



**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 19, 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 19, 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 October 19, 2015

Seconded by Mr. Welch

Discussion

None

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

11. Old Business

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

12. New Business

- a. Appointment of Bed Tax Committee

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 October 5, 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 for this special event, all are welcome from 8-10 am here at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

The Festival Committee is having success meeting with local groups and coordinating activities and calendars. We are still in need of more participation and help. The committee will meet every first and third Tuesday of the month until the end of the year, all of the next meetings will be at City Hall and start at 6pm.

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.

Petro Star, one of our local refineries, announced last week that they were building an asphalt plant and tank storage at their North Pole Refinery. The Petro Star Plant will be roughly the same size as the facility at the Flint Hills Refinery, just newer. The vacuum distillation tower will fill a current void in the interior and Northern Region construction market as all asphalt oil for local paving jobs has come from Cook Inlet over 400 miles away.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission has been meeting in regards to the CEDS or Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The FNSB CEDS needs to be updated every five years. During our preliminary edit the commission was able to give some great advice and offer up several suggestions for the North Pole Area in particular. The CEDS is important to North Pole as it opens opportunity for development of our local economy. Our strategic planning consultant has also been in touch with the CEDS contractor.

Remember Bed Tax annual reports and applications are due by the last business day in October. The last business day this year is October 30th. That is 11 days away!

FYI: Christmas is 67 days away!

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- None

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Thanked Councilwoman Hunter and Councilman Welch for all their efforts during their tenure.
- Preparedness EXPO.
- 600 glow sticks will be handed out again this year for Halloween.
- Appointed to the Alaska Association of Police Chiefs.
- Lantz Dahlke will be sworn in tonight and will serve as a volunteer detective with NPPD.
- Hot Topics conference in Anchorage on October 5th & 6th. Lots of conversation on marijuana testing, body cams, liability, etc.
- Guys Read program is going great. Lt. Rathbun, Officer Fisher, and Chief Dutra are participating in that at NPE.
- Lt. Rathbun attended the whole week of the Homeland Security Conference in Anchorage.

Fire Department, Chief Lane

- Thanked Councilwoman Hunter and Councilman Welch for their service to the community.
- Homeland Security Training in Anchorage the week of October 6th.
- Training with Police Officers for active shooters
- March is Alaska Shield
- October is Fire Prevention Month
- Clocks change on Sunday, November 1, 2015. Set your clocks back 1 hour.
- Worked with Red Cross when power was down and had Fire Department Annex open for those who needed to keep warm. The department has approximately 50 cots and sleeping bags.
- Preparedness EXPO went well this year.

Borough Representative

- Updated council on borough.
- Wood stove exchange program.

Director of City Services

Building Department

- Negotiated a Blanket Building Permit with Petro Star Refinery for asphalt plant.
- Asphalt plant is being constructed as a design-build—each stage of each structure is being built in stages as design and engineering is completed.
- 11 separate structures are part of the project.
- The blanket permit approach makes managing the permitting, construction and inspection process easier for the City and Petro Star to manage.

Public Works

- New public works pickup truck delivered last week.
 - Waiting for paperwork from dealer before can put vehicle in service.
- Finalizing the preparation of the Christmas decorations before installation.
 - Install decorations as a single effort because rent a lift truck to help install some of the decorations.
 - Lift truck will also be used for streetlight maintenance.

Utility Department

- Had first meeting with engineer to begin design work for Phase 3 lift station rehabilitation project.
- Goal is to bid the project in early spring 2016; hire a construction contractor in April; begin field construction work in May; with substantial completion in September.
- Sewer outfall and Notice of Violation.
 - ADEC responded to City's NOV submission.
 - Approved both proposed options as acceptable--a new extended sewer main and a discharge pond.
 - City needs to propose final selection by mid-December.
 - Need clarification of ADEC's required "completion date" which they stated as October 2016.
 - Would be difficult to complete engineering and required permitting by October 2016.
 - Meeting scheduled with ADEC on Wednesday October 21 to clarify their expectations.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- Pressure monitoring of the installed gas lines is underway.
 - Several City facilities are serving as monitoring sites.
- Right-of-Way restoration is in its very last stages.
- Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority has continued hold on completing design for Phase 2 of the IGU build-out.
 - Phase 2 of build-out includes a small amount of the northern section of the City.

City Clerk, Kathy Weber

- Election Day was Tuesday, October 6th and was held without any problems. Many thanks go out to all our volunteers and for the long hours they put in.

- 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 City Clerk's office.
- The next council meeting will be on Monday, November 2, 2015 and a Resolution for moving the meeting of November 16th to November 23rd due to AML will be on the Agenda November 2nd.
- Friday, October 30th - North Pole Elementary Fall Carnival from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Update on North Pole Strategic Planning – Shelley Wade

- Implementing a community engagement process
- Completed over 30 interviews.
- Received 300 responses on survey.
- Small group conversations with representative stakeholders (Schools).
- Been to multiple community events (booth at Safeway on election day)
- Learning on past planning efforts.
- Shared values/visions.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 15-17, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE'S POSITION ON WATER AND SEWER UTILITY EXPANSION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF ITS BOUNDARY'S FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING WATER TO PROPERTIES AFFECTED BY GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION OR TO THOSE WHO DESIRE PIPED WATER OR SEWER SERVICES MAYOR WARD GAVE THE INTRODUCTION TO THIS RESOLUTION AND UPDATED THE PUBLIC AND COUNCIL.

Mayor Ward gave the introduction to this Resolution. He said that they do know that there are areas of contamination in North Pole and areas inside the City that still do not have piped water. This Resolution would be able to provide water to people inside and outside the City. He felt that the City would be able to bring the cost of the project down with the implementation of new funding.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Welch *moved to Adopt Resolution 15-17, A Resolution of the City of North Pole's position on water and sewer utility expansion inside and outside of its boundary's for the purpose of providing water to properties affected by groundwater contamination or to those who desire piped water or sewer services*

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Holm– pleasure serving with council members Welch and Hunter. She hopes to see them in a year.

Ms. Hunter – been on honor and pleasure serving on the council This council has evolved into a professional and collegial group and hopes it continues with the newly elected officials coming on board. Our Mayor has brought a new maturity to our City and city government. She thanked him for everything he's done and has brought the City further along than any other Mayor she has worked with. She told the new council members to not be afraid to ask questions and its good to have diverse opinions.

Mr. Smith – thanked Councilwoman Hunter and Councilman Welch for their service and making North Pole what it is today. Drive safely as the black ice is dangerous. He looks forward to working with Santa and Ms. Dawson.

Mr. McCarthy – said he has been on the council for a long time and Councilwoman Hunter has been there with him. He thanked Mr. Welch for his service and wished him well. Thanked the Mayor and Santa for running for office

Mr. Welch – he likes the way the council is organized and it is up for the future council to keep it that was. He wouldn't have left the council but he has health issues that he needs to take care of. The City's EMT's and fire department are crucial to his being here tonight. He is happy with

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the Strategic Planning and is concerned how to get the public involved. He wished Santa Claus and Elyse Dawson the best. Mr. Welch said he still had the Mayor's back and would be available to any of the council members.

Mr. McGhee – thanked Councilman Welch for his time on the council and encouraged his wife to run for office. He said it was an honor to serve with her on the council as well as with her husband. When he searched the web for the North Pole City Council all he found was Santa Claus. He wished the new council members lots of luck.

Mayor Ward – he thanked Ms. Hunter and Mr. Welch for their service as there is no one quite like them and wished them the best. He encouraged them to stay involved. He is looking forward to the next three years serving the community. He is pleased with the Strategic Planning and a great opportunity to leave a legacy.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Welch *moved to* adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Seconded *by* Ms. Hunter

The regular meeting of October 19, 2015 adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, November 2, 2015.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk