



**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, August 15, 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, August 15, 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

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 August 15, 2016

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee moved to consent items:

- a. Recommendation to purchase a wood chipper for the Public Works Department
- b. Approval of the North Pole Comprehensive Strategic Plan
- c. Auction items from North Pole Fire Department to be approved for sale.

- d. Ordinance 16-17, an ordinance of the North Pole City Council amending Title 2.36.470 Personnel Code, adding over hire.

And to remove:

- f. Ordinance 16-19, an ordinance of the North Pole City Council Repealing Chapter 4.18, 4.20, and 4.22

- g. Ordinance 16-20, an ordinance of the North Pole City Council adding Section 4.19, Property Disposal

Item 13 - Executive Session.

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

On the amendment

PASSED

Yes: 7 –Smith, McGhee, Dawson, Claus, McCarthy, Claus, Holm, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

On the main motion as amended

PASSED

Yes: 7 –Smith, McGhee, Dawson, Claus, McCarthy, Holm, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Smith moved to Approve the Minutes of August 1, 2016

Seconded by Mr. Claus

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 –Smith, McGhee, Dawson, Claus, McCarthy, Holm, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

The next muffins will be this Friday August 19th here at City Hall.

We are currently accepting applications for the Fire Chief Position, It will remain open till filled. Please see the City website for more information and an application.

The three local mayors will march from North Pole City Hall to The Door in Fairbanks (14miles) on September 10th to bring awareness to the community about the homeless youth issue we have in the interior. Each mayor has a fundraising page. Please help bring awareness and donate! All proceeds will go to The Door.

Mayor Wards Page is <http://www.fyaohn.myevent.com/participant/378307>

This past weekend was the Senior Games, I was able to go help give out two of the gold medals to some of our local seniors who competed in the Horse Shoe toss at Terry Miller Park.

Saturday was also the Backpack giveaway, approximately 2,000 people were present, Thank you to the sponsors who made this event happen and good luck to the young students who are beginning school this week.

This Thursday is the Red White Blue Run through North Pole, If you are interested in cheering the runners and ‘Old Glory’ through North Pole Please be at the Memorial park at 12:00. If you would like more information please check out Check out the website <https://www.teamrwb.org/> This weekend August 20th is Military Appreciation Day (declared by the three mayors) in the Interior. The event will be held at Pioneer Park from 11:30 am to 8pm. Confirmed guest will be Governor Walker, Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, Congressman Young, and new Eielson AFB commander Colonel David Minuea.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- We generated \$7,352.00 from the sale of our old patrol vehicles.
- I just returned from vacation. Catching up on tasks.
- Memorial Park was vandalized. Concrete for pavilion has been poured. Working on Camera system to protect the park.
- World’s Greatest Backpack giveaway was hugely successful. Gave away over 750 ID kits, pencils, books, and badges.
- Met with Security Forces from Eielson. Working on Boy Scout cleanup project for memorial park.

- We are working on training opportunity with NPHS.
- Ofc. Lindhag and Smith are at National Tactical Officer Training. Funding coming from APSC.
- School is starting and we will continue to do GREAT training with 7th grade kids.
- Continuing projects at NPPD: Laptops.

Fire Dept., Deputy Chief Coon

- Starting up basic firefighter class.
- Over 20 applicants for last opening.
- 4 new volunteers.
- Been busier than usual since assuming the duties of the Fire Chief.
- Accepting to fire academy in November.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- We will be interviewing this week for the Utility Billing/AR position.
- The City should have a bound audit for the next meeting.
- Door hangers were put on residents doors for confessions of judgement.
- Working on budget amendments.

Mr. Smith asked about some of the accounts. He also wanted to know when the borough taxes would be received by the City.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- Foundation Only permit issued for Santa Claus House for a warehouse expansion. Foundation permit allows the work to begin while plan review is completed.

Public Works

- FMATS Improvement Project work began last week.
 - Work includes crack sealing; pedestrian path resurfacing (Blanket Blvd., 5th Ave. 8th Ave. and Snowman Lane); and resurfacing entrance to Dougchee Avenue.
- Skateboard park equipment installed at skateboard park this past weekend.
 - Fairbanks Skateboard Coalition designed the setup and volunteers helped with the installation.
 - Skateboard park competition confirmed September 3 from 2:00 to 4:30 PM and includes BMX bike competition.
- DOT conducted a site visit to assess 5th & 8th Avenue intersections with AK Railroad and Old Richardson Highway for an intersection modification project.
- North Pole Worship Center completed a second Servolution Sunday where they performed volunteer work in the City

- Wayfinding signing is starting to be installed—map at City Hall; Welcome signs ordered for off ramp at the Santa Claus Lane/Badger Road interchange.
- Updated request for a wood chipper before Council this evening.
- **Utility Department**
- Lift Station Phase 3 is well underway.
 - Major rehabilitation work underway at four lift stations: Mockler Drive, Tanana Drive, Hurst Road and Cary Street; control panel upgrades at Stillmeyer lift station completed.
- Three bids received on August 8 for mobile generators for the Sewer Division.
 - Stantec Engineering is reviewing the bids to determine compliance with the bid specifications.
- **Natural Gas Utility Board**
- No updates since last Council meeting.
 - IGU board meeting tomorrow, Tuesday where I hope to learn status of discussions with ADIEA on progress of Interior Energy Project.

Borough Representative

I have no report. I was not able to attend the last Assembly meeting.

City Clerk's Office, Kathy Weber

- The Alaska State Primary will be held tomorrow. City residents can vote here at City Hall. Polls open at 7:00 am and close at 8:00 pm. I ask that council stay and help to set up. The election helpers will be here at 6:00 a.m. to start setting up for voters.
- The Municipal Election for the City of North Pole will be held Tuesday, October 4, 2016. The following seats are open:

CITY OF NORTH POLE COUNCIL SEATS

(All offices serve at-large)

2 City Council Seats.....3-year terms

1 City Council Seat.....2-year Term

I received a letter of resignation today for Elyse Dawson. Her last day on council will be September 6, 2016. Her seat will be on the ballot for October 4th.

- Candidates for City Council are:

DeJohn Cromer

815 Marquette Loop

North Pole, AK 99705

P: 907-347-2808

Email: jejohnc@gmail.com

Avery Thompson

135 E. 6th Ave
North Pole, AK 99705
P: 907-388-5351
Email: ThompsonAvery@msn.com

Doug Isaacson

1003 Shirley Turnaround
North Pole, A 99705
P: 907-322-3133
Email: douglas.isaacson@gmail.com

David Skipps

2729 Perimeter Dr.
North Pole, AK 99705
P: 907-750-5106
Email: DavidSkipps@yahoo.com

The seats will go to the top three vote getters by the number of votes received.

- We still have three positions open at the City. They are Fire Chief, Utility Billing/Accounts Receivable Clerk, and Records Management/Archivist. The positions are open until filled. We hope to have enough applications by August 15th to put together a list for each position and start the hiring process.
- The Alaska Municipal League Annual Local Government Conference is November 16 – 18th. If any council members are interested in attending please let me know and I will sign you up for the conference, hotel, and book airfare for you. The sooner we know the better the rooms and flights are.
- Next meeting is on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. It is 3 weeks before our next meeting.
- 132 days until Christmas.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Francie Cork 401 Holiday Rd

Glad to hear Bill Butler talk about the traffic on the Old Richardson Hwy. Nothing would make her happier than a pedestrian crossing from the Davis Subdivision to the bike path. Encouraged officers and council members to keep an eye out.

- Dawn Murphy, Explore Fairbanks

Our communications department has been working on developing the new Explore Fairbanks website. The new website will include 8 mini videos such as How to Dress for Alaska, Aurora viewing, Arts & Culture, Golden Heart and winter. The new website will also have some space dedicated to “Destinations within the Destination” which will explore opportunities for visitors at various areas such as UAF, Chena Hot Springs and North Pole. We had hoped to have the launch by September but it looks like it will be closer to the end of the year. In March, Jerry Evans, our PR Manager hosted Japan Airlines Skyward Media Tour which is similar to Alaska Airlines Magazine with stops in North Pole.

Deb Hickok, the president & CEO in conjunction with the communications department is working on an economic development video. The Borough asked us to work on this project and we hope to have the project completed by mid-2017.

The tourism department hosted Powell Consultants, a high-end incentive travel consultant, which works with the Chinese market. Grace Mg, the Director with Powell Consultants, stayed in the Hotel North Pole and is enthused with the product to promote to her clients. We worked with a contractor to launch our WeChat which is a Chinese social media platform similar to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. WeChat is regulated by the Chinese government which is why we felt we would benefit by hiring a contractor to help navigate the restrictions. WeChat had 700 million active users in March of this year, 90% of those are Chinese and more than 70 million of the active users are outside of China. This includes the students that we have seen the last couple of springs. We are using this platform to inform them of winter driving and dressing as well as offering options for them. We have seen an increased interest by this market and from what we hear it will likely continue. You will probably see scan codes at locations such as rental car facilities. One of the many features of WeChat is they can scan the codes and get instant information. Between August 24th and September 28th we will have 9 charter flights scheduled. The airlines include Japan Airlines, Uzbekistan Airways, All Nippon Airways and China Air.

The Meetings and Conventions department is working with various committees to get ready for First Alaskans and AFB 2016 and their 50th Anniversary. There will be lots of events for the public to enjoy including the Potlatch, Arts & Crafts Show and Quiana Alaska as well as volunteer opportunities. The dates are October 16-19 for First Alaskan Elders & Youth Conference and October 20-22 for AFN Convention. In our new Meeting Planner Guide you will see that North Pole is mentioned on Pages 14, 21, 27, and under events on page 35.

In April at our Annual Awards Banquet, Christmas in Ice received the Raven Award for promoting a distinct local, statewide, national and international interest and awareness among prospective visitors. In May, the 14th Fairbanks Visitor Industry Walk for Charity raised over \$20,000 with 548 walkers participating to raise funds for 51 local non-profits. This brings the total raised to just under \$335,000.

Ms. Murphy touched on the fact that the State of Alaska Tourism budget has gone from 16 million 3 years ago to 1.5 million this year. When the Governor made his cuts, tourism marketing was cut from 4.5 million to 1.5 million. ATIA and the Alaska Tourism Marketing

Board have been working on what programs will be available. At this time most of the funding is going into keeping up our online presence. Opportunities for us to co-op with the state on familiarization tours, media tours, tradeshow, media placement, printed State Travel Planners, etc. are off the table. Our staff is looking at ways to defray costs by either participating with Visit Anchorage or industry partners when allowed for tradeshow.

We submitted our final grant report on July 21st. Thank you again for reinvesting bed tax funds into destination marketing. As you can see by the figures before you, tourism is an economic driver year-round and the second largest industry employer in the State of Alaska employing more than 30,000 people. The Borough is working on their audit adjustments and we normally see those in August or September which accrue back to June for their fiscal year-end receivable.

Ms. Holm said she enjoyed the article and would also like to see the North Pole July 4th celebration included.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 16-18, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 2, PERSONNEL CODE, CHAPTER 2.36.470 PAY, SECTION F. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Deputy Chief Coon said this was more of a cleanup and that it is already in code. If they meet the job description they have the ability to make the step increase. It has been hard to track and this makes it more clear to the employee and cut and dry. Employees are eligible for the step increase as long as it is in the budget. The fire department is trying to recruit, keep, and give a clear path for progression in the fire department.

Public Comment

Steve Dutra – he spoke in favor of this professional development and encouraged the council to approve it.

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Introduce and Advance Ordinance 16-18, an ordinance amending Title 2, Personnel Code, Chapter 2.36.470 Pay, Section F. Professional Development

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

Ms. Holm said that there is a definite value in having educated fire fighters. If this keeps them secure in their job she is for it.

PASSED

Yes: 7 –Smith, McGhee, Dawson, Claus, McCarthy, Holm, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Holm – good to see everyone again and congratulated Chief Coon for being accepted to the National Fire Academy. She attended the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, a pharmacy conference and then in Disneyland for a week. What she came home with after having time to reflect on it was Alaska is capable of so much more. She asked council to reflect in their spare time what Alaska would look like if they were an economic super power. What kind of regulations need to be lifted from us so we can take part in the world and have an economy in the world. Now that there is a cable coming across the world that will give us the best internet in the world. How can we best support our people with agriculture, technology and tap that and move forward.

Mr. Claus – congratulation to Chief Coon for being accepted to the National Fire Academy. He thanked Ms. Dawson for all her work on the council.

Mr. Smith – great seeing everyone on the bike paths. Pleasure working with Ms. Dawson. School starts again on Wednesday so please be careful.

Mr. McCarthy – no comment

Mr. McGhee – has been a pleasure to work with Ms. Dawson.

Ms. Dawson – she turned in her resignation and will be moving to Ft. Rucker, Alabama in November. They are ready for this new chapter in their life. She thanked everyone for the experience and everything they had taught her. She is excited for what is next to come.

Mayor Ward – thanked Ms. Dawson on her work on the council and her future endeavors. Kudo's to the PW department and putting together the skateboard equipment. There were kids and young adults out there scooting around. He appreciates the skateboard coalition, they testified at the FNSB meeting and they helped and worked with the Public Work Department and have taken and ownership of the park. Special thanks to the staff for coming out on the weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee *moved to Adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m.*

Seconded by Mr. Claus

The regular meeting of August 15, 2016 adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk