

**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 2, 2012 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska.

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Isaacson called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, April 2, 2012 to order at 7:00 p.m.

***There were present:***

**Mr. Holm  
Ms. Hunter  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. McGhee  
Mr. Nelson  
Mr. Ward  
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 April 2, 2012**

**Seconded by Mr. Holm**

**Discussion**

None

**Mr. McGhee moved to amend the agenda by consenting under New Business, item c. Resolution 12-07, A Resolution In Support Of Development Of An Unmanned Aerial Systems Range And Support Infrastructure As A New Mission For Eielson Air Force Base And To Consider The Use Of Facilities In The City Of North Pole Or Surrounding Area Consistent With That Or Associated Systems**

**Seconded by Mr. Ward**

**PASSED**

**YES –6– Holm, Nelson, Ward, Hunter, McGhee, Isaacson**

**NO – 0 -**

**Abstained- 0**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the minutes of March 19, 2012**

**Seconded by Mr. Ward**

### **Discussion**

None

### **PASSED**

**YES –6– Holm, Nelson, Ward, Hunter, McGhee, Isaacson**

**NO – 0 -**

**Abstained- 0**

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

**Communication Highlights from the Mayor for the period ending April 2, 2012**

### **GENERAL:**

• **LOOKING FOR PICTURES!** AAA VIA magazine would like to publish an article on North Pole's Summer Festival and would like some high quality photos. If you have any you would like to have considered for publication (non-reimbursed), please let the mayor know by Wednesday morning, April 4. Thank you.

• **The Status of Eielson:** The status of possible/pending reductions at Eielson AFB is constantly in re-definition as to how many military and civilian personnel may be affected, the timetable being considered and what the State and community's interaction will be. I've been involved in multiple meetings on this subject and will keep you posted. However, there will be no official decision made until after the Site Adjustment Task Force (SATAF) meets at Eielson April 10-13.

Eielson is hosting an OPEN HOUSE on April 14-15, an event that will have static displays of the F16's, F22's and the KC135 Stratotankers. The event is open to the public and is free—and ironically, was scheduled to take place prior to the announcement of possible reductions.

• **The Status of Energy Relief and Projects:** Previously, I have provided a list of current legislative initiatives for Energy Relief for the Interior. What has not been discussed is the "third" alternative to either a build-out or direct cash relief: the use of royalty oil for in-state production of heating fuel and electricity. I will try to escalate the topic and will keep you posted. If you would like to discuss this option further, please give me a call.

If you would like to be a part of the discussion, an Energy Task Force meets EVERY Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. at FEDC's office, corner of Cushman & 3<sup>rd</sup> St, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

• FMATS: The Policy Committee for the Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System (FMATS) met on March 21. FMATS was created by the federal government's requirement that communities with 50,000 or more residents within defined boundaries had better ability to govern the transportation projects within the boundaries. Fairbanks/North Pole and Anchorage are the only such organizations (MPO's) in the State of Alaska. Because the decennial census was completed in 2010, new MPO boundaries for the urbanized area of the borough are pending.

Among the various projects FMATS manages, I again urged funding for the St. Nicholas Pedestrian Facilities Project (Sidewalks!) for 2013. There is much foot dragging, it seems, by DOT on this project.

- Also, important to North Pole, the ARRC & DOT will hold an Open House on the Draft Environmental Analysis that has been released for the North Pole Phase 1 Road-Rail Realignment. This will be held at Hotel North Pole this Thursday from 4:30-6:30 pm.
- There will be firewood available to the public, on a limited basis, from the Tanana Bridge project. Details are to be released this month.

• Various Meetings in addition to those mentioned above, included:

- weekly at NPMS giving "Words of Wisdom" and interaction with students and staff
- have continued efforts on several events, including North Pole Choose Respect Rally- March 29 @ Hotel North Pole, Nancy Uptgraft is Event Coordinator; North Pole Seniors Appreciation Luncheon-Mar 30, City Clerk Kathy Weber is Event Coordinator; North Pole Mayor's Art Show-April 10 @ City Hall, NPMS Art Teacher Scott Hanson is Event Coordinator—*for 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row!* North Pole Open House (in coordination with Cruis'n with Sana)-May 19, Engineer Kyle Green and Nichole Blizinski are Event Coordinators.
- ARRC Open House on Tanana Bridge Construction impacts, which for the City of North Pole means that we will see a large volume of heavy haulers taking rock from Badger Road to Salcha; NPF's ambulances on mutual aid may be called out more frequently than in the past to Salcha as back-up to the Salcha Rescue; and there will be firewood available (see discussion in FMATS). Also, there was discussion regarding FEMA's placement of the area including Eielson AFB in flood zone designations, an issue the Borough is working to mitigate/correct.
- The Borough Mayor, Chief of Staff and I had an update by DEC on area Sulfolane ground water contamination. The boundaries have not changed in 2011. There will be an OPEN HOUSE on May 1 (tentative times: 4:30-7:30 pm) at the North Pole Plaza Mall to allow the public to interact with State and local officials.
- North Pole Choose Respect Rally, held on Thursday, April 29, was a great event thanks to the tireless efforts of North Pole volunteer of the year Nancy Uptgraft who coordinated community agencies' involvement, the participation of Star of the North Secondary School, donations by Safeway, Hotel North Pole, and others, and speaker

from the Governor's office McHugh Pierre, Deputy Commissioner from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, community member Lisa Allison who courageously spoke of her history with long-term abuse and the process of healing, and Pastor Amanda Kempthorne who gave the opening prayer of healing and restoration, and for the many other community members who participated.

- Senior Appreciation Luncheon was held on March 30 and we hosted approximately 80 seniors from North Pole. Thank you to Hotel North Pole for providing the space, Wells Fargo Branch Manager Raven Riddle, for underwriting the expense, and especially to Kathy Weber for organizing it, assisted by Tricia Fogarty and Marilyn Zrucky who also cooked and served the meals; assisting in the set-up, clean-up was the Fire Department, especially Capt Chad Heineken, Lt Shawn McGilvery, Firefighters John Chihuly and AJ Hamlin, and from North Pole Worship Center Pastor Darryl Carnley, Pastor Roy Lovegrove and Jenny Blevins

**MEDIA:**

**Mar 24 & 31:** Mayor Isaacson was on KJNP (1170 AM, 100.3 FM) 8 – 9 a.m. “Over the Coffee Cup.”

**Mar 27:** Mayor Isaacson and Nancy Uptgraft were on KJNP TV4 “Closing Comments” discussing the North Pole Choose Respect Rally on March 29 and other City related issues.

**Mar 29:** Choose Respect coverage on TV ch 11 and 13.

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

- **April 5, 1 pm:** City Employee Preparedness Committee meeting @ NPDFD Annex
- **April 5, 4:30-6:30 pm:** Open House for EA North Pole Phase One: Road-Rail Realignment @ Hotel North Pole
- **April 6, 6:30 pm:** Community Good Friday Service and Social @ Lord of Life Lutheran
- **April 9, 5:30-7:30 pm:** Building Codes Community Meeting @ City Hall
- **April 10, 6 pm:** Mayor's Art Show & Reception featuring Student Art from area schools @ City Hall

***SEE ATTACHED FLIERS FOR***

- **STOMP**, “Salute to Our Military Parade”, May 12

From Brushes to Books, a fundraising event for the North Pole Branch Library, April 20-21 @ the North Pole Grange

**COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

None

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

**Fire Dept**

- Chief Lane stated that they had a meeting for Community Preparedness on April 5, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. This is basically for personnel training and businesses in the community to be prepared so they can help keep the community up and running in a disaster.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> the NPFd will hold a thank you dinner for American Red Cross who help families in the community. They will be putting on a chili feed.
- April 27<sup>th</sup> is NPFd appreciation dinner at Hotel North Pole.

**Police Department, Lt. Dutra**

- Sgt. Nelson stated that APOA will hold its annual banquet on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Westmark Hotel. Officer Stevenson will be honored.
- Lt. Dutra and Sgt. Bellant will be in Anchorage with Dept of Homeland Security next week.
- Sgt. Nelson will be with guard this next week.
- ARIDE class was held last week and had over 20 participants.
- Torch run will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> and officers will be running in that. It is a 5K and they run with special Olympians.
- NPPD finished testing today for reserves and will graduate May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Accountant, Lisa Vaughn**

- None

**FNSB Representative**

**FNSB ASSEMBLY MEETING:**

The FNSB Assembly met on Thursday, March 22 at 6 pm. There was major discussion regarding the school districts use of lapsed funds and whether or not it is the school districts or the borough's responsibility for maintaining school facilities which are all owned by the borough. The resolution supporting "An Instate Gas Pipeline Project That Is Economically Regulated To Ensure That Fairbanks Receives Gas At A Fair, Just And Reasonable Rate" was removed from the agenda, in large part due to the announcement that the producers were going ahead with plans for a large diameter pipeline down the Richardson Hwy.

The next FNSB Assembly meeting is this Thursday, April 5 at 6 pm, which is a special meeting to determine whether the FNSB should continue to participate as amicus curiae in the 2011 redistricting cases.

The FNSB Assembly holds its next regularly scheduled meeting on April 12; the agenda has not yet be finalized.

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

**Director of City Services, Bill Butler**

**Building Department**

- Public meeting related to the adoption of updated building codes will be held Monday, April 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at City Hall
  - Councilman Ward will be leading the meeting
  - Two of North Pole’s contract engineers will participate to provide technical expertise related to the proposed updated building codes
  - Formal announcements should appear in the News Miner on April 4,7 and 8

**Public Works**

- Majority of city-wide hardpack removal is completed
- Meet with DOT this afternoon to discuss moving the City’s beautification permit forward.
  - Because work on Santa Claus Lane was partially funded with federal money, any work in the right-of-way must meet federal guidelines
  - I will be providing DOT with clarifications within the next couple of weeks
- Will submit to council at April 16 meeting a formal resolution accepting the Community Development Block Grant award for the kitchen renovations at the Santa’s Seniors Center
  - Estimated total cost of project: \$104,223
  - Grant award: \$73,260.62
  - Senior Center cash match from existing legislative grant and other revenue: \$25,170.38
  - City in-kind match: \$5,792.00

**Utility Department**

- Will bring a resolution to Council at the April 16 meeting to accept an amendment to grant award for the Utility Garage Project
  - Received a grant amendment of \$187,334 for the Garage Project
  - Total State award for the project with the amendment: \$712,311
- Replat of Lot B2 in the Stillmeyer subdivision has been approved by Borough.
  - Will bring a resolution to Council at April 16 meeting to divide the assessment for Lot B2 to the individual lots
- Received in today’s mail notice that the City has made the Priority Funding List for State Fiscal Year 2013 for our application for Emergency Generators for the waste water treatment plant
  - Request was for \$302,500; 1.5%, 20 year loan
  - This project could be coordinated with the current Waste Water Treatment Plant Engineering and Design Project—replacing the generator is one of the draft recommendations for this project
  - There is an existing state Municipal Matching Grant for “water and sewer” projects with an approximate \$2 million balance that could be matched with this loan
  - Council will need to carefully determine if accepting additional debt is fiscally appropriate and a vote of the people would be necessary to accept additional debt
  - The loan is only being proposed by State—North Pole is number 12 out of the 17 under consideration for funding—any funding will be dependent upon the pending state budget

**City Clerk**

- No Comments

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

- North Pole Library, John Poirrier  
There will be a fundraiser for the North Pole Library called “From Brushes to Books” on Friday, April 20, 2012 at the North Pole Grange Gallery from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- There will be a silent auction held at the Grange and the coordinator is Brenda Sadler. They were contacted by someone who has a collection of valuable art and will be presenting it to the public as teaser pieces to show what the pieces are like. Proceeds go to the North Pole Library. Ms. Sadler is also collecting gift baskets and any other items for fundraisers.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS – 5 Minutes**

- None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCE 12-15, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE TO AMENDING TITLE 13, CHAPTER 13.20, SEWER SERVICE AND CHAPTER 13.24 UTILITY RATES TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE’S ALASKA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT #AK-002139-3 MANDATING IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM**

Bill Butler, Director of City Services introduced this ordinance and updated council on the status and explained how this permit relates to North Pole and the process of implementation of a pretreatment program.

#### **Public Comment**

John Poirrier, 101 Blackbear Turnaround

Mr. Poirrier was pleased that they adopted the title to the ordinance. He said it was a substantial change to what was previously in the title. He had clerical suggestions and other comments about the permit.

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve Ordinance 12-15, An Ordinance Of The City Of North Pole To Amend Title 13 Public Services; Chapter 13.20 Sewer Services, And Chapter 13.24 Utility Rates To Satisfy The Requirements Of The City Of North Pole’s Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit #AK-002139-3 Mandating Implementation Of An Industrial Pretreatment Program***

**Seconded by Mr. Nelson**

**Discussion**

Mr. Holm had questions on procedures of ordinances and approval.

Mayor Isaacson asked Mr. Butler to come forward and explain what would happen if the City didn't approve the ordinance.

Mr. Butler stated that without this ordinance it could potentially shut the wastewater treatment plant down.

Mr. McGhee asked about the restaurants and how this affects them.

Mr. Butler stated that the grease traps have high cost to the system to treat and the traps prevent grease from coming into the system.

Mr. McGhee asked how do you verify that septic systems are in compliance.

Mr. Butler stated that certified installer are required.

Mr. McGhee asked about what is old and what is new in the language.

Ms. Hunter asked for clarification on.

Mr. Holm would like a highlight copy of the regulations and has a concern when he hears about inability to enforce our code. He said this could come back and bite us as this is similar in policy and procedures and usually a regulatory agency comes in and tests for that. He stated that if you have policy & procedure in place and not enforcing it you can get in trouble. He asked if there is a way to additionally highlight anything we don't have the ability to enforce.

Mr. Butler responded that they are going through code and that these are not things that are not behavioral practices. He said that there was a time when they didn't have language for penalties to people who tied in to our water main and they have now put it into code that they can't do it without notifying the City and our Utility Department.

Mr. Holm said that to force more regulation on restaurants is to force them out of business and putting more regs on this industry is self defeating.

Mr. Butler stated that the increased cost is paid by the others, rate payers, utility customers, etc. He said it is a policy choice the council has made.

Mayor Isaacson said they are able to go beyond but can not cut down.

Mr. Ward wanted clarification and asked if this was something that the city had to do and if this was only for our discharge system.



Mr. Butler stated that it was and that there are minimum standards.

**PASSED**

**YES – 5– Holm, Ward, Hunter, Nelson, McGhee, Isaacson**

**NO – 1 - Holm**

**Abstained – 0**

**RESOLUTION 12-06, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE SUPPORTING NORTH POLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S BID TO HOST THE 2013 INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SLEDDOG SPORTS WINTER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NORTH POLE, ALASKA**

Buzz Otis and Raven Riddle from NPEDC

Mr. Otis stated that the NPEDC board was unanimous in wanting to put together a bid for the International Federation of Sleddog Sports Winter World Championships in North Pole. The economic impact was 3 million dollars. He wants the support of the City Council and feels it will be a good thing for North Pole in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. There is a lot of work to be done on this task. He has also asked the FNSB Assembly and City of Fairbanks for support and monetary support.

**Public Comment**

John Poirrier,

Mr. Poirrier spoke in favor of the Resolutuion

**Mr. McGhee moved to Approve Resolution 12-06, A Resolution of the City of North Pole Supporting North Pole Economic Development Corporation's Bid To Host The 2013 International Federation Of Sleddog Sports Winter World Championships In North Pole, Alaska**

**Seconded by Mr. Ward**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee said he supports this and has been researching the history of North Pole. He said that there are so many things that we do here and this is on a much bigger scale. He is recognizing the events that the NPEDC have been doing for tourism and the ability to bring an international crowd so we are better known for our exciting winter events.

Mr. Nelson said he strongly feels that this is a thriving business opportunity and wishes the best of luck on the bid.

Ms. Hunter is in support of the event taking place. However, she is not encouraged that this is going to take a lot of commitment for an event that she feels is a distraction of the main core of North Pole Economic Development Corporation to lay ground to tourism of our community and events that take place here. She believes that other organizations in this is in community such as Christmas in Ice & North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce should help NPEDC but sees it as a distraction to the mission of NPEDC and this time.

Mayor Isaacson stated that when they created NPEDC and put us on demographers checklists that there was economic uncertainty and the cost of energy and other things is not getting all the people we like. Mr. Otis has the expertise and evidence of new board members and is garnering a lot more support.

Mr. Holm will support this event because he feels it is good for North Pole. He doesn't see this as being the main thing for NPEDC. He sees this more as a Chamber event as it will happen one time. The energy's of NPEDC shouldn't be tied up with this. He will not support things that are happening as a one time event and that NPEDC should be developing long term things.

Mr. Ward was concerned about where NPEDC has gone with events and we are looking for things that are more sustainable and this event is a step to get there. He felt that another organization would take it on right now we have someone who is and doing a good job. He stated that we want to make sure to keep long term sustainability and take the bull by the horns and benefit the community.

Mr. McGhee said that he is sorry that every time Mr. Otis brings something forward to the council that they spend half the time knocking it. He asked if there is a potential for this to be a returning thing.

Mr. Otis said that every other year the races are in Europe and last time it was in Fairbanks was 2001. He felt exposing the community to people throughout the world is important.

Mr. McGhee asked if the return would be far greater than what the concerns of other council members were.

Mr. Otis said that NPEDC was recognized because of the good job they did on the last event. He said it has to start somewhere and is a good thing and a good start. People aren't building and there is no pipeline construction or building permits for this year. He stated that this is just an effort, if we don't do it, Alaska will miss out and that it was hard to say what the economic benefits are.

Ms. Hunter ask Mr. Otis to consider sustainability and how this event could work into an event for our community that in the future other races would come to the community. She would like to see a development for a long range plan.

Mayor Isaacson said there would be major media coverage on this event.

**PASSED**

**YES – 5– Holm, Ward, Nelson, McGhee, Isaacson**

**NO – 1 - Hunter**

**Abstained – 0**

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mr. Nelson** – no comment

**Mr. McGhee** – said he has been sitting on council for many years and has been reviewing the history of North Pole and what makes it what it is and how it is viewed by the public. He was disappointed and amazed at what he found. He dinner will Neil Davis and found it very informational as Mr. Davis retold the history of North Pole. He stated that our Our #1 attraction is Santa Claus House as far a tourism is concerned and that has been slandered by a documentary on North Pole Middle School and the history of our political past. He commented on our current mayor surviving a recall election and a former mayor sending a lump of coal to Senator McCain for comments he made about Alaska. He felt that the Summer events that happen with Mayor's Picnic and Cruis'n with Santa are exciting things for our community. The city has invested in it and it brings in business. He would like to see NPEDC look at more sustainable income and get more involved in events that are sustainable and marketable like the international ice show and sculptures. He appreciates the chamber and hopes that in time they will get out and have more h business memberships. He is pleased with all the departments. He feels that our department heads are working hard and Mr. Butler has done a good job. He wants to find more ways to support the department heads and he stands behind them. He thanked Mr. Otis for his part.

**Mr. Ward** – was asked to serve as ex officio on NPEDC. April 9<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Public meeting from 6-9 p.m. Consultants will be here to ask questions and is a great way gain knowledge on the building codes. The Finance committee was cancelled tonight. He liked the idea to add page numbers as it is easier to read and see the changes. He has put in a letter of intent in to run for mayor and looks forward to being a part of that and serving the community.

**Mr. Holm** – his vision of NPEDC is to be the bull work to bring some of these things forward and wants to see another organization steered toward it so it doesn't take all NPEDC's time. If they are doing it for North Pole then there are some other organization such as the Grange, NPCCC, Moose Lodge, Rotary, etc. that individually or combined could have this instead of them being at each other's throat. He has nothing against Mr. Butler but will not blindly follow someone down the path. He stated that council is not here to support the City's employees but are here to take care of them. He said that council is here for the public, they are elected officials and it is there job. He said he a problem with anyone who feels like that.

**Ms. Hunter** – there are a lot of events in April and will be nice to see everyone at he Brushes event and was surprised to see the art there. She said the police department will be coming to the high school on April 20<sup>th</sup> to do a presentation on Distracted Driving during alcohol awareness month in April. She thanked the mayor for reminding the council that when there is a perception that council is making a presenter uncomfortable, and that council should review what protocol is when someone in commenting. She has been made aware of a lot of people who want to express their concerns and felt attacked by council. She felt it was very important that we get comments from citizens.

**Mayor Isaacson** – stated that it was a good thoughtful council tonight.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. moved to adjourn the meeting of April 2, 2012**

**Seconded by Ward**

**No Objection**

The regular meeting of April 2, 2012 adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, April 16, 2012.

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Douglas W. Isaacson, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Kathryn M. Weber, MMC  
North Pole City Clerk