



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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Clack called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, July 1, 2024, to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Anton Keller – Mayor Pro Tem
Larry Terch – Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Jeffrey Jacobson
Benny Williams

Absent:

Dave Skipps

Also Attending:

Zane Wilson, Lawyer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Pro Tem Clack

INVOCATION

Given by Mr. Keller

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Keller *moved* to approve the agenda of June 17, 2024

Seconded *by* Mr. Terch

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution 2024-06 A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Designating City Officials Authorized to Sign on City of North Pole Accounts
- b. PFAS Class Action Lawsuit Participation

On the Agenda

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Williams, Terch, Jacobson, Keller, Clack

No: 0

Absent: Skipps

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jacobson *moved to approve* the minutes from the July 17, 2024, meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Terch

On the Minutes

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Williams, Terch, Keller, Jacobson, Clack

No: 0

Absent: Skipps

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Clack read aloud a Proclamation in honor of Mother Emma Roudolph Avery.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE

City Services Director, Danny Wallace

- Agnew Beck – Strategic Plan Phase 1 Presentation

Shelly Wade and Molly Mylius presented on behalf of Agnew Beck Phase 1 of the North Pole Strategic Plan.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

Ms. Fogarty shared that the 2023 Audit is complete and will be presented at the next Regular Council meeting.

Fire Department, Chief Heineken

Chief Heineken reported that wildfire activity remains high and we are surrounded by several wildfires, he shared the hospital has a relief breathing rooms for anyone who may have respiratory issues. Chief Heineken stated it is a high burn year because the conditions are perfect for fire. He reminded everyone to stay safe and to be aware of the fire danger when camping. He shared he issued a ban on the sale of fireworks inside city limits. Chief Heineken stated the department had a wonderful time at the annual picnic and that he was happy with the

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NOT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT

attendance, especially given the large amount of smoke that was lingering in the air. Chief Heineken proudly reported that today was day one with the apprentices at the Fire Department and they all performed well. Mayor Clack shared that she attended the Fire Fighter Open House, and it was very well put on, she thanked Chief Heineken for putting on such a nice event.

Police Department, Lt. Jed Smith

Lt. Smith reported the Fourth of July Parade is coming up and asked everyone to be safe while attending. Lt. Smith reminded everyone that the Fallen Hero Memorial will be at Memorial Park on July 27, 2024. Lt. Smith reported Jonathan McBroom graduated the Academy and will be sworn in the following week. Mr. Williams asked Lt. Smith to make sure the parade slows down because it goes by too fast.

City Clerk, Emily Braniff

Ms. Braniff reported she took a utility tour with Utilities Director Paul Trissel and Deputy Clerk/Human Resources Administrator Maggie Kimmel and it was a wonderful eye opening tour. Ms. Braniff reported candidate filing will begin July 15th at 8:00 am and run through July 19th at 5:00 pm.

ON GOING PROJECTS

NEW BUSINESS

- Resolution 2024-06 A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Designating City Officials Authorized to Sign on City of North Pole Accounts

Mr. Jacobson *moved to adopt* Resolution 2024-06 A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Designating City Officials Authorized to Sign on City of North Pole Accounts

Seconded by Mr. Williams

On the Resolution

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: Clack, Terch, Jacobson, Williams, Keller

No: 0

Absent: Skipps

- PFAS Class Action Lawsuit Participation

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

Seconded by Ms. Clack

On the Participation

DISCUSSION

Mr. Wallace spoke to the PFAS contamination and gave his recommendation for the City of North Pole to join the

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class action lawsuit because it costs nothing to join. Mr. Wallace stated he had forgotten to bring it to Council sooner but he has been working on the project since the past November.

Mr. Terch asked questions about the law firm and about joining the lawsuit will keep them out of other possible litigation. City Attorney Zane Wilson stated he cannot comment on missing out on other litigation but that this class action lawsuit is a good one to sign up for.

Mr. Williams asked if they had to sign today of if there would be another opportunity after some research is done, Mr. Wallace stated there will be future opportunities.

Mr. Jacobson stated the City of North Pole wants to be in the first tier of the litigation.

Mr. Terch asked if there were other firms that could do the same lawsuit, Mr. Wallace reported he had not done that research but that he has faith in this firm because they presented at AML. Mr. Wallace stated he does not have a cost analysis and had wondered if the lawsuit is legitimate but after consulting with Mr. Wilson, he believes it is cost effective for the city to join.

FAILED

Yes: Keller, Clack, Jacobson

No: Terch, Williams

Absent: Skipps

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Jacobson shared his disappointment in the lawsuit vote and encouraged the two no votes to do the research to find a better company to handle the lawsuit for the city.

Mr. Williams stated he had no comment.

Mr. Terch thanked Chief Heineken for making the tough decision to stop firework sales in this climate and shared that making tough decisions is hard. Mr. Terch thanked Mr. Jacobson for the reminder to do research on a different law firm, Mr. Terch stated he asked Mr. Wallace five days ago at the staff meeting to do that same research but here today he stated he has still not done such research.

Mr. Keller spoke of a trip he took to Dillingham and that he is in awe with the opportunities that we have in this great state. Mr. Keller shared that as a Council member he is trying to do the best for his city and shared that there is always room for improvement. Mr. Keller stated he finds comfort in the fact that this Council can have healthy debates.

Ms. Clack spoke to events that will be going on in the community before the next Council meeting and asked everyone to be safe while out taking part in the events.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Keller *moved* to adjourn.

Seconded *by* Mr. Terch

The regular meeting of Monday, June 17, 2024, adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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

ATTEST:


Emily Braniff, CMC
City Clerk


Mayor Chandra Clack

