



**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, May 16, 2016 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, May 16, 2016 to order at 7:02 p.m.

*There were present:*

- Mr. McCarthy – Mayor Pro Tem**
- Mr. Smith – Deputy Mayor Pro Tem**
- Ms. Holm – Alt. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem**
- Ms. Dawson**
- Mr. McGhee**
- Mr. Claus**
- Mayor Ward**

*Absent/Excused*

**Excused**

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

Led by Mayor Ward

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Preston Smith

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the Agenda of May 16, 2016**

**Seconded by Mr. McCarthy**

**Mr. McGhee moved to Amend the Agenda to Consent the following items:**

**Old Business:**

- a. Ordinance 16-09, an Ordinance to amend the 2016 budget to authorize the payment of delinquent taxes for the Stillmeyer subdivision property lot B-5 Eagle Estates in order to prevent tax foreclosure by the Fairbanks North Star Borough to protect the City’s lien position for assessments for street improvements

**New Business**

- a. Award contract for Lift Station Rehabilitation Project Phase 3 to Central Environmental Inc in the amount of \$2,160,894

**Seconded by Ms. Dawson**

**Discussion**

None

**On the Amendment**

**PASSED**

Yes: 6 –McCarthy, McGhee, Dawson, Claus, Smith, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Holm

**On the Agenda as amended**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: 6 –McCarthy, McGhee, Dawson, Claus, Smith, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Holm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Smith *moved to Approve the Minutes of May 2, 2016***

**Seconded *by Mr. Smith***

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: 6 –McCarthy, McGhee, Dawson, Claus, Smith, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Holm

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Meetings are ongoing and we are in need of help from the community. The next meeting will be May 23<sup>rd</sup> here at City Hall at 6pm. The Committee chose a theme for this year's parade and festival. Freedom in Motion!

- Auditors were at City Hall Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup>, only one council member came to talk to the auditors.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> the Army Corps of Engineers had a table top on disaster preparedness for issues with the Moose Creek Dam. The scenario was one where the dam failed. They have identified several locations or zones where the dam is most likely to fail and if it did, what would the results be. There would be very little notice of a dam failure and the location of a failure would change the outcome. The Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of creating a public information platform for citizens to get acquainted with the dam and what it means to live below it.
- I had a meeting with a technician who was able to go over the heating system here at City Hall. Unfortunately, the estimated costs are in excess of \$10,000 to repair the system but they are confident that they will be able to give better controls and fix the problems we are having through new programming.

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

- None

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

##### **Police Department, Chief Dutra**

- None

##### **Fire Dept., Chief Lane**

- None

##### **Finance, Tricia Fogarty**

- Attended AGFOA in Denali last week.
- Budget amendments will be on the agenda next week.
- Having problems with the bank reconciliation due to the conversion. As soon as those are cleared up they will be emailed to council members.

##### **Director of City Services, Bill Butler**

###### **Building Department**

- No new permit applications or permits issued since last Council meeting.

###### **Public Works**

- Begun recruiting for summer hires.

- Two former summer hires rehired—workers with experience and good work records.
- Work on summer projects beginning.
  - Routine projects— flowers plantings; clearing gravel along Santa Claus Lane along sidewalks and in drainage ditch; routine grass cutting for parks and grounds; park & trail maintenance; building maintenance; trash/dog waste station pickup; landscape watering; road striping; brush cutting along roads & trails; sidewalk sweeping.
  - Special projects planned for summer—wayfinding signage; clearing along Beaver Springs Slough at City Hall; pedestrian crossing over ditches on Santa Claus Lane (at mall); Fitness Trail signage; signage along Beaver Springs Nature Trail.
- Received match and maintenance agreements for construction of pedestrian path on Homestead Road: \$65,112 (9.03% of construction total).
  - DOT is paying for the design work.
  - Construction not expected until 2017 at earliest.
  - Working with DOT to revise agreement so funding is not due until 2017.

#### **Utility Department**

- Lift Station Rehabilitation Project: Phase 3
  - Received two bids.
  - Engineer has reviewed the lowest bidder, Central Environmental, Inc., and found it responsive to invitation to bid requirements.
  - Recommendation to fund the bid is a separate item on tonight’s agenda.
  - Bid amount is lower than expected and provides insurance if there are any unexpected issues and potential “savings” if we encounter no problems.
- Utility received the highest score on this year’s ADEC’s Alaska Clean Water Fund (ACWF) Funding Priority List for our request for a loan for the Sewer Outfall project
  - Eligible for a \$2 million loan and eligible for loan subsidy of up to \$400,000.
  - Steps in process to receive the loan:
    1. Council approves a resolution granting authority to place an item on this fall’s ballot requesting authority to incur the debt.
    2. Inform electorate of the ballot initiative.
    3. Submit ballot initiative to FNSB to place it on the fall 2016 ballot.
    4. On October 4, 2016, electorate vote on ballot initiative.
    5. Council votes to authorize submitting a loan application.
    6. Submit a formal loan application to ADEC.
    7. ADEC approves loan application.
    8. Council votes to accept the debt
    9. Only if the Utility charges expenses to the loan will the Utility accrue debt.

### **Natural Gas Utility Board**

- IGU continues negotiations with ADIEA and gas supplier Salix to secure a gas supply. The directions of the board to the negotiating team are to insist upon the goals that are the basis for IGU's creation:
  1. Cheapest gas as possible--\$15.00 mcf (thousand cubic feet) goal.
  2. As soon as possible.
  3. Delivered to as many people in the Interior as possible.
- Focus is on getting gas to North Pole area and Fairbanks (pipes are in ground in these locations)
- 2018 is the most optimistic date that gas will be available in North Pole.

Mr. McGhee asked about the surveying and yellow flags by the gasline.

Mr. Butler said that there are gas lines installed on private property and

Mr. McGhee asked about the property variance on the FNSB that is too close to property lines.

Mr. Butler said that he has seen it and that it was approved so they could sell that property.

Striping is on DOT's list of projects for 2016.

Mr. Smith said a resident in North Star Subdivision had a problem with the trees that had been cut down and left there.

Mr. Butler said that it was probably left by the gas line contractors.

Mr. Smith said that a resident was upset about the bike path on homestead and if there would be an Open House.

Mr. Butler said that there would be an Open House and the bike path would be on the airport side of the road.

Mr. Smith asked about the outfall.

Mr. Butler said that the grants are passed with the capital budget and he doesn't expect to get any State funding. They have not put a deadline on the project.

### **Borough Representative**

- Ordinance 2016-21: The wood boiler buy out ordinance passed the assembly meeting after extending the meeting to past midnight for public comment and reconvening another day. The ordinance was amended heavily with amendments changing the way the program is implemented. The transfer from the FNSB GF was increased to \$2,700,000, of which will be used to clean up the dirtiest boilers first.
- Ordinance 2016-20: The Borough Budget was passed unanimously, which from what I understand has not happened in a very long time at the Borough. The biggest concern revolved around the school district and how much they were funded at this year and what long term expectations we have for funding education.

### **City Clerk's Office, Kathy Weber**

- Ms. Weber apologized for not notifying the council in a timely manner as to the filing of the APOC forms. There were many things going on at that time and it was overlooked. She has put it on a reoccurring calendar so that won't happen again.
- Thanked Chief Dutra for nominating Glen Weber for APOA Citizen of the Year for his work and helping to organize contractors for the Trooper Gabe Rich and Scott Johnson Park. He was very grateful and humbled that he had been chosen for that prestigious award.
- Still waiting to hear back from Diana Stewart on Survey Monkey for the employee survey. Craig Kestram and Diana Stewart will be here on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> to go over the health plan. Basically there are no new changes. A copy of the renewal is on the dais.
- The meeting of June 6<sup>th</sup> will start at 5:30 as we will have a workshop on the Healthcare Plan. I will send a notice out to all employees as well.
- The Charter Commission will have its last meeting on May 31, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Ward will present his budget proposal at that time. We hope to have something on the agenda for the council at the meeting of June 20<sup>th</sup> for any proposed changes. Many thanks to the committee members, Denise Taylor, Francie Cork, Sharron Hunter, Aaron Jacobson, and Santa Claus for their time and efforts in this project.
- A registration packet for the 2016 AML Summer Conference in Wasilla, Alaska was on the dais for the council. If you are interested in attending please let the Clerk's office know. Hotel rooms are going fast and will fill up so your reservation should be complete before June 1 as AML has held rooms until that date for a reasonable price. A draft schedule for the conference has been attached.

### **ONGOING PROJECTS**

- None

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 16-10, AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL AMENDING CHAPTER 12.04, OBSTRUCTION OR ALTERATION OF STREETS, ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY, SIDEWALKS OR CITY PROPERTY**

Mayor Ward said this is repealing the portion of code that prohibits signage in the streets. It would remove that and delete the issuance of permits. It also removes section A that a violation will constitute a misdemeanor.

**Public Comment**

Bill Butler encouraged the council not to approve this ordinance as they have tried to make Santa Claus Lane a nice place and bring tourist to our community. This came up because signs were attached to the overpass and were removed. He doesn't want Public Works in the position as to which entity gets to put their sign up in the rights of way. He stated that we have an opportunity to make our community beautiful. D.O.T says that anything in the right of way is trash and should be taken down. He hopes that the council make it a policy in North Pole.

Mr. Smith asked how we would discourage youth groups stay out of there.

Mr. Butler said that the Public Works and the Police have told people to stay out of there and take the signs down.

Goldie Southwood – President Santa's Senior and NPCCC member

Ms. Southwood asked how they were going to be fair to all the groups. Many signs were on the roundabouts and sidewalks and encouraged council to be fair.

Kathy Weber – encouraged council to not approve the ordinance as she has live here for many years and likes all the improvements that have been made to beautify the City.

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* Introduce and Advance Ordinance 16-10, An Ordinance of The North Pole City Council Amending Chapter 12.04, Obstruction or Alteration of Streets, Road Rights-of-Way, Sidewalks or City Property**

**Seconded by Mr. Claus**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* amend by removing the strike out on lines 36 – 37.**

**Seconded by Mr. Claus**

**Discussion**

Mr. McGhee says the City of Fairbanks has a permit fee for hanging banners across the streets. He agrees with removing the violation but wants to see the signs kept out of the roundabouts.

**On the amendment**

**PASSED**

**Yes: 6 – McCarthy, Smith, Dawson, Claus, McGhee, Ward**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 1 – Holm**

**On the main motion as amended**

**Discussion**

Mayor Ward asked if this was the intention of the City to be all rights-of-way or only for the City rights-of-way. He wanted to know what Council's intention was and gave some examples

Mr. Smith asked how that works with people who are campaigning.

Mayor Ward stated that if its on private property there isn't much you can do about it. If its in rights-of-way it is in violation of that code.

Mr. McGhee doesn't want to take away our power of authority to take down the signs. He said that politicians are the biggest violators. There were banners that were hung on the chain link fence on the off ramp and many times there are garage sale signs in the roundabouts. There will still be people that put signs out on weekends but hopefully they'll get picked up by someone.

Mr. Smith said that by taking that away it takes away the small town feeling.

Mr. McGhee said we aren't going to do away with them. He said that when he places his ad with the Newsminer and gets his sign, it been a long time and under the State employees has an obligation to pick up signs that they see on the roadways.

Ms. Dawson was curious as to what the Mayor thought about it.

Mayor Ward said it is frustrating to not have an outlet for folks to have the opportunity to put signs up on the weekend. When you take down signs for the Chamber, Cruis'n with Santa, North Pole High School, he said that is part of getting the community out. On the other hand there have been cardboard signs, tires, and it looks like junk. He says a one size fits all doesn't fit here and people either call him or Bill Butler complaining why they can't put up a sign. On the other hand we have a state statute. 19.21.05 outside advertising and visible from primary or secondary. He doesn't know what the solution is.



Ms. Dawson asked if there was a way, like Fairbanks, to get approved for it. She said that it was ridiculous for a youth group that does a car wash to not be able to have a sign. She asked if maybe they would be able to have a permit.

Mayor Ward said that it is removing the permit process and having no signs.

Mr. Claus said that there should be a City calendar and encourage some other alternative to get the message out.

Mr. McGhee said that car washes are a one day thing holding signs. Yard sales you'll never get rid of. If we completely remove this then we don't let businesses to eliminate our ability to maintain the cleanliness of the City. The only thing Fairbanks does is banners crossing bridges or streets. If we are going to be fair we can't have the chamber putting up a sign and then not have anyone else.

#### **FAILED**

Yes: 1 – Ward

No: 5 – Smith, Dawson, Claus, McGhee, McGhee

Absent: 1 - Holm

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mr. Smith** – congratulated the class of 2016 and said that it was his 39<sup>th</sup> birthday today. He said it is great to see the neighborhoods growing.

**McCarthy** – no comment

**McGhee** – he said that they normally put out bumper stickers to watch out for motorcycles but wants to put out there to watch out for stupid motor cycle riders. Just because its motorcycle season doesn't mean that you can be unsafe. They are being unsafe and he asked to protect yourself by watching out for them.

**Dawson** – crazy to see how green things are and it seems it just happened overnight. Pollen is bad and her allergies are bad. Hopes everyone has a great night.

**Claus** – Good to see Ms. Southwood here tonight. It is also his birthday today.

**Mayor Ward** – have a great night.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to Adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.*

**Seconded by Mr. Claus**

The regular meeting of May 16, 2016 adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, June 6, 2016.

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Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Kathryn M. Weber, MMC  
North Pole City Clerk