

**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, March 4, 2013 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, March 4, 2013 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**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Ward

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Councilwoman Sikma

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the Agenda of March 4, 2013**

**Seconded by Ms. Sikma**

**Discussion**

None

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

**New Business**

- a. Liquor License Renewal for 2 Go Mart #112, Tesoro Northstore Company
- b. Amend Appointment of Committee Membership/Finance Audit Committee, to include Councilwoman Michelle Sikma

**Seconded by Ms. Sikma**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

**YES:** 7 – Hunter, Sikma, Holm, Smith, McGhee, Nelson, Ward

**NO:** 0

**Absent:** 0

*On the main motion as amended*

**PASSED**

**YES:** 7 – Hunter, Sikma, Holm, Smith, McGhee, Nelson, Ward

**NO:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Holm moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2013**

**Seconded by Mr. Nelson**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

**YES:** 7 – Hunter, Sikma, Holm, Smith, McGhee, Nelson, Ward

**NO:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Ward updated council on the following items:

- Attended Tiger Team and Fairbanks Chamber meetings with Senator Murkowski and listened to the effects of sequestration.
- Was asked to be on the ARRC strategic playing board.
- Had a presentation by AIDA at City Hall on the trucking of natural gas from the North Slope.
- IFSS is going on now and the mayor attended opening ceremonies at Pikes and welcomed the mushers. Events will be going on in Salcha, North Pole, and Fairbanks.

**COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

Mr. Smith asked about the new Smart 911 and the funding for the program.

Mayor Ward said he thought it was funded through the borough by a grant.

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

**Police Department, Chief Dutra**

- None

**Fire Department, Chief Lane**

- Reminded council about the St. Baldericks Foundation 9<sup>th</sup> Annual fundraiser to be held at Pioneer Park Exhibit Hall on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 6pm. The is to raise money to fight childhood cancer . For more information contact Justin Boddy at 322-2232 or go to the website [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org).
- Bill Schekter, former borough Fire Chief died this past week from a stroke. His services will be held at Sacred Hearth Catholic Church on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. NPFDD will participate
- Engine 24 had been down for some time and is now back in service, thanks to Capt. Chad Heineken who did the work on the engine.
- Nixel is a new form of social media for emergency measures. Chief Lane attended classes for social media communications ie. Nixle, Twitter, and Facebook. You can find out quicker in Twitter than you can in the news.
- Chief Lane would like the Council to weigh in on Title 17, which deals with roads in the borough and some on the borough assembly are trying to get rid of it. If you have a subdivision and want to subdivide, this would allow developers to not need to go through the borough to build roads to their specs. He felt the city should look at that and weigh in on it. He gave an example of going in to a fire and the truck being buried to the axles because the road wasn't maintained.

•  
Mr. McGhee commented that he has been using Nixle for over a year and is very impressed with it.

Mr. Smith also commented on it.

**Accountant, Lisa Vaughn**

- None

**Utility & Public Works**

**Building Department**

- One commercial permit-additional renovations at the Safeway Pharmacy
- Plans appear to still be on track for North Pole Library construction in 2013
- Borough has released a request for bids for roof repairs at the middle school for construction in 2013

### **Public Works**

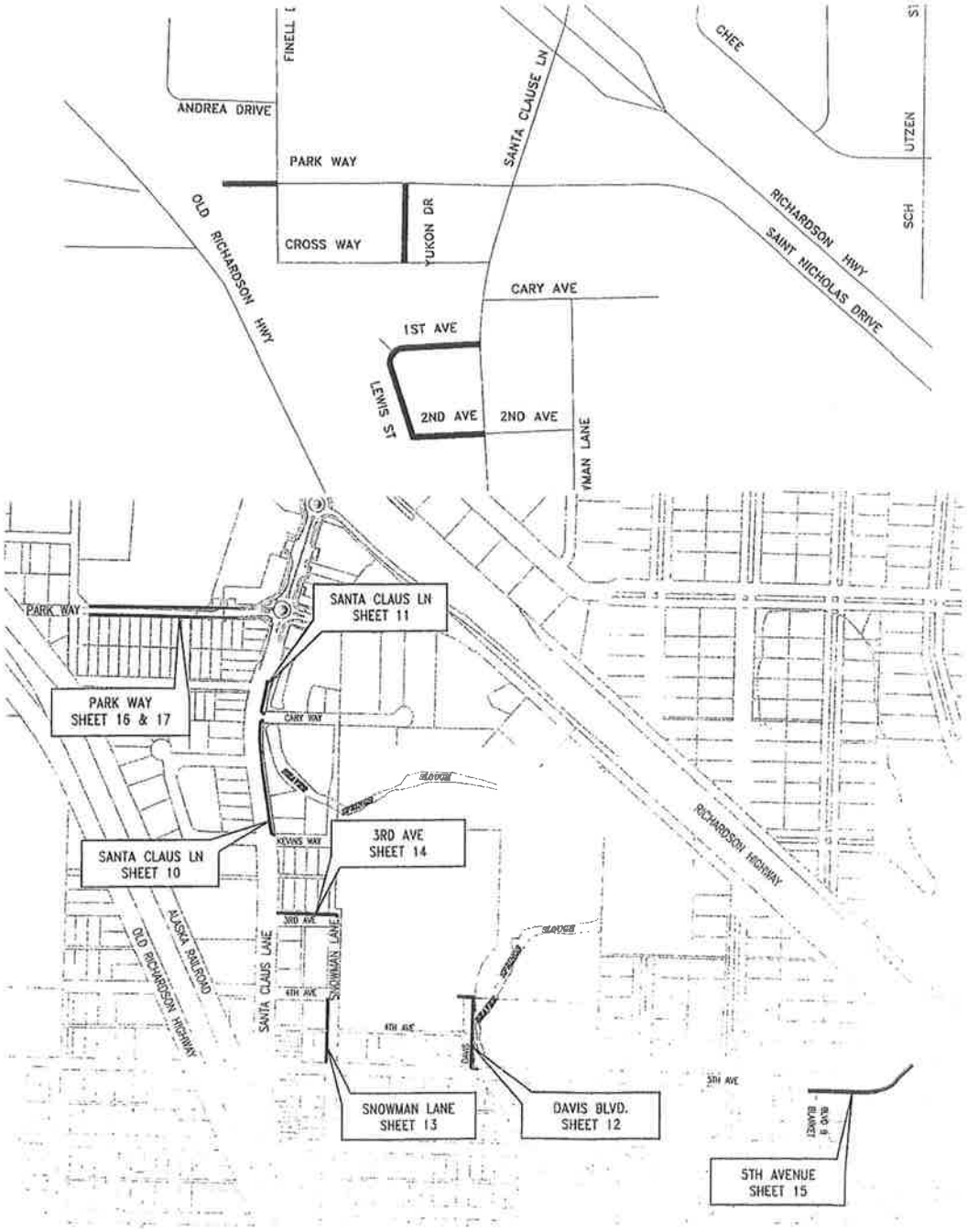
- Public Works staff are building planters and benches—a cost savings versus buying from manufacture
- Senior Center project was completed in the middle of February with installation of propane tank heating blanket
- DOT released a request for bids for 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue paving project with required paving to be completed by October 2013
- This summer should be a busy public works construction season: road repaving, pedestrian path paving & bus shelter (see attached site maps and drawing)
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - Pedestrian connections project
  - Additional road paving
  - Santa Claus Lane bus shelter

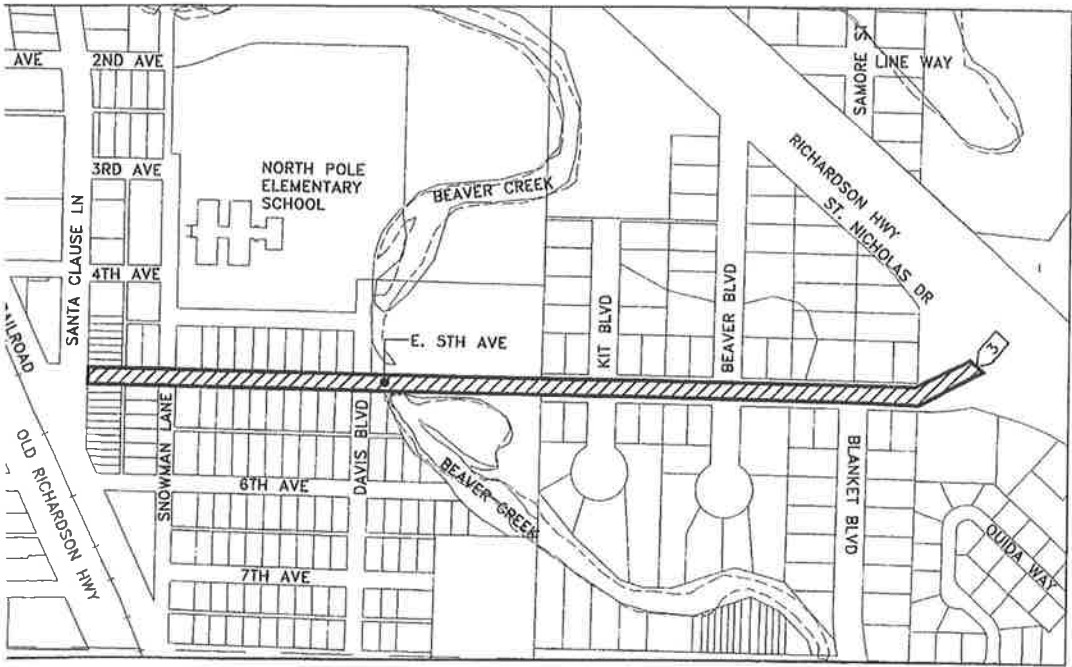
### **Utility Department**

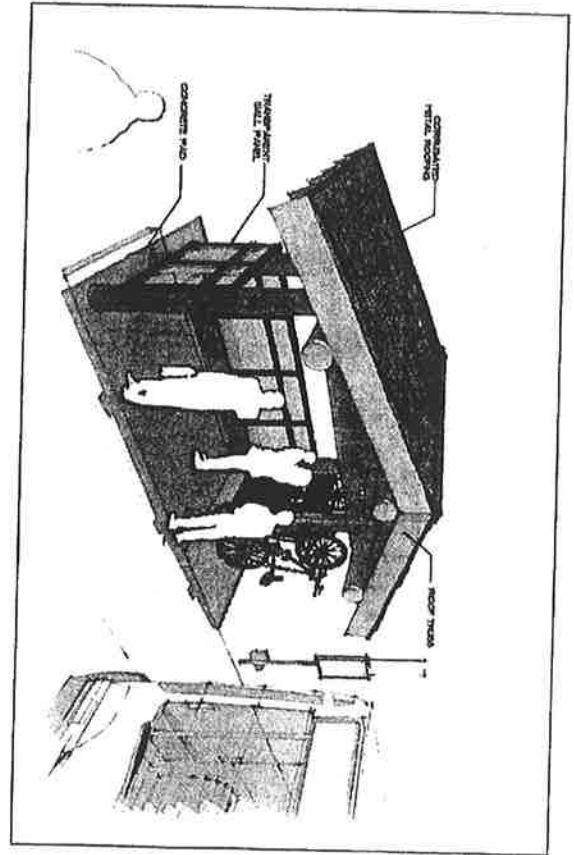
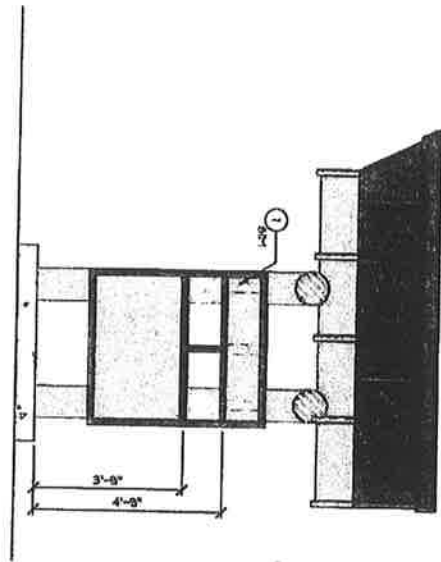
- Utility annual report distributed in utility bills (copy attached).
  - Summarizes significant developments during 2012.
  - Goal is to help utility customers to better understand the utility.
- Received grant award for waste water treatment plant renovations.
  - Received too late to bring resolution to Council for approval at this meeting.
  - Award: \$1,075,140.
  - Funds for award drawn from a 2011 state appropriation to the City (balance in award is \$663,378 that plan to apply to additional waste water treatment plant renovations).
- Lift station project is completed with installation of electronic control upgrades (Change Order #2).
- Will request ~\$45,000 in unspent funds be transferred to waste water treatment plant to help fund the plant's lift station.

### **Natural Gas Utility Board**

- On February 27, two board members made a presentation to Alaska Regulatory Commission proposing a service area--includes areas of Borough outside of Fairbanks Natural Gas's current service area.







**Borough Representative**

- None

**City Clerk**

- Senior Luncheon has been canceled for this year.
- PFD deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Mayor's Art show will not happen this year. I am working with Mr. Hansen from NPMS to make sure this comes off next year in February.
- Seniors will be coming over to City Hall on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. They also plan to visit the Police, Fire, Public Works, and Utility Departments.
- Reminder to have your APOC form in to me by March 15, 2013 to avoid any fines.

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

- None

**CITIZENS COMMENTS – 5 Minutes**

- None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL TO HIRE NFPD PERSONNEL AT RANGE 6 ON THE PAY SCALE**

Chief Lane updated council on the need to hire Fire Department personnel at range 6 on the pay scale and that they have been doing this for the past 5 years.

**Public Comment**

None

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* Approve the North Pole Fire Department to Hire Personnel At Range 6 On The Pay Scale**

**Seconded by Ms. Sikma**

**Discussion**

Mr. Holm asked if there was the ability to hire on the pay scale due to experience and that he felt this should not be decided by council and that we don't set a precedent until council looks at the salary schedule and fixes it.



Mayor Ward asked the clerk to read the portion in the NPMC that deals with hiring new employees.

*4.36.470 Pay*

*G. Newly hired employees shall be employed at the starting rate of the appropriate salary range. However, in the case where unusual difficulty has been experienced in filling a vacancy, or when the applicant is exceptionally qualified, on approval of Council the Mayor may direct the starting salary above the minimum. Credit for prior years of similar service may be granted at the rate of two prior years of experience for one horizontal step increment. Employees hired in 1999 to present will be eligible for this credit.*

Mayor Ward said the issue is that the Fire Department has been doing this and they need council approval.

**Mr. Holm** *move to amend to read Approve Range 6 On The Pay Scale Recognizing The Level Of Experience Of This New Hire.*

**Seconded** *by Mr. McGhee*

**Discussion**

Ms. Hunter stated that the reason for this coming before council was due to his experience but because this is what fire department personnel were being hire at in the past.

Chief Lane said that this was part of the hiring process. He stated that this had been going on for the past 10 years and had been accepted by previous mayors. This person is qualified and his recommendation is to hire this person at range 6. He said that eventually the council will need to go back and adjust the pay scale.

Mr. Holm said he brought this up because they need to address the individual and not the pay scale until they have an ordinance before them. He didn't want to set precedence without debate.

Ms. Hunter said the council is not setting a precedence because it's been going on for such a long time and she felt that she didn't want to look at individual merit but it wouldn't be fair to do this at this time. She did agree to that they need to put something into code and do revisit it.

Chief Lane said they are setting precedence by bringing it before council and that we are going to follow code now.

**PASSED**

**YES:** 7 – Hunter, Sikma, Holm, Smith, McGhee, Nelson, Ward

**NO:** 0

**Absent:** 0

*On the main motion as Amended*

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

**YES:** 7 – Hunter, Sikma, Holm, Smith, McGhee, Nelson, Ward

**NO:** 0  
**Absent:** 0

**ORDINANCE 13-03, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 5 AND INTRODUCING CHAPTER 5.13, MADE IN NORTH POLE, ALASKA TRADEMARK**

Mayor Ward introduced the ordinance by stating he had been working on this since December. He said this is in the same realm as what the State of Alaska does with their "Made in Alaska". The bulk of this code has been taken from the State of Alaska and this will hopefully raise revenues for the City of North Pole. He stated that a cost breakdown has been provided along with a projected revenues. Mayor Ward said that he is hoping to bring in around \$4,000 with the Trademark.

**Public Comment**

None

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Introduce and Advance Ordinance 13-03, An Ordinance Amending Title 5 And Introducing Chapter 5.13, Made In North Pole, Alaska Trademark***

**Seconded by Ms. Hunter**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee asked about the 99705 and how we would be able to require people outside the city limits to purchase a business license.

Mayor Ward stated that this was vetted through our attorney and that anyone wishing to use the trademark and logo would be required to purchase a business license before they would be able to use the logo. There are boundaries set for the use of the logo.

Ms. Hunter asked about section 5.13.040 Utilization of Emblem- and if the permit holder is responsible for getting their own stickers?

Mayor Ward said that was correct and they would be able to get their own labels by getting the image from the City or individuals could get their own through a printer.

Ms. Hunter asked if there was a control problem with a rubber stamp after a user's permit expired.

Mayor ward said that this was drafted with state code and there isn't an issue and is up to the city to police it. The ordinance goes over the penalties of misusing the logo or trademark image.

Mr. Smith said that NPHS has great artists and if this could be put out to the schools or to other artists to create an emblem. He thought it would be nice to get the community involved.

Mayor Ward thought it would be better to have a finished product.

Mr. Smith asked about the annual fees for the trademark and business license.

Mayor Ward

Ms. Hunter asked about the product line and wondered if he wanted to improve the definition of the product line. She had wording that she thought might be included in the ordinance.

Mayor Ward stated that it had gone through the attorney and that he didn't feel that there needed to be any changes made to it but Ms. Hunter was free to make any amendments she wanted.

Mr. Holm said he felt Ms. Hunter was correct and he would like to see the product line more defined.

Ms. Sikma suggested that there could be better wording in the ordinance concerning the original/product line.

Ms. Hunter said she saw the two things as being different and asked how many times you are going to pay that fee.

Mayor Ward said it was capped at \$100 he didn't see an issue with it but if they felt there needed to be an amendment he encouraged them to do it.

Mr. Smith asked if this could be tabled to the next meeting.

Mr. McGhee said there was no need to table it and they were supposed to be debating now. He asked the council to pass it or make a motion.

Mr. McGhee called the question

**PASSED**

**YES:** 5 – Hunter, Sikma, McGhee, Nelson, Ward

**NO:** 2 – Holm, Smith

**Absent:** 0

**RESOLUTION 13-04, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO APPROVE THE FIVE YEAR ROYALTY OIL CONTRACT BETWEEN FLINT HILLS RESOURCES LLC AND THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DURING THE 28<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Mayor Ward introduced the Resolution. Shannon Price was in attendance on behalf of Jeff Cook from Flint Hills Resources, LLC was in attendance to answer any questions the council may have.

Ms. Hunter asked what receiving royalty oil meant to Flint Hills, LLC.

Mr. Price said that royalty oil is the only oil that Flint Hills receives and that they wouldn't get any oil if this Resolution doesn't pass.

Mayor Ward explained that the state receives 12.5 % of all the oil produced on the North Slope. Of the 12.5% the state can resell on the private market. The state is in negotiation with Flint Hills for the sale of this oil.

Mr. Holm asked if there had been any opposition to this resolution.

Mr. Price said they've had very good support from the interior delegation.

Mr. McGhee asked how much they pay for royalty oil.

Mr. Price said he didn't have that information but would get it and report back to council if they would like.

Mr. McGhee asked if there was any other company they could purchase oil from other than the State of Alaska.

Mr. Price stated that Flint Hills is not interested in the small purchase that they would be able to make from other companies.

Ms. Sikma asked if there were any major changes from the old contract to the new.

Mr. Price said conditions to this contract is that it lets them be more competitive.

**Public Comment**

None

**Mr. McGhee moved to Approve Resolution 13-04, A Resolution Supporting Legislative Action To Approve The Five Year Royalty Oil Contract Between Flint Hills Resources Llc And The Alaska Department Of Natural Resources During The 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**

**Seconded by Ms. Sikma**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

**YES: 7 – Hunter, Sikma, Holm, Smith, McGhee, Nelson, Ward**

**NO: 0**

**Absent: 0**

**RESOLUTION 13-05, A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 3, "AN ACT RELATING TO VOTER IDENTIFICATION AT THE POLLS; AND RELATING TO THE COUNTING OF ABSENTEE AND QUESTIONED BALLOTS" AND URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO RETAIN THE CURRENT LIST OF ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF VOTER IDENTIFICATION LISTED IN AS 15.15.225 AND 6 AAC 25.**

Mrs. Weber introduced this resolution to council. She explained that this would largely impact rural communities where there is usually only one election official at the polls. There could also be issues with rural communities where some of the residents wouldn't have access to photo identification.

**Public Comment**

None

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* Introduce and Adopt Resolution 13-05, A Resolution Opposing House Bill 3, "An Act Relating To Voter Identification At The Polls; And Relating To The Counting Of Absentee And Questioned Ballots" And Urging The State Of Alaska Legislature To Retain The Current List Of Acceptable Forms Of Voter Identification Listed In As 15.15.225 And 6 AAC 25.**

**Seconded by Ms. Sikma**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee said that Mrs. Weber was wrong as 2 of the board of elections has the right approve the voter. He stated that photo ID is a way of protecting against voting fraud. He said that he has all kinds of photo ID and the natives that he deals with have photo ID and would not vote for this resolution.

Mr. Smith said that there was something in the news about someone in Alaska voting 3 times.

Mr. Holm said he felt the same way as Mr. McGhee and would vote against it. He said the time has come when people need to have photo ID to vote, buy a gun, drive a vehicle, etc. He did not feel it was discriminatory.

Ms. Hunter said the right to vote is the very foundation of our democracy and didn't feel that we should be doing anything to infringe on that. She didn't see fraud being a broad problem and that if it was we would be hearing from the City Clerks. She said she would support the clerks and her constitutional right.

Mr. Nelson asked if this was only local or regional. He would vote in favor of it and didn't feel it was necessary to bring this forward.

**PASSED**

**YES: 4 – Smith, Sikma, Hunter, Nelson**

**NO: 3 - McGhee, Holm, Ward**

**Absent: 0**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Ms. Hunter** – was glad to see there was someone at the meeting tonight. She thanked Ms. Cork for coming tonight.

**Ms. Sikma** – was glad to see warmer weather and encouraged everyone to go out and take part in the IFSS this next week.

**Mr. Holm** – no comment

**Mr. Smith** – informed the council that next week is daylight saving time and to change smoke detector batteries.

**Mr. Nelson** – encouraged everyone to be careful as the roads are slippery.

**Mr. McGhee** – he echoed Mr. Nelsons comments and was nice to see Ms. Cork

**Mayor Ward** – echoed comments and thanked council for their participation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 8: 35 p.m.**

**Seconded by Ms. Sikma**

The regular meeting of March 4, 2013 adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, March 18, 2013.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn M. Weber, MMC  
North Pole City Clerk