



**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 5, 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, October 5, 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, October 5, 2015 at 7:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilwoman Holm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the Agenda of October 5, 2015

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

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

New Business

- a. Resolution 15-15, A Resolution of the City of North Pole, Alaska urging the U.S. Air Force F-35A Operational Bed Down – Pacific Environmental Impact Statement, which

is to base up to 54 F-35A aircraft at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska as an additive operational mission to the 354th Fighter Wing.

c. Ordinance 15-16, an Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to modify Chapter 8.04.080 – Nuisances, Unwholesome Wells or Ground Water.

Seconded by Mr. Welch

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

Mr. Welch moved to Approve the minutes of September 21, 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 next meeting will be October 6th at Mt McKinley Bank They will be every first and second Tuesday of the month until the end of the year, all of the next meetings will be at City Hall and start at 6pm. .

September 24th was the homecoming parade for the High School, I was asked to judge this year and it was great to see the excitement from the high schoolers. Ms. Atkins, the student council advisor commented that it was getting hard to find support for the homecoming floats. Materials and trailers have increasingly been difficult to find. If you are interested in helping next year please let me know, I would like to try and couple class years with members of the community who can help in this iconic tradition.

October 12th Congressman Don Young will be in North Pole to address local issues. As part of the congressman's statewide trip he would like to reach out to local communities to address the local issues. Please help Give Don Young a warm Welcome to North Pole on October 12th in the Council Chambers at 2:30pm.

Budget Season is upon us and we are diligently working on the 2016 budget. Mark your calendars the 2016 proposed Budget will be released on October 22nd and work sessions will begin Tuesday October 27th with Revenues, Admin, Professional Services and other funds. Wednesday October 28th will be Utility Department, Building Dept, and Public Works. Thursday October 29th will be Public Safety, Police and Fire. All workshops will begin promptly at 6:00 pm and are open to the public.

Red Cross opened up a warming station at the North Pole Fire Department Annex during the power outage last week.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Ms. Holm asked when the new council would be sworn in.

Ms. Weber stated that they would be sworn in on October 19th and will take office on October 26th.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Received \$53,000 from the state for PFD garnishments.
- Renee, Stephanie, and Tricia will be out of the office next week for the Caselle conference.
- The Improvement Districts module has been fixed.
- There is a meeting set up with Kohler, Schmitt, & Hutchison to set a date for updating the chart of accounts.

Police Department, Lt. Rathbun

None

Fire Department, Deputy Chief Coon

None

Borough Representative

Mayor Ward said there was a zoning ordinance that went late into the night and there is still work to be done on it.

Director of City Services

Building Department

- Petro Star Refinery began construction of asphalt plant without necessary permits.
 - Did apply for and received permits of a driveway and an electrical switching building.
 - Drive-by inspection revealed significant construction was started without permits for other structures and facilities.
 - State Fire Marshal issued a stop work order on Friday because of the lack of permits
 - Working with Petro Star and State Fire Marshal to support permitting the project within legal limits.
 - Petro Star's preliminary estimate of the project's value is \$30 million.
 - Have received an initial contact by a realtor associate with property purchases within City for a Fred Meyers and building permitting process.
 - There appear to be some bright spots that may help offset the loss of property taxes from the shutdown of the Flint Hills Refinery.

Public Works

- Conducted first snowplowing last week for this winter season.
 - DOT did plow state roads within the City as part of the recent snowfall.
- New Public Works truck originally scheduled for delivery last week has not arrived, but received a call from dealership that delivery date is Thursday.
- All summer hires have now left employment with the City for this season.
- Roundabouts—dead flowers removed and preparing the Christmas trees for display

Utility Department

- Power outages affected lift stations around the City beginning last Tuesday at 5:00 pm.
 - Two lift stations had their power restored within a day.
 - Two lift stations were without power until 1:00 pm on Friday—3 days.
 - Utility staff had to work around-the-clock using generators to keep lift stations operating.
- Sewer outfall and Notice of Violation
 - As of Council meeting, no feedback from ADEC.
 - The two alternatives—a new extended sewer main and a discharge pond—both seem equally feasible.
 - Discussions with ADEC and other permitting agencies critical to making a final decision.
- Utility continues to prepare for winter—cleaning lift stations, winterizing fire hydrants, etc.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- In final negotiations with candidate for the IGU General Manager position.

Mr. McGhee asked about the plowing of snow that the we had.

Mr. Welch asked about Petro Star and permits and if they were penalized for getting those permits.

Mr. Welch asked about the generators and what type of generators that the lift stations have and if the City should have permanent generators at those locations.

Mr. Butler said there were portable generators and that the permanent generators were very expensive. They are looking at generators for the water circulation pumps.

Ms. Holm asked who to contact for snow removal.

Mr. Butler said they can contact himself or Cody Lougee.

Ms. Hunter asked how big 100,000 sq. feet compares to the stores in town. Ms. Hunter also asked about the Eagle Landing Community and how it was going.

Mr. Butler said that there has been no further work done.

Mr. Smith asked about the new service truck and if a plow would be put on it.

Mr. Butler said there were no funds to do that this year but possibly next year.

City Clerk, Kathy Weber

- Election Day is Tuesday, October 6th.
- Please stay behind after the meeting to help set up for tomorrow. I will be at City Hall along with our elections workers tomorrow morning at 6:00 a.m.
- Holiday Heights has requested me to vote those residents who cannot come to City Hall. If you know anyone in the City limits of North Pole that would like to vote and is unable to get out please have them contact my office.
- The bed tax grant application is online for organizations to apply for the 2016 discretionary funds. Applications will be accepted until the last business day of October in the clerks office.
- Congressman Don Young will be at North Pole City Hall on Monday, October 12, 2015 from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Coffee and cookies will be provided.
- In case of inclement weather conditions on election day, look for signage on the entrance of the polling place providing the new polling place location or go to another polling place that is open. If you are unable to vote at your designated precinct, voters may vote a questioned ballot.
 - Borough Voters may cast a questioned ballot for the Borough Mayor, Borough Assembly, School Board, IGU Board and FNSB Proposition 1 at any Borough Precinct, City of Fairbanks Precinct or City of North Pole Precinct.
 - City of North Pole Voters may cast a ballot for North Pole City Mayor, North Pole City Council, Borough Mayor, Borough Assembly, School Board, IGU Board and FNSB Proposition 1 at the North Pole Precinct.
 - Contact the Borough Clerk or City of North Pole Clerk or visit the Borough website at www.fnsb.us for more information on polling place locations.

- A group of us will be going in to the FNSB tomorrow night to count write-in votes. This will be a late night as we have to wait until the election has been transmitted and ballots delivered to the Borough.
- New council members and Mayor will be sworn in on October 19th and will take office on October 26th.
- The North Pole Community Health Fair will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the North Pole Plaza Mall. They will be doing health education & screenings for blood pressure, vision, glaucoma along with other screenings. They do not accept health insurance but to accept cash, check and Visa/MC only. For more information call 374-6853 or ahfrur@gci.net.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Santa Claus – 350 S. Santa Claus Lane, North Pole, AK

Mr. Claus said he would like to see growth in North Pole. He gave an update on his credentials and said he was a write-in candidate for City Council.

- Aino Welch – 941 Les Rogers Turnaround

Ms. Welch said she had the opportunity to help out with the Emergency Preparedness Expo that was held in Fairbanks. She gave kudo's to the NPFM for doing a good job.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 15-15, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO AMEND TITLE 4, REVENUE AND FINANCE, CHAPTER .09, HOTEL-MOTEL ROOM TAX, SECTION .025 BED TAX GRANT DISTRIBUTION

Mayor Ward stated that this was the final reading of this ordinance and that this was brought forward to give clarification to the process. He went over the changes and hoped to move forward.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Welch *moved to* adopt Ordinance 15-15, an Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to amend Title 4, Revenue and Finance, Chapter .09, Hotel-Motel Room Tax, Section .025 Bed Tax Grant Distribution

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 15-16, A REOLUTION PETITIONING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO ADOPT AN OFFSITE CLEANUP STANDART FOR SULFOLANE IN NORTH POLE THAT IS THE LOWEST PRACTICAL LEVEL OF CONTAMINATION BASED ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN HELATH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Mayor Ward gave the introduction to this resolution and updated the public and council.

Public Comment

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Adopt Resolution 15-16, A Resolution petitioning the State of Alaska to adopt an offsite cleanup standard for sulfolane in North Pole that is the lowest practical level of contamination based on the protection of human health, safety, welfare, and the environment

Seconded *by* Mr. Welch

Mr. McGee *moved to* amend to substitute Resolution 15-16a A Resolution petitioning the State of Alaska to adopt an offsite cleanup standard for sulfolane in North Pole that is the lowest practical level of contamination based on the protection of human health, safety, welfare, and the environment

Seconded *by* Mr. Welch

Discussion

Mayor Ward went over some of the changes in the Resolution that he made.

Ms. Hunter asked if the City should wait for the State to develop a cleanup standard and if that would affect the City's ability to respond to the lawsuit and would it be a compelling reason to try and get them to forward.

Mayor Ward said that this goes back to the title of the ordinance, the health, safety & welfare, and environment of the City.

Mr. Smith said that this has taken over six years and he liked how the Mayor put this together.

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. McGhee – encouraged everyone to get out and vote. He gave kudo's to GVEA as his power was only off for 1hr 45 minutes. Over the years he has only lost his power a maximum of 3 hours at one time. The Knotty shop was out for 6 days. He is grateful for the support system in our community.

Ms. Holm– have a good night

Ms. Hunter – was in Fairbanks when the power outage happened. There were a lot of horns at the intersection of college and Steese. She asked everyone to be extra patient of other drivers when in a situation where the power is out and lights are not working. Ms. Hunter reiterated what has been said, that this is a great community to live in and when a disaster happens when we pull together and that says a lot. She reminded everyone to vote tomorrow.

Mr. Smith – thanked everyone for coming out and to drive cautiously as there are lots of kids out.

Mr. McCarthy – no comment

Mr. Welch – lost power for a little more than 3 days. What was nice was the neighbors had them over for dinner and it was great to have a place to sit down for dinner and that speaks well of our community. He had stem cells put in his shoulder today and will be in a lot of pain for a couple of weeks. He said it takes months to grow cartilage and hopes that this works out. He said he will find a way to get out and vote tomorrow and did not seek to run again because of health issues. Congratulations to all the write-in candidates tomorrow.

Mayor Ward – applauded the community on the winter storm and it was great seeing the community come together. It was nice to see neighbors came together and helped each other. It says a lot of a community when they come together in times of trouble and difficulty.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.*

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

The regular meeting of October 5, 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, October 19, 2015.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk