



**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, April 1st, 2024, in the North Pole City Hall Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Michael Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, April 1st, 2024, to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Welch
Chandra Clack – Mayor Pro Tem
Anton Keller – Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Larry Terch – Alt. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Jeffrey Jacobson

Absent:

Benny Williams
David Skipps

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by City Clerk Emily Braniff

INVOCATION

Given by Mr. Terch

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Keller *moved* to approve the agenda of April 1st, 2024

Seconded by Mr. Terch

Mr. Jacobson *moved* to amend the agenda to move item a. Request to Council – Accept Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) Grant Funds \$6,489.00, b. Appoint Bethany Spence as North Pole Representative FAST Project Enhancement Committee and c. Request to Council – Use Stantec the Engineer of Design for City Utilities Construction Standards Update to the Consent Agenda.

Seconded by Ms. Clack

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request to Council – Accept Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) Grant Funds \$6,489.00
- b. Appoint Bethany Spence as North Pole Representative FAST Project Enhancement Committee
- c. Request to Council – Use Stantec the Engineer of Design for City Utilities Construction Standards Update

On the Agenda, as Amended

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Keller, Terch, Jacobson, Clack, Welch

No: 0

Absent: Williams, Skippis

On the Agenda

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Clack, Terch, Jacobson, Keller, Welch

No: 0

Absent: Skippis, Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jacobson *moved to approve* the minutes from the March 18th, 2024, meeting.

Seconded *by* Ms. Clack

On the Minutes

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Terch, Keller, Jacobson, Clack, Welch

No: 0

Absent: Williams, Skippis

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Welch reported he submitted testimony to the Alaska Legislature regarding PFOS/PFOA. Mayor Welch shared events that will be upcoming to include the Veteran's Appreciation Banquet he and Ms. Clack and their spouses were planning to attend.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE

Fire Department, Chief Heineken

Chief Heineken spoke about the positive impact of having a quality staff at the Fire Department who was able to determine what was going on with one of their engines batteries and they were able to get it up and working again. Chief Heineken stated the engine is getting older and should be phased out in 2031 which is only seven years away and discussed how to save money for a new engine going forward. He spoke to a Medicaid reimbursement that was received from ambulance call outs, Mr. Jacobson asked if that money could be budgeted toward a new ambulance. Chief Heineken stated that he would love to see some revenue saved toward a future ambulance purchase.

Mayor Welch and Chief Heineken spoke about the expense of new equipment at the Fire Department, especially the fire trucks and ambulances. Mayor Welch spoke of the importance of the equipment the department uses and how much he values saving money toward their future purchases.

City Clerk, Emily Braniff

Ms. Braniff shared that North Pole City Hall will be a voting location for both the Primary Election, August 20th and for the General Election November 5th. She shared that North Pole City Hall will also host early voting 10 days prior to the May 7th Fairbanks North Star Borough Special Election. Ms. Braniff stated North Pole City Hall will also have early voting 2 weeks prior to the October 1st Municipal Election.

Mayor Welch asked Ms. Braniff how Maggie Kimmel Deputy Clerk/Human Resources Administrator was doing in her role; Ms. Braniff reported she is doing an exemplary job.

ON GOING PROJECTS

Mr. Jacobson stated the North Pole Economic Development Committee met for a second time, it was a robust working session they reviewed the strategic development plan in detail and started formulating an action plan going forward. He stated the next meeting will be held April 18th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in North Pole City Council Chambers.

Ms. Braniff pulled the North Pole City Website up on the monitor in Chambers and referenced the main banner bar reflecting information about the North Pole Economic Development Committee's next meeting.

Mayor Welch pointed out that there were only 267 shopping days left until Christmas, which is notated on the city website.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Keller wished everyone a happy Easter and shared that he is excited about the future of the North Pole Economic Development Committee and how it may help the community. Mr. Keller asked everyone to drive safely and to watch out for children who are now out on bikes since it is spring.

Mr. Terch thanked the City Services Department for clearing the sidewalks and asked everyone to be aware and watch out for motorcycles that are now out because of the increased sunshine.

Mr. Jacobson shared that he hoped everyone had a wonderful Easter weekend. Mr. Jacobson reported he handed out two handouts, one which spoke to the Legislative Priorities of the City of Fairbanks the other related to Clean Up Alaska Day coming up on May 11th. Mr. Jacobson highlighted the Make it Shine handout and shared his interest in the junk car portion of the event, he shared his hope that the Code Committee could meet to discuss. Mr. Jacobson stated the vehicles need to be cleaned out and drained of all liquids and then they would be recycled free of charge. Mr. Jacobson thanked Chief Heineken for the positive report from the Fire Department.

Ms. Clack stated she attended the Chamber Lunch at the Interior Gas Utility and she learned where they will be extending utility service to over the coming summer. Ms. Clack shared her excitement about people being able to have their junk cars removed in an economic manner from their properties.

Mayor Welch spoke to the history of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the importance of the organization; he shared Iceland is the only member of NATO that does not have an Army but that they have big hearts.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Keller *moved* to adjourn.

Seconded *by* Mr. Terch

The regular meeting of Monday, April 1, adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, April 15, 2024.

ATTEST:


Emily Braniff, CMC
City Clerk




Mayor, City of North Pole, Alaska