Mr. Wallace shared that there is a fire alarm system issue in City Hall, he shared the system is over 30 years old and may need to be revamped. Mr. Wallace stated he is working on camera access in City Hall for some of the employees in the fishbowl.

Mr. Wallace reported there is a request for bid being advertised for a skid steer with a deadline of February 14<sup>th</sup> and he would have a recommendation for Council at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Wallace shared he is working with Human Resources Administrator/Deputy Clerk Maggie Kimmel to start

*Minutes*

advertising for a position opening in Public Works.

Mr. Wallace reported the Building Department continues to see applications for permits and that he expects that they will increase as the summer months approach.

Mr. Wallace stated there are no serious issues to report for Utilities, but they are continuing work on the Water Main Design package and that he should have a recommendation at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Wallace reported the vehicle that was sold at auction brought in \$9,200.

Mr. Jacobson shared that the fire alarm had an old phone system at the City of Fairbanks had an issue, it was running on a seven-digit phone number, and it was fixed when they updated it to a 10-digit number. Mr. Wallace said he would investigate it.

#### Police Department, Chief Dutra

Chief Dutra shared he has two supervisors at training in Soldotna and that his department is working on the 2024 Grant Cycle. Chief Dutra shared he is close to hiring the last open position in his department and that he was thankful to the Council for valuing the employees of his department. He shared departments across the country are suffering and he is at full staff in part to how much the Council helped with pay the prior year.

#### City Clerk, Emily Braniff

Ms. Braniff thanked everyone for coming to the Council meeting and referred to the video monitor to show the chambers more about the city's website. Ms. Braniff shared that agendas are required by Code to be posted on the website Thursday before the Monday Regular Council meeting. Ms. Braniff reported Council meetings are always the first and third Monday of the month and navigated on the video monitor for the guests in Chambers as to where they can find agenda packets and other city business on the website. Ms. Braniff shared the required code training for staff and Council is at 73% compliance and that there are three job openings available on the website.

#### Borough Representative

Mayor Pro Tem Clack asked Ms. Haney to give a Borough report, Ms. Haney updated the Council of the items on the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Districts agenda. Ms. Haney shared information about the Fairbanks North Star Borough's special election because of the School District's deficit.

### ON GOING PROJECTS

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Ordinance 2023-17, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, to Amend Title 10, Unsafe and Hazardous Vehicles and Title 1, Minor Offense Fee Schedule (Ordinance 2023-17 was postponed from the Regular City Council meeting of November 20, 2023)

Mr. Jacobson *moved to Adopt* Ordinance 2023-17

*Seconded* by Mr. Williams

**On the Ordinance**

*Minutes*

**DISCUSSION**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: 0

No: Clack, Terch, Skipps, Jacobson, Williams

Absent: Welch, Keller

- Ordinance 2024-01, an Ordinance to Accept Board of Adjustment Duties from the Fairbanks North Star Borough to Hear and Decide Appeals of Certain Land use Decisions for Land Located Within the City of North Pole

Mr. Jacobson *moved to Adopt* Ordinance 2024-01

*Seconded* by Mr. Williams

**On the Ordinance**

**DISCUSSION**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: Jacobson, Skipps, Williams, Terch, Clack

No: 0

Absent: Welch, Keller

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Memo – Appointment to FNSB Planning Commission, Greg Corbett

Mr. Terch *moved to Approve* the Memo - Appointment to the FNSB Planning Commission, Greg Corbett

**On the Memo**

**DISCUSSION**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: Clack, Terch, Skipps, Jacobson, Williams

No: 0

Absent: Welch, Keller

- Request to Council – Purchase Two (2) 2024 Dodge Durango Police Vehicles \$94,142.50

Mr. Jacobson *moved to Approve* the Request to Council – Purchase Two (2) 2024 Dodge Durango Police Vehicles \$94,142.50

- Request to Council – Water Meter Purchase \$242,598.31 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

**On the Memo**

**DISCUSSION**

*Minutes*

*February 5, 2024*

*NOT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT*

None

**PASSED**

Yes: Clack, Terch, Skipps, Williams, Jacobson

No: 0

Absent: Welch, Keller

Mr. Skipps *moved to Approve* the Request to Council – Water Meter Purchase \$242,598.31 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

*Seconded* by Mr. Jacobson

### **On the Memo**

**DISCUSSION**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: Skipps, Clack, Terch, Williams, Jacobson

No: 0

Absent: Welch, Keller

- Request to Council – Lead Line Survey - Respec \$48,000

Mr. Jacobson *moved to Approve* the Request to Council – Lead Line Survey

*Seconded* by Mr. Williams

### **On the Memo**

**DISCUSSION**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: Williams, Terch, Skipps, Clack, Jacobson

No: 0

Absent: Welch, Keller

- Request to Council – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application -Two Bears Environmental Consulting \$6,300

Mr. Williams *moved to Approve* the Request to Council – Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application -Two Bears Environmental Consulting \$6,300

*Seconded* by Mr. Skipps

### **On the Memo**

**DISCUSSION**

None

**PASSED**

*Minutes*

*February 5, 2024*

*NOT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT*

Yes: Skipps, Clack, Williams, Jacobson

No: Terch

Absent: Welch, Keller

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Skipps thanked God for the nicer weather because it is easing up on his pocketbook, he asked everyone to drive safe.

Mr. Jacobson asked Ms. Braniff to forward to Council and Staff the email link to the Legislative Sessions that will be held during the week in Juneau. Mr. Jacobson reported the Grange Gallery is having a showing and a wine tasting and encouraged everyone to check it out if they have not already. Mr. Jacobson shared that he, Mr. Wallace, and Mayor Pro Tem Clack had met with the 2016 strategic planning committee, and they would be speaking with Council and community members going forward. Mr. Jacobson shared a handout with the Council and Clerk the 2010 North Pole Land Use Plan. Mr. Jacobson reminded everyone that it is Black History Month and asked for a Proclamation to be made at the second February meeting honoring it.

Mr. Williams shared he had some car problems and asked everyone to do research when a dealer tries to tell them how much it will cost, it saved him some money. Mr. Williams shared he will be attending the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Clack asked that he let the Borough know that North Pole had approved the land use ordinance and that they approved the FNSB Planning Commission appointee, which has been vacant for six years.

Mr. Terch thanked Mr. Trissel for his service to the City of North Pole and shared that he does so much more in his job than anyone really realizes. Mr. Terch thanked everyone for coming out to testify and to share their opinions he stated that collaborating with the citizens is his favorite part of his job.

Mayor Pro Tem Clack thanked the Lord for everyone showing up for testimony and asked that the Lord touches Mayor Welch for healing. Mayor Pro Tem Clack asked everyone to drive safely and thanked staff of the city for the work they do and the Council for their service.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Skipps *moved* to adjourn.

Seconded *by* Mr. Jacobson

The regular meeting of Monday, February 5, 2024, adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.



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Mayor Pro Tem Clack

ATTEST:

  
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Emily Braniff, CMC  
City Clerk