

**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, February 3, 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 Monday, February 3, 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 Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman McGhee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the Agenda of February 3, 2014*

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

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

- a. Request from NPEDC for 3rd and 4th quarter 2013 bed tax
- b. Request for tuition reimbursement for Kalen Middleton in the amount of \$504
- c. Request for University Student Ride Along Agreement
- d. Recommendation to purchase a 1 ton pickup truck based upon the State of Alaska Light Duty Truck Invitation to Bid and to add a snowplow to the vehicle.
- e. Request to lease a copy machine from Arctic Office

Seconded by Mr. Welch

On the amendment

PASSED

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

NO – 0 –

Absent – 0

On the Agenda as amended

PASSED

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

NO – 0 –

Absent – 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Welch moved to Approve the minutes of January 21, 2014

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

NO – 0 –

Absent – 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

I will be out of the office Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, if you have questions or concerns feel free to email me or call me on my cell phone, 907-888-4444

Mark your calendar for Muffins with the Mayor this February! As always the date is the third Friday of the Month from 8-10 am at North Pole City Hall. This month's event falls on the 21st.

I will be calling a workshop on how we structure our committee of the whole and council meetings and look forward to council input. I will be presenting a new format on the structure of our meetings to help foster better discussion and transparency with our agenda items. For reference I encourage a review of how the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough go about their own prospective meetings. The workshop date is yet to be determined.

Special recognition to Police Chief Steve Dutra, at the APOA dinner last week, Chief was awarded the Chief/Commander of the Year for his diligent effort to serve his department and the City of North Pole.

Mike Welch will be traveling to Juneau for the AML winter session as the North Pole representative. As the Mayor Pro Tem he will be meeting with the interior delegation and going over our capital request. We are doing something special this year by sending a video with Councilman Welch for our legislators, to explain the reason for our request and show what it will do for the city. AML is during the week of February 17th-21st.

I was asked to speak at the National History Day fair at the Pioneer Park on February 13th. I will be speaking about how history has influenced my life and how important it is to understanding life and making good decisions.

I was honored to be asked to introduce Governor Sean Parnell to North Pole during a dinner this upcoming Saturday night and look forward to representing North Pole.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

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

- Public Works capitalized on warm weather and scheduled a city-wide hard park removal
- Dump truck requires significant maintenance
 - Transmission needs to be rebuilt
 - Rear end needs to be repaired
 - Combined repairs will cost more than \$12,000
 - Dump truck repairs will expend all of vehicle maintenance budget
- Working with FNSB mayor's office to amend 2004 parks and recreation agreement adding exercise trail and dog park to parks and recreational facilities managed by City

- Current agreement with FNSB includes Terry Miller Park, Skate Board Park, Beaver Springs Trail; Dougchee Park (undeveloped) and HIPPO Park

Utility Department

- On January 27 had a preliminary meeting with ADEC to discuss sewer outfall
 - Discussed next steps in developing a Compliance Order by Consent (COBC)
 - COBC will be a legally binding agreement outlining requirements of City and ADEC
 - Timeline for drafting COBC is end of February beginning of March 2014
 - Timeline for resolution of outfall 3 to 5 years
 - Continuing with special request to state legislature to help fund effort to find a solution for sewer outfall and engineering; asking for \$500,000
- Utility has a request before Council for a replacement truck with snow plow

Natural Gas Utility Board

IGU is proposing to conduct a meeting in North Pole that will invite parties that will play a role in making gas utility a reality. Parties to be invited include, but are not limited to, Alaska Energy Authority, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, Fairbanks Natural Gas, GVEA and municipal representatives.

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Talk about award given to me by APOA Farthest North Chapter. Council should be aware the award was given to me but it is a direct reflection of the employees and their hard work. They are the ones who deserve recognition for hard work and dedication to the department's image.
- Two additional awards given out during ceremony were Officer of the Year for North Pole Police = Lt. Chad Rathbun. Award given for service above and beyond for case related investigations and dedication to the success of department
- Employee of the Year = Sgt. Dave Stevenson. This award was given for always completing tasks as assigned, always ready for work, dedicated and committed to the success of others. Sgt. Stevenson is a true professional and excellent example for others to follow.
- I gave out letters of commendation to the following officers.
 - * Sgt. Randy Binkley,
 - * Officer Jed Smith, Officer Bruce Milne,
 - * Officer Amanda Bean, and
 - * Officer Steve Fisher

I reviewed 2013 statistical data with council. See attached sheets.

Fire Department, Chief Lane

None

Borough Representative, Mayor Ward

There was an ordinance changing the historic commission so that now a North Pole area resident can serve on the board instead of a North Pole resident which will be chosen by the Borough Mayor.

City Clerk

- Public Official Financial Disclosure Statements (POFD)

ONGOING PROJECTS

Arctic Winter Games, Mike Welch

The last time Alaska hosted the games was 1996. They are looking for someone who would be able to write about the games every day.

North Pole Economic Development Corporation, Nadine Winters

Ms. Winters gave a short update on the EIS and F-35's. She said that March 7, 8, and 9th is the date for the North American Sled Dog races. The Congressional Delegation made appropriations for training at JPARK.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Kalen Middleton, 1801 Mount Wrangle St, North Pole

Ms. Middleton thanked the council for allowing her to take classes at the university.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 14-01, A RESOLUTION URGING THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND THE COMMANDER OF THE PACIFIC AIR FORCES TO BASE F-35 AIRCRAFT ASSIGNED TO THE PACIFIC AIR FORCES AT EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE

Mayor Ward introduced the resolution. These aircraft are top of the line in the sky and the Mayor urged council to pass this resolution. EAFB is part of the base selection for these aircraft.

Public Comment

None

Mr. McGhee moved to approve Resolution 14-01, a Resolution urging the Secretary of the United States Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, and the Commander of the Pacific Air Forces to Base F-35 aircraft assigned to the Pacific Air Forces at Eielson Air Force Base

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

NO – 0 –

Absent – 0

RESOLUTION 14-02, A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THIS GENERATION MINISTRIES (TGMS) REQUEST FOR STATE FUNDING TO PURCHASE AND RENOVATE AN OFFICE BUILDING IN THE NORTH POLE AREA

Ron Pratt of This Generation Ministries informed the council of the State Capital request to purchase and renovate property on 5th Ave. TGM has been working effectively for years to prevent suicide through building relationship and reaching young people through their focused community outreaches statewide since 2006. They are looking at property and an 11,878 sf building in North Pole. The property has been on and off the market for the past 8 years and needs renovations. The last recent list price for the building was \$375,000. Mr. Pratt asked the council for their support in the State Capital request to insure that their suicide-prevention efforts continue in our state with greater success.

Mr. Welch asked how far the program reached, whether it was locally or statewide. Mr. Pratt stated that it was statewide.

Mr. McGhee asked if he had spoken with any of the neighbors and if he was aware of the zoning with that building. Mr. Pratt said that he had lived in the neighborhood for many years and had not talked with the neighbor directly behind the building.

Ms. Hunter asked if this was a faith based group. Mr. Pratt acknowledged that it was.

Mr. Smith asked if they had looked at a smaller building such as at the North Pole Worship Center. Mr. Pratt stated that they had looked around but the space at North Pole Worship Center would not be big enough for their needs.

Ms. Holm asked if they would be working within the city limits and what churches they have worked with. Mr. Pratt said that at some time they have worked with all of them and eventually would like get them more involved. He said they also work with different state agencies.

Ms. Holm asked what they had to offer North Pole. Mr. Pratt said they hoped to get involved with the schools doing workshops and assemblies. There are a lot of people that come through North Pole, work teams, etc. that shop and eat in North Pole.

Ms. Hunter said she worked at the high school and isn't familiar with their program. She wanted to hear more about it. Mr. Pratt stated that now that they are here that the high school and other schools will be seeing more of them. He said they are trying to establish a relationship with the schools and administration. By having a facility it opens a door for them.

Public Comment

None

Mr. McGhee moved to approve Resolution 14-02, a Resolution supporting this Generation Ministries (TGMS) request for state funding to purchase and renovate an office building in the North Pole area

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

Mr. McGhee had no issue with an organization that provided a service to youth. The program was vague on the suicide prevention and that it was faith based. He was also concerned with the neighborhood and zoning. He said he wouldn't want this in his neighborhood and hopes that they will interview the people in the area. He said he would support the resolution.

Ms. Hunter said that she had a problem that it was faith based and felt that was no different than if a church was wanting to purchase it.

Mr. McCarthy said he didn't have a problem with it and that this group was pretty neutral with what they wanted to do. He felt it was a program that was needed in this state.

Mr. Welch said he didn't have any concerns with this organization.

Ms. Holm said TGM had a great program. Her concern was that \$425,000 from the state funneled into North Pole that the State may not give us any funding in the future for a community center or other things. She would like to see this resolution brought before Representative Isaacson, Representative Wilson, and Senator Coghill.

Mr. Smith said he is in support of the purchase and this resolution.

Ms. Holm said that this would be a home for multiple people according to the resolution.

Mayor Ward said that he has worked with this organization in the past and knows Mr. Pratt and his family. He said there has been interesting conversation tonight.

Ms. Hunter called point of order as she felt there was a conflict of interest with the fact that Mayor Ward had been involved with the group.

Mr. McGhee said he didn't see any conflict of interest since Mayor Ward had no financial interest.

Mayor Ward overruled there was no conflict of interest.

Ms. Holm stated that since Mayor Ward had a history with the group there was a conflict.

Mr. Welch said that there may be others who have been involved with something.

On the conflict of interest. Is there a conflict of interest for Mayor Ward in which he would recuse himself

Yes: 2 - Holm, Hunter

No: 4 - Welch, McGhee, McCarthy, Smith

Mr. McGhee called the question.

PASSED

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

NO – 2 – Hunter, Holm

Absent – 0

RESOLUTION 14-03, A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA, SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION 13 -01 OF THE ALASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

Sarah LaFebvre of Exclusive Landscaping and a member of the State Workers' Compensation Board gave the council a presentation and information on the Workers' Compensation Reform and asked the City Council to support and pass a resolution addressing the system costs under the Alaska Workers' Compensation Act. She stated that the State of Alaska had the highest work comp rates in the nation.

Mr. Welch asked the medical rates and how much higher they were. Ms. LaFebvre stated that they are 4 times higher than the national average.

Mr. Smith asked if she was on the board locally. Ms. LaFebvre stated that she was from this area and on the state board.

Ms. Hunter said there were a number of Whereas's on the Compensation Board and wondered how they would make decisions on the medical portion. Ms. LeFebvre said that intention now is to work on a fee schedule and link it to the Medicare fee schedule and modify it. She went on to inform council more on the subject.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Welch *moved to approve Resolution 14-03, a Resolution of the Council of the City of North Pole, Alaska supporting legislative action to adopt the recommendation contained in Resolution 13 -01 of the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board*

Seconded by McGhee

Discussion

Ms. Hunter said there were so many pieces of the resolution that she had no idea of what it meant. She said she was inclined to not vote for it as it was very involved and technical and she didn't have enough information.

Mr. McGhee said he agreed with Ms. Hunter that he hasn't had a enough time to make an educated vote.

Mayor Ward said that there is a lot of information here and that there is an issue with the Workers Compensation and that there have been meetings at the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce on this subject. He said that instead of voting it down we should postpone it and look at it the next meeting. If you're not comfortable with it then we should postpone.

Mr. McGhee *moved to postpone Resolution 14-03 to the meeting of Tuesday, February 18, 2014*

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

On the motion to postpone to Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Yes: 7 - McCarthy, McGhee, Holm, Smith, Hunter, Welch, Ward

No: 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Smith – thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Mr. McCarthy – no comment

Mr. McGhee – the weather is deceiving and roads are deceiving. He asked everyone to be careful out there. He was happy that the ministry came out and the work that they will be doing in the community.

Mr. Welch – had a good meeting and looking forward to going home and seeing the swimsuit edition of Sports Illustrated this year.

Ms. Holm – congratulations to Chief Dutra on his award and being recognized statewide.

Ms. Hunter – congratulations to Chief Dutra on his award and also for the combination of other awards for his department. She thanked NPMS for coming out and singing the National Anthem several times but is even more appreciative, after hearing the interview of the opera star that sang yesterday at the Super Bowl because she practiced for over 8 hours a day for a week as the National Anthem is a very hard song to sing. Ms. Hunter stated that if an opera star find the National Anthem hard to sing, she is even more appreciative of it now.

Mayor Ward – thanked council for another productive meeting and their dedication to the community. He also reminded them that if they have any questions to contact him or the staff so they are educated in the decisions they make. He said he is looking for a date for a workshop to make changes on the agenda so we have better meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

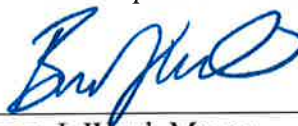
Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Welch

The regular meeting of February 3, 2014 adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

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





Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk