

**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, September 16, 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, September 16, 2013 to order at 7:07 p.m.

There were present:

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

Absent/Excused

Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Thomas McGhee

National Anthem was sung by NPMS students Shagiba Bhattarai, Lindsay Moisan, Ashley Roberts, ad Brittany Roberts

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the Agenda of August 5, 2013*

Seconded *by Mr. Holm*

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to consent the following items under Old Business as follows:*

- a. Ordinance 13-13, Repealing Ordinance 08-03, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 2 and Introducing Section 2.26.010-2.26.110, 2nd Reading

New Business:

- a. Approval of Election Judges, Canvass Board, and Accu-Vote Review Board
- b. Liquor License transfer from Benny's Grill to Taco Azteca, Inc. dba Taco Azteca Mexican Restaurant

- c. Request for Tuition Reimbursement for Kalen Middleton in the amount of \$495
- g. Request for Legal Review and Recodification of the North Pole City Code in the Amount of \$9,400 to be paid by Legislative Grant 14-DC-112
- h. Request from NPFDD to make conditional hire at Range 6, \$14.52 per hour.

Seconded by Mr. Holm

Discussion

None

On the Amendment

PASSED

YES – 4 –Smith, Holm, McGhee, Ward

NO – 0

Absent – 1- Hunter

On the main motion as amended

PASSED

YES – 4 –Smith, Holm, McGhee, Ward

NO – 0

Absent – 1 – Hunter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the minutes of August 19, 2013

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES – 4 –Smith, Holm, McGhee, Ward

NO – 0

Absent – 1 – Hunter

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Presentation by Nadine Winters of NPEDC on the Business Retention & Expansion Plan

- **Mayor Ward**

The Draft EIS (DEIS) public comment period has concluded August 30th. Last month in a meeting at Eielson with General Welsh, the Chief of Staff of the Air force told local

leaders that the decision on Eielson would not be made until a strategic analysis has been completed. They completed the Strategic Analysis the last week in August and General Welsh was confident Eielson “would do fine”. Many at the meeting were hopeful yet skeptical.

- On August 26th I had a meeting with Legislators and representatives about the water quality issues we face in North Pole to include Sulfoline and other water contaminate issues that do not pertain to city residents such as arsenic levels and contaminants from septic systems in residential wells.
- Had a meeting with the EPA administrator, she was aware of the issues we face and was also aware of the inversion that complicates our situation. The administration let us know that they were more interested in solving the problem than imposing sanctions and was positive about our exchange program and the prospect of Natural Gas.
- GVEA has responded and given the City updated information on the delinquent taxes due. Over 300 accounts were not being charged the sales tax due, the problem has since been corrected, however; GVEA is liable for 6 years in back taxes on those accounts. We are reviewing the numbers and should have our response on the final amount this week. Penalties plus interest are estimated to be in excess of \$150,000.
- Several weeks ago I had a conversation with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Head Park Ranger, Tim Feavel, in regard to the contract police services we provide. He expressed interest in having year round service for the Moose Creek Dam. We discussed that the best way to potentially provide this service would be by becoming a part of the City of North Pole. I have since written a letter explaining the process and what services the City provides and plan to have a follow up conversation this week, I will keep the council posted.
- This Friday is the monthly “Muffins with the Mayor” meeting from 7am to 9am here at City Hall. The public is encouraged to come and ask questions and discuss the needs of the city. Fresh muffins are provided by my wife, Rachel Ward.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Mr. Holm asked how many people show up for “Muffins with the Mayor”.

Mayor Ward stated that it has been productive and has had up to 40 people attend.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Director of City Services, Bill Butler
Building Department

- No new permits issued
- Flint Hills is discussing a third project that may be permitted this year.

Public Works

- Energy Efficiency grant application submitted August 12
 - Received notification this afternoon that North Pole will not receive an award
 - 84 applications, only 7 grants awarded
- Borough will not build bus shelter at North Pole Plaza Mall this year
 - Public Works will make some modest improvements to existing bus shelter to provide some protection from the winter weather for bus patrons
- Radar signs
 - Installing radar signs on NPHS Boulevard, 5th Avenue and Homestead Road
 - An effective traffic calming tool
- Stop sign at Santa Claus Lane and 5th Avenue
 - Will install a stop sign on the corner adjacent to the State Farm Insurance
 - Will create a 3-way stop
 - Traffic entering intersection from west (Old Richardson Highway) will not stop
 - DOT is assisting the City with the project

Utility Department

- Sewer Lining Project
 - Last sewer main should have been lined today
 - Remaining work involves patching roads and landscaping
 - Planning final inspection September 25
- Flint Hills Resources completed final phase of the Industrial Sewer Main Project
 - Lined the connection between the new industrial sewer main and treatment plant
 - Lined connection between Flint Hills facility and H&H lift station
 - Done at no expense to City
 - Goal is to prevent leak of any possible sulfolane from industrial waste water stream

Natural Gas Utility Board

- Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) is holding hearings in Anchorage this week
- Article in today's News Miner

RCA is scheduled to make a determination by mid-October of entity it will grant the service area outside of City of Fairbanks

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Both IFB's are now out. One for the new Bi-directional Amplifier. If you remember this grant was given to us through DHS&EM. Second was the Mobile Radios for vehicles.

- Stats – Concern over Larceny uptick- There have been few apprehensions.
- DUI's and DWSOL down drastically. Ripple effects caused by manning levels.
- We are approaching our last 3 weeks for Ofc. Gore in final phase of training. Although she will need to be sent in January to Sitka, AK DPS academy for 2 weeks transition.
- We discovered a couple of leaks in our roof, even after repair. Tom and I think we isolated the kitchen leak to roof drain onto a metal duct. Other leak in boiler room is due to bad flashing.
- Tekmate has completed their survey of our computer system and they should be getting us a quote for services. I am excited about this service in order to help keep our systems up to date, assist my staff with 24/7 support.

Fire Department, Chief Lane

- Fairbanks area Preparedness Expo will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2013 from 10am to 4pm at the Carlson Center. The Preparedness Expo is full of information for you and your family to plan for the best and prepare for the worst
- Ambulance pre build is done and will be finished in December and should arrive in January 2014.
- Testing will begin for the new hires.
- With the delay of the fireworks this year due to the weather, the vendors didn't do very well.
- Fill the Boot raised over \$5,000 this year.
- Change your clock, change your batteries will happen soon.

Accountant, Lisa Vaughn

- None

Borough Representative, Mayor Ward

- Mayor Ward spoke to the E911 concerns on behalf of the City of North Pole.

City Clerk

The Municipal Election for the City of North Pole will be held Tuesday, October 1, 2013 for the following:

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
City Council Seat.....1 year term	Vacant -
City Council Seat.....2-year term	Vacant -

There are 6 candidates who have filed for the 5 open seats. They are Elizabeth Holm, Thomas McGhee, Preston Smith, Michael Welch, John Boulette, and Kevin McCarthy.

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

- Absentee ballots have arrived. If you are a registered voter within the City limits of North Pole or the FNSB, you can vote at City Hall. You must present a proper form of identification before you can vote.
- For anyone who is in the City limits of North Pole, is homebound and can't get out to vote, please contact the City Clerk's office and I will come to your home so that you can vote.
- The website has been updated and includes 3 new public notices. City Hall has contracted TekMate to provide IT services to the city. North Pole Computers shut their doors last year and he has been providing us with service from his haul truck until we were able to find someone else. It has been an easy
- Here is a breakdown of the dates until the end of the year for budgeting and workshops.
- October 21, 2013 – New council members take the oath of office.
- October 28, 2013 – New elected officials take office and budget workbooks are given to them with info from all depts.
- November 2, 2013 – Council Orientation – All depts. will give a presentation to council on the workings of their depts.
- November 4, 2013 – 1st reading of the 2014 budget
- November 12, 13, & 14, 2013 – 2014 Budget Workshops – Let Kathy know when you would like to give your presentation of your dept. budget (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)
- November 18, 2013 – Cancel the council meeting by resolution and reschedule – this is the week of AML, AAMC, and AGFOA
- November 25, 2013 – 2nd reading of the 2014 NP Budget
- December 2, 2013 – 3rd and final reading of the 2014 NP Budget

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mike Gendreau, 1105 St. Nicholas Drive

He liked the briefing from North Pole Economic Development and appreciated it. He received

emails on sandwich boards from the Alaska Legislature that they will be putting together legislation to allow that signage in Alaska.

Kalen Middleton, NPF

Ms. Middleton thanked the council for consenting the tuition reimbursement. She has been with the NPF as the Admin Assistant for 6 years.

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FROM NORTH POLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR 1ST AND 2ND, 2013 BED TAX MONIES

Nadine Winters went over the events that NPEDC held this year. She also provided the council with Profit & Loss statements for 1st and 2nd quarter. Most of there time 1st quarter was spent coordinating IFSS. Ms. Winters attended training in Anchorage on the Business Retention & Expansion Plan.

Mr. Smith had questions on line 6100 – events, for \$25,000.

Public Comment

None

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve 1st and 2nd Quarter Bed Tax Monies to NPEDC

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES – 4 –Holm, Smith, McGhee, Ward

NO – 0

Absent – 1 – Hunter

APPROVAL OF SURPLUS SALE ITEMS FOR CITY OF NORTH POLE ONLINE AUCTION

Mayor Ward stated that there is a list of surplus items provided to council. The auction will be held online starting tomorrow.

Public Comment

Mike Gendreau, 1105 St. Nicholas Drive

Mr. Gendreau was curious about the online auction and what the cost is.

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve Surplus Sale items for City of North Pole online auction

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES – 4 –Holm, Smith, McGhee, Ward

NO – 0

Absent – 1 – Hunter

RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD 100' REARMOUNT AERIAL LADDER FIRE APPARATUS WITH EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$980,000 TO SMEAL FIRE APPARATUS

Chief Lane updated council on the ladder truck. He informed council of the breakdown in 2008 with the current ladder truck and that it was down for 90 days until parts and repairs could be made.

Mr. Smith asked what would happen to the old ladder truck.

Chief Lane said that he would like to keep that truck as a backup for now. He would like to sell it at a later date.

Mr. Smith asked how often the department has had to use the truck.

Chief Lane said that over the last 30 years he has been on the end of the nozzle 4 times. It is a multi-use tool.

Public Comment

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Approve Recommendation To Award 100' Rearmount Aerial Ladder Fire Apparatus With Equipment In The Amount Of \$980,000 To Smeal Fire Apparatus

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES – 4 –Holm, Smith, McGhee, Ward

NO – 0

Absent – 1 – Hunter

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. McGhee – Goodnight

Mr. Holm - Goodnight

Mr. Smith – encouraged everyone to be careful as there are a lot of children out now with the start of school. He is looking forward to the election.

Mayor Ward – September 30, 2013 at 10:00 am, there will be a representative from Lockheed-Martin coming to Fairbanks to talk about the F-35's and will be giving a presentation in the Fairbanks City Council chambers. More information will be distributed by the clerk on this subject.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Holm

The regular meeting of September 16, 2013 adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

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

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk