

**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 18, 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 18, 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 Rob Schrechise

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the Agenda of March 18, 2013***

**Seconded by Ms. Sikma**

**Discussion**

None

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

**New Business.**

- b. Resolution 13-06 A Resolution to Accept a State of Alaska Municipal Matching Grant in the Amount t of \$1,075,140 For The Rehabilitation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant

**Seconded by Mr. Holm**

**Discussion**

None

*On the amendment*

**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. McGhee moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2013**

**Seconded by Ms. Sikma**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

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

**NO:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

**Mayor Ward**

- I got the opportunity to race a dog sled team at the Jeff Studdert raceway (dog mushers Hall) last week. Our Team came in third place out of four.
- The three mayors testified on HB 74 last week during our monthly mayors meeting and hope to see its passage soon. SB 23 passed unanimously several weeks ago.
- Last Thursday I got to tour Eielson AFB with Brigadier General Mark Kelley. It was a great opportunity to see our local airmen in action and tour the facilities where they live and work. I also had the opportunity to see a F-16 up close and in person.
- Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the first monthly “muffins with the Mayor” from 7AM-9AM in the council chambers. The ‘muffins with the mayor’ event will be the third Friday of the month from 7-9 AM. This Friday my wife will be here with three kinds of her homemade muffins.
- The State Operating Budget will be up for public comment at the Legislative Offices Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30 pm. Please come with written testimony.

- Next Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 6PM in the Council Chambers there will be a workshop on our revenues. Primarily addressing the decrease in our property tax and what we will need to do to balance our budget. I am strongly requesting council members please attend.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festivities planning will begin next month. The meeting dates are as follows : April 8<sup>th</sup>, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>, May 28<sup>th</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup>. All meetings will be in the Council Chambers at 6PM. Please come if you want to be involved we only have 7 meetings to plan this event.
- Thursday at 6PM the North Pole Chamber will have its members meeting at Hotel North Pole at 6PM. If you are a member or would like to know what it means to be a member please join us for snacks and a short speech by the North Pole Mayor Bryce Ward.

### **Student of the Month**

Kelsey Nore – North Pole High School

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

None

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

#### **Police Department, Chief Dutra**

- Awards ceremony was last week.
- Patrol car was damaged in an accident last week and there was approximately \$8,000 in damages.
- Sgt. Kvitem will be joining the drug unit next week. The department is excited as he did a good job in that position in the past.
- Patrol staffing is at a critical point. Grant positions have requirements and the city signed an agreement to have those position filled. It moves the Lt. to the day shift and there will only be 6 officers on duty. Two officers are in training at the academy and the other is still in FTO training. This will be in effect until August.
- The NPPD will be pulling the detective and putting him back on patrol.
- Compeau's sold one sled and a trailer for the NPPD.
- The Dept. just turned over to Microsoft 365. Email was down for a week but they are up and running now.
- The NPPD received a check in the amount of \$8,700 for the equity sharing in the gold off of the drug bust on CHSR.
- The presentation to Santa's Seniors was a success. Talked with them about the importance of the department.
- NPPD did a presentation for Rotary this past month.

#### **Fire Department, Chief Lane**

- None

**Director of City Services, Bill Butler**

**Building Department**

- One commercial permit, expansion of senior housing facility on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**Public Works**

- Roads are icy; waiting for consistent warm temperatures before we can do a hard pack removal
- Requested quotes for flowers for roundabouts; color theme considering this year--red, white and blue
- Staff have completed construction of new benches and planters--plan to bring samples to a future Council meeting

**Utility Department**

- Request to formally accept grant award for waste water treatment plant renovations before Council this evening
  - Award: \$1,075,140
  - Funds for award drawn from a 2011 state appropriation to the City
  - Balance in award is \$663,378--working with ADEC to convert this funding to second stage of treatment plant renovations
- Request for Bids will be released March 19 for wireless communication connection between well house and water treatment plant
  - This is our trial project to test if City-owned wireless network can replace commercial land line connections between utility infrastructure
  - Funding with a Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development grant

**Natural Gas Utility Board**

- No updates since previous Council meeting
- Front page article in Monday, March 18, 2013 *Daily News Miner* related to Interior Gas Utility

Mr. McGhee asked what the product was that DOT uses to take the ice off of the Parks Highway. He would like Mr. Butler to look into it to see if they can do something in the City and on the highway to EAFB.

Ms. Hunter gave her concerns on NPHS Blvd and the dangers of that street. She also asked if PW would be able to use peonies in the round abouts.

**City Accountant, Lisa Vaughn**

Ms. Vaughn informed council that they had the February financial statement. She asked them to note that due to audit work, she had not had any time to do reconciliations, including the bank reconciliation for February.

Ms. Vaughn stated that the auditors were here last week and they will start writing the audit report this week. She is hoping to get their audit entries early next week so there will be some changes to the overall financial statement.

Currently, the December financial statement shows Revenues in the General Fund have exceeded budget revenues by \$14,843.42. This is a bit misleading. The state of Alaska, pays a portion of the PERS unfunded liability on our behalf. Because of this, we have to book as revenue, that amount under PERS Relief, along with booking the expense as well (in each department as part of the PERS expense.) General Fund revenues were actually under budget by \$238,919. Expenses, at the department level, for all departments with payroll, show that the PERS expense is much higher than budgeted as well. This is booked into the General Fund, Utility Fund, and the AHSO and Jag grant funds. Note: that in the general fund, Police, Fire and Public Works show that they went over budget by a small amount, this is due to booking the PERS relief monies.

Currently, the financial statement shows that the City has expenses over revenues of a little over \$79,000. Of this amount, \$35,000 were monies that the council voted on for the Arctic Winter Games and the Sled Dog Championships. This may go up or down, depending on any audit adjustments.

**Borough Representative**

- Mayor Ward stated that there wasn't anything on the agenda that affected the City of North Pole.

**City Clerk**

- Auditors were here this past week and I spoke briefly with them. They looked at various personnel files and did a brief interview.
- March 6, 2013 we had a group of seniors that came over and had a tour of City Hall, the Police Department, and Fire Department. We gave them power point presentations and toured each of the facilities. The seniors will be getting a tour of the public works and utility buildings in April
- On Monday, March 11, 2013 I swore in the new board for the North Pole Library Foundation.
- The city health plan comes up for renewal again in July. I will be working closely with Dianna Stewart from Alaska USA Insurance Brokers to bring you a competitive package. The life insurance package will renew next year.

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

- Start up – Sharron Hunter

Ms. Hunter reported on the Start-Up program that she attended last weekend. She was able to pitch her idea on a non-profit organization that was comparable to Festival Fairbanks. Ms. Hunter recalled other entrepreneurs that also attended and pitched their ideas.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS – 5 Minutes**

### **Mike Starkey – Troop #49**

Mr. Starkey stated that the roads are treacherous and that DOT needs to get on it and get the roads fixed. HE said that Troop #49 is working on Citizenship and Community Merit badge. He has a copy of agenda and will be here for the next meeting. He would be encouraging the Scouts to contact the council members for any questions they have on the meeting.

### **North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce, Bridget Lawson & Rob Scheckhise**

Ms Lawson commented that the Calcium Chloride helps with temperatures above -25 and has done a science fair project on that subject.

The NPCCC announced that they would be holding the event “Christmas in July” from July 26, 27, and 28. This is an additional event to the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. She reiterated that this would not replace the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Ms. Lawson said there are some great vendors and a dance on Saturday night. There will also be a balloon release and on Sunday a Santa Claus costume contest.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Ward said this is an opportunity for the City of North Pole. It is similar to the State of Alaska “Made in Alaska” and is open to anyone in 99705. Included in the packet is an image that the City would be using.

### **Public Comment**

None

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

**Seconded by Mr. Holm**

### **Discussion**

Mr. McGhee said he appreciated Mayor Ward to come forward with this and make the suggested changes to it from last meeting.

**PASSED**

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

**NO – 0**

**Absent – 0**

**REQUEST FROM CHRISTMAS IN ICE FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2012 AND 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2013 BED TAX**

Mr. Jones asked council to look over the letter and that a lot of time and effort was given this past year. They did a harvest this past month and have stored the ice behind Mt. McKinley Bank in sawdust. Financials have been given to council and said he would answer any questions the council may have.

**Citizen Comments**

None

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the Request from Christmas in Ice for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2012 and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2013 Bed Tax***

Seconded by Mr. Holm

Discussion

Mr. McGhee thanked CII for all they did and wished they had sustainable monies for the organization. He would like to see this continued in the future.

PASSED

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

NO: 0

Absent: 0

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Ms. Sikma** – It's been great weather and the roads are unpredictable. She warned the public to watch for children on the road.

**Mr. Holm** – would like to see more involvement with the Scouts in North Pole. He told the group to feel free to ask the council questions about the meetings.

**Mr. Smith** – great to see fresh faces and the Boy Scouts.

**Mr. Nelson** – thanked everyone for coming out and the scouts for showing interest in the local government. He was in an accident and plowed into a fuel truck and said it is extremely hazardous and asked the public to take caution as it is slippery.

**Mr. McGhee** – thanked the scouts for coming and attending the meetings. Encourage one of the scouts to bring a presentation to the council and that it was nice to see them in their uniforms. He encouraged the public to take a ride out to the memorial on the parks highway. He said DOT puts a mixture of Sodium/Chloride on the highway after someone was killed. Skilled experienced drivers are having accidents and we need to do something. We need to protect our public and he doesn't understand the dollars and sense when we don't do it. The evidence is out

there and he sees the consequences. Mr. McGhee thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

**Ms. Hunter** - thanked everyone for coming out tonight and was encouraged to see the scouts and would like to see more involvement and have a presentation from them. She said the Seniors really enjoyed the presentation by the Administration on their visit.

**Mayor Ward** –stated that he would like it if anyone interested in doing the invocation and presenting the flags to come forward and contact him. There will be a Council Workshop on Monday, March 25, 2013 from 6pm – 8pm. There will also be a meeting of the July 4<sup>th</sup> committee on Monday, April 8, 2013 from 6pm – 8pm.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Seconded by Mr. Holm**

The regular meeting of March 18, 2013 adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, April 1, 2013.

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Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Kathryn M. Weber, MMC  
North Pole City Clerk