

**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, October 3, 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, October 3, 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**

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

Led by Mayor Isaacson

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Sharron Hunter

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the Agenda of October 3, 2011**

**Seconded by Ms. Arnold**

**Discussion**

None

**Mr. McGhee moved to amend the agenda to consent items under Old Business a. Ordinance 11-07, An Ordinance of The City of North Pole, Alaska amending Title 4, Chapter 4.08.110, Exemptions, Exceptions, and Refunds and under New Business, a. North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce Request for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Bed Tax, and c. Resolution 11-25, A Resolution Establishing 2012 Capital Project Priorities For The City of North Pole**

**Seconded by Mr. McCarthy**

**Discussion**

None

**On the Amendment**

**PASSED**

**YES –6– Arnold, Hunter, McGhee, McCarthy, Holm, Isaacson**

**NO – 0**

**Abstained- 0**

**On the main motion as amended**

**PASSED**

**YES –6–Arnold, Hunter, McGhee, McCarthy, Holm, Isaacson**

**NO – 0**

**Abstained- 0**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**Seconded *by Mr. Holm***

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

**YES –6–Arnold, Hunter, McGhee, McCarthy, Holm, Isaacson**

**NO – 0**

**Abstained- 0**

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

**Communication Highlights from the Mayor for the period ending October 3, 2011**

**ISSUES:**

- Utilities Open House: Director of City Services, Bill Butler, is to be commended for his correspondence that was mailed to Utility customers and to all voters in North Pole explaining the need for North Pole Prop 1. Hopefully, his explanations have been understood by the majority of the voters to be a benefit to the Utilities that will not raise the current rates. Only one citizen, a landlord, attended the Open House that was held from 5-7 pm on September 27. Nevertheless, Bill was extremely prepared and had good presentation material available. I've given him the night off.
- Kudos to North Pole Beautification efforts! Even the most casual observer can see the efforts many people are taking to make North Pole a distinctive community. Approved by the Council,

the North Pole Economic Development Corp has used volunteers from Hectors Welding, Great Northwest, and others who are creating a large beautified entry to North Pole, replacing the fence that often was a distraction. Thank you to Buzz Otis and his team!

The Beautification Committee has had several projects, including the painting of the candy canes on 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in conjunction with NPEDC, and have gotten more trash cans in use, and very notably have made strides in clearing land for the new “Photo Stop” on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Davis. Thank you, to the army of individuals who have not had weather cooperating with their efforts this summer!

And finally, it was my great pleasure to thank in person the North Pole Garden Club who diligently plant the flowerbeds around City Hall and the Police Station. The flowers, although attacked and eaten by the numerous voles, were remarkable again this year. This unsung group does its work so well and we appreciate them and Hazel Rosendahl’s leadership!

As a postscript, I received a call from Phil Zastrow today who is eager to put up lights in the roundabouts this weekend. I spoke with Buzz who is expecting to have the new plantings in NPEDC’s project also lit this winter.

- FMATS: the Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System (FMATS) Policy Committee met on September 22. Among the Action Items approved were the Safe Routes to School Plan which will have 30 days of public review until October 21; and State Funds Recommendation, where we tried to preserve as much funds for local roads maintenance as possible.
- Alaska Strategic and Critical Minerals Summit: was held last Friday in Fairbanks and sponsored by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It was the largest meeting of its type in America. I’ve attached an opinion piece that I’ve submitted, and which the Ketchikan Daily News has mentioned they will print. The opinion piece explains more fully the importance of rare earth minerals, also named “Technology Metals.” Even the India Times carried an article this weekend titled, “Alaska May Become Silicon Valley of Rare Earths” (also attached for further explanation). The India Times quotes Jack Lifton, a consultant for UCORE’s Bokan Mountain project, south of Ketchikan. As a result of my introducing Jack to Dr. Shiva Hullavarad of UAF’s Advanced Materials Group and a subsequent visit to the lab, UCORE has verbally committed to sending all their ore samples to Fairbanks for the complex analysis and separation—instead of sending the expensive materials Outside! This benefits all Alaska. Of interest, a UAF senior from North Pole also accompanied us on the tour of the Advanced Materials Group lab.

- Other Meetings: included visiting with residents with road repair concerns on North Star; going weekly to NPMS and helping with announcements and giving “Words of Wisdom”; reading to NPE students and their parents during an after school activity night; was a guest lecturer at NPMS for Jon Rogers’ Career and Vocational class; being guest speaker at the North Pole Rotary on September 28, addressing the State of North Pole; the Flint Hills Refinery Citizens Advisory Committee on September 21, where importantly Mike Brose, Plant Manager, affirmed FHR’s commitment with GVEA to trucking natural gas to their plant as it will enable them to drastically reduce the cost of production; joined DOT on a tour for legislators, explaining some of the projects in North Pole and reiterating our need for DOT maintenance of state-owned roads (which includes Santa Claus Lane, St. Nicholas Dr, Badger, Hurst, and Old Richardson); and at today’s GFCC Board meeting was successful in getting the recommendation to the State Chamber that we support the AGDC’s Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) conditioned on the tariff for Fairbanks/North Pole being equal to Anchorage and the terminus to be located in North Pole.

- Memorial Service for 1-25: A Memorial Service in memory of: Sergeant Rodolfo Rodriguez Jr., Specialist Ryan J. Cook of 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment; Sergeant Timothy D. Sayne of 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment; and Private First Class Brett E. Wood of 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1-25 Stryker Brigade Combat Team members fallen in action, will be held on Thursday, the sixth of October at one o’clock at the Southern Lights Chapel, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

- NPEDC Receives National Recognition: Congratulations to the North Pole Economic Development Corp for being named by the International Sled Dog Race as the Best 10 Dog Race in the nation!

- Tanana River Crossing 21-shovel salute: I represented the City at the Tanana River Crossing Groundbreaking Ceremony in Salcha on September 28. While I did no speaking (there were plenty of high ranking officials for that!) I did join in the “21-shovel salute” and stood by former Governor Murkowski who was among the enthusiastic dignitaries who have worked over the past decade to see this bridge built. The importance of the bridge, spanning 3300 feet across the Tanana, is primarily to enhance the military’s ability to access their training grounds year round. In the future, when rail actually is laid, it will also provide the State access to develop mineral rich lands.

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

The FNSB Assembly met on September 22. Among the actions taken was the passage of 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. Thank you to all the community supporters who were there speaking in favor

of the action. The Assembly voted down an attempt to gut the Ordinance of funds for the North Pole library.

The next regular FNSB Assembly meeting is scheduled for October 13 at 6 pm. The Agenda has not yet been posted. For a list of meeting times and agendas, go to <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/meetings/Assembly> .

## **MEDIA:**

**Sept 24 & Oct 1:** 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)**

- **October 4, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.:** Election Day.
- **October 6, 6-8 pm:** FNSB Planning Department Open House for Proposed changes to Title 17 “Subdivision Ordinance” @ City Hall
- **October 6, 6 pm:** Mayor Isaacson to deliver Commencement Speech to Wayland Baptist University graduates @ NP 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist.
- **October 10, 6 pm:** Beautification committee meets @ Wendy’s

**Mayor Isaacson pinned the North Pole Police Department badge on Officer Stevenson and welcomed him to the police force.**

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

- Mr. McGhee stated that the internet is going in and out.

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

### **Accountant**

- Lisa Vaughn
- Ms. Vaughn is working on the audit.

### **Police Dept**

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### **Fire Dept**

Dep. Chief Coon

- Chief Lane is in Anchorage at training.

- Training conference in Fairbanks last week at Westmark Hotel. 330 people registered and was successful.
- Hydrant testing was done earlier this month and all went well.
- EMT classes started today.
- Newest hire Zak Rittel is finishing up his EMT 3 class.

**Director of City Services, Bill Butler**

- None

**FNSB Representative**

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**City Clerk, Kathy Weber**

October 3, 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).

- The 2011 City of North Pole local election will be held tomorrow. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. If you know of someone who is in the city limits and needs to vote but cannot get to the polls, have them call the clerk's office at 488-8583 and I will make arrangements for someone to go into their home and vote them.
- I have been in contact with Kathy Doyel of North Pole High School and we will be doing the Intern program again this school year. We are asking for 2 interns and they will receive ½ credit for the semester. The program will begin January 1, 2012.
- The Alaska Municipal League Annual local government conference will take place from November 7 – 11, 2011 at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks, Alaska this year along with the American Planning Association, Government Finance Officers, Municipal Attorneys, Assessing, Municipal Management, and Alaska Conference of Mayors. Newly elected officials training will be held on Monday & Tuesday, November 7 & 8, and the

conference from Wednesday, November 9 – Friday, November 11, 2011. The banquet will be on Thursday, November 10, 2011, so if you haven't gotten your tickets yet please let me know.

- The Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) will host their 46<sup>th</sup> Annual conference in November. This year's theme is "The Power Within" and we will have a dynamic speaker, Dr. Alan Zimmerman. Dr. Zimmerman is a motivational speaker who has won many awards. He will be our guest speaker at the academy and the topic will be "Take this job and love it!" The cost is \$125 which includes a sack lunch. I am encouraging all employees to take this course. CEU will be available to those that need them. Please contact me for more information. There is also information and registration material in your packets and for the public.
- I will hand over the gavel to Kacie Paxton, Ketchikan Borough Clerk, on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 and take my seat as Past President and serve my final 4 year commitment. I have been appointed by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks to serve on their Public Relations Marketing Committee for 2012. I hope that I will be able to count on your continued support and have very much appreciated your encouragement and support over the past 3 years. This year as president of AAMC has been what they call the "Best year of my life". I have had awesome opportunities and traveled throughout Region IV and represented my state, city, and association at the international level. Without your continued support and belief in me, this would not have been possible. Thank you.
- I will make arrangements after the election to hold a training session with our newly elected officials to go over the workings of the city, code, parliamentary procedure, ordinances, resolutions, etc.
- I attended the Oregon Association of Municipal Records annual conference from September 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> in Portland, Oregon and represented Alaska, AAMC, and the City of North Pole.
- City employee Mike Lewis retired on Friday, September 30, 2011 after 30 years of service to the city.
- Tomorrow is election day and I would like if everyone could stay after the council meeting to help put election boxes together for the canvas board.
- Two groups will be hand counting North Pole ballots at the FNSB on Tuesday night because of the write-in election.
- Ms. Weber asked the public to keep their conversations down during council meetings or take them outside the council chambers. She asked everyone to remember to shut their cell phones off and that any information that the public wants given to council should go through her office first.

- Ms. Weber thanks NPEDC for their excellent efforts at the North Pole Plaza entrance. The AML & AAMC conference is in November and they will be bringing out approximately 100 visitors from around Alaska to shop and eat in town.
- There are 83 days left until Christmas.

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

- None

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS – 5 Minutes**

- Bryce Ward – 606 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Mr. Ward spoke on running for city council.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Consented Items**

*a. Ordinance 11-07 An Ordinance Of The City Of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 4, Chapter 4.08.110, Exemptions, Exceptions, And Refunds*

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Consented Items**

*a. North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce Request for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Bed Tax.*

*c. Resolution 11-25, A Resolution Establishing 2012 Capital Project Priorities For The City of North Pole*

## **NORTH POLE POLICE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE FROM THE ALASKA HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$122,178.79**

- Lt. Dutra introduced the grant and gave council facts and figures on the Highway Safety Officer. DUI's have risen because of the grant officer along with traffic violations. This generated \$357,000 in fines which is a significant amount of money.
- Traffic Officer is responsible for 250 arrests.
- Seat belt usage has soared. In 2007 seat belt use in North Pole was 77%. In 2011 it is 97%.
- There have been zero fatalities in the North Pole area since the Highway Safety Officer came on board.
- Have received a lot of equipment, car, computers, radar, all patrol cars outfitted with printers and computers.



- Grant has provided training for officer.

**Public Comment**

None

**Mr. McGhee moved to Approve North Pole Police Department Request For Grant Acceptance From The Alaska Highway Safety Office In The Amount Of \$107,176**

**Seconded by Ms. Hunter**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee thanked Lt. Dutra for continuing to work and obtain the AHSO grant. He said it was disconcerting that there are so many DUI's.

Mayor Isaacson said that he wanted council see this report and Lt. Dutra verbalize it as it is telling on what the Police Department deals with and their hard work.

**PASSED**

**YES – 6- Hunter, McGhee, Arnold, McCarthy, Holm Isaacson**

**NO – 0 -**

**Abstained – 0**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Ms. Hunter** – the fire department makes her proud that they are able to put on the kind of training that they do as it speaks well of our community. She feels a lot more secure knowing how well trained they are.

**Mr. McCarthy** – thanked Buzz Otis for the great job he is doing by Safeway to help spiffy up that area.

**Mr. McGhee** – has been a resident for 17 ½ years and he is grateful for who the NPPD are and comforting to know that NPPD has a quality force. They have a quality staff that will take the time to meet our constituents. NPPD has impressive training and a well trained staff. He is grateful to the Utility Dept as they are cleaning up the streets. Mr. McGhee said he is concerned about one area and that is the back side of homes with 4 wheeler traffic. He understands the frustration and has a little empathy for those who owned them as he is also an owner of an ATV. He is excited about North Pole election tomorrow and hopes that we don't have to police PM2.5.

**Mr. Holm** – concerned with a portion of health care in this community that is closing down. He cautioned that this is a symptom of what is coming. Dr. Cobbett is closing his business and has been providing service in the North Pole area for over 30 years. This will also give a blow to the eye glass business in the city. Economic and community development is more than beautification and he tasked the council and NPEDC to work on long range plans to provide

medical in this community. He would like to see an Urgent Care clinic or other services in the area.

**Ms. Arnold** – her time on council is coming to a quick close. She stated that the election will be interesting and encouraged everyone to vote. Thanked everyone for coming tonight.

**Mayor Isaacson** – **was fortunate to** greet fire fighters at their conference and how enthusiastic they were during his introduction. It was his privileged to give a proclamation to Dr. Cobbett for his service. The mayor stated that he has been working on trying to get medical services into the area since he took office. They have looked at bring different medical services out here but has run into resistance. No growing community can exist without these services. North Pole is an energy center with electricity and fuel. The mayor state the we need to make sure our services keep pace.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to adjourn the meeting of October 3, 2011*

**Seconded** *by Ms. Arnold*

**No Objection**

The regular meeting of October 3, 2011 adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, October 17, 2011.**

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**DOUGLAS W. ISAACSON**, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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