

**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, December 15, 2014 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska.

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Ward called the Executive Session to order at Monday, December 15, 2014 to order at 5:09 p.m.

***There were present:***

**Ms. Holm  
Ms. Hunter  
Mr. McCarthy  
Mr. McGhee  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Welch  
Mayor Ward**

***Absent/Excused***

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Ward called the regularly scheduled meeting of the North Pole City Council to order on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG**

Led by Mayor Ward  
National Anthem sung by NPMS Choir members –

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Ms. Holm

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve the Agenda of December 15, 2014***

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

**Mr. McGhee *moved to consent the following item:***

- a. Ordinance 14-29, An ordinance amending Title 8 – Health & Safety, Section 04.160 – Disturbing the Peace
- c. Resolution 14-22, A Resolution affirming the priorities of the Interior Gas Utility that looks to the Governor and State Legislator to provide the leadership and necessary financial assistance to achieve the goals of \$15 mcf gas to North Pole and the Interior of Alaska

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

**On the Amendment**

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

No: 0-

Absent: 0

**On the main motion as amended**

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Welch moved that to approve the minutes of 11-24-14 and 12-01-2014**

**Seconded by Mr. McGhee**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 0



### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- *Service Awards – Randy Binkley 5 years, Billy Bellant 15 years, Paul Trissel 15 years, Steve Dutra 15 years.*
- *Bill of Rights – Mr. Wade's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class*

December 2<sup>nd</sup> was the multi-jurisdictional meeting on marijuana. The meeting was well attended by members of the public and elected officials. The meeting was informative and I believe will help set the direction for marijuana regulations for the interior.

December 4<sup>th</sup> I was honored to meet General Lori Robinson, the new PACAF commander. We had a candid discussion on Eielson, F-16's, F-35's and the future of the base. The General admitted that the Air Force will be looking for ways to make cuts and still maintain the readiness that is needed for our country's defense which may mean looking at how we operate and how we can do it differently.

December 6<sup>th</sup> was the North Pole Winterfest (also the first day McDonalds was open). The fireworks were amazing and the bazaar in the mall was well attended. The Chamber said they had almost 50 vendors and lots of people came through.

December 7<sup>th</sup> was the Candle Lighting Ceremony at the high school. Special thanks to the Chamber for putting that event on and to Councilman McGhee for being the MC. Sunday was also the Tree Lighting here at City Hall. We had a great time decorating the tree with 4-5 inch Christmas ornaments and putting the angel on the tree (with special help from the fire department). The warming fires were a special hit and so were the carols, even though we were way out of key.

December 9<sup>th</sup> I was on the radio show "Problem Corner" on KFAR and will be going on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month to help answer people's questions about North Pole. It is a effective way to be able to address the concerns of folks in the community and provide information.

December 10<sup>th</sup> was a Fire-EMS meeting with the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Although there was no public comment period I did attend with Fire Chief Buddy Lane. The borough is interested in changing the way Fire and EMS service is provided in the borough and is trying to figure out the best way to move forward. The assembly has planned several meeting for January and I plan on attending.

December 13<sup>th</sup> was the ladder truck dedication and we were pleased to welcome former Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell to the ceremony. Representative Doug Isaacson was also present.



Saturday evening was the VIP reception for Christmas in Ice and my wife and I were able to tour the park with the leadership from Eielson AFB and our local representatives Tammie Wilson and Doug Isaacson.

Governor Walker is in town today and tomorrow, I actually just got back from welcoming the Governor to the interior at Ravens Landing. Tomorrow I have a mayors meeting with Governor Walker to discuss the interior and needs concerns. I plan on discussing the sulfolane contamination, refinery issues, revenue sharing and the Interior Gas Plan. If the council approves the resolution tonight I will present it to the Governor as well. I will also be at the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce luncheon for Governor Walker Tuesday.

Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 3pm is also the ribbon cutting for the new North Pole McDonalds. Council and the public are welcome to attend. The ribbon cutting ceremony is brought to us by the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce.

Tuesday evening I will be on Closing Comments on KJNP at 9pm to inform the public on the happenings of the City of North Pole.

Friday is Muffins with the Mayor from 8-10 am here at City Hall. Come and let's talk about North Pole and what your concerns-praises are.

Friday is also the Employee Christmas Potluck here at City Hall. If you are interested it will be from 11:30-1:30. Please bring your favorite side and come enjoy the festivities.

Christmas in Ice is open and the slides are super-fast. Last weekend they had over 1,900 military members and their families come through the gate. Special thanks to Petro-Star and Christmas in Ice Inc. for Military appreciation day. If you have questions about upcoming events please go to their website [Christmasinice.org](http://Christmasinice.org)

Next week is Christmas and I am closing City Hall at noon on Christmas Eve. As usual we are closed Christmas Day.

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

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

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

- Small fire inside City limits. They were making hash which exploded and did approximately \$80,000 in damage.



- Capped off the weekend with the dedication of the platform truck.
- Christmas squad is running and will continue until Christmas Day.

**Police Department, Lt. Dutra**

- We met the interior delegation today regarding capital projects.
- I attended the Executive Development training in Anchorage. Topics of discussion were Leadership and Supervision taught by (Ret) Chief Harry Dolan. Excellent class very helpful.
- Just hosted 1<sup>st</sup> line supervisor class also taught by Chief Harry Dolan. Excellent training we were able to send 6 people. Everyone gave class excellent reviews.
- I will be attending the 354<sup>th</sup> SFS Christmas Party on Friday. I am attending to show our support for our service men and women and to spend time with our comrades
- Want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas. I also want to thank you for all your support throughout the year.

**Director of City Services, Bill Butler**

- None

**Borough Representative**

- FNSB is looking at air quality.
- Informed FNSB of City of North Pole.

**City Clerk, Kathy Weber**

- City Hall has been very busy. We are down to only two people in the office until December 29<sup>th</sup>. Michelle Myhill has been helping out but is out with the flu. We are hoping she will be back by the end of the week.
- 10 days until Christmas.

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

- Mr. Welch represented the City of North Pole Carlos at the ceremony of the Ordination and Installation of the Most Reverend Chad W. Zielinski who was selected as the sixth Bishop of Fairbanks. Other distinguished clergy



members came to visit the City of North Pole while on their journey and were impressed by the warmth & kindness of the community.

- Mr. McGhee thanked Mr. Zastrow and NPCCC for the Winterfest and Candlelighting, tree lighting, and all the other festivities.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Phil Zastrow –

Winterfest did go great. He said the festivities were wonderful and successful. Mr. Zastrow gave a gift to Mr. McGhee for being the MC at the Candlelighting ceremony.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **RESOLUTION 14-21, A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2015 CITY OF NORTH POLE BED TAX GRANT DISTRIBUTION**

Mayor Ward explained the application process and how the numbers were determined for the Resolution.

#### **Public Comment**

Buzz Otis, 605 St. Nicholas Drive

Mr. Otis stated that he has been with the organization since its inception and has been an advocate of economic development. He also organizes dog racing events in the North Pole area. He spoke praises about Nadine Winters, Executive Director for NPEDC. He felt that it was important that NPEDC be consulted if the City of North Pole has concerns about what needs to be done.

Wes Madden, 71 St. Nicholas Drive

Mr. Madden echoed Mr. Otis' remarks on Ms. Winters. When the F35's came through he was very happy and stated that Ms. Winters was instrumental in getting them here. He asked if North Pole City Services allocation could be transferred to NPEDC. He believes in the future of North Pole and was disappointed in the allocation of bed tax funds for NPEDC. He asked the council to reallocate the funds from North Pole City Services to NPEDC which would at least get them up to around \$11,000 range and then they would be able to do something with that.



Mr. Welch asked about where the meetings for NPEDC are held.

Mr. Madden stated that they have a new website built and that he would notify council when the meetings would take place. He stated that the last meeting was held in North Pole.

Phil Zastrow,

Mr. Zastrow has been involved with NPCCC and they take on advertisements, operate a visitors center in North Pole, and do the Winterfest.

**Mr. McGhee moved to approve Resolution 14-21, A Resolution establishing the 2015 City of North Pole bed tax grant distribution**

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

**Discussion**

**Mr. McGhee moved to and the bed tax distribution as follows:**

Organization	Amount:	Amend to:
NPEDC	2,586.45	0
NPCCC	5,832.25	13,818.33
Explore Fairbanks	8,882.25	13,818.33
North Pole Christmas in Ice	14,911.55	13,818.33
North Pole City Services	9,242.50	0

**Seconded by Ms. Holm**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee explained his amendment and how he saw the distribution of the funds. He felt this was more fair and equitable.

Ms. Holm said this will zero out the NPEDC and we are using the bed tax monies for tourism and she will support this. She doesn't want to see NPEDC go away but maybe they could be funded differently.

Ms. Hunter said that she felt the City Services was the most important and looks toward more activities. Christmas in Ice does a great job but she would like to see organizations do their own fundraising so the City of North Pole can use the monies to do their own activities. She said that if we don't take charge of our own economic development we'll just see the same things over and over again and that Explore Fairbanks does more than just advertise for Santa Claus House. She felt that Explore Fairbanks would still bring tourism out here even if the City of North Pole didn't fund it.



Mr. McCarthy said he is not in favor of it. He is disappointed in the way the bed tax distribution has gone. He said the council has spent more time on this line item than any other thing. He thinks that the council needs to come up with a better idea than to pit one organization against another.

Mr. Welch said he has some institutional knowledge of the organization and that you don't want to throw the baby out with the water. He said this is not enough money to make any of the organizations go out and do what the City of North Pole wants. He commented that Mr. Butler had said that if council doesn't fund his whole project then don't fund it at all. He urged caution and said that this could cost the city more money than they think. Mr. Welch gave an example of a small town in Kansas.

Mr. Smith said his comments reiterates what Mr. Welch said. He would like to see the monies reallocated to other agencies.

Mr. McGhee said that he remembered Mr. Butler's comments that if the council can't fund the whole thing, don't do anything at all.

Mayor Ward said that the council has set a process of how these monies are distributed. He didn't feel that this was a fair thing.

Ms. Hunter talked with Mr. Butler and she felt the money that was allocated for that the position could start when there was enough money (grants included) and could possibly start it in September or October. The money could always be reallocated if they found that the program could be run.

Mr. McCarthy said that he didn't vote on it and didn't feel it was fair.

Mr. Welch said that he also talked with Mr. Butler and he reiterated that it wasn't fully funded.

Mr. McGhee said that with respect with the NPEDC, the radius study took 6 years and was a modified census report. He said that the council doesn't want to fund the City with grants. The bed tax money is to promote and encourage economic development and Mr. Butler was quite clear that this was another hired employee. Council has been tasked to come up with the numbers. The City has given 50% of the bed tax over the years to NPEDC and there has been no economic development. He stated that this is not personal and the council needs to see return for their money.

Ms. Hunter agreed with some of the points on NPEDC and has been frustrated and dissatisfied. She said we do have a process in place and part of the discussion brings up the



fact that council may need to look closely at the process. When they did the scoring this time, there was no central criteria. She said they did a rating without getting any other comments from each other but that was the process. She said she agreed with the Mayor even though the process was flawed.

Mr. Welch said he was a little upset that he was not able to make a remark to the applicants. Council would have liked to spend more time by asking questions of the applicants.

Mayor Ward went back to the code and the ordinance that was passed back in August and the process that was set out for council to follow. He said that the council needs to be fair to all organizations.

On the Amendment

**FAILED**

Yes: 1 – McGhee

No: 6 – McCarthy, Smith, Holm, Hunter, Welch, Ward

Absent: 0

**Mr. Welch moved to amend Resolution 14-21 by dividing the bed tax funds equally by the 4 remaining entities to \$10,361 each:**

Organization	Amount:	Amend to:
NPEDC	2,586.45	10,361.00
NPCCC	5,832.25	10,361.00
Explore Fairbanks	8,882.25	10,361.00
North Pole Christmas in Ice	14,911.55	10,361.00
North Pole City Services	9,242.50	0

**Seconded by Mr. McCarthy**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee said in the word of fairness, you couldn't get more fair.

Mr. Welch said that Mr. McGhee said it all and we need to more closely monitor our form. He doesn't care what the City of Fairbanks does.

Mayor Ward stated that the council had the packets for 1 month in advance and could have talked with organizations.



Mr. Welch said he picked his up 3 weeks before but it's not the same thing as having someone come before you.

Mr. McCarthy said he was in favor.

Ms. Hunter said there was a resolution that they passed and now they are going against the code. It is spelled out how the organizations get their monies. She doesn't have a problem with the Resolution. She felt council needed to keep the numbers the same and decide how to divide the monies from City Services. She said they could legally get in trouble by not honoring their ordinances.

Mr. Smith said that he agreed with Mr. Welch but maybe we could ask them.

Ms. Holm asked if they could discuss line 134 in the bed tax process that was given out to each of the council members. She read the scoring section of the process that was given by the Mayor and said that they used a dollar amount instead of a point system. She doesn't want to see any events going away.

Mayor Ward said that this was based on the previous years audited amount.

Mr. McGhee said that the council would be tasked to do this process this year but that next year it would be given to a committee appointed by the Mayor. He said they have done this to the best of their ability and he doesn't understand what the mayor did with the scoring.

Ms. Hunter said that the council followed the ordinance, and that the council was the committee. The other thing was the 100 points works out the same way and the results are the same way. It's important to allocate the money based on the amounts the council came up with that they set aside at the workshop.

**PASSED**

**Yes: 5 – Welch, McGhee, McCarthy, Smith, Holm**

**No: 2 – Hunter, Ward**

**Absent:0**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. Welch *moved to* adjourn into executive session to discuss payroll issues in Administration.**

**Seconded *by* Mr. McGhee**

**Mayor Ward brought the meeting back to order at 9:55 p.m.**



**Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the action of the Mayor with payroll issues in Administration and move it back to November 29<sup>th</sup> payroll.**

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. McGhee thanked the council. He doesn't always agree with everything but appreciates their efforts and personal involvement. He is grateful for the opportunity to have served on the City Council for the past 4 years and looks forward to the next 3. Mr. McGhee wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Welch was very proud and honored to represent the City of North Pole at the Ordination and Installation of the Most Reverend Chad W. Zielinski who was selected as the sixth Bishop of Fairbanks. He was proud about what the bishop said about our community and of how genuinely friendly we were. They enjoyed the ice park and North Pole food from Pagoda and spoke volumes of our City. During good times and bad times he feels they are still trying to do due diligence and keep mind of what we do. He will be giving everyone and give New year gifts. He is also having heart work done on Wednesday.

Ms. Holm said good night.

Ms. Hunter said congratulations to the catholic dioceses on their new bishop and new chapter in your church life. At the end of the year as Mr. McGee said what a great opportunity it is to be on the council and have diverse ideas and that it is in that fact that we have diverse ideas we get the best solutions and appreciates when we have different opinions and do so in a respectful manner. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Wades 5<sup>th</sup> grade class and the NPMS Choir for singing at our meetings. He is looking forward to North Pole growing and expanding. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. McCarthy like having the kids come in and do the Bill Of Rights and NPMS Choir. He would like to have the bed tax money distribution looked at. He said people need to look at this as a fun thing but it's like putting a piece of meat in a shark tank and people are unhappy and are



taking it personal. He has driven through the round a bouts and seen Buzz Otis out there taking care of the lights. We need to be able to announce what the distribution is and walk away. He doesn't agree with the process and have made people unhappy.

Mayor Ward wished everyone a Merry Christmas and appreciates the time the council gives to serve the City. Be safe over the holidays and see you next year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

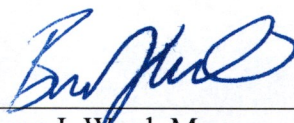
**Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.**

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

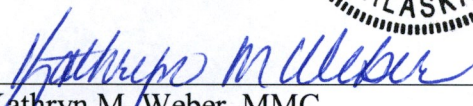
The regular meeting of December 15, 2014 adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, January 7, 2014.



  
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Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Kathryn M. Weber, MMC  
North Pole City Clerk