

**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 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 Monday, April 21, 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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilwoman Holm

National Anthem sung by Lindsey Moison

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee moved to consent item a under New Business:

- a. Request approval from Council to purchase Laserfiche software from eDocs Alaska with grant funding from State of Alaska, North Pole Archival System
- b. Ordinance 14-05, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to engage USKH, Inc for \$19,710 to conduct a feasibility assessment of extension of the North Pole Municipal

Water System to areas of the City above the groundwater contaminated sulfolane plume that do not have access to the municipal water system

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

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

NO – 0 –

Absent – 0 -

On the main motion as amended

PASSED

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

NO – 0 –

Absent – 0 -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Welch *moved to Approve the minutes of April 7, 2014*

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

NO – 0 –

Absent – 0 -

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Proclamations

Lorna Ramert Shaw – 2014 UAF Business Leader of the Year

Student of the Month

Katherine Carstensen-Zerbst - NPHS

The City is in need of volunteers for the annual 4th of July parade and picnic. If you are interested please call City Hall and sign up! The first meeting of the year will be Wednesday, April 30th at 6pm here at City Hall.

Mayor's Comments

Flint Hills Resources has commissioned Information Insights to do an economic impact study to be able to quantify the effects of the shutdown of the refinery. I was interviewed last week and gave staff at Information Insights data on the financial and social impacts of the refinery shutting down for the City of North Pole.

The Economic Development Commission traveled to Healy last week to tour the coal mine and the GVEA coal power plants. All mayors are members of the commission and I was able to bring Councilman Welch with for the trip. The EDC has been working on a coal ash study to determine what to do with all of the coal ash from our many power plants and got a great lesson on how coal makes it from the ground into power for our lights and computers. Cory Borgeson with GVEA gave us the power plant tour and gave the group a synopsis for getting the 50 megawatt clean coal plant up and running.

I had a meeting with Congressman Don Young last week at the Flint Hills Refinery; Mayor Hopkins, Jeff Cook and Mike Brose were present. The congressman asked what can be done to save the refinery. The simple answer is that the refinery will no longer operate as such under ownership of Flint Hills. Flint Hills officials did state that they were shutting down the refinery in a manner so that it could be turned back on and that their intention is to sell it as a refinery. When asked if there were buyers it was stated that there were no legitimate offers on the table at this time. Issues that have the ability to affect the sale of the refinery are, cost of crude oil, cost associated with the quality bank, federal regulations and sulfolane clean-up.

The North Pole Lions have agreed to partner with the City of North Pole to host the 4th of July parade this year. We look forward to partnership with the North Pole Lions.

Tomorrow is Earth Day and I will be at Ft. Wainwright to celebrate the City's and bases partnership to help make the earth a better place to live. The event will be held at the physical fitness center by the power plant from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

The City will be sending out postcards letting residents in affected subdivisions know of a resolution supporting a streetlight project that will come before the council on May 5th. There are several projects the City is looking at to nominate for FMATS projects and community support is key to a project scoring well. Some of the projects are as follows: Streetlights in Ford, Highway Park and Morning Star subdivisions as well as upgrades to the City core area. Improvements also include the 5th Ave and Santa Claus Lane intersection and the Richardson and NPHS boulevard- eight avenue intersection. I encourage residents to let us know your thoughts and if you support the city nominating these project.

The City of North Pole is also sending out a survey asking residents inside the sulfolane plume but outside of city boundaries if they are interested in a piped water system. Data collected will help determine the interest in a piped water system. If residents are interested in a piped water system we are asking if they would prefer a private system or a municipal system, which would require annexation to the City of North Pole. We have tentatively set a public hearing for May 6th at 6pm. All comments must be submitted by May 12th.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Ms. Hunter asked if the Mayor had a chance to look at where the City's legal position might be if they wanted to prohibit panhandling.

Mayor Ward said that there was a discussion this past week. He said the challenge is that if the council wanted to do something along those lines it would negatively impact all the other things that go on out on the streets such as the high school students, Fill the Boot for the firefighters, and other issues that could come up by creating such an ordinance.

Ms. Hunter asked if there could be a permit that people could apply for.

Mayor Ward said that a permit has not been discussed but is something that could be discussed in the Dept. Head meeting.

Mr. Smith asked when Clean-up Day is scheduled.

Ms. Weber stated that she confirmed it with United Way and that the date set is Saturday, May 10th.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Department, Chief Lane

- None

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- I attended the Spring Emergency Preparedness Conference in Anchorage. Costs were covered by State Alaska and the overall training was very informative. Some of the topics covered surrounding the process involved in a large scale disaster. How various agencies work with one another and the Galena tragedy was covered.
- Lt. Rathbun attended Law Enforcement Management Training. Learned a lot about liability and other trends in police liability.
- We have received our 65% plan preparation for Heating and Cooling. Proceeding along.
- We have ordered the vehicle from Cal Worthington for the SDEU Officer.
- National Drug take back is Saturday April 26 between 1000-1400. Please encourage everyone to come in and bring in their out date and unwanted drugs.

Accountant, Lisa Vaughn

- City is doing well financially.
- Audit is going well. Auditors are located in Fairbanks so it is easier to get information to them.
- Auditors would like to talk with councilmembers and can set up appointments through Ms. Vaughn.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- Designer for the McDonalds project stated intends to submit plans within the next several weeks for the complete remodel of the restaurant
- Issued a building permit for a remodel of a fire-damaged property on Park Way
- Projects to date have a combined value of approximately \$5 million

Public Works

- DOT engineer delivered plan set for Saint Nicholas Drive pedestrian path
 - Project scheduled to start May 15 or earlier
 - Contractor may begin clearing brush prior to May 15

- Flower Club has volunteered to plant flowers in one of the roundabouts
- Capital Budget (as of 4/21/2014) includes two Public Works-related projects:
 - \$72,000 for a skid steer loader for Public Works
 - \$300,000 for redesign of City Hall and Police Station

Utility Department

- Met with representatives from ADEC and DNR to discuss Compliance Order by Consent for sewer outfall
 - Director Division of Water and state attorney representing ADEC and DNR attended
 - ADEC and DNR will require Utility to conduct a feasibility study of a limited number of options to address loss of river flow at sewer outfall
 - First step, Utility will receive a Notice of Violation documenting Utility is not in compliance with its discharge permit because of the lack of a mixing zone for treated wastewater discharge
 - Capital Budget (as of 4/21/2014) includes \$500,000 for addressing “Mixing Zone Compliance”

Natural Gas Utility Board

- Interior Gas Utility is poised to move forward on design of gas utility
- Funding has begun to be released to IGU
- Unknowns by other parties affect how aggressively IGU can proceed
 - Liquefaction plant on the North Slope
 - Gas contract
 - Trucking of liquefied natural gas

Storage and gasification plant in Interior

Borough Representative, Mayor Ward

-

City Clerk

- Reschedule for the i-pad class
- New file cabinets for the Clerk’s office and the archive room have arrived. I will be working throughout the summer to update all the files.
- Clean up day will be held on Saturday, May 10th. Contact Kristen at United Way to receive your garbage bags and reserve an area to clean up. The number is 452-7211 ext. 102.
- Please let me know if there are any events that are up and coming so that I can put them on the Event Calendar on the City webpage.
- I will be stepping in for Lisa Vaughn the week of May 5th to do payroll for the City while she attends the AGFOA conference in Sitka. Please be patient as that is also a council meeting week and we will have a special meeting scheduled for that week too.

- Cruis'n with Santa will be held on Saturday, May 31st from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. This is a car show, street fair, and fundraiser. There will be music, vendors, BBQ cook off, door prizes and burn outs.
- The polycom unit in the council chambers has been fixed and it was a connection problem with ACS technicians who disabled it for the Police Dept.
- Special thank you NPMS students and Ms. Nore for the wonderful students that come to every meeting to sing the National Anthem.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dawn Murphy – Explore Fairbanks

- The audit for Explore Fairbanks is before Council tonight.
- Lisa Vaughn is on the Audit Committee.
- Invitation to banquet on Friday, April 25th at 6:00 p.m.
- Walk for

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. McCarthy – no comment

Mr. McGhee – be careful because the motor cycles are out now and not all of them have had training.

Mr. Welch - thanked the clerk for giving him a spot on the trip to Usibelli Coal Mine. It was an informative trip.

Ms. Holm - Good night

Ms. Hunter - attended the workshop at Santa Seniors on the AED. Capt Daniel was professional and informative. He was at the ASAU conference and help a woman who collapsed. He came to her rescue and was very professional until the ambulance arrived. It's

always nice to hear the nice things about our fire department. She said the weather is beautiful and encouraged everyone to enjoy it.

Mr. Smith – watch for all the children walking now that the weather is better.

Mayor Ward – tried to get financials emailed out to the council members. Great staff here at the City and if there is any way they can help let them know. There will be two resolutions on the next council meeting. One is a street light ordinance and there will be a notice sent out to ask community members what they think.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Welch

The regular meeting of April 21, 2014 adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, May 5, 2014.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk