

**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 Tuesday, January 21, 2014 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 Tuesday, January 21, 2014 to order at 7:03 p.m.

There were present:

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

Absent/Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Thomas McGhee

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilwoman Holm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the Agenda of January 21, 2014*

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES – 7 – Smith, Welch, Holm, McCarthy, Hunter, McGhee, Ward

NO – 0 –

Absent – 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the minutes of January 6, 2014*

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

Mrs. Holm: move to make changes on the minutes for the January 6, 2014 meeting. On page 9 & 10 Tammie Wilsons name was misspelled, should be spelled with an ie not a y. Sheila O'Drane's comment reflects Ms. Lagrande should be Ms. O'Drane.

On Elizabeth Holms closing comments should be changed from executive session and insert special meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Mr. McGhee: I don't agree with what she said.

Mayor Ward: We will refer back to the recording to verify, Mrs. Holms changes.

Minutes as Amended,

PASSED

YES – 7 –Smith, Welch, Holm, McCarthy, Hunter, Ward

NO – 1 – McGhee

Absent – 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

I met today with the Congressional Representative Don Young and FMATS policy board in regards to MAP 21 and congressional funding for transportation. He is committed to passing a transportation bill that has a defined source of revenue; however he does not anticipate a transportation bill to be passed this year, most likely we will see a continuing resolution in regards to transportation

The FNSB is moving forward with changes to the historic preservation commission which would remove a position from the City and refer to the area as a whole for representation. As we have only 2200 residents it is often hard to find individuals who would like to volunteer in these commissions. I am planning to not offer any changes. We are still in need of a position on the planning and zoning commission, contact me if you are interested.

I am in need of individuals to serve on several committees this year. The committees needing volunteers are as follows.

- Two members to serve on the Ethics Board (three year term)

- Finance and Audit Committee
- 4th of July- Summer fest committee
- Community Christmas events Committee (New)
- Bed Tax allocation Committee (New)

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Mr. Smith: Inquired about an article on the F35s at Eielson from the Fairbanks Daily News Minor, dose the city have a welcoming party?

Mayor Ward: A decision has not been made yet, however the City is working closely with Fairbanks and the Bough thru our Tiger Team Meetings which is every Friday we go over all sorts of different plans to optimize our potential to make sure we rise to the top of the list. So at this time there is not a welcoming party if you will but we are looking at different things to meet the site assessment team which will be coming up as well as moving us to the top of the list.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Accountant, Lisa Vaughn

None

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- No new permit applications since last council meeting

Public Works

- Major task of the Public Works staff continues to be snow removal from sidewalks and at City facilities and sanding roads
 - Dump truck is still in for repairs, using a rented vehicle to do sanding in the interim
- Decorative feature in the Council Chamber almost completed

Utility Department

- Developing project ideas for utility loan applications
 - Not specifically interested in incurring more debt for the Utility
 - Importance of approved loan project is even if Utility does not request the

- loan, receiving a high score helps the Utility be competitive for grants
- Applications due February 14
 - Engineering for wastewater treatment plant renovation project is proceeding to the 95% stage and complete bid documents
 - Hope to release a request for bids in March 2014 with project to begin construction in summer 2014
 - Funding for the project will be from the following sources:
 - \$1 million ADEC Municipal Matching Grant (RECEIVED)
 - \$305,000 ADEC loan for emergency generators will be applied to the project (RECEIVED)
 - ADEC is considering a supplemental request for a \$700,000 Municipal Matching Grant (REQUEST BEING REVIEWED)
 - City match from capital reserves (CURRENT RESERVES: \$1.1 million)
 - PDC Engineers submitted draft engineering and environmental reports for rehabilitation of water system
 - Utility now eligible for \$210,000 in reimbursements from USDA that could not be request until the draft reports were submitted
 - Utility will release its 2013 Annual Report in February
 - Report is mechanism to keep utility customers informed about what their utility did last year

Natural Gas Utility Board

- IGU signed a contract with a project manager to begin the process of creating a functioning public gas utility--MWH
 - MWH is an internationally recognized engineering and project management firm
 - MWH was also selected by AIEDA as the firm to build the gas liquefaction plant on the North Slope
 - IGU and AIDEA each independently selected MWH
- IGU is considering North Pole as the location for its project office

Police Department, Chief Dutra

None

Fire Department, Chief Lane

The new ambulance arrived around 4:00pm today; this ambulance will replace an ambulance that is 21 years old. We will be putting the new ambulance into service in the next couple of days because we do have an ambulance that is down with an oil cooler problem. We

will be expediting getting the new ambulance online; we would like to take the 21 year old ambulance off the line.

The ladder truck is moving along it looks like somewhere towards the end of February we will be doing a pre paint inspection, where we go down and make sure the chaise and the body have been married together and all the compartments are where they belong and the wiring is like it is supposed to be. So basically we will be going over the specs prior to the painting.

Alaska Shield is coming up, I was just in Anchorage last week at the final planning meeting, and it's going to be a full scale exercise. Some of the things that are happening throughout the state, there will be towns that will be without power, there will be towns that will be without telephone communications, there will be a tsunami. Then one of the big events is they will be moving patients into Fairbanks on a military aircraft. It's defiantly a big scale exercise, our part of the kick off will be centered around the 50th anniversary of the big 1964 earthquake. The City will be doing our part of the Alaska Shield exercise when the anniversary of the actual earthquake happened. Our exercise is not earthquake related. This exercise is not just state related it is going to be a nationwide exercise, that will be looked at by Washington DC, even to include the City of North Pole. Our exercise will be March 27th and 28th, we will have an infrastructure problem that takes place. We will be involved with that for two days, they maybe 4 hour days they maybe 8 hour days. We are just going to go until our objections are met. The Fire Department is going to be involved on the state wide part of that on a collapsed rescue the 29th 30th and 31st, basically what we are doing is simulating a task force down to Anchorage to help out with the collapse. Every morning at 8:00am they are going to meet at the training center on South Cushman and then they will go over the rubble pile on Ft. Wainwright and drill for that. Prior to that we will be participating on some training the City of Fairbanks is putting on. Homeland security is paying for a two week training exercise. We received a grant to pay for overtime and back fill for people to go to that training; it is a pretty nice training event that we can attend. Our ground truth document, which is our story line we finished in Anchorage, as well as the major injects that, will be watched from the State and the National level. Our EOP has been sent out to a contractor, they are making the first emergency operations plan for the City of North Pole, it's due to be complete next week on the 28th of January the contractor and the City are going to be getting together to be doing a walk through to show the staff what it's all about. We have a firefighter 1 class that starts tonight we have a couple of students in it. This is a combination class between us and the University that we do a couple times a year. NIMS there is a few of you that I need to talk to, and find out where you're at and what you need because it would be nice to have everybody up to date. Prior to the kickoff of Alaska Shield. As you know when we get grants there is a requirement that you meet certain criteria as council members for NIMS.

Arctic Winter Games is about 54 days away; it's been a four year progress. Things are shaping up real nice, stress level is getting high but it's looking good. If you haven't checked in and you want to volunteer, you need to get signed up because they are about to schedule everyone. If you don't want to volunteer but you want to be a spectator start looking into tickets because the events will sell out real fast.

Borough Representative, Mayor Ward

The Borough is looking at some title 17 changes that may or may not affect the City. We have a position that is unfilled on the planning commission. The Borough by state statute is responsible for planning and zoning. If we want a voice on that board we do need to get the position filled.

City Clerk

- Public Official Financial Disclosure Statements (POFD)

ONGOING PROJECTS

Nadine Winters – North Pole Economic Development Corporation.

I'm here because I think I have been remiss about reporting to the council. I have given a report when we have requested bed tax. I hope to have better communication, there is a lot going on. It is my intent to give a report at least once a month under ongoing projects. It was a really busy year last year; we went from famine to feast in a relatively short period of time. We were going to lose the F16's a lot of people really thought it was going to happen. It was an excellent coordination from the Delegation to the Mayors Tiger Team. At the end of the day the F16's are going to stay here. Now we are in the position to secure and enhance the mission of Eielson with the F35's. There are three phases first they will come out with alternative bases. That is supposed to happen this Thursday Jan 23rd. the expectation is that it will be Eielson, a base in Korea and a base in Japan. In February they will do a site survey, done by the Air Force command. If they stick to their schedule they will start the EIS process in April. The two issues that are likely to come up are air quality and the cost of energy.

The Gray Eagles on Ft. Wainwright, that's their unmanned aerial systems. They are very interested in locating them at Ft. Wainwright.

If we were to get the F35s that is expected to bring in about 3,700 to 4,700 people to the area.

Business retention program, I have attached it to my 3rd and 4th quarter bed tax request so you will get to take a look at it. Basically it's a program that looks after what we have. This program is paired with Fairbanks Economic Development and the Small Business Administration. We just recently picked up another partner the Fairbanks Chamber, who come with a lot of resources. This will be a Borough wide effort. I'm doing a new radius study, my goal is to have a draft in February, I will provide you a copy of that. My hope is to have it finalized in March.

One other thing is we are still doing some dog races, which are set for the 7th, 8th & 9th of March and includes a junior and adult race.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL TO DONATE CITY HALL FISH TANK TO PIONEER HOME

Public Comment

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Approve the donation of the fish tank at City Hall to Pioneer Home

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES – 7 –Smith, Welch, Holm, McCarthy, Hunter, McGhee, Ward

NO – 0 –

Absent – 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To consider potential claim related to sulfolane contamination.

Mr. Welch *moved to* go into Executive Session.

Seconded by Ms. Holm

The City Council Meeting is Called Back to Order at 9:49pm

Mr. Welch *moved to* Move forward with a cost analyst estimating possible damages to the City of North Pole and to provide safe water for the City of North Poles residents.

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Discussion

None

PASSED

YES – 7 –Smith, Welch, Holm, McCarthy, Hunter, McGhee, Ward

NO – 0 –

Absent – 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Holm – None

Mr. Welch – Good Night

Mr. McGhee – Good Night

Mr. McCarthy – We have some big decisions coming, I'm real happy to see that these are the people making the decisions. We have some good heads on this Council.

Mr. Smith – I want to thank the middle school for coming in and signing and the Boy Scouts for getting there service hours. The weather is changing so drive with caution.

Ms. Hunter – I would like to remind the council that we do have a ordinance that speaks to decorum and debates. It states that no member shall impugn the motive of another members vote. I think that was violated at the last council meeting, when one of the council members referred to a lack of courage. The reason I would like you to consider following this ordinance is that it lowers the standard of discussion and debate. It makes other people feel that they have to justify how they vote. It makes people in the audience embarrassed. I urge you to follow it and I will also point out that you can raise a point of order and that will discontinue the line of pursuit in the statement. We debate an issue, we should not be debating each other and we should not say things that make us have discomfort with each other.

Mayor Ward – Thank you council.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Welch

The regular meeting of January 21, 2014 adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, February 3, 2014.



Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk