

**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 18, 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, April 18, 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 Jones

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the Agenda of April 18, 2011

Seconded by Mr. Jones

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee moved to amend the agenda and remove:

- a) Request For Honorary Street Name Designation of NPHS Blvd to Daryn Colledge Blvd

And to put the following items under Consent Agenda:

- c) Santa Claus Lane Main Street Development Initiative Proposal
- d) Approval of 2011 Plan of Operation for Law Enforcement Services at Chena River Flood Control Project
- e) Approval of the Annual Operating Plan 2011 Between State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (State), and North Pole Fire Department (Cooperator)
- f) Approval of Fairbanks North Star Borough and City of North Pole Emergency Medical Services/Ambulance Contract Renewal and Amendment No. 1

- g) Resolution 11-13, A Resolution Of The City Of North Pole Authorizing The Mayor To Negotiate A Fair And Equitable Price For The Purchase Of Two Parcels Of Land At The Intersection Of Santa Claus Lane And Saint Nicholas Drive, Block 4, Lots 01 And 02 Sequoia Subdivision For A Pedestrian Park
- h) Resolution 11-14, A Resolution Of The City Of North Pole In Support Of Senate Bill 84 Establishing Incremental Three-Year Increases In The Base Student Allocation And Sets Aside Funds For High School Vocational Education
- i) Resolution 11-15, A Resolution Of The City Of North Pole Urging Action In Support Of The Susitna Hydroelectric Project
- J) Resolution 11-16, A Resolution Supporting The Efforts Of North Pole Christmas In Ice To Relocate The World Ice Art Championships To North Pole, Alaska

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

NO – 0

Abstained- 0

On the main motion as amended

PASSED

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

NO – 0

Abstained- 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Approve the Minutes of April 4, 2011

Seconded by Mr. Jones

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

NO – 0–

Abstained- 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Communication Highlights from the Mayor for the period ending April 14, 2011 ISSUES:

- Update Juneau: Thank you to Mayor Pro Tem Thomas McGhee, City Clerk Kathy Weber, and all who stepped in while I was in Juneau. I have heard from several sources how the City was well represented in my absence, how the Mayor's Art Show went very well, and the professionalism and presentation at the 1-25 Deployment Ceremony. Also, Bill Butler was called upon with short notice to get me various documentation requested by various legislators which he did with great professionalism and clarity. I hit the ground running on Sunday, April 3, with several meetings and didn't stop until I got on the plane to return home on Thursday, April 7 having one primary request: inserting and approving \$2.5 million for our \$3.9 million Sewer Lining and Manhole Repair capital budget request. I secured several vital commitments to support the request and Rep. Tammie Wilson agreed to find the mechanism to successfully insert the request into the capital budget. Sen. Coghill and his staff were extremely helpful, especially Rynnieva Moss, who helped coordinate information requests and distribution. I spoke with several members of the Administration and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to make sure they understood the urgent need and details of the project in order to veto-proof the project if we are successful in getting it approved in the Legislature. As I write this, the Senate still has the Capital Budget and are not planning to insert any new requests; the House can not act upon the budget until they receive it from the Senate.

As an FYI, several legislators asked me about our Resolution 11-08 which was passed on March 7, 2011. In fact, it was making its rounds on the fax machines—all 60 pages—being sent out by a third party!

This past week has continued a lot of follow-up on the capital budget, the Tanana bridge, the natural gas bullet line, and oil pricing competitiveness. The legislature is scheduled to adjourn Sunday, April 17; I will update this report at the Council meeting.

- Mikunda, Cottrell & Co Audit of City Finances: While still “unofficial” it gives me great pleasure to commend Lisa Vaughn, City Accountant, and the accounting staff: Marilyn Zrucky/Payables, Tricia Fogarty/Receivables & Utilities Billing, and Kathy Weber who steps in from time to time with payroll, for an audit that I'm told has no significant findings! Much work and preparation went into the audit and great care is taken all year long to ensure our budget is well managed and the books are kept accurate. To my knowledge, as long as I've been with the City for the past decade, we've NEVER had an audit without significant issues. Our limited staff does an extraordinary job and deserves your recognition!

- **Summer Festival Committee:** Met on Monday, April 11. They have a great team tackling 11 different projects that must be completed in order to put on a great event this July 4. If you would like to participate in helping to make this event exciting, whether it's producing the parade, scouring the community for finances and prizes, soliciting vendors, helping with games, putting on the Bed Race, marketing, or even being on the set-up and clean-up teams, please mark your calendar and attend **the next meeting: April 26, 6 pm, at City Hall**. See you there!
- **UAF to Recognize Local Support:** Please plan to attend the UAF North Pole Alumni Recognition on April 25, from 5:30 to 7 pm at the Hotel North Pole. Among the people and groups being recognized will be our Police and Fire Departments. Please refer to the invitation in this packet.
- **City-Wide Open House Proposed:** Because this year's Cruisin' With Santa will be held both in the Spring and Fall, the Spring date being May 21—the same day of the Annual NPFDP Open House, there is discussion on having a City Wide Open House. I have invited staff and council members to attend a planning meeting at City Hall on April 21 at 9 a.m. We have the opportunity to cross-market with Cruisin' With Santa and really make May 21 a "Must Be In North Pole" day. Please let the City Clerk know if you plan to attend the planning meeting. Howard Rixie will be giving the Council an informational update under "Ongoing Projects."
- **FMATS Policy Committee** will meet April 20. As Bill Butler will share tonight, we have a great number of projects that will be revitalizing city streets and sidewalks this summer, thanks to funding obtained through FMATS and Council matching funds. FMATS Policy Committee meets at 10 am at the DOT&PF Administration meeting room on Peger Rd every third Wednesday of the month.

FNSB ASSEMBLY MEETING:

The Assembly will meet on April 14 at 6 pm. The lengthy agenda includes Ordinance 2011-14 that makes changes to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), various budget and zoning ordinances, and an ordinance exempting the Borough from Title 16 for one year (Ord. 2011-), and Ord. 2010-20-2N appropriating \$716,000 for ongoing costs related to the pipeline valuation litigation and appeals. For a complete agenda, go to <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/meetings/Assembly> .

MEDIA:

Apr 9 & 16, 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)

- **Apr 19, 8 am – 1:30 pm**, SBA Lender Symposium @ Pike’s Waterfront Lodge (see flyer).
- **Apr 19, 6 pm**, Mayor to participate in “Are You Smarter Than an 8th Grader” Transition Night @ NPHS
- **Apr 21, 6 pm**, Jingle In July Kick Off, for July 9 5 K Run/Walk for Arthritis Foundation @ Hotel North Pole.
- **Apr 26, 6:30 pm**, Itadori Sister City Meeting @ NPHS.
- **Apr 27, 11:30 am**, Sen. Murkowski Annual Luncheon @ Carlson Center/Buswell Pioneer room.
- **Apr 28, 7:30 am**, Mayor to greet 250 Lions from 80 Alaska, Yukon, BC & NW Territories communities @ Princess Hotel.
- **Apr 29, 1:30 pm**, Daryn Colledge Recognition @ NPHS
- **Apr 29, 6 pm**, NPHD Annual Awards Dinner with Chief Johnson @ Hotel North Pole
- **Apr 30, 9 am – 1 pm**, “Exceptional Emergency Service” with Chief Johnson @ NPHS (contact Chief Lane for more details)

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Mr. Jones asked the mayor why there was a push to put the Beautification Committee under the NPEDC.

Mayor Isaacson said that the Beautification Committee was under the city and would continue to stay there for now.

Mr. Jones asked about bed tax money that was owed to the Beautification Committee and never dispersed.

Mayor Isaacson said that he didn’t know what that was all about but thought that the Borough Chief of Staff was talking about monies that the city would need to ask the borough for in their budget as the City of Fairbanks has done in the past.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Accountant

Lisa Vaughn

- None

Police Dept

Lt. Dutra

- Graduation is May 13th from 1-3 for officers. 1st officer to that department has put through the course.
- Applicant testing and had 9 people on the list.
- Sgt Nelson is running on the torch run for special Olympics. This is a 5k run. Encouraged everyone to participate on May 21st.
- Sgt Nelson received orders and he will be leaving us from August – November.
- May 21st is Open House and NPPD will also be participating. This will be in sync with Cruis'in with Santa.
- Program “Got Drugs” yearly event and encourages people to bring prescription drugs that are at home and flush which contaminates garbage and picked through at the dump. Pass on the word. At May 30th 12 -4p.m.
- Fairbanks PD at 9pm.
- Encouraged to contact him with any comments or complaints.

Fire Dept
Chief Lane

- Finished up a firefighter 2 class with North Pole being primary participant. All have done very well.
- Clean up Day is coming and they do not have bags yet but will follow up tomorrow. They will also be serving hot dogs.
- May 21st is NPPD Open House and will have more info next meeting
- Annual dinner is Friday, April 29th in honor of the people of volunteer and career staff at Hotel North Pole at 7pm
- Sat 30 is seminar on emergency customer services with Chief Johnson as special speaker at 9am – 1p.m. at NPHS.
- Handout was given for completing the NIMS ICS courses. These are important to take as the city has been given grants and it is also important for emergency management systems.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

April 18, 2011 Council Report

Bill Butler

Director of City Services

Building Department

- One new building permit application submitted—duplex on Kit Boulevard
- White Eagle Condo and Saint Nicholas Church projects in plan review stage

Public Works

- Opening ditches and culverts to facilitate drainage as break up progresses
- Pavement rehabilitation project expected to begin in mid-May—weather dependent
 - Finnel Drive
 - Cross Way

- NPHS Boulevard
- Snowman Lane
- Davis Boulevard
- H&H Road
- Main Street initiative proposal to follow later in agenda

Utility Department

- Welcome period of routine maintenance before proceed to summer projects
 - Summer projects include:
 - Four lift stations to be renovated: Estimated mid-May start (Old Richardson, Yukon, Kit and Holiday)
 - Waste Water Treatment Plant sludge removal: Estimated June 1 start date
 - Three fire hydrant excavation/repairs due to minor leaks
 - Low temperatures have hampered waste water clean up
- No customer service line breaks have occurred yet this season

Borough Representative, Mayor Isaacson

- The lengthy agenda included Ordinance 2011-14 that makes changes to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), various budget and zoning ordinances, and an ordinance exempting the Borough from Title 16 for one year (Ord. 2011-), and Ord. 2010-20-2N appropriating \$716,000 for ongoing costs related to the pipeline valuation litigation and appeals. For a complete agenda, go to <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/meetings/Assembly> . Next general session April 28th.

City Clerk, Kathy Weber

- Mayor Pro Tem Thomas McGhee and myself attended the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division Deployment Ceremony on Wednesday, April 6th.
- I will be representing the City and State at the City Clerks Association of California from April 25 – 29 in South Lake Tahoe, California.
- Met with Interior Municipal Clerks on Wednesday, April 13th to discuss issues concerning our communities.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS – 5 Minutes

John Poirrier, North Pole Grange

At a couple of the prior shows, the Mayor saw pieces of art hanging and commented that it might look nice in city hall or one of the city buildings. My wife decided to make this happen. (Presents Art) She acquired it in order to make it a gift to the city. She has been busy with grandma duties for the last 6-8 weeks and could not bring it in person so she asked me to bring it. She would like

it to be hung in the city or one of the city buildings. (In regards to the Japan fundraiser) We would like to thank everyone for coming out, we had a wonderful turnout, worked really well, got some really nice press on it, a lot of people came through; we do not have the financials on that yet. The show closed up Saturday night so we've been spending all our time returning the unsold art. We will have figures ready in the next day or so. Thanks to the whole community for their support in making it a wonderful event. The next big thing coming up in the Grange will be on May 16th and DEC is planning to host its Sulfolane workshop and the progress on what the activity is about. One of the aspects is going to be how Sulfolane may or may not work its way through the food chain, specifically in the gardens and where people are building. It will be a major thing for the Grange to have a workshop like that. It's tentatively scheduled for May 16th. (Mayor speaks) "We got a news letter from DEC, make sure you get it."

(Takes photo of Poirrier)

Paul Brown

He has a request for clarification of consent agenda items that are moved to the consent agenda.

(Mayor) "Discussed during committee of the whole and there is no objection."

(Paul) So they have been passed with no objection essentially. Myself and others involved in North Pole economic development have some pretty serious concerns about it. It's never been discussed with us. I noticed that in the packet are included the landscaped plans that we contracted to have done for the roundabouts. We were never approached on how that was included in the main stream initiative, which we support, but we have some concerns about what is on there, with my EDC hat on. With my other hat on as an operations manager at Santa Claus House I also have some concerns on things that were included in the initiative regarding the beaver springs nature trail, which actually crosses private property, ours. And again we were never approached on any of these items, and this is the first I've seen of it. I'm a little concerned that it was passed without any public discussion.

(Mayor) "It's things that we have discussed with EDC. One of our concerns was that your funding of the legislature was not sure you're going to get it. We want to make sure you do have that funding to get the roundabouts done this year. We are going to be working closely with you. It isn't taking over. One of the problems is watery. This is so we can make sure it gets watered."

(Paul) The wording that concerns me, and again this is just a memo, but this anxiety initiative will become clearer in Bills formal presentation tonight in which we didn't see in the initiative. You have brought together historical initiatives and current efforts; brought together with historical initiatives. This is kind of a slap in the face to EDC for some of the things that we have been working on. It undermines some of what we're attempting to do in Juneau, some of the lobbying that we've done with Juneau, some of the funding requests. We haven't had any input or discussion on this particular issue. Im quite concerned. (Mayor) "I apologize in that regard because I had thought that there was more discussion, and there will be more discussion. Consider this as a partnership." (Paul) I appreciate that but I don't really feel like this is a partnership.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

NORTH POLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REQUEST FOR 4TH QUARTER 2010 AND 1ST QUARTER 2011 BED TAX FUNDS

Paul Brown,

You have all seen in your packet the general information and the summary of our plans. There are a couple of items, in the interest of keeping it brief, that were not put into the letter. 4th couple is always a busy time with assisting with Christmas in Ice and fundraising. We are all quite active in volunteering in our own time. We invited Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell to discuss economic issues. That took place at Hotel North Pole, and proceeded to the ribbon cutting ceremony at the ice park. Also in December was the Spirit of North Pole Holiday Lighting contest. There were prizes worth more than 2000 dollars in cash for prizes to residents and businesses who decorated for the holidays. We did have challenges with the freak weather. There was low participation so we ended up extending the dates. For 1st quarter 2011 Sled Dog championships. Usually out At Chena Lakes Recreation, but this year was in downtown North Pole. The agreement was that if we helped them raise a purse they would move it into downtown North Pole. The situation was that there were no tracks so a large number of volunteers along with 100s of hours with dozens of hours of equipment time we put in, nearly 20 miles of trail, with permission to use private land. This was a significant undertaking. We were very excited to have it done, but the day before the race it snowed so we had to re-do three months of work. There was a 15,000 dollar purse thanks to businesses and private donors that attracted participants. This represents one of the largest sprint race purses state-wide. It was voted that the race be in North Pole next year. We expect that to get bigger and better every year. Unfortunately we don't have a list of volunteers. For the summer, we are working on are for North Pole initiative and beautification projects, and quality of life projects, primarily the round-a-bouts and the two kid parks. We are also working with Christmas in Ice to find a permanent location.

Mr. McGhee

Thank you very much for everything you do, it is noticed, all the effort put in and the changes and improved projects in our community. I'm going to suggest that it would be nice to have a Christmas decoration without lights during the summer event time, with Christmas ornaments that are visible without lights. Would you get more involvement because its summertime and they can really get outside and do something?

Paul Brown said that annual board retreat on May 5th. One of the things we were going to talk about is seeing new ideas for downtown North Pole and the quality of life.

Mr. McGhee said

He sees it more as a cooperation to raise funds and support of the city, to work together, not steal ideas. Everyone is impressed with all the drawings and didn't take any claim, but it was in support of what they were doing.

Citizens Comments

None

Mr. McGee moved to Approve North Pole Economic Development Request For 4th Quarter 2010 And 1st Quarter 2011 Bed Tax Funds

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

Mr. McGee,

When he first came back on the city council and started noticing some of the funds and where they were going. Having seen the hard work and results of what these groups are doing for the community for the involvement of the residents as well as the encouragement and bringing outside participation, he will not be offering that change to the bed-tax distribution.

Mr. Jones,

Confused about the beautification project, and the integral part of the beautification project and EDC getting together doing things that they need to do. He would like to see more ideas on integration.

Mayor,

The chairmen, himself, and Mr. Oedus have had extensive conversations and will continue to do that. He wants to emphasize that when it comes to North Pole economic development, they have delivered far and above a great contribution to the city. I want to re-iterate what Mr. McGee just said; what we did as a council is helping facilitate what you have been bringing forward. We don't want to be delayed from lack of funds; we've taken the initiative we aren't going to wait for the borough to give us money because we've seen two years of waiting around for that. However, one of the specific reasons that he included verbiage is to say that we are working in tandem with you so that it will help your efforts with the legislature. He wants to give you language as a placeholder for discussion in the legislature so that they know you have community support.

PASSED

YES –5 –Holm, Issacson, McCarthy, Jones, McGhee

NO – 0

Abstained- 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. McCarthy – No comments.

Mr. McGhee – Thanked everyone in attendance and comments made by Mr. Poirrier and awesome photo that was given to the city. Thanked Paul brown for his participation and a small number that does such a great thing and you deserve recognition, is a consensus and generally less than 10% that makes it work. He is disappointed in legislature slamming the bill to ban cell

phone use while driving. He is constantly remained of the dangerous driving as he is on the road 8 hours a day and sees the dangers and hopefully the representative will bring it back. Is getting nice and motorcycles are out and be aware and look for them and they are not as attentive as they should be. Appreciates the fact that he was acknowledged for the ceremony, but he says it was the first time he was supported for the Clerk. She had everything I needed. It was an honor to be here for the art dedication.

Mr. Holm – Thanked John Poirrier for the gift to the city. He was a little concerned about Paul’s part on consent items and not aware of a conflict. He doesn’t know what we have to do to be aware before they come up before us and would like to have some kind of mechanism of possible issues and just skim through during committee of the whole.

Mr. Jones – Thanked those that did come out. Paul he knows they sat down with beautification committee and they presented an outstanding presentation. He apologized that everyone was not working together as a team to get this done, and wants to. Bill did give them the benefit for the drawings. Thomas did you wear a tie? Mr. Jones spoke on the capital budget and said there is concern that there is no budget passed both in the house and senate and in our own town. There are too many people with their hands in the pot. Politicians have a way to find their own agendas, he hopes that the city council finds a way no to, and to serve the public well.

Mayor Isaacson - There have been a lot of different discussions and he supports the EDC and the beautification committee and other volunteers. When he got back from Juneau, he had to rush to make up an agenda. When he becomes aware that we have funding and Juneau doesn’t, he jumped to conclusions, and probably should have let it go and checked to make sure we had discussions. It was a judgment error. He didn’t know that there was an issue or an understanding, and apologizes and will not suggest for consent again. If at any time, (Paul) wants him not to consent, please say so and there will be discussion. We will not be moving forward. We will be working with our community partners. He will have a memo that will help NP economic development get funding from the legislature. The roundabouts were dying, and we were given plenty of provisions on how beautiful they could look. He wants to get it done. Look at upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGee *moved to adjourn the meeting of April 18, 2011*

Seconded *by Mr. McCarthy*

Third *by Mr. Jones*

No Objection

The regular meeting of April 18, 2011 adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, May 2, 2011.

DOUGLAS W. ISAACSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

KATHRYN M. WEBER, MMC, City Clerk