

**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, April 7, 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, April 7, 2014 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

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Councilman McGhee

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the Agenda of April 7, 2014**

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

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

Old Business

- a. Ordinance 14-03, An Ordinance requesting to purchase replacement vehicle for Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU) using State of Alaska invitation to bid process.

- b. Ordinance 14-04, An Ordinance to accept a \$708,529.89 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Municipal Matching Grant for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation project and to accept an amendment to USKH, Inc. engineering contract to provide bidding and construction management services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project.

New Business

- b. Resolution 14-08, A Resolution of gratitude to the Richard P Thompson family for the generous donation of a mounted muskox and buffalo to the community of North Pole.

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

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

NO – 0 –

Absent – 1 - McCarthy

On the agenda as amended

**PASSED**

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

NO – 0 –

Absent – 1 - McCarthy

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Welch moved to Approve the minutes of March 17, 2014**

**Seconded by Mr. McGhee**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

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

NO – 0 –

Absent – 1 - McCarthy

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

### **Proclamations** **Choose Respect**

Mark your calendar for Muffins with the Mayor this month! As always the date is the third Friday of the Month from 8-10 AM at North Pole City Hall.

Special thanks to all of the volunteer and the athletes who were here and volunteered for the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. The host committee did a wonderful job putting on this world class event.

Tomorrow April 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM AIEDA will be presenting on the Interior Gas Project and would like people to attend. The event starts promptly with a presentation and will be held at Wedgwood resort.

Wednesday through Friday the Travel Channel will be in North Pole filming for a segment to air this year. Filmmakers have appointments with many of the local businesses including our many Santa's!

The Capital Budget draft came out today and the City of North Pole has several projects funded. Appropriations are subject to change as they have to be confirmed by the house and senate and are as follows. Sewer outflow funding \$500,000 City Bobcat \$72,000 Strategic planning \$120,000.

I am working on a shop local initiative to help support businesses in the City of North Pole and to build community pride. I hope to bring more information to the council as soon as it is out of rough draft. I want to call the program SHOP NORTH POLE!

The City is in need of volunteers for the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and picnic. If you are interested please call City hall and sign up!

Made In North Pole has its first customer Ewe's Raven Mad In Alaska. Congratulations to Mrs. Bramhall and her business ventures! Please check out her business online. We have 19 promotional Made in North Pole licenses available.



### **COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

Mr. McGhee asked if there had been any meetings with the NPEDC.

Mayor Ward stated that he was able to meet with the NPEDC and that there is a draft copy of the radius study that should be out in July.

Ms. Holm asked about volunteers for the Ethics board and Finance/Audit committee.

Mayor Ward said that he is looking at restructuring those committees.

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

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

- New Ambulance has delivered a baby boy.
- Update on the exercise held last week.

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

- Officer Fisher had training on Crisis Intervention.
- I will be in training next week in Anchorage. This is sponsored by Homeland Security.
- NPPD lost an employee last month and there is a hiring freeze on now. They have also lost their reserve officer.
- Completed installation of Bi-Antennae Amplifier. Came in \$25,000 under budget.
- Lt. Rathbun will be attending Law Enforcement Management training in Anchorage next week.
- Heating & Cooling plans are almost completed and will be replacing air handling systems by installing an HRV.
- The roof between City Hall and the Police Department is leaking and the council needs to find some funding.
- An officer will be attending the PAWS training this week.

#### **Accountant, Lisa Vaughn**

- Sales tax and property tax information sheet.
- Auditors will be here next week.
- Encouraged council to talk with auditors.

**Director of City Services, Bill Butler**

**Building Department**

- Contract for NPHS Vocational Wing renovation awarded to Alcan
  - Cost of improvements \$4.1 million (not counting demolition)

**Public Works**

- Hardpack removed since the last council meeting
- I was interviewed by Fairbanks News Miner for potential article about exercise trail and dog park
- Bids received by FNSB for bus shelter project
  - FNSB Public Works Director provided positive feedback that project will be awarded this year
  - Bus shelter project include bus shelter at the Beaver Springs Mall

**Utility Department**

- Sewer outfall Compliance Order by Consent meeting scheduled for April 10
  - Director of the Division of Contaminated Sites will be in Fairbanks and has scheduled the meeting
- Second reading of ordinance to accept supplemental funding and amend professional services agreement for Wastewater Treatment Plant Renovation Project is before Council this evening
- Golden Heart Utilities visited North Pole to discuss construction of a water service for properties located above the sulfolane plume that are outside of the city limits.
  - One option explored was North Pole Utility selling water to Golden Heart Utilities

**Natural Gas Utility Board**

- Financing for Interior Gas Utility
- FNSB approved a \$7.5 million line of credit

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) approved a loan of \$8.1 million for “Initial development work for Engineering, Design, Permitting and Program Management for build out of IGU’s natural gas distribution system and affiliated infrastructure.”

**Borough Representative, Mayor Ward**

- Councilman Welch attended the borough meeting.
- Borough Mayor will now have authority to ban fireworks.
- Good faith effort of borough landowners to pay taxes will now go to the Mayor to decide to waive fees.

**City Clerk**

- Reschedule for the i-pad class

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

Karen Lane with the Arctic Winter Games, thanked the council for their support. She presented a plaque to the council.

Councilman McGhee asked Ms. Lane about the Sister City program.

Ms. Lane stated that the program can come back and that Itadori does have money to return next year.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mike Gendreau – 1105 St. Nicholas Drive

Mr. Gendreau commented on the panhandler on the corner of the Safeway parking lot. He would like to see the council take some action on this.

Robert Kreps – 2403 Mission Rd.

Mr. Kreps stated that he called the North Pole Police on the panhandler at Safeway on Friday. He urged the Council to put something into effect to get rid of the panhandlers.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Approved by Consent Agenda

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 14-07 , THE CITY OF NORTH POLE'S POSITION ON RESOLUTION FOR SULFOLANE CONTAMINATION WITHIN ITS BOUNDARY'S**

Mayor Ward read the resolution into the minutes. Mayor Ward said that this is the City's position on the situation.

**Public Comment**

Robert Bradly - 2635 Old Richardson Hwy

Mr. Bradly spoke on the contamination of the 36 acres that he owns at the Bradly Sky Ranch outside the City limits of North Pole. He is opposed to annexation and feels that it is cost prohibited to the City and himself.

Rep. Doug Isaacson- North Pole

Rep Isaacson supported Resolution 14-07 and explained the Commissioner Hartig's position.

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve Resolution 14-07, the City Of North Pole's position on resolution for sulfolane contamination within its boundary's***

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee thanked the Mayor for bringing this forward. He agreed with some of the concerns of Mr. Bradley on annexation and wondered about possible limitations. He supported the resolution.

Mr. Welch asked why we didn't include protection for the whole City as it could change in the events of a disaster and contaminate the rest of the wells.

Ms. Hunter had questions on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Whereas. She commented on the 14 ppb and also on annexation. Ms. Hunter wanted to make sure that the public would come forward and petition to be annexed and that we would not use sulfolane contamination to not annex.

Ms. Holm wanted to discuss the first Whereas (14ppb) and see if the City is still in alliance with keeping ground water and drinking water at 14ppb or rephrase it in two parts. One would be for drinking water and the other for ground water, whatever aligns with DEC.

Mayor Ward said he has had extensive discussion with DEC and they have no established standard on drinking water and are using the clean-up standard as the drinking water standard.

**Mr. Welch *moved to amend to add a WHEREAS after the 3<sup>rd</sup> WHEREAS to say: Whereas, those areas that could be affected, if the direction of the plume of contamination be changed as well as the included, to ensure public health.***

**Seconded by Mr. McGhee**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee appreciated Mr. Welch's amendment. He said one of the questions that has come up in discuss is, what would happen if the plume changed direction. If the probability is there, then the unaffected areas now would be protected if it became contaminated at a later date.

Ms. Hunter had questions as to where the amendment should go within the resolution.

Mr. McGhee re-read the 3<sup>rd</sup> WHEREAS and included the amendment.

Mayor Ward explained the flow of the plume and said that it was unlikely that it could move in another direction. However, he didn't see any reason as to not include the amendment and that it wouldn't do any harm.

Ms. Holm asked the Mayor if the State had a right to force annexation upon a resident.

Mayor Ward said that there are several processes for annexation to happen. One is a legislative option which hasn't happened very often.

Mr. McGhee said that the State can enforce the laws already written to ensure the public health and safety.

Ms. Hunter had changes to the resolution that she wanted to see included.

**Mr. Welch withdrew his motion**

**Mr. McGhee withdrew his second**

**Mr. Welch** moved to Amend Resolution 14-07, under 3<sup>rd</sup> WHEREAS, after the word sulfolane, add: "including those areas that might be affected if the area of contamination changes".

**Seconded by Mr. McGhee**

**Discussion**

None

**On the amendment**

**PASSED**

Yes: 6 – McGhee, Welch, Holm, Smith, Hunter, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 1 – McCarthy

**On the main motion as amended**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee, Mr. Welch, Ms. Hunter and Mr. Smith requested that their names be added to the resolution.

**PASSED**

Yes: 6 – McGhee, Welch, Holm, Smith, Hunter, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 1 – McCarthy



### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Ms. Hunter thanked all who came out tonight and gave input on the resolution and also on the issue of the panhandler. She didn't realize how much it interfered with traffic. She would like some more discussion on that to see if there is something that the City can do.

Mr. Smith thanked all for coming out and that it was nice to see new faces that he hasn't seen in a while. He asked for everyone to be safe as the roads are changing as summer is coming.

Ms. Holm said that she and her daughter were able to go to Arctic Winter Games and they had a blast. She saw quite a few of the City employees there volunteering their time. Ms. Holm said that she too would like to look into panhandling and see what other cities have done in this scenario.

Mr. McGhee thanked all the residents that came out to speak to the resolution and issues that they are concerned with. He hopes that the City Council will look at the NPMC to see what can be changed in regard to vagrancy and panhandling on the streets. He said larger cities have it and that the City of North Pole should start looking at it. He would also like to check the NPMC in regards to firearms and fireworks discharging within the City limits that aren't in the season. He said we need to update the code. He thanked the Mayor for the proclamation on Choose Respect and that we support that effort. Mr. McGhee welcomed the faces that the Council didn't know.

Mr. Welch said that Florida had a hard time with the US Supreme Court about using the term panhandling because they came out during spring break and got the most out of the public. He said there is a very small incident of it happening here. He commented on the Arctic Winter Games and the events that took place in North Pole. He was happy to be a part of it and his wife was also an interpreter. Mr. Welch said that the road construction is already starting on the Parks Highway so be prepared.

Mayor Ward said he really appreciated the Council's desire to serve the community. He feels that the council works well together and that it speaks volumes when they can sit down and make good decisions. He appreciated their efforts and that it is important to the citizens that they serve.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.**

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

The regular meeting of April 7, 2014 adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, April 21, 2014.

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Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Kathryn M. Weber, MMC  
North Pole City Clerk