

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, September 2, 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, September 2, 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
National Anthem sung by Kadee Nelson

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman McGhee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the Agenda of September 2, 2014

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Discussion

None

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

Old Business

- a. Ordinance 14-15, an ordinance of the City of North, Alaska amending Title 4, Revenue & Finance, Chapter 4.25, adding section 4.25.080, Health Insurance Reserve Fund.

- b. Ordinance 14-16, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to amend the 2014 Budget to Authorize Repayment of an Alaska Clean Water Fund loan used to help repair aging techite sewer mains.
- c. Ordinance 14-17, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska adopting legislative grants awarded to the City of North Pole in 2014 and approving them in the 2014 City of North Pole budget.

New Business

- a. Request from Utilities to surplus the 1994 Ford F150.
- b. Request from Chief Lane to hire new firefighters at Range 6, \$14.52 per hour on the pay scale.
- c. Request from Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Center for 4th Quarter 2013 and 1st & 2nd Quarter 2014 bed tax.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

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

NO – 0

Absent – 0

On the main motion as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

NO – 0

Absent – 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the minutes of August 18, 2014

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

NO – 0

Absent – 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Proclamations

Interior Alaska Community Preparedness

Payroll Week

I will be taking some time off this summer (Thursdays and Fridays) If you would like to stop in please call and make an appointment to ensure I am here at City Hall. I always carry my phone if there is a need to immediately reach me.

The three mayors met with the rail road last week as part of the Alaska Railroads effort to reach out to communities along the railroad. We discussed topics from the recently completed bridge across the Tanana (longest in Alaska) to the need for a upgraded crossing to the New Tanana Lakes recreation area. We also got to discuss special trains and the need for some up “north”. The rail road is planning on having a beer train or “harvest train” in October. They have yet to determine where they are going but the event should be fun with Lavelle’s doing appetizers and spotlighting local beers. The tentative date is October 18th. We also had some conversation in regards to the possibility of a Christmas Train in December.

The Alaska Rail Road is also considering changing the change out time for rail cars in North Pole to days. With the decreased rail car traffic due to the refinery being shut down the possibility to switch out cars in a shorter period of time is now possible. I have requested that they have a meeting in North Pole to gather the concerns the community may have. The main driving force to have the train switching in the evening is public safety and the lower impact to traffic.

Last week the Fairbanks North Star in cooperation with the Economic Development Commission had a workshop on Unmanned Aerial Systems and the potential for growth of this industry in the interior. Present were representatives from the Army, UAF, State of Alaska and the three mayors. The interior and UAF were selected as one of six test sites in the country to explore integration of UAS with manned aircraft. The FNSB is currently exploring the designation of a Tech Park in Salcha where testing of UAS systems can be done for commercialization of the UAV industry. I will keep the council informed.

This Friday is the first fall staff BBQ here at City Hall from 11:30-1:30. All staff and council members are welcome to attend.

This Friday at 6:30 is also the annual Mayors Bowl (North Pole VS Lathrop) Myself and Mayor Eberhart will be present to do the coin toss and award the trophy. If you have time come and root for our hometown team.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Mr. Smith asked when the library will open.

Ms. Hunter stated that the Grand Opening will be November 22nd.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Department, Chief Dutra

None

City Accountant, Lisa Vaughn

Mr. McGhee asked if he would be able to work with Ms. Vaughn on the pay scale.

Mr. Welch said that in the Ordinance of 2007 it stated that the council was to review the pay scale more often.

Fire Department, Chief Lane

- Hydrant testing is done.
- Platform truck should be leaving plant next week.
- Went to the library last week and not much has been happening.
- All local fire and police did active shooter training at West Valley High School. It is a national trend now that EMS is on scene a lot earlier.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- No new building permits issued since August 18

Public Works

- Rainfall continues to affect Public Works projects
- Road patching for 2014—potholes, dips, etc.--completed
- All fitness trail stations completed and course is fully usable
 - Waiting for delivery of signage to hold a “Grand Opening” of fitness trail (postponed opening previously proposed for Saturday, August 23)
- Dog park—began ground work and fence installation last week
- Will need to use a contractor to cut some of brush along roads

Utility Department

- Had a teleconference last week with ADEC concerning Notice of Violation (NOV) related to sewer outfall
 - ADEC is considering the NOV the first step leading to a Compliance Order
 - Purpose is require Utility to conduct its engineering analysis and propose an engineering solution that will be integrated into Compliance Order
 - NOV can have a positive side—increases points earn on grant and loan applications
- Wastewater treatment plant is moving forward with building modifications
 - Focus of work has been on building mechanical and aeration system for lagoons
 - Planned shutdown of discharge from plant is September 8
 - Halting discharge could last up to three weeks for renovation work on lift station

Natural Gas Utility Board

- IGU held a community meeting in North Pole on August 25 to update community and gather information to help plan incentives to encourage hooking up to the gas utility
- Phase 1 gas distribution plans are at the 35% stage
- If you want to see the initial proposal where the gas line may be in the vicinity of your property, see me after the meeting

Borough Representative

- None

City Clerk, Kathy Weber

- Laserfiche workflow is continuing. Michelle Myhill has been an extreme asset to us and is working diligently to get all records into Laserfiche.
- City of North Pole continues to work with the FNSB and City of Fairbanks to coordinate the 2014 Preparedness Expo on Saturday, October 4, 2014 at the Carlson Center. The City of North Pole is fielding all calls from area residents on this event and provided a recording for after hours with information.
- Pro Music was out last week and installed the new sound system for the Council Chambers. Many thanks to our Public Works department for all their hard work taking out the old equipment and re-wiring for the new system.
- Reminder that the last day to register to vote in the local elections is September 7, 2014. You can register online at <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/> or at the City of North Pole, City of Fairbanks or FNSB Clerks office.
- We have finished the proof reading NPMC and only had one change to make before we do a final print. This has been a long, slow process but again, with the help of Michelle Myhill we were able to finish the task.
- A copy of the sample ballot for the City of North Pole included tonight.
- Please let me know ASAP if you will be attending AML this year. The date for Newly elected officials is November 17 & 18 and the AML Annual Local Government Conference is November 19-21. The sooner you book your flight and hotel, the better the rate we get.
- Received an email from Barbara Nore today who stated that she has over 80 students in her choirs this year and lots of talent. We should be able to have someone here for each of our meetings this year. Many thanks to Barbara Nore, North Pole Middle School music teacher for her support of this program.

**NOTICE OF ELECTION
DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY & FILING DATES
CITY OF NORTH POLE**

The Municipal Election for the City of North Pole will be held Tuesday, October 7, 2014. A sample ballot for the City of North Pole is available online at www.northpolealaska.com and at City Hall.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Center – Dawn Murphy

- updated council on the visitors in the Interior. She spoke on the increase of the bed tax since 2008 and delivered the Winter Guide for 2014-2015.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McGhee moved to recess into executive session at 8:02

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Mr. Welch moved to close executive session at 9:23

Seconded by Ms. Holm

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

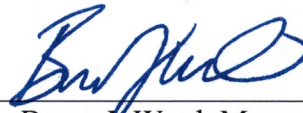
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

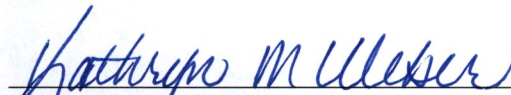
Seconded by Mr. Welch

The regular meeting of September 2, 2014 adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, September 15, 2014.


Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk

