

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, October 6, 2014 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tem Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, October 6, 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

dismissed at 9:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the Agenda of October 6, 2014

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

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

Old Business

- b. Ordinance 14-19, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole amending Title 3, Chapter 3.16, Section .060, Prohibitions
- c. Ordinance 14-20, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole amending Title 4, Chapter 4.04.020 Budget Process and Chapter 4.08.015 Business Licenses Required

- d. Ordinance 14-21, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole amending Title 2, Chapter 2.36, Section .020, Scope of Coverage

New Business

- a. Renewal of snow plowing contract with Hawks Enterprises
- b. Request from North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce for 2nd and 3rd quarter 2014 Bed Tax
- f. Resolution 14-18, A Resolution of the North Pole City Council rescheduling the November 17, 2014 Council meeting to November 24, 2014 due to the AML conference in Anchorage, Alaska

Seconded by Mr. Welch

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. Welch moved to Approve the minutes of September 15, 2014

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

NO – 0

Absent – 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

I will be out of the state for my brother's wedding this month and will miss the next council meeting. I will be out of the office from October 14 (around noon) through October 23rd. I will have my phone and laptop if I am needed.

It may be difficult to notice but we have a new City Christmas tree in the parking lot. Two weeks ago Phil Zastrow and myself went and transplanted the 35' tree from a gentleman in Salcha. Ward Alaska (my construction company) donated the equipment and personnel to move the tree here to North Pole City Hall. Hopefully we were able to save enough of the root ball to save the tree, but only time will tell. Nonetheless, we will have a beautiful tree for a tree lighting ceremony this December.

The Alaska Railroad is also 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 met with Jeff Cook and Marisa Sharrah last week and they are sponsoring a "stay alive" campaign with the Middle and High Schools to make sure kids are aware of the dangers of the train when it is moving. You might have noticed some of the signs already.

Several weeks ago I was the guest speaker at North Pole Elementary School during Constitution Day. It was a great time where the students gave presentations on the importance of the constitution and the Bill of Rights; they even sang the old School House Rock song about the Constitution.

I would like to say a special thanks to Councilman McGhee for participating in the POW-MIA ceremony at Eielson AFB. He was there on his motorcycle and I was privileged to introduce him to Colonel Winkler. Special thanks to you and your support of our POW-MIA Soldiers.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Mr. Smith asked about the equipment at the pump house.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Stats – Not a lot of major issues
- We have seen increases in a lot of crimes in short order. Officer assaulted, burglaries, trespasses, thefts and school related problems. Please be aware of the safety rule, keep your doors locked and make sure your vehicles are locked. Be aware of your surroundings and call 911 if you notice anything suspicious.
- We are scheduling two classes for now, for parents to help educate them on kids and smart phone apps. These classes will be held at city hall on Oct 13 at 7pm and Oct 26 at 7pm. I encourage parents with children of all ages to attend.
- The work has begun on our heating system upgrades. We are excited to finally have a solution to our hot building. I want to thank Gov. Parnell and the legislators for their efforts in securing the funding to fix this problem.
- We just had a meeting last week with the Memorial park committee and we are progressing on plans from Design Alaska. Very excited.
- We have completed our obligations to the Chena Lakes contract. It was a successful year and the Chena Lakes staff was very happy with Officer Fisher's efforts this year. He did a great job.
- Lt. Rathbun, Sgt. Bellant, Ofc. Fisher and Rangers from Corp of Engineers retrieved a trailer near the Tanana River. The owner was extremely happy we retrieved his trailer stolen from high school. I want to thank all these officers for their efforts.
- I attended the dedication ceremonies at the Ice Dog game on Saturday in honor of Trooper Gabe Rich. His Ice Dog Jersey was retired and placed on display with a plaque honoring him for his service and his time with the Ice Dogs.
- Our semi annual DEA drug take back produced a record number 23.11 lbs. of prescription drugs. The best ever.
- Sourdough had an alarm. Officers got there quick enough they caught the suspect inside. Ofc. Missimer our brand new officer was first to site the suspect inside. Suspect apprehended with help of FPD's canine. Officers did a great job.

Mr. McGhee thanked the police department for their attendance at the Preparedness Expo. He asked about some of the coding on the police statistics.

Mr. Welch asked about the sexting on cell phones and if there was something going on in Fairbanks. He also wanted to know if there was any assistance from the FNSB or from the State.

Ms. Holm said that she called 911 when her daughter was choking and there was no answer. They did call her back 5 minutes later and she wanted to know how often that happens.

Chief Dutra stated that he would look into it.

Mr. Smith asked about the new roof. He also asked about the body and car cameras.

Mr. McGhee said that during business hours there was a man on the side of the road and he called 911 and there was a recording. He had called twice and received the same recording. He also wanted to know if there was a fail-safe on the camera's as the ones in Ferguson were donated but turned off at the time of the incident.

Chief Dutra said that he didn't know for sure. He suggested that it would be nice to have 4-way's installed on the cars and then have a body camera for the officer.

City Accountant, Lisa Vaughn

- Report on bed tax was given to council members and we are \$24,000 ahead of last year.
- September 2014 has been the highest yet since 2009.\
- Chart of accounts is moving forward. Working with auditors to implement that.
- Will be working on vendors and business licenses.
- Work Comp was audited last week.
- The first check was received from the state for the PFD garnishment in the amount of \$35,000.
- Received a check from FNSB for 1st portion of property tax for over \$400,000.

Fire Department, Chief Lane

- Attendance was down from last year at the Preparedness Expo. There were over 40 vendors.
- Platform truck is finally in. It was displayed at the Expo.
- Training will start on Wednesday. A representative from Smeal will be here to help with that.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- No new building permits issued since September 2
- Website project
 - Received a proposed new webpage design from contractor
 - Photo contest initiated to generate pictures for website and other City promotions

Public Works

- 2014-2015 Snow plowing contract renewal before Council this evening
- Other snow-related work
 - Public Works staff clearing the sidewalks but only have one functional skid steer loader so clearing will be slower (other skid steer is down for service)
 - Started sanding intersections this past Sunday and did some additional sanding this afternoon
- New loader: bids due October 13 (purchasing with state grant)
 - Dog park
 - Fence installation and dirt work largely completed
 - Will hydro-seed next spring
 - Contractor completed brush cutting in Highway Park Subdivision, part of Ford Subdivision and along 8th Avenue
 - Striping of high priority intersection radii was focus of striping this year

Utility Department

- River flow to sewer outfall is dropping
- Wastewater treatment plant is moving forward with building modifications
 - Lift station and submerged piping completed and flow out of the treatment plant began two weeks ago
 - Major remaining work includes installation of new blowers, completion of heating system and installation of new emergency generator
 - Preliminary Municipal Grant Application scores released
 - Total possible score: 1,165 points
 - Lift Station Phase 3: 935 points (last year 860)
 - Water Treatment Plant Renovation Phase 1: 840 points
 - Last year's funding score cut was at 885 points

Natural Gas Utility Board

- Election for two board member on the October 7 ballot for two members who have chosen to retire from the board
- Design work continues on the 65% engineering of gas lines in North Pole area
- Interviewing of a contract operator of the utility is scheduled in the next several weeks
- Holding pattern waiting for the State to move forward with commitment to build the liquefaction plant

Borough Representative

- Gave a report to the assembly.

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. We attended a records preservation class hosted by the City of Fairbanks last week that was very informative and brought back good information. Please take a minute and go over the Executive proclamation by Gov. Parnell for designating October as Archives Month.
- Laserfiche is up and running for the public. You can go on to our website at www.northpolealaska.com and at the bottom of the front page is a link called Records Search. Click on the link and access all of our public records.
- Local elections will be held tomorrow. City of North Pole precinct opens at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m.
- 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.
- The Expo was a success this year. Working as the PIO for the City of North Pole, I was able to talk with vendors, of which there were 35, and had the opportunity to contact and organize with the media on the importance of Emergency Preparedness.
- I will have travel packets ready this week for council members and will send it out via email to each of you.
- FNSB Clerks office has asked that the City of North Pole send someone to their meetings to give updates to assembly members if the Mayor is unable to attend
- The security system for the doors are now operating in their normal mode.
- 2014 Budget Presentations will be held October 28 - 30. He is the schedule:
 - Tuesday, October 28 - Utility, Building Dept, Public Works & Revenues
 - Wednesday, October 29 - Administration, Police Dept

- Thursday, October 30 – Fire Dept
- Orientation for new employees will take place on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.
- Please help to get things set up for the elections workers tomorrow.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce – Santa Claus

Mr. Claus thanked the council for approving the bed tax monies for Chamber. He asked if council had any questions and looks forward to a great Winterfest.

Mr. McGhee thanked the Mayor and Mr. Zastrow for a real live Christmas tree and that the electronic one was disappointing.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Phil Zastrow – 2299 Peridot

Mr. Zastrow read the following statement into the minutes:

I want to thank the City Council for their service to our community and their involvement in the betterment of our community.

I also want to thank Santa for the excellent job he's doing as President of the North Pole Chamber of Commerce. This year we had about 4000 visitors to our Visitor's Center. Sharron and others welcomed them to our great city of North Pole with true Alaskan hospitality. I am very impressed by the way they presented our community.

The Winterfest this year is well organized, thanks to a combined effort of the City of North Pole, Christmas in Ice, North Pole Economic Development, Santa's Seniors, and North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce. I want to thank I want to thank the people who donated a centralized Christmas tree for our tree lighting and a special thanks to Mayor Ward and the NPCCC for transplanting this wonderful 35 foot tree.

Personally I like what's happening in North Pole. I do have a couple of suggestions.

1. Paint the back of the City Hall sign
2. Take down the Welcome to North Pole sign (Now!) I will refinish it for free
3. Pursue the land adjacent to the dog park. (That way we could have enough property to have a North Pole Christmas Park with a real unique visitors center that people would drive from Fairbanks to come and see.

The parcel had debris buried on it years ago and its undesirable for new construction but would be perfect for a Christmas light park and summer beautification gardens.

Mr. McGhee thanked Mr. Zastrow for all of his contributions to the City of North Pole

- Jeannie Olsen - 1890 Hollowell, North Pole AK

Ms. Olsen spoke on the air quality in North Pole. She presented posters on the air quality with statistics for January 7 and February 21, 2014.

Mr. McCarthy said he would like to have Ms. Olsen do a presentation for the City of North Pole.

Mr. McGhee said that the majority of the problem is north of the City.

Ms. Olsen said that they are mandated to go to the schools and test but there is only one person who operates as a sniffer. She said we need to clean our air up. For more information go to www.citizensforcleanair.com

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 14-18, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 8, SECTION 8.04.080, UNWHOLESOME WELLS OR GROUNDWATER AND SECTION 8.04.710 ABATEMENT – NOTICES – COSTS – FINES

This is the second reading of this ordinance. Our attorney was here at the last meeting to go over the ordinance.

Public Comment

None

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve Ordinance 14-18, An Ordinance amending Title 8, Section 8.04.080, Unwholesome Wells or Groundwater and Section 8.04.710 Abatement – Notices – Costs- Fines

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee moved to Amend Ordinance 14-18, An Ordinance amending Title 8, Section 8.04.080, Unwholesome Wells or Groundwater and Section 8.04.710 Abatement – Notices – Costs- Fines as follows: Add to line 72, and shall apply to civil actions commences on or after the effective date of this ordinance regardless of when the cause of action may have arisen

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

On the Amendment

PASSED

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

No – 0

Absent - 0

On the main motion as amended

PASSED

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

No – 0

Absent - 0

NEW BUSINESS

**APPROVE 2014 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM GRANT
NO.14SHSP-GR34094 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,337.50**

Chief Lane gave an update on the ordinance.

Public Comment

Chief Dutra said that part of the grant, approximately \$38,000, is for the Police Dept for the server for the EOC. This is something that the City needs.

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve 2014 State Homeland Security Program Grant
No.14SHSP-GR34094 in the amount of \$58,337.50***

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

Ms. Holm urged the council to vote no on this since this is a basic need for equipment. As for the Preparedness Expo she felt that this was something the City could find in their budget for next year and reflects poorly on us as a City if we need to take money from the federal government, who has to borrow from China who has to print it.

PASSED

Yes – 6 – McCarthy, Smith, Hunter, McGhee, Welch, Ward

No – 1 - Holm

Absent – 0

**APPROVE 2014-15 ALASKA HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$66,292.44**

Chief Dutra gave a presentation to the City Council on the grant.

There were a lot of questions from council for Chief Dutra.

Public Comment

None

**Mr. McGhee moved to Approve 2014-15 Alaska Highway Safety Grant In The Amount Of
\$66,292.44**

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee moved to Postpone to November 3, 2014

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Ms. Holm was dismissed at 9:05 p.m.

Discussion

Mr. McGhee felt that it was important to postpone this until November 3rd as to give the council an opportunity to hear the presentations from Department Heads during the budget workshops before council makes a decision on this issue.

Mr. Welch wanted clarification of why we were postponing until November 3rd and to reconsider to move to October 20th or if this was to wait for the budget workshops.

Ms. Hunter asked if it was decided tonight, would Chief Dutra make changes to the budget now or after the workshops.

Mayor Ward explained how this was going to affect the City and said he has spoken extensively with Chief Dutra about this.

Mr. McGhee was concerned about making a decision tonight. He wanted Chief Dutra to make the necessary calls and let council know by November 3rd.

PASSED

Yes – 4 – McCarthy, Smith, Hunter, McGhee

No – 2 – Welch, Ward
Absent – 1 - Holm

Mr. McGhee *moved to suspend the rules for 5 minutes.*

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Mayor ward brought the meeting back to order at 9:20 p.m.

RESOLUTION 14-17, A RESOLUTION PRESERVING A FREE AND OPEN INTERNET

Mayor Ward showed a video from YouTube on the resolution.

Public Comment

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to Introduce and Approve Resolution 14-17, A Resolution preserving a free and open internet*

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

Mr. McGhee said that he liked the resolution and is grandfathered in to AT&T unlimited data use. He has been told by AT&T that if he changes his plan they will slow his plan down. He said it's time to step up and say "stop".

Mr. Welch echoed Mr. McGhee's comments. He said this seems to be an issue and pay and extreme amount more in Alaska and he is also a grandfathered user.

PASSED

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

NO – 0

Absent – 1 - Holm

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Welch

The regular meeting of October 6, 2014 adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, October 20, 2014.



Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk