

**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 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, December 16, 2013 to order at 7:00 p.m.

***There were present:***

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

***Absent/Excused***

**Excused**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG**

Led by Mayor Ward

National Anthem sung by NPMS students

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Mayor Ward

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Ms. Holm moved to Approve the Agenda of December 16, 2013**

**Seconded by Ms. Hunter**

**Discussion**

None

**Seconded by Ms. Holm**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

**YES – 6 – Hunter, Smith, Welch, Holm, McCarthy, Ward**

NO – 0 –  
Absent – 1 - McGhee

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Welch** *moved to Approve the minutes of December 2, 2013*

**Seconded by Mr. McCarthy**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

YES – 6 –Hunter, Smith, Welch, Holm, McCarthy, Ward

NO – 0 –

Absent – 1 - McGhee

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- NPE - Mr. Wards wonderful 5<sup>th</sup> grade class reading the Bill of Rights

**Bill of Rights**

**Amendment I**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

**Amendment II**

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

**Amendment III**

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

**Amendment IV**

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

**Amendment V**

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

**Amendment VI**

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

**Amendment VII**

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

**Amendment VIII**

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

**Amendment IX**

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

**Amendment X**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

**Mayor Ward**

I will be out of the office from December 17<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> to spend time with my family, which means

Muffins with the Mayor for the month of December will be cancelled.

I was recently elected as vice chair of the local MPO (Metropolitan Planning organization), FMATS policy committee and look forward to better serving North Poles interest in the future. I have recently been studying the organizational structure of our MPO and have been offering ways to improve the organizations efficiency and transparency.

Last Friday Bill, Chief Dutra and I gave our presentation to the Interior delegation and their staff regarding the Legislative request approved several months ago. Although the capital budget was much less this year than last year our legislators were receptive to our request.

I was able to participate in the Candle lighting ceremony that was held at Christmas in Ice this last week, it was a warm day (by comparison to today) and we got to sing Christmas carols while we lit a giant ice candle provided by Christmas in Ice.

If you haven't had the opportunity to go to Christmas in Ice please do so, the slides are great and so is the wonderful artwork. My personal favorite are the little ice carving 'ice babies' that you and your family can 'adopt' for a small price. These little ice babies are sure to warm even the coldest heart!

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Mr. Welch** *moved to suspend the rules for 20 minutes for the Holiday Reception*

**Seconded by Ms. Holm**

**COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

None

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

**Accountant, Lisa Vaughn**

- Two sets of financial statements before council.
- Met with auditors last week of Kohler, Schmitt & Hutchison. They have requested 2013 trial balances.
- Will be out of the office on leave next week.

**Director of City Services, Bill Butler**

**Building Department**

- No new permit applications since last council meeting

**Public Works**

- Snow plowing budget has exceeded the originally approved appropriation for the first time in the 6 winters I have been with the City
  - 2013 Budget recommendation calls for reallocation of Public Works funds to pay for one additional plowing through December 31
- DOT removed snow berms along Santa Claus Lane last Friday
- Request before Council for approval of FMATS Preventative Maintenance match
  - Project will repave 3,219 feet of asphalt (13,642 sq. ft.)
  - Total matching contribution requested \$48,822 for a project costing \$470,140
  - Funding for Match Participation approved in 2014 budget totals \$60,000
  - Part of match in 2014 budget includes \$7,500 for FMATS Coordinators Office

**Utility Department**

- Loss of flow to discharge channel in Tanana River
  - Utility has begun monthly sampling of sewer outfall to gather data to use in determining a solution to loss of reliable flow in sewer discharge channel
  - To meet on Tuesday with Utility's wastewater consultant (NTL) and consulting wastewater engineer (USKH) to begin discussing options to resolve loss of flow in discharge channel

- Presented to Interior Delegation background on loss of flow in discharge channel so they have background if North Pole submits a request for legislative funding support
  - Mild winter to date may allow the Utility to delay running the boilers used to heat drinking water
- May be able to delay running the boilers until the end of December
- Determine when to run boilers depending upon temperature circulating water mains as it returns to the treatment plant
- Each day of delay can save up to \$500/day

### **Natural Gas Utility Board**

- Regulatory Commission of Alaska is set to release later this week its decision to whom it will grant the service area to provide natural gas for the Fairbanks area--either Fairbanks Natural Gas or Interior Gas Utility
  - RCA can delay decision for up to 90 days if they choose

Later this week, AIDEA is scheduled to narrow the field of bidders to build the natural gas liquefaction plant on the North Slope

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

Chief Dutra,

- 1) Officer Gore letter of commendation.
- 2) We should officially be kicking off our E-Cite tomorrow. It appears after almost 2 years the system is finally ready.
- 3) We have finally sent a signed contract to Pro-Comm Alaska and they should begin ordering equipment for our BDA soon.
- 4) Final contract for Heating and Cooling system designs have been vetted and ready for signatures.
- 5) I presented the Police and City Hall Capital project request to the interior delegation on Friday along with the Mayor and Director of City Services, Bill Butler. Everything seemed to go well.

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

- No report

### **Borough Representative, Mayor Ward**

- Mayor Ward spoke about the state contributions to unorganized boroughs.

### **City Clerk**

- Bobby Weaver of Younker-Keyes & Associates, who is a registered representative of Lincoln Financial, has met with several employees this past week. Tomorrow will be his last day here to meet with anyone interested in deferred comp.
- Next meeting is on Monday, January 6, 2014
- We need to get our students more involved with things. We can fill a room as we've seen in the past when you involve the community and our students. Our next community project is the Mayor's Art Show. I will reach out again to the middle school and elementary school for the students of the month. If you have any ideas to get our youth more involved with our government please see me about it. In the past we have had student aides who have received credit for coming and helping in the front office.
- Wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
- Will be in and out of the office during the holidays to spend time with family
- 9 days until Christmas!

### **ONGOING PROJECTS**

North Pole Library News included with packet under Mayor's Communications

#### **Arctic Winter Games**

Mr. Welch went to an all day class on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The last time Fairbanks hosted the games was 1988 and the last time Alaska hosted was 2006 in Eagle River. They are looking for volunteers. The games will take place during Spring Break in Fairbanks. Please go to [www.Awg2014.org](http://www.Awg2014.org) to fill out forms for volunteering.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Rep. Doug Isaacson

- Monta Faye Lane passed away yesterday of pneumonia. She owned the assisted living home on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave for years and was instrumental in organizing the street dance for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **ORDINANCE 13-17, AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE 2013 BUDGET AND LEVYING THE MIL RATE**

Mayor Ward introduced the ordinance and stated that this was the second and last reading.

#### **Public Comment**

None

**Mr. Welch moved to Approve Ordinance 13-17, an Ordinance of the North Pole City Council amending the 2013 Budget and Levying the Mil Rate**

**Seconded by Ms. Hunter**

**Discussion**

None

**Ms. Hunter move to amend the following line items:**

PUBLIC WORKS		
01-08-00-7000	Summer Hire	(764)
01-08-00-7012	Street maintenance	(12,500)
01-0800-7013	Street light maintenance	500
01-08-00-7020	Snow Removal	20,127
01-08-00-7031	FMATS match	(6,863)
01-08-00-6102	Health and Disability	16,000

POLICE		
0-03-00-7014	Vehicle Maintenance	8,310
01-03-00-7015	Vehicle Gas and Oil	(8,310)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		
01-02-00-7999	Transfer to fund balance	(18,500)

ADMINISTRATION		
01-01-00-7007	Maintenance Contracts	1,000
01-01-00-7030	Equipment	1,000

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

**Discussion**

Mr. Smith asked about investments.

Mayor Ward said that investments are well and good but his concern is having enough cash flow. Even in a CD we will not get a good rate and our money is basically locked up. It is good being able to transfer money into the fund balance and good decisions that the council is making.

***On the Amendment***

**PASSED**

YES – 6 – Hunter, Smith, Welch, Holm, McCarthy, Ward

NO – 0 –

Absent – 1 - McGhee

*On the main motion as amended*

**PASSED**

YES – 6 –Hunter, Smith, Welch, Holm, McCarthy, Ward

NO – 0 –

Absent – 1 - McGhee

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 13-18, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO AMEND TITLE 4, REVENUE AND FINANCE, CHAPTER 4.16, PURCHASING**

Mayor Ward said this was discussed during Committee of the Whole. This would save the City money if they were able to tag on to FNSB or to the State of Alaska bids. This also would save tax payers money.

**Public Comment**

Chief Dutra

Mr. Dutra spoke in support of this ordinance. He said that it could be a tremendous savings to the City and tax payers.

**Mr. Welch moved to Approve Ordinance 13-18 An Ordinance Of The City Of North Pole, Alaska To Amend Title 4, Revenue And Finance, Chapter 4.16, Purchasing**

**Seconded by Mr. McCarthy**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

YES – 6 –Hunter, Smith, Welch, Holm, McCarthy, Ward

NO – 0 –

Absent – 1 - McGhee

**ORDINANCE 13-19, AN ORDINANCE INTRODUCING TITLE 4, CHAPTER 4.05, FISCAL NOTES FOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Mayor Ward introduced the ordinance and gave council and overview of the reason behind it.

**Public Comment**

Doug Isaacson,

Mr. Isaacson spoke in favor of this ordinance and said it provided for transparency.

**Mr. Welch moved to Introduce and Advance Ordinance 13-19, An Ordinance Introducing Title 4, Chapter 4.05, Fiscal Notes for Ordinances and Resolutions**



**Seconded by Mr. McCarthy**

**Discussion**

Ms. Hunter said she liked this ordinance as and would vote for it.

**PASSED**

YES – 6 –Hunter, Smith, Welch, Holm, McCarthy, Ward

NO – 0 –

Absent – 1 - McGhee

**RESOLUTION 13-20, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE AUTHORIZING A MATCHING CONTRIBUTION OF \$48,822 TO THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES FOR THE FAIRBANKS METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SURFACE UPGRADES PROJECT (AKSAS-DESIGN #61324; CONSTRUCTION #63372)**

Mr. Butler introduced this ordinance and explained its importance to the council. Council members had questions of Mr. Butler concerning road construction and the timing of it.

**Public Comment**

None

**Mr. Welch *moved to Adopt Ordinance Resolution 13-20, A Resolution Of The City Of North Pole Authorizing A Matching Contribution Of \$48,822 To The State Of Alaska Department Of Transportation & Public Facilities For The Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System Preventive Maintenance Surface Upgrades Project (Aksas-Design #61324; Construction #63372)***

**Seconded by Mr. McCarthy**

**Discussion**

Ms. Holm didn't like the fact that they may put street lights in neighborhoods. She also didn't like the fact that they would be repairing or doing construction on roads just for maintenance reasons and not because it needs it.

Mr. McCarthy didn't agree and said that some Cities have gotten into trouble by deferring maintenance.

Mr. Welch said that former council member Mr. Taylor didn't like streetlights in his neighborhood. He also agreed with Mr. McCarthy that we did need to do maintenance on our roads to keep them up and in good condition.

Ms. Holm said that she didn't see the urgency for maintenance on the roads.

Mayor Ward said that Mr. McCarthy was right on with the scheduled maintenance and doing preventative maintenance. He didn't think we could spend our money any better than how this is being done. One of the duties that council has is to maintain the City's infrastructure. This is why we are a part of MPO.

**PASSED**

YES – 5 – Hunter, Smith, Welch, McCarthy, Ward

NO – 1 – Holm

Absent – 1 – McGhee

**RESOLUTION 13-21, A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2014 CAPITAL PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY OF NORTH POLE**

Mr. Butler updated council on the Flint Hills sulfolane issue and how this affects the de-watering in the City limits. He said there is no information on how DEC would instruct people to de-water. Mr. Butler stated that DEC has stated that they have no Best Methods of de-watering for sulfolane ground water.

**Public Comment**

Rep. Doug Isaacson,

Rep. Isaacson said this is a good addition. He doesn't see this as something that the City can afford. He said that Flint Hills put in 50 million dollars for remediation. For 30 million dollars we could have put in an area wide water system. Flint Hills is in conversations with the Attorney General. They have reduced their barrels of oil from 77 barrels a day to 36 barrels a day. Rep. Isaacson said that the state needs to take on some of the responsibility.

**Mr. Welch *moved to Adopt Resolution 13-21, A Resolution Amending The 2014 Capital Project Priorities For The City Of North Pole***

**Seconded by Mr. McCarthy**

**Discussion**

Ms. Holm asked if the strategic planning was the same thing that NPEDC was doing.

Mayor Ward stated that the NPEDC was working on business retention and the City would be working on

Ms. Holm asked questions concerning City Hall and the Police Station.

**Mr. Hunter *moved to delete from line 45 "to add" and line 46 delete "to its fleet"***

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

***On the amendment***

**PASSED**

YES – 4 – Hunter, Welch, McCarthy, Ward

NO – 2 – Smith, Holm

Absent – 1 – McGhee

***On the main motion as amended***

**PASSED**

YES – 6 – Hunter, Welch, Smith, Holm, McCarthy, Ward

NO – 0 –

Absent – 1 – McGhee

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mr. Smith** – thanked Mr. Wades 5<sup>th</sup> grade class for coming and reading the Bill of Rights. He said the budget process has been lengthy but he learned a lot. Mr. Smith wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Ms. Hunter** – liked Mr. Wades 5<sup>th</sup> grade class and reading of the Bill of Rights. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Mr. McCarthy** – wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked Rep. Isaacson for coming out.

**Ms. Holm** – liked Mr. Wades 5<sup>th</sup> grade class and fun to see the King and Queen of North Pole. She congratulated North Pole Library and that it is a positive thing in the community. She explained why she voted the way she did on the resolution and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Mr. Welch** – thanked Rep. Isaacson for sticking with us and let him know that Mr. Butler and himself have been talking about pellet heating for the entire city. He felt that maybe we should look at this again and look at commercial delivery for city hall. He said the Christmas season is upon us and his grandchildren are here to enjoy the season. He hopes everyone else has a happy holiday season and to be safe in their travels.

**Mayor Ward** – thanked everyone for a productive year and will be thinking of everyone. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Welch adjourned the meeting at 9:56 p.m.**

**Seconded by Ms. Hunter**

The regular meeting of December 16, 2013 adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

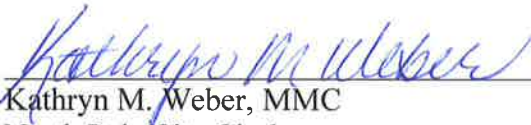
**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, January 6, 2014.



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Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



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Kathryn M. Weber, MMC  
North Pole City Clerk