



**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, March 20, 2017 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, March 20, 2017 to order at 7:00 p.m.

There were present:

Mr. McCarthy – Alt Dep Mayor Pro Tem
Mr. Isaacson - Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Mr. Thompson
Mr. McGhee - Mayor Pro Tem
Mr. Claus
Mr. Skipps
Mayor Ward – Borough Rep

Absent/Excused

Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Isaacson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Isaacson *moved to approve the agenda of March 20, 2017*

Seconded by Mr. Claus

DISCUSSION

None

Mr. Isaacson *moved to consent the following items under New Business*

- a.** Annual Review and Appointment of Committee Memberships
- b.** Ordinance 17-07, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to amend Title 4, Revenue and Finance, Chapter 08, Sales Tax, 4.08.020

- c. Resolution 17-04, A Resolution of the City of North Pole supporting fair housing in support of the City's Community Development Block grant #16-CDBG-03 for the Santa's Senior Center Remodel Project

Seconded by Mr. Thompson

On the amendment

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 6– Claus, Thompson, Skipps, McCarthy, Isaacson, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 1– McGhee

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 6– Claus, Thompson, Skipps, McCarthy, Isaacson, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 1– McGhee

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2017

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 6– Claus, Thompson, Skipps, McCarthy, Isaacson, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 1– McGhee

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Tonight the Council will consider approval of Violations Committee. I would like to establish a schedule for meeting as we need to notice the meetings just like we would a council meeting. All committee meetings are open to the public and we encourage people to join the discussion.

4th of July Meetings are scheduled for the following dates until the event: March 27th, April 10th, April 24th, May 8th, May 22nd, June 12th, June 26th. All meetings will be at City Hall at 6pm and go till 7pm. The public is welcome to attend.

Fairbanks North Star Borough Air Quality Control Commission will be having a meeting tomorrow at the City of Fairbanks in their Council Chambers from 6-9pm on the new air quality control regulations. The Borough Commission will also be having a meeting in North Pole in our chambers April 4th from 6-9pm to go over the proposed changes. It may behoove the council to be present at one of these meetings.

FEDC and Eielson AFB put together a housing summit on March 9th at the Pipeline Training Center in Fairbanks to go over the estimated need and demand for housing units and the approximate area those houses would need to be built in order to serve the incoming units at Eielson AFB. The meeting was a big success and had over 200 people register. The presentation by the City of North Pole is available online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGpLNFBSuTY&feature=youtu.be>

Sobering Center support pledge was signed by all the three Mayors at the TCC reception last week.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

Mr. Thompson asked where the ideas came from for the phone survey and questions that were on the survey.

Mayor Ward stated that a meeting was had with the stake holders and staff. The phone surveys were generated by the contractors and the questions were created by the contractor.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Dept., Chief Dutra

- Down 2 positions. Sgt. Bellant is injured and will be out for a year. They have pulled the detective position. There may be some extra overtime as it is a big impact to the department.

Fire Dept., Chief Coon

- Fire Apparatus Driver operator class starting in April. Members of the North Pole Fire Department will undertake a 80 hour class and be eligible for state testing at the end of the class. This training will be provided to staff members during duty hours and no overtime will be required to complete the class.
- NPFDD open house will be on May 20th. The Shake house will be positioned at the department for the event.
- We have an open position at the Department. An Engineer with over five years of seniority gave notice that he is leaving to pursue other opportunities. Losing such a senior member is difficult but Deputy Chief Heineken is working on the schedule and has a plan for the vacancy.
- The NPFDD is working on some mandatory training for work place violence and sexual harassment training. One member is on leave and when he gets back the department will be 100% in compliance.
- Chief Coon attended the Santa Seniors Lunch. Was able to meet with its members and talk about fire prevention and disaster preparedness.
- Thanked the Council for supporting the “GEMT” House bill 176 was introduced and will have a benefit on EMS in Alaska.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- Two small permits issued during the previous period
 - Moody Blue’s BBQ
 - 427 East 5th—car museum
- Notified eligible for \$718,093 for renovation of Santa’s Senior Center.
 - Need to submit variety if supplemental documents before awarded grant.
- Planning to submit within the next several weeks updates to the City’s building codes (2015 National Codes and amendments generated by Fairbanks Building Department Building Code Committee).
- Planning to submit within the next several weeks ordinance amending the storm water management code reflecting changes to the City’s Storm Water Permit.

Public Works

- Resolution before the Council this evening seeking support for pedestrian path construction through a FMATS project.
 - New boiler installed in Public Works Shop.
 - Plowing contractor will begin hard pack removal this week.

Utility Department

- Sulfolane lawsuit settlement agreement
 - Drafted an application to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska for the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to expand utility's service area for water service.
 - * One of the requirements of the City as part of the settlement agreement.
 - * Utility's original CPCN was issued in 1973 and was for half of a section and never updated to encompass any of the City's utility expansions since that time.
 - * CPCN application will encompass the entire City's boundary and the water system expansion outside of the city limits.
 - Surveyors in the field in areas related to identifying locations for water mains.
- Had a sewer main freeze up on Minuteman Loop early this morning (Monday).
 - Utility suspects the limited fall snowpack permitted deep frost penetration.
 - Utility was notified by a thawing contractor early in the morning and prevent backups into homes.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- Nothing new to report on IGU—negotiations still pending with gas supplier.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Meeting with KSH and Cook Haugeberg. Cook and Haugeberg are working as a third party and helping with grants.
- The AP position is open until filled.
- Kathy leaving on vacation and Tricia will do the payroll for PPE 4/3/17.

Borough Representative

- The Fairbanks North Star Borough budgets on a Fiscal Year and therefore is working on their budget for 2017-2018.
- Ordinance 2017-18 Amended the PM 2.5 Program and Fine Schedule by making the fines and regulations more stringent and costly for violators.
- Ordinance 2017-25 Clarifies Title 11 to expressly provide borrowing powers to the IGU in order to further the IEP.
- LIDAR funding was approved by the FNSB and mapping should be occurring this summer

City Clerk's Office, Kathy Weber

- Attended the Interior Clerks Luncheon March 7th in Fairbanks.

- Reviewed and scored state scholarships at the library.
- General Liability audit was on March 17th. The City will be getting a small refund as the estimates were very close to actuals.
- Thank you to all of you who filed their APOC statements on time.
- Santa's Senior luncheon on Wednesday, March 15th. They were very happy to see the police and fire chief in attendance.
- I will be on vacation from March 23rd – April 14th. If you need assistance you can contact Sally Terch at 488-8540.
- Next meeting is April 3rd.

Mr. Thompson moved to suspend the rules for 5 minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Isaacson

Mayor Ward called the meeting back to order at 7:40 p.m.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Shelly Wade, Agnew Beck gave an update on the Strategic Plan.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)

- None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 17-05, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE SUPPORTING THE 2017 FAIRBANKS METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PEDESTRIAN PATHS ON NPHS BLVD, PATRIOT DRIVE AND SNOWMAN LANE

Mr. Butler updated council on the FMAT's project that included construction of pedestrian paths on NPHS Blvd, Patriot Drive & Snowman Lane. The City needs to give FMAT's some kind of direction on which sidewalks they would like to do as the City will need to contribute to it.

Mr. Thompson asked about NPHS Blvd sidewalk on the opposite side of the road.

Mr. Butler said that the original sidewalk does not have good drainage and that there is really no

place to push snow in the winter. The new sidewalk would go from the Richardson Hwy to Homestead. Part of this project would be to demolish the existing sidewalk.

Mr. Isaacson asked what happens to the shoulder and if there would be a ditch. His concern is that if there is too much of a sidewalk that kids would go down both sides. He asked if they could postpone the streetlights for the sidewalks.

Mr. Butler said that the City approved the streetlights. He doesn't know what FMAT's would be doing for requesting funding from the City. Council has the authority to move money from one project to the other.

Mr. Isaacson asked if they put out \$17,000 now, could they apply the \$17,000 on what project they wanted.

Mr. Butler said they couldn't reallocate the money. Mr. Butler said he is looking for the council to decide what projects they want to move forward with.

Mr. Thompson said that Patriot Drive is the most expensive project. He asked if sidewalks needed to be put on both sides.

Mr. Butler said that there is an entrance to the high school and there is a sidewalk in front of Stillmeyer Estates that is set back from the Richardson Hwy.

Public Comment

None

Mr. McCarthy *moved to* approve Resolution 17-05, A Resolution of the City of North Pole supporting the 2017 Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System Sidewalk Improvement Program for the construction of pedestrian paths on NPHS Blvd, Patriot Drive and Snowman Lane

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

Discussion

Mr. McCarthy said he lived in Stillmeyer Estates and gave his opinion on the sidewalks. He drives NPHS Blvd regularly and there is no place to safely walk.

Mr. Thompson said that they should not add sidewalks on the south side of Patriot Drive. He thought that the City could cut down their financial costs but not putting a sidewalk on the south side of Patriot Drive but only on the north side. He also likes the idea of adding the sidewalk on NPHS Blvd to the north side as well.

Mr. Isaacson asked if it is reasonable to budget next year with economics as it is to fund the entire

project, \$218,000.

Mayor Ward stated that the City has the money and could pull from the general fund. He doesn't like to do that. Mayor Ward gave suggestions on how the City could fund the projects.

Mr. Isaacson stated that he agrees. He asks if the FMAT's money will disappear if it's not spend all at once.

Mayor Ward explained the allocation of FMAT's funds to the council.

Mr. Isaacson asked that when looking for federal money and curtailing, we may not have sidewalk money next year.

Mayor Ward stated that Congress makes appropriations and they have shown that they are in support of infrastructure. That funding for the next two years has already been programmed. Trump has made a commitment to infrastructure funding. The issue has been the match. He sees this being more of an issue with us and not with the feds.

Mr. Isaacson stated in his opinion that he thinks the money is going to be at risk because the infrastructure the President is looking for is larger infrastructure than sidewalks. With congress, we might see further restrictions.

Mr. Thompson talked about cutting the cost of the sidewalks and stated that it will put the city in just under two years of capital funding. He stated budgeting in \$160,000 for two years of capital projects, it would put the liability under two years as opposed to three.

Mr. Isaacson asked for a point of clarification. He asked Mr. Thompson to put his thought into a motion so the council could debate it.

Mr. Isaacson moved to suspend the rules for 5 minutes.

Seconded by Mr. Thompson

Mr. Isaacson moved to amend Resolution 17-05

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Mayor Ward brought the meeting back to order at 8:34 pm.

Mr. Thompson moved to amend Resolution 17-05 to limit the improvements to NPHS Blvd, Snowman Lane, and the North side of Patriot Drive and to reflect the change in project costs.

Seconded by Mr. Isaacson

Discussion

Mr. Thompson said that he would like to keep everything the same except on Patriot Drive only providing sidewalks on north side as opposed to the south side.

Mr. McCarthy said he lived in that area and that there are 100 – 150 kids that walk there during lunch. He can't see the kids walking on one side. He is not in favor of this amendment.

Mr. Isaacson said that there are 8 crossings in the south side. On the north side, there are 9 crossing to be developed on that road. In his experience in transportation, this is not being designed where they want to engineer people to move as much as keep people safe. This is just a matter of budget. If both sides can be done, he is in favor of both but if only one side, he is in favor of the south side.

Mr. Thompson asked if there is a right of way that that allows the sidewalk to be built.

Mayor Ward stated he believes there is right of way on both sides.

Mr. McCarthy said that it is right of way.

Mr. Isaacson asked the Mayor or Mr. Butler to find the width of sidewalk.

Mr. Thompson talked about how many properties would be affected on the south side with the sidewalks being put in.

Mayor Ward said he didn't care what side of the road the sidewalk is on. He would let the designers decide what side of the road the sidewalk should be on. If you build it you should have the money for it. The amount of cash flow to carry us through that time may be difficult. He stated that if this project cannot be done with the 2017 FMAT's then maybe Patriot drive should be done at a later time.

On the amendment

FAILED

Yes: 1– Thompson

No: 5 – Isaacson, Skippis, Claus, McCarthy, Ward

Absent: 1– McGhee

Mr. Isaacson *moved to* postpone the meeting to April 3, 2017

Seconded by Mr. Thompson

PASSED

Yes: 6– Claus, Thompson, Skippis, McCarthy, Isaacson, Ward

No: 0
Absent: 1– McGhee

RESOLUTION 17-06, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE UTILITY DEPARTMENT TO COMMIT TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO \$350,000 OF WATER DIVISION RESERVES TO ADD 250,000 GALLONS OF RESERVOIR CAPACITY AS PART OF THE SULFOLANE SETTLEMENT WATER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECTMR. BUTLER GAVE A BRIEF UPDATE TO THE RESOLUTION AND EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULD WORK

Mr. Butler updated council on the resolution. He explained as part of the settlement agreement they are planning on 500,000 gallons of water storage in the northern part of the new service area to serve that area. There are other alternatives that people could consider for other resources. One alternative is to make the take larger and add 250,000 gallons more storage for the cost that should not exceed \$350,000. He proposes that they at least dedicate or express willingness to spend that additional money. We are short on reservoir capacity. We would have well over a million gallons of water we would have in our reservoir.

Mr. Thompson asked if the City ever looked at adding fire service to the outlying area.

Mr. Butler said that they could be used as fill up sites but because of the pipe size you could not get the same fire coverage in the new area as you could in town.

Mr. Thompson asked about the fire hydrants and could the hydrants be installed now.

Mr. Butler said they will be installed as part of the construction. The plans call for every mile to be a hydrant in the new area.

Mr. Thompson asked why the hydrants cannot be closer.

Mr. Butler stated that they can't support the pressure for flows that connect.

Mayor Ward said that the entire system would have to be upgraded, the size of the pipe would have to be increased. That is something that Flint Hills is not going to pay for.

Mr. Thompson asked about one fire hydrant supporting a fire 3 miles away, why can't it support five fire hydrants in-between those two points if only one is in use.

Mr. Butler said that it doesn't have the pressure for firefighting flow at the hydrant. The pressure capacity is different but it can fill up the truck closer to where they are than having to drive into the City to fill the truck.

Mr. Thompson asked if the cost to change that is significant.

Mr. Butler said it is hugely so and not agreed to in the settlement.

Mayor Ward said that it would cost 10's of millions of dollars.

Mr. Isaacson asked what affect this would have on an ISO rating.

Chief Coon gave his opinion on ISO rating. Third of the rating comes from water. The Flint Hills upgrade should have no effect on the citizens outside for the ISO.

Public Comment

Geoff Coon, Fire Chief

He would support this resolution to have another tool in the toolbox. On a commercial we will routinely flow from two fire engines at the same time, so 1,500 gallons a minute times 1,500 gallons a minute. That is about 180,000 gallons an hour. There is still a potential for a large commercial fire within the City of North Pole, larger than Hectors fire. Very large threats inside the city, these could easily be 400,000 - 500,000 gallon fire. He would absolutely support more reserves in water that could be used on commercial fires at a relatively low expense.

Mr. Isaacson *moved to Approve Resolution 17-06, A Resolution authorizing the Utility Department to commit to contribute up to \$350,000 of water division reserves to add 250,000 gallons of reservoir capacity as part of the sulfolane settlement water system extension project*

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 6– Claus, Thompson, Skippis, McCarthy, Isaacson, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 1– McGhee

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Thompson – good discussion, maybe look into our municipal code and see what the water services requirements for the additional customers that are going to be connecting to the municipality.

Mr. McCarthy – No comment

Mr. Isaacson – today is spring equinox. Thanked council to allow his to go to Juneau. He was very impressed with how Mayor Ward presented to the various Senate and Representatives. It was fun to see him down there working. Appreciates the email links and hopefully the council is sending over 130 volunteers in North Pole and top 5 in various categories. Will bring forward a resolution.

Mr. Skipps – No comment

Mr. Claus – wishing everyone a happy and healthy April 1st.

Mayor Ward – has 19 months left in office. Short period of time and he will be termed out. A privilege to serve and hopes we can bring it to close with a strong finish.

Mr. Thompson *moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.*

Seconded by Mr. Isaacson

The regular meeting of Monday, March 20, 2017 adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, April 3, 2017.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk