

**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, March 21, 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 Monday, March 21, 2011 to order at 7:00 p.m.

There were present:

**Ms. Arnold
Mr. McGhee
Ms. Hunter
Mr. Jones
Mr. Holm
Mr. McCarthy
Mayor Isaacson**

Absent/Excused

**Excused

Excused**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Isaacson

INVOCATION

Invocation was given *by* Councilman McGhee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Approve the Agenda of March 21, 2011

Seconded *by* Mr. Jones

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Amend the agenda to put the following items under consent agenda;

Old Business

- a) Ordinance 11-02, An Ordinance Of The City Of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 5, Chapter 5.02.040, License-Fee
- b) Ordinance 11-03, An Ordinance Of The City Of North Pole Establishing The 2011 Utility Capital Budget
- c) Ordinance 11-04, An Ordinance Of The City Of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 13, Chapter 28, Section .010, Lien Rights

New Business

- a) Resolution 11-09, A Resolution Of The City Of North Pole Authorizing A Matching Contribution Of Twenty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Five Dollars And Fifty-Five Cents To The State Of Alaska Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities For The Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System Preventative Maintenance Surface Upgrades Project

- c) Resolution 11-11, A Resolution Of The City Of North Pole To Accept Ownership Of The Two Drinking Water Wells And Associated Water Mains, Pumps

Seconded by Mr. Jones

Discussion

None

On the Amendment

PASSED

YES –5 –Holm, Hunter, Jones, McGhee, Isaacson

NO – 0

Abstained- 0

On the Main Motion as Amended

PASSED

YES –5 –Holm, Hunter, Jones, McGhee, Isaacson

NO – 0

Abstained- 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Approve the Minutes of March 7, 2011

Seconded by Mr. Jones

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES – 5 - Holm, Hunter, Jones, McGhee, Isaacson

NO – 0–

Abstained- 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

**Communication Highlights from the Mayor for the period ending March 16, 2011
ISSUES:**

- Update on Sewer Break: Director of City Services, Bill Butler will provide a more comprehensive report to Council. The basic facts are that a break occurred to the main at a location mid-way along North Pole High School Boulevard sometime on March 15 or 16. The North Pole Utilities crew, Bill Butler, and the various contractors are to be commended for a rapid and expert response as they were able to isolate and repair the break by 8 pm on March 16. No community health hazard was identified and no seepage occurred into the Tanana River or into the sloughs. Two residential properties were impacted by water on the lots but all residences in the vicinity are on city water, which continued to supply clean drinking water to all utility customers. State DEC officials were kept informed and City Clerk, Kathy Weber, informed the press throughout the process.
- Mikunda, Cottrell & Co Audit of City Finances: The audit of the city finances was conducted during the week of March 7. Led by Mollie Morrison, CPA, and Michelle Kiese, In-Charge Auditor, the audit encompassed all departments and discussions with the mayor, staff, and some finance committee members over the course of five days. While some items were identified, of the two weaknesses identified last year, at least one regarding journal entries, was successfully addressed. We'll have a detailed description of the audit probably within a month.
- Server Upgrade at City Hall: Due to crashes on the city hall's computer server and especially the negative effect that had on our accounting software, we have used North Pole Computers to upgrade our server's memory and storage capacity.
- Resolution 11-08 passed by the Council on March 7, has had extensive coverage throughout the state. The News Miner carried an article focusing on the need to amend the royalty oil fees for in-state refining in order to make our economy more competitive and affordable on March 17. The issue of oil taxation and making Alaska more competitive is being heard in the House Finance Committee even while I type these minutes. A "Make Alaska Competitive" Rally was held on Sunday afternoon, March 20, at the Carlson Center.
- Sister City Itadori, Japan Update: Our hearts go out to the citizens of Japan who have been hard hit by the earthquake, tsunami, and the after affects. Fortunately, our sister city of Itadori (Seki City, Gifu Prefecture) was not affected. According to our sources, they didn't even feel the earthquake. We are still planning to send a team of middle-to-high school students, chaperones, and interested business and government representatives from May 24-June 2. If you would like to explore the opportunity, please join us at the next meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 5:30 pm at North Pole High School.
- Census 2010 Data Update: Census data has been released showing that Alaska has had a 13% increase in population during the last decade, now up to 710,231. The Fairbanks North Star Borough is still the state's second most populous community with 97,581 people, with Anchorage being first with 291,826 people, and the Mat-Su Borough third with 88,995 people. North Pole appears to have lost population at 2,117, which is lower than the Census 2008 population estimate of 2,200, a number that the State Department of Labor reflected as our official population count in 2009. The decrease may affect our

Revenue Sharing from the State. I will be attending a seminar on March 25 to learn how better to interpret the data and how we might go about challenging the count. Janet Davison and Kathryn Dodge of the FNSB have been very helpful in helping make the data understandable.

What does the data mean for Alaska? One of the first consequences is a re-apportionment plan will be developed by a commission for Alaska within 30 days and adopted within 90 days. The plan will re-district the legislative boundaries within Alaska but does not give us another seat in Congress. To explore the data, go to <http://2010.census.gov> (see attached Redistricting Data, Alaska), <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/census/> or <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/CommunityPlanning/CRC/>.

- Tanana Chiefs and Doyon Conventions: I joined Mayors Cleworth and Hopkins in addressing the Tanana Chiefs Annual Convention and the Doyon Convention. My challenge to them is that we work together as a united community to tackle the urgent issues of the day that affect us all; the message was well received.
- Dog Mushing an Interior Alaska Heritage. Dog mushing has been an important part of Interior Alaska's and North Pole's culture and economy for decades. The Alaska Dog Mushing Association (ADMA) has sponsored events in North Pole and Fairbanks, including this past week's Open North American, the grand daddy of all Alaska's dog sled races. The Mayor's Challenge was held on March 16 at the Jeff Studdart Race Grounds. First time racer, Mayor Cleworth, came in first, with veteran musher Curtis Erhart, with a time of 27:27.8 minutes, followed by a ringer for Mayor Hopkins, veteran racers Mike Cox (FNSB Director of Parks and Rec) and Sherry Johnson, with a time of 29:22:7, followed by Mayor Isaacson with veteran musher John Erhart, with a time of 29:33:3.
- FMATS Policy Committee met on March 16. Among the action items, the Committee approved an increase of \$317,000 for the North Pole Bike Trail project to be completed this summer. No additional match by the City will be required.
- 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:

There was no Assembly meeting during this period. The next Assembly meeting is March 24 at 6 pm.

MEDIA:

Mar 12 & 19, Mayor Isaacson was on KJNP (1170 AM, 100.3 FM) 8 – 9 a.m. “Over the Coffee Cup.”

UPCOMING (see the February-March Mayor's Newsletter and above for other events, dates, and times)

- **Through March** : ICE ALASKA World Ice Art Championships begin at Phillips Field location.
- **Mar 22, 5-7:30 pm, North Pole Library Scoping Meeting at City Hall**
- **Mar 26, 4 pm**, Fund Raiser for NP Roller Girl who is battling breast cancer @ Badger Den, for more information call Terry Dukes 388-3067.
- **Mar 29, 6 pm**, Festival Committee meets at City Hall.
- **April 1, 11:30 am**, Senior Luncheon at Hotel North Pole. This event is by invitation only, but if you would like to assist, please contact Kathy Weber.
 - FMAT's newsletter was given to all council members.
 - North Pole Dog Sled Championships will be held this weekend.
 - The Mid Alaska Conference will be held at NPHS this year. The NPHS Boys Basketball team is going to state. They haven't been to state in 17 years.
 - NP Worship Center held the 2011 Polar Awards. NPF D was given an award and a \$500 Relief Fund check.
- **Presentation by Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau by Dawn Murphy**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Accountant

Lisa Vaughn

- Auditors were here two weeks ago. The auditors have indicated that we have improved over last year.

Police Dept

Sgt. Nelson

- The staff has been in training for new software with report writing and ticket writing. Sgt. Nelson is with the 168th National Guard and has been pretty busy with training and getting ready for deployment. He will be deploying next year.

Fire Dept

Chief Lane

- Chief Lane stated that the NPF D responded to a bad accident a few hours ago. He urged everyone to drive safe, be careful, and slow down.
- St. Baldericks was on March 19th. The NPF D raised \$30,000 locally and over \$100,000 statewide. If you still want to donate there is still time.
- April 29th is the NPF D Recognition Awards night.
- Lt. Dave Daniell reported that no one in the fatality accident was wearing a seat belt, in-fact one of the vehicles had the seat belt buckled behind the driver's seat. He urged everyone to remember to buckle up.

- Lt. Daniell went to Seattle and climbed the Columbia Tower to raise money for Leukemia. Fire Fighter and people came from all over and raised over \$180,000 Leukemia Lymphoma.
- Open House is Saturday, May 14th from 10 -4 pm.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

March 21, 2011 Council Report

Bill Butler

Director of City Services

Building Department

- No new building permits issued since last council meeting.

Public Works

- Following the major snowfall event Public Works did a follow up plowing to move accumulated snow and improve visibility at intersections and clean up roads
- *Completed an application for a skid steer loader to be used for pedestrian and bicycle path snow plowing and sweeping.*
 - *\$50,000 grant request that has no matching requirement*

Utility Department

- New drinking water well project did not have sufficient running time for me to recommend acceptance at this meeting
 - New wells and electronic controls are now supplying City with water.
 - DEC has granted interim approval to operate
 - Next 2 weeks will be a shakedown period to ensure wells are ready so that I can recommend acceptance at March 21 City Council meeting.
- Waste Water Treatment Plant Engineering and Design Project recommendation is before City Council this evening.
 - With Council's approval, I will submit recommended engineering firm to the two funders—US Department of Agriculture and DEC.
- Water Pump Replacement Project: EPA will be in North Pole the week of March 7 to audit project
- Presentation later this evening requesting City Council authorization to submit an application for an Alaska Clean Water Fund loan for \$1,416,500
- Ordinance before City Council to adopt a Capital Projects Fund budget for the Utility Department
- Ordinance before City Council to codify a collection process for delinquent utility accounts

After some trial and error we seem to have found a process that is reducing the number of delinquent accounts and collecting on accounts that become delinquent

- Executive session at tonight's meeting will update City Council on possible claim by a subcontractor from the Lift Station Phase 1 project.

- Someone opened a fire hydrant on the north lots of the Stillmeyer Estates Subdivision
- Fortunately, someone reported the vandalism.
- Have installed pad locks on the two fire hydrants in the subdivision
- Two years ago had two similar vandalism incidents that lead to Utility installing pad locks on the most isolated fire hydrants
- Considering if need to install pad locks on all city fire hydrants.

Borough Representative, Mayor Isaacson

- No meeting last week. The next scheduled meeting will be this Thursday, March 24th, 2011.

City Clerk, Kathy Weber

- The City has two new high school interns, Sarah O’Leary and Paige Poston. Sarah has already started with the city and she has show to be a wonderful asset to us. Paige will start on March 17th. Nanci Uptgraft still comes in and does volunteer work at the city. She is also very much appreciated.
- I have been busy with the AAMC and will attend my first out of state conference from March 21 – 25th. I will be attending the Washington Municipal Clerks Association Annual Conference where I’ll be representing the State of Alaska and the City of North Pole.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Beatification Committee

Tom Ertle reported that they have a lot going on this year. They had a meeting with Buzz Otis and the proposed plan for the roundabouts. The committee has an issue and concern with the watering of the round abouts. Mr Erle met with Jeff Jacobson at the FNSB. Stage 2 the beatification and the 4 H kids are going to help with this project.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – 5 Minutes

None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 11-10, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE SUPPORTING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS TRUCKING AND GASLINE PROJECTS AS A WAY TO LOWER AND STABILIZE ENERGY COSTS FOR INTERIOR RESIDENTS

Mayor Isaacson updated council on the importance of trucking the liquefied gas to Fairbanks to help lower and stabilize energy costs for residents in the Interior. He said GVEA electric costs to the City of North Pole was approximately \$28,000 per month.

Citizens Comments

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to Introduce and Approved Resolution 11-10, A Resolution Of The City Of North Pole Supporting Liquefied Natural Gas Trucking And Gasline Projects As A Way To Lower And Stabilize Energy Costs For Interior Residents*
Council Comments

Seconded by Ms. Hunter

Discussion

Mr. Jones asked if the Mayor knew what the costs would be to bring pipes into the homes and prior to that if there would be storage tanks that residents could purchase so they could have the gas at their house.

Mayor Isaacson said there was information in the February packets that addressed that and he referred council back to that. He went on to explain the cost and where the facility would be built.

Ms. Hunter asked what the “Hot Zone” is?

Mayor Isaacson said that area designation by the FNSB that is most out of compliance with PM2.5 standards.

PASSED

YES –5 –Holm, Hunter, Jones, McGhee, Isaacson

NO – 0

Abstained- 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Hunter – No Comment

Mr. McGhee – reiterated how bad the roads are in the FNSB and is probably the worst he’s seen in a long time. He enjoys teaching the kids how to drive in those conditions but it is still very dangerous. He attended the meeting with the auditors and they answered a lot of his questions and he will be notifying the Finance Committee to come up with some new ideas. Mr. McGhee urged everyone to be careful on the roads.

Mr. Holm – No comment

Mr. Jones – spoke on the Beautification Committee meeting and said there are some good ideas coming from Buzz Otis on the roundabouts and 5th Ave and all the good things and hard work the committee is doing. His next meeting with AML will be on April 7, 2011 and he will keep the council updated.

Mayor Isaacson – stated that the City has been very busy. There will be a festival committee meeting on March 29th. He urged the council to talk with legislators on the

\$2.9 million for the City of North Pole. He still may be travelling to Juneau for the last of the meetings to help push the City's need. He thanked Tricia for filling in tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee *moved to adjourn the meeting of March 21, 2011*

Seconded *by Mr. Jones*

No Objection

The regular meeting of March 21, 2011 adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, March 21, 2011.

DOUGLAS W. ISAACSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

KATHRYN M. WEBER, MMC, City Clerk