



**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, July 6, 2015 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, July 6, 2015 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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Ward called the regularly scheduled meeting of the North Pole City Council to order on Monday, July 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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 July 6, 2015

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Mr. McGhee moved to amend by consenting Old Business item A and New Business item A

Seconded by Welch

Discussion

Ms. Holm –objected to consenting **OLD BUSINESS** item A and bring it forward to discuss the

multiple phone calls she has received about this ordinance from the public.

Ms. Holm *moved to remove item A from consent agenda*

Seconded by Ms. Hunter

On the Amendment

FAILED

Yes: 3 – Smith, Holm, Hunter

No: 4 – McCarthy, Welch, McGhee, Ward

Absent: 0

On the agenda as amended by Mr. McGhee

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Welch *moved to Postponed the approval of minutes of June 15, 2015 until the meeting of July 20th 2015*

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

We had a successful event on the 4th of July. We had a really good turnout and the weather was amazing. The parade went really well. Thanks to the North Pole Lions for putting that on and thanks to Flint Hills, BP and all of our other sponsors. We did something new this year called The Amazing Race. We had a short track around town with stations for people to sign off on. We had probably 300-400 people do that. It went really well and gave away a lot of good prizes.

Lots of people were able to learn about different things in North Pole that they never knew we had. Special thanks to all the volunteers.

I do have an ordinance I would like to have a workshop on sometime soon, preferably before our next budget cycle.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Mr. Smith – I saw that there are two council seats up and the Mayor for this election.

Ms. Hunter – Is there a way that we can formally register our displeasure with the fact that we had no mention in our newspaper even though they had a huge spread about Fairbanks celebrating the 4th of July.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Department, Chief Lane

- Finished all of our hydrant testing. Will be addressing any issues with the Utility Dept.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- I was able to attend a two day grants management class. I received excellent training and several of contacts. I spoke with the Mayor on putting together a grants policy manual, in order to clear up the internal controls finding in the audit.

Mr. Welch just wanted to point out that he will be gone from July 12- August 11th for medical reason.

Borough Representative

None

City Clerk, Kathy Weber

Should be back in the office on Monday July 13th 2015

ONGOING PROJECTS

Karen Lane – Itiadori will be here this summer. This will be the last year because they will be closing their Jr. High School. We have a little bit of money in the sister city fund, \$300 to be exact. Our family usually funds a lot of this ourselves and will not be able to do that this year so we will be looking for some money from somewhere else so we can host them. We are also going to work on a group that will hopefully be going there next May when school gets out. We are going to fundraise all winter for this. Anyone who would like to donate to the group that is coming in August would be lovely. If you would like to homestay one of the kids that would be great and please let us know.

Mr. McGhee – Through the city I would like to give \$100 donation to help support the event.

Ms. Holm – I would like to add \$60 to that.

Mr. Welch – Here is \$40 more

Ms. Holm – can you say aloud your contact information so people can get in touch with you Mrs. Lane

Karen Lane – 322-2014 phone number

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Buddy Lane 110 Lewis St

There is an Active shooter class for non-responders on Wednesday at Friends Church. All day class and it is free to the public. In March of 2016 we are looking to do some Active Shooter Training on the response side as well as some drills that will take place and we would really like the community involvement so if something like this does happen we are better prepared. I encourage you to sign up.

Joann Borgis 1130 Vicki Lane

Does not understand why we are even questioning reimbursing him for doing the correct thing. (Referring to item B)

Dawn Murphy 2644 Diamond St

Speaking on Explore Fairbanks. She gave updated graphs. North Pole bed tax is up 30% in bed tax. They have a new website. Brady Gross is the new internet publisher. We are still working with travel/trade including an increase presence with the China market. Recently some

of our people were at the International Powwow in Florida and really focused on the information. We are continuously working on air carriers. Friday July 17th at 6:00pm we will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of Condor. It will be on the Riverboat Discovery. July 13th we are working with the Downtown Association on a marijuana update, tourism and marijuana in our community. It will be located at 514 2nd Ave in the Lathrop Building. From 6-8 PM

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT BY BUDDY LANE FOR DAMAGES SUSTAINED TO PERSONAL ATV WHILE PERFORMING CITY BUSINESS.

Chief Lane gave introduction to this request: During the early morning hours of June 19th somewhere around 3am, we were dispatched to a large column of black smoke coming from somewhere behind the high school. We could see the smoke from the dyke so we knew it was outside the city but we didn't know what was burning or how intense it was burning, if it was spreading...due to the weather conditions he did not want to wait. They contacted Forestry and they had nothing that could respond at the time. So he made the decision that they needed an ATV and also made the decision to grab his personal one because it was the closest one available. We were making our way down the slow at a very slow speed and came across a hole that was deeper than 4.5 feet or so. At that time the ATV rolled over onto its side and disappeared under the water as we escaped out the passenger side of the ATV. The machine was under the water for about 2 hours maybe a little bit longer before we were able to retrieve it and take it to Fairbanks and have the fluids changed and the motor gone through. It was not a joy ride. I would have commandeered another ATV if it had been there or closer. The fire was dangerously close and we wanted to make sure it didn't spread to the Refinery, the High School and other places that were nearby. I felt it was important to go back there and see what was burning. It ended up being a pickup truck that was sitting in the middle of one of the sloughs and was not going anywhere.

Discussion

Mr. Welch – When you went into the water, you said you had to get out on the passenger side? How deep was the water for you?

Chief Lane state that he ended up having to swim to shore.

Ms. Holm – Chief do you have insurance coverage?

Mr. Lane stated that no he did not.

Mr. Smith – Same question as Ms. Holm. He asked how far away was the fire was from where the ATV tipped?

Chief Lane said it was about 500 yards as a crow flies.

Mr. Smith asked if there anyway the Fire Department could have used their cool new ladder truck with the water?

Chief Lane said no.

Mr. McGhee – At first glance I am not in favor of it, as you being the Chief, what would happen if a subordinate did that and you were out of town? Another thought, as a trained fire person, wouldn't you have noticed that the column of smoke hadn't moved in the time it took for you to go to your house and grab your own ATV? The other thing about the commandeering, we do not have the right to do that, we are not in marshal law. Why didn't you think about using the ladder truck to get a higher view? So I am struggling to approve this.

Chief Lane said that if one of his subordinates had done this he would have taken the same action. He people don't sit around in his department. A lot of people in the fire service use their own person stuff because budgets don't allow it. The Police Dept. has an ATV and there was a police officer on duty and at no time did he say that the Fire Dept. could use the ATV. They have asked before and the Police Dept. did not allow it because the Fire Dept. did not have certified training on the apparatus. Chief Lane stated that he had more hours on an ATV than most of the officers that are certified.

Ms. Hunter – How did you end up getting involved? Were you on duty?

Chief Lane said that a police officer saw the column of smoke and called it in and the fire department was dispatched. He is on call 24 hours a day.

Ms. Holm – How many employees assisted you while you were on your ATV with another deputy chief?

Chief Lane said that their engine responded initially and they staged it until they found out what was going on.

Ms. Holm asked if he had pictures.

Chief Lane said that there were pictures but he had not seen them.

Ms. Holm asked if this took place in city limits.

Chief Lane said that it did not take place in city limits.

Ms. Holm said that she almost feels like we need to ask a lawyer on what we are responsible for as a City because if Bill Butler had a piece backhoe and needed to get into the ground and something happened and his piece of machinery was broken because he made that decision would the City be liable because we are paying employees to sit around and wait for something to happen.

Chief Lane stated that if another call had come in his employees would have responded to that call.

Mr. Welch – Had forestry not been able to respond and had it been a bigger issue would you still have used your personal ATV to go back there even though you didn't know what you were up against?

Chief Lane said that if it had gotten into the black spruce they would have had to take action.

Mr. McGhee – How many other respondents would have come if there were an actual fire in the black spruce?

Chief Lane stated that probably everyone in the borough would have responded to it.

Public comment

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Approve the request for reimbursement by Buddy Lane for damages sustained to personal ATV while performing city business

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

Mr. McGhee – My only concern is that going out in a personal ATV to go investigate what the fire was seems like a high liability. I have a hard time justifying using a personal vehicle when we have vehicles here.

Mr. Welch – I'm of the opinion that the chief acted for the wellbeing of the city and to protect it like he should. We need to create an SOP for the city between the police and the fire department. I would like to see him reimbursed.

Mr. McCarthy – I am really happy that we have a fire chief that is willing to go out there and I am glad that nobody got hurt. It would have been very risky and scary if he were to have done nothing. I am fully in favor for his reimbursement. It brings up a few points that the Police Department and the Fire Department can work out.

Mayor Ward – developing an official SOP is definitely something that will be coming up. Chief

Dutra has said there is no issue with the fire departments use of the ATV. It was the previous chief that had issues.

Ms. Hunter – I also am uncomfortable about what took place. Taking matters into your own hands is something I kind of have an issue with but will probably be leaning more towards the reimbursement. Somehow I am just not in full agreement with the action he took.

Mr. McGhee – He is the chief, he made the decision. Chief Lane should decide which line item it will come out of the department. I would think that with his expertise he would be able to tell by the coloration of the fire, the disbursement of the fire, how fast the fire is growing in the amount of time he has been watching it. I challenge him on the fact that he had to go and see if it was an actual forest fire.

Ms. Holm – Maybe we should bring this to the borough since it wasn't in city limits. We shouldn't punish our own citizens because of this situation. We shouldn't have to pay for personal items.

**Reimbursement Request for Chief Lane:
PASSED**

Yes: 4 – Welch, McGhee, McCarthy, Smith

No: 3 – Hunter, Holm, Ward

Absent: 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Welch - Our sense of community pride is one thing that has really kept me here. Will be leaving July 12th through August 11th. Will be in a Swedish hospital in Seattle and then the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Mr. McGhee – Sorry I did not make it to the planning session. I hope this plan really emphasizes the things that will help the families and residents of our residential community. The heat is dangerous and the fires are dangerous. Everyone be careful. I did have a wonderful 4th of July and got to see a lot of wonderful things around town.

Mr. McCarthy – I will jump on the theme city idea. There are companies out there that like doing themed towns and considering almost all the naysayers are all gone it's something to look at again.

Mr. Smith – I want to thank everyone that came out today. I went to go and check out the Elodea in the slough and sure enough down by Badger Gas right where people fish it was filled with it. It was nice to see it hands on after getting a definition of what it is and how it works. I see great things with this AGNEW Beck trying to reinvent a lot of communities around Alaska.

I am glad they are participating with North Pole to make North Pole a better and brighter place. Hope everyone is enjoying this 90 degree weather

Ms. Hunter – Thank you Mayor for all you and the committee have done. I am overwhelmed that over 300 people came to our amazing race. There were a lot of people at the booths also. We need to shame the newspaper to give the City of North Pole equal opportunity. As far as the theme city, she doesn't see why we can't work around the problems and work outside the box.

Ms. Holm - I also enjoyed our strategic planning session. Not all the businesses that were involved in the theme city are not shut down.

Mayor Ward - I be here for our next meeting of July 20th. Mr. Smith will be acting as Mayor and conducting the meeting. He encouraged the other council members to attend to make sure the City had a quorum.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Welch

The regular meeting of July 6, 2015 adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, August 3, 2015.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk