

**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, December 17, 2012 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Ward called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, December 17, 2012 to order at 7:00 p.m.

There were present:

**Mr. Holm
Ms. Hunter
Mr. McGhee
Mr. Nelson
Ms. Sikma
Mr. Smith
Mayor Ward**

Absent/Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Presentation of Colors and pledge of allegiance by Troop #42

INVOCATION

Mr. McGhee asked for a moment of silence for the students at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Approve the Agenda of December 17, 2012

Seconded *by* Mr. Holm

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to* consent the following items on the agenda:

Old Business

- a. Ordinance 12-25, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 4, Chapter 4.10.010, User Fees

New Business

- a. Approval Of 14 Sets Of Bunker Gear For NPFd In The Amount Of \$26,371.80 To Be Funded By 2010 State Grant

Seconded by Mr. Nelson

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

YES –7- Holm, Hunter, Sikma, McGhee, Smith, Nelson, Ward

NO – 0

Absent- 0 -

On the main motion as amended

PASSED

YES –7- Holm, Hunter, Sikma, McGhee, Smith, Nelson, Ward

NO – 0

Absent- 0 -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Holm moved to Approve the minutes of December 3, 2012

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES –7- Holm, Hunter, Sikma, McGhee, Smith, Nelson, Ward

NO – 0

Absent- 0 -

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Governor Parnell announced his energy building blocks proposal. The Plan allows for 355 Million dollars of low interest loans and grants to help provide affordable energy for Alaskans. We presented our legislative priorities to the Interior delegation last week for the City and FMATS, General consensus was we will not get help for our police roof, its Maintenance and should be done by city. The Legislature focuses more on capital projects and infrastructure not maintenance.

Met with EPA, DEC and Mayor Hopkins Taskforce on Air Quality. We did not meet EPA time requirements for STIP, however we are working closely with EPA to assemble a plan and avoid sanctions.

City Employee Christmas party was Friday and was a family fun affair. The best dessert award would have to go to the provider of the Fondant fountain, which many (especially the kids) enjoyed.

I would encourage all to check out the ice park, they have some truly amazing artwork this year!

- Student of the Month, NPHS – Ashlynn Mulcare – November
- Introduction of North Pole Royalty
 - King, Gerry Million
 - Queen, Melissa Bidwell
 - Princess, Brianna Rodriquez
- Employee Service Awards – 5 years
 - Bill Butler
 - Daniel Kuhnert
 - Chris Lindsoe
 - Shawn McGilvary
 - Kalen Middleton
 - Stan Swetzof
 - Marilyn Zrucky

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Present Basic Certificate to Officer Fisher
- Lt. Rathbun and I attended Executive Dev. Conference in Anchorage Topics Below 100 plus other topics related to management
- We picked up the new Detective car in Anchorage.
- We also just received the new patrol car from Seekins.
- I plan on putting together 2012 Stats for 2nd council meeting in January.
- We have one position still open and two additional openings coming end of Dec.
- Detective Stewart good job
- We are putting together the RFP for the DBA DHS&EM
- We have just completed our narrow banding project. Programming and licensing

Fire Department, Chief Lane

- Completed narrow banding on radio's as well. Thanked City of Fairbanks for getting a grant to do this and saved North Pole a lot of money.
- Cold weather and snow have caused accidents attributed by visibility. Keep lights on and be aware.
- Mayor received letter from Homeland Security for the preparedness grant and hopefully will receive 5,000 to go toward wages for the program from January – June, 2013. They will apply again in July which will be for a year and \$10,000.

- Fire and Police are working together to put a program together for Emergency Preparedness.
- May lose Kyle Green to City of Fairbanks.
- Fire truck is making its round through North Pole. Starts at 6:00 p.m. and goes for a couple of hours.

Accountant, Lisa Vaughn

- You have both a financial statement for November and a copy of the November bank reconciliation. To increase our “transparency” the Mayor has asked that I give you the first page of the bank reconciliation. If you look at the bank balance and the book balance, they are the same and they match the Central Treasury balance on the first page of the bank statement.
- The Mayor and I met this morning to discuss 2012 revenues. We do have some concerns. Prior year citation revenue came in much less than projected. We based our projections on the average collection for the past three years. We are concerned that the sales tax is not going to meet our projected budget. If you look as of November, we are \$580,988 under budget. Based on a three year history, we are projecting that we could come in as much as \$140,000 under budget. We do feel that Alcohol and Tobacco Taxes will come in as scheduled.
- When revenues were forecasted for the 2013 budget, we did feel that the 2012 sales tax was estimated higher than it should have been and we took this into consideration for the 2013 budget.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

December 17, 2012 City Council Report

Bill Butler

Director of City Services

Building Department

- No new building permits this period

Public Works

- Santa’s Senior Center Kitchen Renovation project received a project audit today (12/17)
- Major snow event
 - Plowing made more difficult because snow fell over several days

Utility Department

- Successfully separated old water treatment plant reservoir from the water system
 - Separation permit isolation of the remaining reservoirs
 - First time in over five years were able to clean and inspect remaining reservoirs
- Upgrade of lift station control panels approved by the Council is substantially complete
 - Purpose was to modify the Phase 1 panels on the Phase 2 control panel model

Natural Gas Utility Board

- Board complement complete with seven members
- Continue to develop draft bylaws
 - By laws must be submitted to and approved by FNSB Council for approval
- Governor announced a natural gas initiative to be included as part of his 2014 budget (See attached)

Borough Representative

- Met on Thursday and had ordinances on labor unions but had no affect on City of North Pole.

City Clerk

December 3, 2012

- I will be out of the office from December 24 – January 2, 2013.
- There will be an Executive Session on January 7, 2013 for the Clerks evaluation.
- 8 days until Christmas

ONGOING PROJECTS

Christmas in Ice, Ron Jones

Attendance to date, is approximately 3,000 park guests.

12/8 BP 630 people

12/15 1,050 people

Upcoming events Christmas Day 12 – 6 and Santa will be there. Web cams will be up.

New Years Eve, star drop and is free.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – 5 Minutes

- None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Hunter – saw the fire truck tonight with the Christmas music playing on her way to the council meeting. She thanked the fire & police department and wished everyone a safe holiday.

Ms. Sikma – wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to stay safe and warm. She said the Ice Park is doing great and they are getting a lot of national attention because it has been too cold to cut ice.

Mr. Holm – wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Smith – appreciated everyone for welcoming him onto the council and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Nelson – encouraged everyone to stay safe and have a Merry Christmas.

Mr. McGhee- wished everyone a Happy Yule, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and pay it forward.

Mayor Ward – thanked all the employees and citizens and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and encouraged everyone to come and visit City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Holm

The regular meeting of December 17, 2012 adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, January 7, 2013.



Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk