

**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 February 7, 2011 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Doug Isaacson called the regular City Council meeting of February 7, 2011 to order at 7:00 p.m.

There were present:

Mr. McGhee

Ms. Arnold

Ms. Hunter

Mr. Jones

Mr. Holm

Mr. McCarthy

Mayor Isaacson

Absent/Excused

Excused

Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Councilman Kevin McCarthy

INVOCATION

Invocation was given *by* Mayor Pro Tem Thomas McGhee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McCarthy *moved to* Approve the Agenda of February 7, 2011

Seconded *by* Mr. Holm

Discussion

None

Ms. Hunter *moved to* Place All Items Under New Business Under Consent Agenda

Seconded *by* Ms. Arnold

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES – 5–Holm, Arnold, McCarthy, Hunter, McGhee

NO – 0

Abstained- 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McCarthy *moved to Approve the Minutes of January 18, 2011*

Seconded by Ms. Arnold

Discussion

Ms. Hunter had a question on information on the Arctic Winter Games and would like to request tabling the minutes until the mayor returns and they can get an explanation regarding the funding. Her notes said that the city would have a \$10,000 obligation and in the minutes it states that the city would have a \$30,000 obligation.

PASSED

YES – 0

NO – 5–Holm, Arnold, McGhee, Jones, McCarthy, Hunter, Isaacson

Abstained- 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

**Communication Highlights from the Mayor for the period ending January 28, 2011
ISSUES:**

- Mayor and Clerk will be Travelling: City Clerk Kathy Weber and I will be travelling with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to MacDill AFB in Tampa FL from Sunday, January 30 to Friday, February 4. This purpose of this official Department of Defense activity is to provide community leaders and employers of National Guard and Reserve members the opportunity to observe first-hand the type and quality of military training and leadership activities that our National Guard and Reserve members participate in when they are absent from work on Guard or Reserve duty. We will have opportunity to visit, observe, and receive mission briefings from the Air Force Reserve, CENTCOM, Marine Corp Reserve, Navy Reserve, and Army Guard. North Pole will have at least two guardsmen from the Police Department deploying in 2011. Then, after the Super Bowl, Alternate Deputy Mayor Pro Tempore Ron Jones and I will be travelling with to Juneau from Monday, February 7 to 10, with a follow-on day in Anchorage as the guest of USARAK Commander, General and Mrs. Ray Palumbo the evening of February 10, with meetings with State officials, including DNR Commissioner Larry Hartig in Anchorage on February 11. In my absence, Mayor Pro Tempore Thomas McGhee will be presiding over the Regular City Council Meeting of February 7. Kathy will be on leave from February 7 to 15, and Payables/Utility Billing Clerk Tricia Fogarty will be filling in as a deputy clerk in her absence. Council members may be called in by City accounting staff to sign checks, or payroll in our absences.
- Super Bowl and North Pole: No matter what team you're hoping wins the Super Bowl, did you know that Green Bay Packer No. 73 is North Pole High School graduate, Daryn Colledge, class of 2000? THAT'S AWESOME! Congratulations to him, and his family. His mother is local State Farm Agent, Tammy Randolph. Working with the Council, City and High School staff, and interested community members, I would like to recognize this outstanding community member. NPHS Football Coach Richard Henert

puts Daryn's accomplishment into perspective: "Daryn is (only) the third Alaskan to play in the Super Bowl. Mark Schlereth (Service HS) and Travis Hall (Kenai HS) played against each other in the 1999 Super Bowl for Denver and Atlanta, they even both started in that game, Schlereth on the O-line and Hall on the D-line. Schlereth is the only Alaskan with Super Bowl rings (3). BUT Daryn is the FIRST Interior Alaska Athlete to play in the Super Bowl of our four NFL players: Reggie Tongue, Tom Neville and Shane Bonham."

• OPEN HOUSES Mean PUBLIC COMMENT. Public Comment is being requested for several important projects affecting the City of North Pole and surrounding community. The following are the projects, comment close date, summary of project affect, and web site for further information/comment:

1) JPARC Expansion,

a. Comments close February 4.

b. Among the issues are:

* the need to encourage the State to ensure specific language to ensure that MOAs have great latitude to permit civilian flights,

* that requirements are set to avoid sonic booms as the military airspace corridor R-2205 moves much closer to North Pole,

* the need that Alaska must pursue an economy independent of federal or oil money and therefore military air, space and ground operations areas must specifically not prohibit the exploration, development, and transport of natural resources and other commercial development and associated civilian use.

c. For further info/comment: www.jpisceis.com or mail: ALCOM Public Affairs, 9480 Pease Avenue, Suite 120, JBER, AK 99506. Phone: (907) 552-2341.

2) Alaska Railroad Corp (ARRC) Northern Rail Extension, including the Tanana River Crossing

a. comment period is open (probably most effective is to urge the EPA for non-objection)

b. among the issues are:

* EPA, which had been supportive during the past five years, suddenly is obstructive using procedural delays. ARRC has extensively responded with factual data to the various issues, including an alleged disruption of fish habitat. If the ARRC is successful, construction of a 2 mile levy to keep the river bank in place and stop area flooding will begin this summer. It will take several years to complete the fund.

c. for more information, visit www.AlaskaRailroad.com, select projects, Fairbanks.

3) ARRC North Pole Road/Rail Crossing Reduction, Phase One.

a. Comment period ends February 28.

b. Among the issues are:

* Removing track from the flood control project to Peridot or 11 mile? ARRC will remove the track in the city but wants to keep track available as a spur line for future potential customers.

* What to do with the abandoned line right of way (ROW)? I believe the simplest solution is the one that covers all details in the easiest manner. Therefore, a modified reversionary solution, where ARRC keeps only a minimum utility easement so they don't have to spend millions moving fiber optic cable and other utility customers but

where the previous owners have their property given back to them, as was the requirement when the spur to Eielson was first built as a federal project.

* Where to cross the Richardson Highway? Currently, ARRC is looking to cross at a logical spot close to K&K Recycling, an ARRC customer, at 9 mile. If the rail is kept on the north side of the highway all the way to Ft. Wainwright in order to serve the fort and existing customers, Phase 2 might not even be necessary, eliminating time, money, and a complicated project, allowing those resources to be directed to realigning that portion of the track from 3 mile around Fairbanks.

c. for more information, visit www.AlaskaRailroad.com, select projects, Fairbanks. Email comments to: public_comment@akrr.com. Mail to: ARRC Capital Projects, PO Box 107500, Anchorage, AK 99510.

- FMATS Policy Committee met on January 19. Among the discussion items was an Administrative Modification (#3) to the 2010-2013 TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) and I urged greater attention be given to the Plack Road Bike Trail project and thanked DOT for finally moving forward with the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Facilities project (aka, sidewalk) along St. Nicholas Drive that was to be a companion piece to, and made more urgent because of, the Dawson Road Garvee Bond Overpass Project and urged that this be expedited. Also on the informational items were discussions on the North Pole Road/Rail Reduction Project, the Illinois Street Reconstruction Project, and a re-prioritizing of the FMATS FY12 CAPSIS Requests to the Governor/Legislature in which the other members supported my request to make the North Pole Interchange Pedestrian Project for \$1.5 million as our #3 request, (FMATS LED Streelight Conversion for \$1.2 million is #2, and FMATS – TIP for \$15 million is #1).

- At the Recent FEDC Board Meeting, Steve Haagenson, formerly of GVEA and more recently Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), gave a presentation depicting the differences between two of the 9 gas pipeline projects and Susitna. I had mentioned that I was preparing a presentation for my Council, and Mayor Cleworth has suggested that we consolidate a presentation to include the Councils of North Pole, Fairbanks, and the FNSB Assembly where the differences between the Port Authority's FNG acquisition project, the Energia Cura project, and the Healy Clean Coal Plant Project are compared so that when these projects come before us as supporting governmental agencies we will be able to understand better the differences in projects, time tables for completion, estimated future savings to the community. As soon as this meeting is established, I will inform you. Please make every effort to attend.

- Commissioner Update. The City of North Pole still needs two individuals to represent the city on the FNSB Planning Commission and the FNSB Recycling Commission. There is a lot of local interest in RECYCLING! If you are interested in either one of these positions, please contact Mayor Isaacson at 488-8584. Details of the commissions are online at www.fnsb.us.

FNSB ASSEMBLY MEETING.

The Borough Assembly met on January 27 with one item of interest to North Pole amending portions of chapter 8.21 “to add and amend certain PM2.5 definitions, to

change PM2.5 emission standards from prohibited acts to a voluntary educational program and remove related fines, to remove the reference to “use” in the required buyer affidavit and to remove the requirement of burning dry wood, and remove the prohibition against burning glossy or colored paper.” There were over 30 people who testified, which resulted in the reinstatement of the dry wood requirement—moisture content must be 20% or less; moisture meters can be obtained in local stores for approximately \$20. The meters are easy to use, as demonstrated by an 11 year old girl who testified. Health reasons were the top concern, and economic reasons were high on the list for re-inserting the requirement, as burning wet wood is shown to be the biggest contributor of PM2.5. The volunteer education program is a response to Prop A which became law when the last election was certified and which prohibited the Borough from banning, prohibiting or fining residents for the use of home heating devices, but which did not remove the borough’s obligation to regulate and keep local control, as the voters required in the 2009 election. Of concern to us in North Pole was the testimony of FNSB staffer, Glen Miller, who stated that the air quality in North Pole is worse than that around Woodriver Elementary School, of which many people had referenced as a severe health hazard. I will follow-up with borough staff on mitigation efforts in and around the North Pole core area, especially near our schools.

The next Assembly meeting is February 10; Mayor Pro Tempore Thomas McGhee will represent the City at this meeting.

MEDIA:

Jan 22, 29, Mayor Isaacson was on KJNP (1170 AM, 100.3 FM) 8 – 9 a.m. “Over the Coffee Cup.”

UPCOMING (*see above for other events, dates, and times*)

- **Feb 2, 11:30 am -1pm**, Ft Wainwright Soldier & NCO of the quarter luncheon at Northern Lights Chapel. Cost is \$4.50.
- **Feb 11, 8 pm**, USAF Annual Awards Banquet at the Westmark

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Ms. Hunter requested that the mayor’s comments be given a distinction between providing information or providing so much information that the City is endorsing a training or school.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Accountant

None

Police Dept, Sgt Nelson

- Lt. Dutra stated that Alex Sporleder is in training and will be done May 15th.
- Chief Lindhag is on vacation.
- The officer injured last week is doing well.
- Car upgrades are in for the DUI grant and will be installed soon.
- Stats will be given when the mayor returns.
- Presentations for the Police Dept will begin the end of April. Lt. Dutra will be in training for the next month. A lot of officers will also be in training over the next 6 weeks.

Mr. McGhee thanked the police department for all their work. He spoke about the resolution banning cell phones and asked if the council should make an ordinance banning cell phone use inside the city limits.

Lt. Dutra said that hands free devices would be nice and he agrees with the resolution. He said that they should sit down and discuss the topic.

Mr. McGhee asked if there is anything the city has done for the injured officers such as flowers, card, etc.

Lt. Dutra said that the police department has taken care of it.

Fire Dept, Bryan Lane

- None

Mr. McGhee asked about the new tires for the fire engine and if the department wrote down the mileage of the vehicles.

Deputy Chief Coon said that they did not and that city vehicles usually don't leave city limits unless they are called for mutual aid. He said the vehicle Mr. McGhee was talking about was 12 years old and they went by the tread on the tires.

Ms. Hunter asked if she heard correctly that the vehicle needed new tires last year but waited until this year.

Deputy Coon said they waited until this year's budget as they are working with an aging fleet.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

- None

Borough Representative, Mayor Isaacson
FNSB ASSEMBLY MEETING.

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City Clerk, Kathy Weber

- None

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS – 5 Minutes

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

REQUEST BY CHRISTMAS IN ICE FOR 4TH QUARTER BED TAX

REQUEST BY NORTH POLE COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR 4TH QUARTER BED TAX

RESOLUTION 11-04, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE IN SUPPORT OF BANNING CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING A MOTORIZED VEHICLE

RESOLUTION 14-05, A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF NORTH POLE IN SUPPORT OF THE TRANSFER OF PARCELS OF ALASKA RAILROAD LAND, SUBJECT TO EXISTING LEASES TO THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Hunter – said she was going to give some consideration as to what information needs to be given to council so that they don't feel hounded. Right now some organizations are vague with their submittals and that perhaps it needs to only be requested once a year. Ms. Hunter also thanked Mr. McGhee for his resolution and let him know that the high school in the next spirit assembly is going to have a portion on texting and distracted driving. In November they made a You Tube video on that subject

Mr. McCarthy – agreed with Ms. Hunter that we need something that gives the organization something in ordinance form.

Mr. Holm – No Comment

Ms. Arnold – thanked everyone and because we are starting a new year and there is a Super Bowl ring coming to North Pole. He is not the only shining star in North Pole and all our athletes as well as our employees that have gone above and beyond.

Mr. McGhee – thanked everyone who came out and the department heads. He said he gets on the departments some times but when you see what the fire and police departments do in their daily course of work it's amazing. He appreciates all the employees and the departments for all they do.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCarthy *moved to adjourn the meeting of February 7, 2011*

Seconded by Ms. Hunter

No Objection

The regular meeting of February 7, 2011 adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Tuesday, February 22, 2011.

DOUGLAS W. ISAACSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

KATHRYN M. WEBER, CMC, City Clerk