



**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 8, 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 Tuesday, September 8, 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 Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman Welch

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the Agenda of September 8, 2015

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

Mr. Welch moved to amend by consenting the following items:

New Business

- a. Approval of 2015 Election Board
- b. Approval of Engineering Consulting Contracts for Plan Review and Inspections of Eagles Landing Senior Community Project

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

None

On the Amendment

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

On the agenda as amended

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Holm moved to Approve the minutes of August 17, 2015

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Every third Friday of the month is Muffins with the Mayor. Please mark your calendars and come have some muffins and coffee to start your day. We can and do talk about anything important to in the community.

The Festival Committee is calling on all organizations and community groups that do events in North Pole to participate in a planning effort to identify all of the wonderful activities that our community does each year. The idea is to sort all events by calendar quarter and put together an annual events agenda for each year. The second part of this effort is to see where organizations can assist or help each other out to make our community events even better. The first meeting will be September 22nd here at City Hall and then every first and second Tuesday of the month until the end of the year.

Staff and I have been working with the FNSB to find and identify areas in the City of North Pole for temporary air quality monitors. Part of the issue that we have identified is the Hurst Road monitor (the only North Pole monitor) shows very dirty air and is (in my opinion) not reflective of the City or the area as a whole. What borough staff and City staff are looking to do is identify two sites close to each other that we can move the monitor to each year to get a better idea of what our air quality is in the city.

The City has been engaged in conversations with Air Force about potentially providing water to the Moose Creek area due to the PFOS contamination. Bill and I met today with Mayor Luke Hopkins, PDC, and the Air Force Remedial team for contaminated sites. The City has capacity to provide the water but there are lots of political and technical questions to answer. Be looking for a resolution sometime later this month.

Thursday this week, Bill and I have a meeting with DEC in regards to the expansion of the City Utility for the sulfolane plume. The City is continuing to pursue all avenues to bring resolution to the sulfolane contamination within our boundaries.

September 18th is the POW-MIA ceremony at Eielson AFB Memorial Park. The event is from 4-5pm. Council, please let me know if you are interested in attending with me so I can get a pass.

September 19th is the Preparedness Fair at the Carlson Center, if you have never been it's a great opportunity to learn about what you need to do to prepare for an emergency.

September 21st is the dedication ceremony for the Healy #2 Power plant restart. If any council members are interested in attending the ceremony starts at 11:00 a.m. and we should be back by 4:30.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Mr. Smith asked where the monitoring site was on Hurst Rd.

Mayor Ward stated that it was at the volunteer fire department.

Ms. Hunter asked if sales tax was down because of the non sale of fireworks.

Mayor Ward stated that we haven't seen that much of a difference but the sales would come up as the vendors would be selling at the end of the year.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- None

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Det. Bruce Milne received the officer of the year award for 2014 for his outstanding
- The following officers were recognized for their work on the abduction case in North Pole:

1. Sgt. Bill Bellant
2. Lt. Chad Rathbun
3. Officer Jed Smith
4. Chief Steve Dutra

- Chief Dutra read the letter into the record from the IRS concerning Det. John Stewart. It reads as follows:

On behalf of the Seattle Field Office, I would like to express my appreciation for the ability, effort, and attitude of Detective John Stewart. Detective Stewart was instrumental in the investigation and prosecution of several of the highest level Drug Trafficking organizations operating in the FNSB. All of the investigations were multi-state organizations and involved hundreds of thousands of dollars in money laundering and multi kilo levels of methamphetamine and heroin or thousands of OxyContin pills. Federal prosecutions were brought against residents of Fairbanks, North Pole, Anchorage as well as Las Vegas, Nevada and Denver, Colorado. Well over twenty individuals were prosecuted for federal drug and money laundering conspiracies. Detective Stewart's efforts also helped with the seizure and forfeiture of over \$500,000. The North Pole Police Department received several hundred thousand dollars on account of Detective Stewart's efforts.

Detective Stewart worked diligently with Anchorage based IRS-Criminal Investigation Special Agent Lawrence Calderone as well as agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in identifying potential witnesses and co-conspirators involved in drug trafficking and money laundering. Detective Stewart possessed detailed knowledge of local drug dealers, their associated, and their affiliations in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Detective Stewart was an integral part of all aspects of the investigations. He participated in interviews, surveillance, search warrants and arrests.

Thank you once again for the assistance your agency has provided. If you have any questions, please contact Supervisory Special Agent Kevin Key at (907) 271-6245.

Sincerely,

Teri L. Alexander
Special Agent in charge
IRS-Criminal Investigation
Seattle Field Office
915 – 2nd Avenue, Room 2301
Seattle, WA 98174

Fire Department, Chief Lane

-

Borough Representative

- None

Director of City Services

Building Department

- No new building permits issued.
- Plans submitted for Eagles Landing Senior Community project included plans for the Assisted Living building, Phase 1 of the Community Center and Apartments P-5 and P-6.
 - Plan review and building inspections contracts before the Council this evening.
 - Plans submitted for the water and sewer system extensions in the development.

Public Works

- Windows in upper level of City Hall replaced
- Brush cutting around the City completed for the season.

- FMATS 2015 project has begun in City
 - Paving street approaches on 5th & 8th Avenues not paved in previous projects.
 - Repaving Ouida Way starting this week—pavement removal and new asphalt.
- Eielson AFB has surplus their Youth Services skateboard park equipment to the City.
 - The surplus equipment will enable us to increase the quality of the park experience for local youth.

Utility Department

- On August 28 submitted response to Notice of Violation requirements to ADEC.
 - Engineer analyzed the two most viable options—a longer discharge sewer main and an infiltration pond.
 - Both solutions have an estimated cost in excess of \$5 million.
 - Next stage is negotiating with ADEC the next steps—selecting a single option, generating engineering plans and agreeing upon an implementation timeline.
- Initial discussions were held between the City and Eielson AFB about the city’s utility being a source of piped drinking water to the contaminated sites in Moose Creek.
- Began initial discussion with Stantec (formerly USKH) about being the wastewater engineer for the Phase 3 lift station rehabilitation project (70% funded by ADEC).

Natural Gas Utility Board

- IGU is entering discussions with ADIEA about IGU becoming the “local control entity” to manage a combined IGU and Fairbanks Natural Gas.
- IGU is in final stage of hiring a fulltime general manager to manage the day-to-day operations of the utility.
 - Steve Haagenson, an IGU board member and former GVEA CEO, was serving as the temporary general manager since IGU was formed.

Mr. Welch asked why the sidewalks were not refurbished on St. Nicholas Drive from Forbes Laundry to Forbes Square and what remedy the City would have.

Mr. Butler replied that it was a sore subject with him also. Property owners needed to grant easement to DOT and they were not willing to do that. He stated that the City could go out and do it themselves but it would come at a cost.

Ms. Holm said that those properties were under new ownership and that it could be a possibility that they would be in favor of that now.

Mr. Butler said that the City could possibly nominate it again for an FMATS project.

Mr. Smith asked about the Stillmeyer neighborhood and the project that was done.

Mr. Butler said that it was a private system and that the City took it over and replaced the water system with grants and loans.

Mr. Smith asked about the standing water on the pavement.

Mr. Butler said that the water drains down from Santa Claus Lane and a French drain was put in to drain in slowly. In the dog park itself, it is lower and the trees are dying.

Mr. Smith said that two lights are out in town and if we could go to LED's.

Mr. Butler said that typically it is expensive to get the lift truck and they wait until there are about 4 out before they replace them. He stated that the LED's light do not fit in the lights we currently have.

Ms. Hunter asked about the water/sewer in the Eagles Landing project and who would be inspecting that.

Mr. Butler said that is something that is submitted to the building department but would go to a civil engineer for approval and the approval of the City Council.

Ms. Hunter asked if the Moose Creek water issue is to individual homes or would it come to North Pole. She also asked about the high water in the Tanana River and if the canal was now filled with water.

Mr. Butler said that the Moose Creek water issue is in a preliminary status. There is flow in the Tanana River now and we have had a technical violation twice and we must come up with a solution that will satisfy DEC.

City Clerk, Kathy Weber

- We continue to archive records for the City of North Pole. Aaron Jacobson has been working in the archive room. We are in the process of categorizing and labeling binders and books. This is a tedious job and Aaron has done a wonderful job helping to organize and make a list of everything in the archives.
- To date we have scanned a small amount of the legal documents from Zane Wilson and are prepared to receive documents as they come in. We have been given a document production protocol from the State of Alaska as to how they want these documents entered and categorized. Electronically stored information also has special production and storage requirements. Our Laserfiche system can handle all of these functions as long as we have the staff in place and it will pay off over the course of this event. These will be categorized for easy access for future reference for the City Attorney, Council, and eventually the public.

- The City has received one write-in candidate this past week and her name is La Nae Bellamy. Her name will not be on the ballot.
- Reminder – If you are wanting to attend the AML Annual Local Government Conference from November 16 – 20th please contact me as soon as possible so I can book your hotel and airfare. The hotel rooms go quickly.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF 2015 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM, EMW-2015-SS-00026-S01 STATE PROGRAM NO:20SHSP-GY15

Chief Lane said that each year the City applies for grant monies. This year we received money from Homeland Security. He recommended tabling this grant until the meeting of September 21, 2015.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Welch *moved to* Table the 2015 State Homeland Security Program, Emw-2015-Ss-00026-S01 State Program No.:20shsp-Gy15 until the meeting of September 21, 2015.

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

ORDINANCE 15-14, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2015 BUDGET

Mayor Ward went through the budget and explained to the council the amendments and the new ordinance that he created. He pointed out that the City has transferred in to fund balance in excess of \$500,000 and when there is a down year we may have to draw from that.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Welch *moved to* Introduce and Advance Ord 15-14, An Ordinance Amending the 2015 Budget

Seconded by Ms. Hunter

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Hunter – added her condolences to Tricia Fogarty. She said that Ed Bellmay was a friend of hers and he was a wonderful clock maker and other fine woodworking. He was also the best fisherman that she knew and didn't ever come back without some fish. There are two others that passed this week, Ethel Stoneman, who worked many years with Ice Alaska, and a longtime resident and active member of the Senior Center. The third person that passed was Ms. Bartlett who was the daughter of Bartlett for whom Bartlett Hall was named for and was also in the state legislature.

Ms. Holm wished Mike Welch a Happy Birthday. The last couple of weeks they have been out filming with the production company and had nothing but great things to say about the Mayor and his family. She said they built a cabin out of Fairbanks and had their great reveal this past week. This summer their family has just been out hiking and enjoying outdoors.

Mr. Welch said he is glad to be back. He had a very hectic time this year. His mother passed away in July in Savannah, Georgia. He is happy to say that he made it to the Mayo Clinic and got the answers that he has been looking for, for quite a long time. He said that the Mayo Clinic is a 1st class clinic. He had the City in mind even while he was traveling and kept the Strategic Planning in mind while going through the different communities. The lowest sales tax was 7%. He is happy to be back.

Mr. McGhee said he is grateful to be here. He had two friends die last week and also had a minor stroke himself this past week. He is grateful that it was a minor stroke and will recover just fine. As stubborn as he is he can't sit home and just wanted to be here. If anyone wonders why he is quiet it's because he has to take it slow. He told the clerk before the meeting that he has a monitor on his chest and if it goes off not to worry because Chief Lane was here. Mr. McGhee state that it is amazing how we all are so affected by everyone and their families. He was grateful to be here tonight.

Mr. McCarthy – no comment

Mr. Smith – wished everyone the best on their health. The fall weather is here and a great time to go for a drive. Great to see people using bike paths and the dog park.

Mr. Ward said it is great to live in community like North Pole. He is glad that everyone is here tonight. He has heard from many people in the community about the North Pole Strategic Planning and is happy with responses. He encouraged everyone to come out at 6 pm for the Festival Committee meeting and to bring your thoughts and ideas and share involvement in past events. The Mayors bowl is on Saturday September 19th at 7pm at Lathrop High School. Bring your hat and gloves and something to sit on.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Welch

The regular meeting of September 8, 2015 adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, September 21, 2015.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk