

**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, September 19, 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, September 19, 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***

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG**

Led by Mayor Isaacson

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given *by* Thomas McGhee

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* Approve the Agenda of September 19, 2011**

**Seconded *by* Mr. Jones**

**Discussion**

None

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* amend the agenda to consent items 12 a. Recommendation to Renew Snow Removal Contract to Hawks & 12 b. Ordinance 11-07, An Ordinance of The City of North Pole, Alaska amending Title 4, Chapter 4.08.110, Exemptions, Exceptions, and Refunds**

**Seconded *by* Mr. Jones**

**Discussion**

None

**On the Amendment**

**PASSED**

**YES –7– Arnold, Hunter, Jones, McGhee, McCarthy, Holm, Isaacson**

**NO – 0**

**Abstained- 0**

**On the main motion as amended**

**PASSED**

**YES –7–Arnold, Hunter, Jones, McGhee, McCarthy, Holm, Isaacson**

**NO – 0**

**Abstained- 0**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the Minutes of September 6, 2011***

**Seconded *by Mr. Jones***

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

**YES –7–Arnold, Hunter, Jones, McGhee, McCarthy, Holm, Isaacson**

**NO – 0**

**Abstained- 0**

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

**Communication Highlights from the Mayor for the period ending September 19, 2011**

**ISSUES:**

• Mid-Term and 2012 Budgets: Your mayor and his staff, especially the accountant and department heads, have been busy working on budgets, focusing on staying lean while providing the level of service expected by city residents. Tonight is the first of two mid-term budget meetings. The current highlight is that we are intending to put into the City's SAVINGS account (Fund Balance) \$113,332. That isn't to say that money couldn't productively be spent on other necessary items, such as the needed repairs to the police building roof; but it does state that while we are in uncertain national economic times, I consider it more important to be a spend-thrift rather than a spend-er. While we hope for a pick-up in the fourth quarter, I believe it's better to be safe than sorry. The final decision will rest with Council.

Once elections are past, those who are serving on Council, please schedule the week of October 24 for our 2012 Budget meetings where each Department will make their budget presentations and needs lists prior to the formal introduction of the 2012 Budget on November 7 (when the new Council is fully seated). The Council will be asked to consider ways to establish fund reserves in order to provide a better financial cushion for the City and to provide funds for replacement vehicles and necessary building repairs.

- Other Meetings: include learning how to use Census 2010 data to extract community relevant data; meeting with Ann Farris, Steve Bainbridge of DEC and Mayor Hopkins regarding the status of sulfolane resolution; GFCC Board meeting presentation by GVEA on the positive economics of the Healy Clean Coal Project; and budget discussions with individual departments (a department head meeting on the budget is scheduled for 10 a.m., September 12, which is open to Council Members).

#### **COMMUNITY:**

- Raising the Flag: Thank you to Larry Dotson, Katherine Hood, and her husband Tim, for their financial investment towards the creation of a Veteran's Memorial in North Pole, beginning with the monument honoring Larry's dad CMSgt F. Dotson, a WW2 Veteran who retired in North Pole and passed away earlier this year. The flag associated with the memorial measures 30 x 60 feet and is raised on a 140 foot flag pole—the largest in Alaska. Several hundred people and dignitaries braved the cold and rain to witness the raising of the flag on September 10.

- September 11: Various ceremonies were held throughout Alaska honoring the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9-11. Our Fire Chief joined other Chiefs around the State in a ceremony with the Governor in Anchorage; our Fire Department participated with other Interior Fire Departments in a ceremony at Pioneer Park, and I participated in a ceremony at North Pole Worship Center, reading the 3 Mayor Proclamation.

- The Governor in North Pole: Governor Parnell came to North Pole on September 14, to the High School and to the North Pole Rotary where he addressed the concerns of those present, to include school funding and what can be done to lower the cost of energy in North Pole.

Separately, Mayor Cleworth was my guest last Friday and toured City Hall, the Third Friday Art Show at the North Pole Grange, and the Arts and Crafts show at Santa's Seniors.

- Memorial Ceremonies: I attended three memorial ceremonies during the past two weeks: 2 services for 3 Ft. Wainwright soldiers, two of whom were killed in action; one service was to commemorate POW/MIA and to retire the flags at Heritage Park on Eielson AFB with the 354<sup>th</sup>

Fighter Wing. Also in attendance at the POW/MIA ceremony was Mayor Pro Tem Thomas McGhee. These ceremonies, while difficult emotionally for those who attend are vital to remind us of the volunteers who serve in the military and daily put themselves in harm's way on our behalf. It is important for the community and its leaders to memorialize those who fall and to say thank you to their families and those who continue to serve in their place. The paper detailed the loss of another young soldier in Afghanistan, there will be another memorial; we send our deepest condolences to the families. We will not forget their sacrifices.

- Area Schools: I have been making my rounds to area schools, including Star of the North Secondary School, where there are 95 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders; to North Pole Christian School, where there are 98 pre-k to 12<sup>th</sup> graders; and to North Pole Elementary, Middle, and Senior High Schools. In the latter three, enrollment is down fractionally from last year, mostly anticipated by school boundary shifts in order to alleviate what would have been over crowding especially at NPE. I believe it's important to let our students and school staff know that the community leadership appreciates and encourages their efforts. Perhaps this will inspire some students, reduce truancy and violence, and gives them an opportunity to provide feed back to issues they are concerned about.

#### **FNSB ASSEMBLY MEETING:**

The FNSB Assembly met on September 8. Among the actions taken were:

- Approved new bus line to Eielson AFB and Salcha, connecting to the Green Line in North Pole.

The next regular Assembly meeting will be on September 22 at 6 pm. The Agenda includes ORDINANCE NO. 2011-20-1K that includes funding for the North Pole Branch Library Replacement Project, as discussed with the North Pole City Council's approval of CoNP Resolution 11-23.

For a list of meeting times and agendas, go to <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/meetings/Assembly> .

#### **MEDIA:**

**Sept 10 & 17:** 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*)

- **September 22, 5 pm:** Homecoming Parade and Warming Fire at NP High School.
- **September 27, 5 pm:** NP Utilities Public Meeting regarding Ballot Initiative for \$1.4 million @ City Hall

- **September 28, 2 pm:** Tanana River Crossing Groundbreaking Ceremony in Salcha, must be transported to the site from the Salcha Fairgrounds starting at 1:20 pm

### **COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

- None

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK**

#### **Accountant**

Lisa Vaughn- The city has rec'd approximately \$66,000 in extra "revenue sharing monies". This is like the municipal assistance monies we rec'd 2 years ago. I have filled out the application and am waiting for the final paperwork. Once I receive the final paperwork, I can apply for the monies

I have received budget changes from Police, Fire, Public Works and Utilities. All departments, except for Fire, have made some cuts, mainly from personnel leaving those departments. We will however, have to pay some unemployment costs for one former employee out of the general fund. I am still waiting for the Mayor to finalize his budget changes. The budget should be coming to you on the first council meeting of the month.

We have received our first payment, for the new ambulance fees, of \$799.  
Last week I garnished PFD's for outstanding citations. I garnished \$129,733, about 8,000 less than last year but more than in 2009. We should be receiving about 40-45% of this amount, keeping us in line with our budgeted amounts.  
I've started some work on audit. I'm setting up files and making sure I have them up to date.

#### **Police Dept**

- Chief Paul Lindhag , Officer Rich will be leaving on Oct 8, 2011

#### **Fire Dept**

- Chief Bryan Lane, Alaska State Fire Conference started this week at the Westmark.
- Working on the FEMA Grant

#### **Director of City Services, Bill Butler**

##### **September 19, 2011 Council Report**

Bill Butler

Director of City Services

#### **Building Department**

- Two new commercial permits pending
  - Safeway pharmacy remodel
  - Santa Land pavilion

### **Public Works**

- FMATS project for resurfacing Holiday, 4<sup>th</sup>, Santa Claus Lane (City section), Kit Blvd. and Beaver Blvd. southern loops will not occur this year
- Skid steer loader for pedestrian & bicycle path snow removal and sweeping project released; due October 8
- Released RFP for the sale of aging lift truck; due October 8
- Released RFP for 2012 heating fuel; due October 8
- Revision to snow plowing contract for 2011-2012 before Council this evening
- Submitted Main Street beautification permit to DOT for review

### **Utility Department**

- Lift station renovation project inspection occurred September 14
  - Few electronic reporting problems remain
  - Investigating causes and solutions due to odor at Yukon and Holiday lift stations
- USDA approved PDC Engineers for water system project; DEC approval pending
- ADEC \$1.4 million loan of October 4 ballot
  - Open House Tuesday, September 27 to present information about utility loan on October 4 ballot; 5:00 to 7:00 pm at City Hall
  - Mailing to utility customers at beginning of September

Mailing to all City of North Pole registered voters (+1500) being assembled to mail this week

### **FNSB Representative**

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### **City Clerk, Kathy Weber**

September 19, 2011

Council Report by Kathy Weber, City Clerk

Here are some of the things that are coming up in the city. If you have any questions on any items below, please feel free to contact me at 488-8583 or email at [Kathy@northpolealaska.com](mailto:Kathy@northpolealaska.com).

- Elections for the City of North Pole will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2011. Two council seats are open and we only have one person who has filed their candidacy for city council, Derrick Nelson. There are two spaces for write-in votes. Anyone wishing to declare their candidacy at this time is still required to submit a Public Financial Disclosure Statement and Declaration of Write-In Candidacy with the city clerk.
  - A. Write-in votes are not invalidated by writing in the name of a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot unless the election board determines, on the basis of other evidence, that the ballot was so marked for the purpose of identifying the ballot.
  - B. In order to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter must write in the candidate's name in the space provided and, in addition, fill in the oval opposite the candidate's name.
  - D. Write-in votes shall only be tabulated by person if the total number of write-in votes for an office exceeds the smallest number of votes cast for a candidate for that office whose name is printed on the ballot. For special city elections write-in votes shall be tabulated by person.
- Council members should have received their registration packet for the AML conference that will take place from November 7 – 11. I highly encourage you to attend this year's AAMC Academy that is put on by the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks, Sunday, November 6 from 9-5 pm at the Westmark Hotel. Dr. Alan Zimmerman will be presenting the program "Take This Job and Love It!" He was selected as the "Outstanding Faculty Member" by two different universities, and most recently he was awarded the CSP by the National Speakers Association, an award given to the top 5% of all speakers nationwide. In 2003 Dr. Zimmerman was awarded the CPAE (Council of Peers Award for Excellence) Speaker Hall of Fame by the National Speakers Association, a designation that less than 1% of the NSA speakers hold. This full day class is being offered for the low price of \$125 which includes a sack lunch and networking opportunities. Please let me know if you are going to be attending the AAMC Academy session, AML or the Newly Elected Officials training so I can get you signed up as soon as possible.

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

- None

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS – 5 Minutes**

Lisa Vaughn talked about the library meeting and asked council to attend the FNSB assembly meeting and support this project.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Ordinance 11-08, An Ordinance Amending the 2011 Budget**

Mayor Isaacson introduced the 2011 Amended Budget. Lisa Vaughn went through the budget and explained the amendments on the budget.

**Public Comment**

None

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* Introduce and Advance Ordinance 11-08, An Ordinance Amending the 2011 Budget**

**Seconded *by* Mr. Jones**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

**YES – 7- Hunter, McGhee, Arnold, Jones, McCarthy, Holm Isaacson**

**NO – 0 -**

**Abstained – 0**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* Adjoin into Executive Session to discuss North Pole Police Department Memorandum of Agreement with Federal Agency**

**Seconded *by* Mr. Jones**

*Mayor Isaacson brought the meeting back to order at 855 p.m.*

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* Enter into contract with DEA for the operation of Green Team.**

**Seconded *by* Mr. Jones**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

**YES – 7- Hunter, McGhee, Arnold, Jones, McCarthy, Holm Isaacson**

**NO – 0 -**

**Abstained – 0**



## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Ms. Arnold** – Thanked everyone for the help tonight with her ipad. She will be late on Monday Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> as she has to work late that night. Ms. Arnold thanked Chief Lane for the reminder of 911. She encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

**Mr. Jones** –Thanked DEA for giving us an explanation of what is going on in our community. He will also be missing the Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting as he will be on vacation. This will be his 5<sup>th</sup> meeting that he has missed and has submitted a letter to the council and clerk. He noticed that the EPA has fined Ft. Wainwright. He also said that 911 is something that we should not forget. Mr. Jones said he was on his way to the airport that morning. The new flag in North Pole is wonderful.

**Ms. Hunter** –attended the finance committee meeting for the new Library and gave an update on the FNSB Assembly discussion. The committee will need letters of support for the North Pole Library to include in the application which is due on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. She also noticed that the City of North Pole parking lot has lines in it. She watched the service on 911 and commented that the memorial in New York is beyond belief.

**Mr. McCarthy** – is happy to see the roundabout is getting done. His hat off to Buzz Otis. He gave his memory of the Twin Towers and has a hard time believing they are not there.

**Mr. McGhee** –. No Comment

**Mr. Holm** – No Comment

**Mayor Isaacson** – No Comment

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to adjourn the meeting of September 19, 2011*

**Seconded** *by Mr. Jones*

**No Objection**

The regular meeting of September 19, 2011 adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, October 3, 2011.**

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**DOUGLAS W. ISAACSON**, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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**KATHRYN M. WEBER**, MMC, City Clerk