

**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, July 1, 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, July 1, 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

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman McGhee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the Agenda of July 1, 2013

Seconded by Ms. Sikma

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee moved to Amend the agenda by moving item 13 from New Business to Item 6 and re-numbering the agenda appropriately.

Seconded by Ms. Sikma

On the Amendment

PASSED

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

NO – 0

Absent – 0

On the main motion as amended.

PASSED

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

NO – 0

Absent – 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Sikma *moved to Approve the minutes of June 17, 2013*

Seconded *by Ms. Hunter*

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

NO – 0

Absent – 0

Ms. Hunter *moved to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss employee wage issues in the NPFD.*

Seconded *by Mr. Smith*

Mayor Ward brought the meeting back to order at 7:18 p.m.

Mr. McGhee *moved to hire Zach Raby with the NPF at Range 6 of the payscale as a Firefighter*

Seconded *by Ms. Sikma*

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Applications for the 4th of July Parade are available at City Hall and also at the City website Northpolealaska.com. We have extended the parade entry cutoff to July 3rd at 5pm. Council Members are asked to attend to help serve hamburgers and hotdogs to the public from 12-4 pm.

The Draft EIS (DEIS) has been released and public comments are being accepted through their website www.alaskaf-16eis.com Community public hearing dates for the Eielson F-16 EIS are as follows.

July 12, 2013 Alaska State Fairground 2075 Glenn highway Palmer, AK Start Time 6 pm

July 16, 2013 Mountain View community Center Boys and Girls Club 315 Price Street
Anchorage, AK **Start Time 6 PM**

July 17, 2013 Westmark Hotel Gold Ballroom 813 Noble Street Fairbanks, AK **Start Time 6pm**

July 18, 2013 North Pole Worship Center 3340 Badger Road Fairbanks, AK Start Time 6pm

It is important that we get out and let the Air Force and our Congressional delegation know that we support the no-action alternative (do not move the F-16's). Please write to our Congress and comment on the DEIS. The goal is 10,000 comments in support of the no-action alternative.

The New Library Project is coming along nicely, drive by the worksite on the end of NPBS Blvd by the high school to check it out.

Jingle in July will be Saturday July 6th starting at the Santa Claus House Parking lot. Festivities begin at 8:30am. This is a 5k race to support the Arthritis Foundation.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Mr. McGhee stated that it would be fruitless for the council to do a resolution to ban signage on Santa Claus Lane as it is the property of the State DOT. He asked the Mayor to write a letter to Department Heads to confiscate all signs along that stretch of road and take them to the Public Works building where the owners would be able to pick them up.

Mr. Smith said it was nice to see City Hall from the road and that cutting the trees was a nice thing.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Department, Chief Lane

- Chief Lane brought a monthly report to council and broke out the figures of those in the City and out of the City.
- Curtailed the sale of fireworks because of high temperatures in the area until there is more moisture in the area.
- Met with fireworks vendors and they have been very understanding of the situation.
- Borough Mayor met with area Mayors and Fire Chiefs to curtail the use of fireworks in the borough because of hot weather conditions.
- Two fires are burning in the area. Skinny Dick fire and a fire NE of the borough are still active.
- 19 hotshots lost their lives yesterday fighting fires in from Prescott, Arizona. He asked the council to keep those families in their prayers.
- Will start fire hydrant testing soon and may notice that there is discoloring in the water.

- Had a local fire last week and were able to put it out quickly.

Ms. Hunter asked about the rubbish/trash fires.

Mr. McGhee asked for clarification on the auto fire/aid.

Mr. Smith asked about refused services.

Ms. Sikma asked about structure/auto aid fires.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

- None

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Stats ending June 30 are in front of you. Not a lot of alarm (NP vs non 69)
- Today we responded to a call of a bear in the area near Hertha Turnaround. SOA Fish and Game has been notified and posted the incident on website.
- Celebrite has arrived waiting for our first case.
- We had a transmission go out on our 2000 CV we are having another swapped out to save money.
- New uniforms should arrive soon (switched for utility)
- We just received funds for CMVE enforcement. Same as last year and years prior.
- We were sad to see Marilyn leave she will be truly missed. We wish her the best.
- Motorcycle has been shipped but will not be ready for 4th of July. We have been asked to participate in Golden Days but we are waiting on final dates for bike.
- Roof repair was done they completed repairs on bad areas and laid a cold mop on the entire roof. We are hopeful this will last until funds can be secured to repair it permanently. Cost a little over \$4k.

Mr. McGhee said he has seen patrols out quite a bit and has seen quite a few 4 wheelers in the area lately.

Accountant, Lisa Vaughn

- None

Borough Representative

- Mona Drexler has retired from the FNSB and served as borough clerk for 31 years.
- Discussed issues on GMO foods.

City Clerk

- The first ads for the election in October will be in the paper on July 7th.

The Municipal Election for the City of North Pole will be held Tuesday, October 1, 2013. Declaration of Candidacy may be filed with the North Pole Clerk's Office at 125 Snowman Lane, from August 5, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. through August 16, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. for the following:

CITY OF NORTH POLE MAYOR

(Serves at-large)

3-year term

CITY OF NORTH POLE COUNCIL SEATS

(All offices serve at-large)

City Council Seat.....3-year term Incumbent – Thomas McGhee

City Council Seat.....3-year term Incumbent – Richard Holm

City Council Seat.....1-year term Incumbent – Preston Smith

QUALIFICATIONS

A candidate for city mayor or city council must be a qualified voter of the State of Alaska who has resided within the city for a period of one (1) year preceding the period for filing a declaration of candidacy. An elected person may hold only one (1) elective seat at a time.

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

A candidate for municipal office is nominated by executing a declaration of candidacy under oath and a properly and fully completed public financial disclosure statement that complies with the requirements of state law.

REQUIRED WHEN FILING FOR ALL ELECTED CITY OFFICES

- Completed Declaration of Candidacy obtained from the clerk's office
- Completed Public Financial Disclosure Statement that complies with state law. For more information contact APOC at <http://doa.alaska.gov/apoc/> or 800-478-4176
- A twenty five dollar (\$25) non-refundable filing fee shall accompany the declaration of candidacy and PFDS

CANDIDATE FILING INFORMATION

Location: City Clerk's Office, 125 Snowman Lane

Filing Opens: 8:00 a.m., August 5, 2013

Filing Closes: 5:00 p.m., August 16, 2013

Withdrawal Deadline: 5:00 p.m., August 23, 2013

*Note: A candidate desiring to withdraw may do so by filing a written request with the clerk by August 23, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Please go to our website at www.northpolealaska.com for more information and forms.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Cherry Blossom Planting at Chena Hotsprings

Ms. Hunter reported that she attended the of Cherry Blossoms at Chena Hot Springs Resort. She stated that it is the northern most planting of the trees.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Sister City

Karen Lane – 2265 Flight Street

- Sister City participants will arrive on August 4th
- Depart on August 10th
- Welcome party held on August 4th
- Goodbye party held on August 9th
- Fundraiser to be held on July 17th at Golden Days to sell hotdogs to help raise money for Sister City.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR 4TH QUARTER 2012 AND 1ST QUARTER 2013 BED TAX FROM NORTH POLE COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ron Schreckhise, president of the North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce formally requested the designated 30% portion of the 4th quarter bed tax 2012 and 1st quarter 2013 bed tax as set forth in North Pole Municipal Code 4.09.020C. These funds are key to the continued operation of the Chamber activities.

The Chamber moved the visitor center to 125 St. Nicholas Drive for the 2013 season. They have seen a great increase in daily visitors and feel they have made the North Pole Visitor Center more visible as well as more accessible. This transition was smooth, thanks to many volunteers. NPCCC feature many gifts from their members that are locally made. They continue to seek options for a permanent visitor center, and are thankful for the cooperation of the Santa Claus House in allowing them to function within the city limits to aid visitors as well as assist their members.

The Chamber has made a few changes with the event calendar and have generated a lot of energy for the Christmas in July event. This three day event at the later part of July is going to truly highlight the community of North Pole. Their long term goal with this event is for it to mature into a city-wide event with national recognition!

They thanked the City of North Pole for their continued support of the North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce and said that the City's continued support is vital to their operations and very much appreciated.

Mr. Smith asked if the Chamber was updating the website.

Mayor Ward passed the gavel to Ms. Hunter as he is a business member of the NPCCC.

Public Comment

None

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the request by North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce to 4th Quarter 2012 and 1st Quarter 2013 Bed Tax.

Seconded by Mr. Nelson

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES – 6 –Sikma, Nelson, Hunter, McGhee, Smith, Holm

NO – 0

Absent – 0

Abstained – 1 - Mayor Ward

ORDINANCE 13-05, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4 – REVENUE AND FINANCE, CHAPTER 4.04, FISCAL YEAR AND INTRODUCING SECTION 4.04.030 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, 4.04.040 GENERAL FUND VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT FLEET FUND, AND 4.04.050 UTILITY DEPARTMENT VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT FLEET FUND

Mayor Ward asked that this ordinance not be passed as there is a new one in the making and will be more specific in nature.

Public Comment

None

Mr. McGhee moved to Deny the request for refund from Greater Fairbanks Habitat for Humanity

FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND

ORDINANCE 13-10, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 5, CHAPTER 5.12, FIREWORKS

Mayor Ward introduced this ordinance and stated that he had met with vendors and with the Fire Chief and all were in support of halting the sale of fireworks from June 20 – July 7 because of the high fire status in the area.

Public Comment

Wayne Grieme,

Mr. Grieme stated that the vendors have already made a big investment by ordering their product. They realize that weather is something that can't be helped and encouraged the council to pass this ordinance and let the vendors sell their product at a later date. He is fully behind the

ban on fireworks at this time.

Mr. McGhee said his concern is about storage safety and asked if that had been taken care of.

Mr. Grieme stated that they all fireworks have been stored in metal conex's and would be difficult to break in to.

Mr. McGhee asked what ideal dates would be better for vendors to sell fireworks.

Mr. Grieme said that Labor Day would be a great time to be able to sell the fireworks. He said a lot of people will save them until winter because they don't want to come out in the cold.

Chief Lane said they did talk with the vendors to make sure they placed to correct placard on the storage units and that the storage units were properly sealed and locked.

Mr. McGhee moved to Introduce and Advance Ordinance 13-10, An Ordinance Amending Title 5, Chapter 5.12, Fireworks

Seconded by Ms. Sikma

Discussion

Mr. McGhee moved to Amend Ordinance 13-10, An ordinance Amending Title 5, Chapter 5.12, Fireworks as follows:

- (h) *If the sale of fireworks has been deemed hazardous and the sale prohibited by the North Pole Fire Chief between the dates of June 20th and July 7th. Fireworks vendors may re-open for same time period of days, during or no later than Labor Day weekend in lieu of lost days during June 20 – July 7th due to fire hazards. submit a request to the Mayor to re-open at a date later in the year equal to or less than the time of the prohibition. Once a request has been submitted, the Mayor will announce when the sale of fireworks will reconvene and for how long.*

Failed for a lack of a second

Discussion

Mr. McGhee explained that he did want to give a specific time frame to sell fireworks because it makes our ordinance more precise. He was also concerned about selling fireworks during other holidays such as Halloween when kids could get access to them and possibly harm other children by scaring them. He felt that Labor Day would be a good time to resume sales as it is usually wet during that time of year.

Ms. Sikma asked how many times there have been burn bans after Labor Day weekend.

Chief Lane said that there have been only 2 that he can remember.

Ms. Sikma asked Mr. Grieme if there were any concerns about the cut off being Labor Day.

Ms. Hunter asked for clarification on the way the ordinance was written with the wording of the Mayor making the decision as to when the fireworks sales would be able to happen. She didn't

want to make it more restrictive.

Mr. Smith asked about how often the vendors make their orders.

Mr. Grieme said that they make the order once a year for delivery twice.

Mr. Nelson said that he thinks that the Mayor should be able to make the decision as to when the sale of fireworks would be sold.

Mr. Holm objected to increased control. He is more in favor of leaving the ordinance as it is because the weather is unpredictable.

Mayor Ward said that he did leave it open because this is not a common occurrence and that he hoped the council had the faith in the Mayor and Fire Chief to make that decision.

On the Amendment

Discussion

Mr. McGhee was concerned with the ordinance that it was left incomplete.

PASSED

YES – 6 –Sikma, Nelson, Hunter, Smith, Holm, Ward

NO – 1 - McGhee

Absent – 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Hunter –attended the meeting of the cauldron for the Arctic Winter Games and said it was exciting. Things are coming along great and she thanked Karen Lane and Jeff Jacobson for all their hard work with Arctic Winter Games. She was saddened by the loss of the 19 firefighters that lost their lives in Arizona.

Ms. Sikma – no comment

Mr. Holm – said he was surprised at how soon the businesses in town put up their signs along Santa Claus Lane after seeing the ones put up by Safeway. He agrees with Mr. McGhee that the council needs to do something to stop the signs along that stretch of the road. He encouraged everyone to enjoy the hot weather.

Mr. Smith – great to see new faces in the audience and to see all the new changes going on in the City.

Mr. Nelson – hoped everyone is staying hydrated in the hot weather.

Mr. McGhee – hopes everyone has a safe July 4th and told council to watch and not talk with the

public during debate. He also wants to see signs go.

Mayor Ward – asked council members to attend the July 4th festivities and that he likes the level of respect that this council has with each other.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Holm

The regular meeting of July 1, 2013 adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, July 15, 2013.





Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk