



**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, July 17, 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, July 17, 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**

***Absent/Excused***

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

Led by Mayor Ward

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Mr. Isaacson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to* **approve the agenda of July 17, 2017**

**Seconded** *by* **Mr. Isaacson**

**DISCUSSION**

None

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to* **consent the following items:**

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

- a. Request to write-off a delinquent utility debt

- b. Approval of the City of North Pole advertising contract with the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
- c. Resolution 17-14, A Resolution supporting King Jesus North Pole (KJNP) AM and FM radio station and its efforts to replace the deteriorating radio tower with a tower equal in size and shape.
- d. Resolution 17-15, A Resolution stating positions in regards to the Moose Creek feasibility study dated June 2017.

**Seconded by Mr. Isaacson**

**Discussion**

None

*On the amendment*

**PASSED**

Yes: 7 – McGhee, Isaacson, Skippis, Claus, Thompson, McCarthy, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

*On the Agenda as amended*

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: 7 – McGhee, Isaacson, Skippis, Claus, Thompson, McCarthy, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. McGhee moved to approve the Minutes of July 03, 2017**

**Seconded by Mr. Thompson**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: 7 – McGhee, Isaacson, Skippis, Claus, Thompson, McCarthy, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- Proclamation for the National Health Center Week. I encourage folks to read it, it is included in your packet.
- Thank you to everyone that helped with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mr. Skipps, you and your family I know were a big part of that and all of our volunteers with the committee. It was a new thing this year we had a new route, new parade, and folks involved. We had a train come through. We also had a new festival location at the High School and a softball game. I am happy to say we did win. Things went over really well.
- This last weekend there was an event at the skate park and that sounds like it went off really well. A couple of council members were able to go, and that was great as I was not able to attend. Sounds like there were good crowds and it is really awesome to see folks in the community take ownership of the park.
- Sister City-
  - Welcoming Party August 4, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Jacobson's house.
  - Council Night August 8, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Lane's house.
  - Good-Bye Party August 9, 2017 at 6:30 at North Pole City Hall.

Sister City is still in need of homes for two young boys. If interested in being a homestay family for these boys from Japan please get in contact with Karen Lane.

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

Mr. Thompson requested an email with dates and times regarding the Sister City events be sent out to Council Members.

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

### **Fire Dept., Chief Coon**

None

### **Police Dept., Chief Dutra**

None

**Finance, Tricia Fogarty**

None

**Director of City Services, Bill Butler**

**Building Department**

- Three new permit applications submitted for single family homes in the Stillmeyer Subdivision, Desert Eagle Loop.
- Two new building permits issued - foundation only permits: one for Tri-plex on Ouida Way and one for Santa Claus House.
  - Santa Claus house permitting held up in State Fire Marshal Office; State allowed them to request Fairbanks to conduct the required review and issuance of Fire Marshal permit
  - City has explored seeking a deferment to perform Fire Marshal reviews - not simple and not cheap. Still exploring options.
  - To date, approximately \$5.5 million in new construction to date in 2017.

**Public Works**

- One of Public Works' summer hire employees had a death in the family so Public Works is short staffed at the moment.
- Location identification sign inserts are completed and we hope to begin installing them before next Council meeting.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Skateboard and BMX competition held at the skateboard park last Saturday.
  - Besides competitions there were bands after the competition.
  - The event has moved from being City-driven to being privately driven.
- Flower displays in roundabouts have been underwhelming compared to some years
  - Cost is always a consideration - when you order and what you order affects the displays.
  - Weed and insects have been a bigger problem this year than previous years.

**Utility Department**

- Sulfolane settlement
  - 65% engineering and design documents are complete
  - The piping route is largely finalized.
  - 95% engineering and design documents scheduled for competition August 18.

- Tentative plan is to move up invitation to bids to October with selection of construction contractor in November - original plan was to release bid request in January 2018.
- Odor from wastewater treatment works appears to be lessening.
  - Utility began dumping clean water into wastewater collection system in an effort to help dilute waste and modify biology of lagoons - any changes could just be coincidental.

### **Natural Gas Utility Board**

- Confidential negotiations continue related to transferring Fairbanks Natural Gas to IGU.
- Search for a natural gas supplier continues.

### **Borough Representative**

None

### **City Clerk's Office, Judy Binkley**

- July 8, 2017, Jennifer and I represented the City of North Pole at the Candidate Open House that was held at the Borough Office.
  - Pretty good turn out. Most individuals were interested in the school board seats.
  - We didn't get a lot of traffic at our table but we did get a couple of visitors.
- Candidate Filing Period opened today at 8:00 am and will close at 5:00pm on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of July.

Mr. Isaacson - Are any of the council members going to the summer session of AML?

Judy Binkley - I have not heard of anyone interested yet.

### **ONGOING PROJECTS**

None

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

John Kehres, 684 Manley St. North Pole

- Requesting a forbearance regarding the termination of water services at residence. Is looking into selling his house to be able to pay delinquent obligations.

Mr. Isaacson - You are looking at selling your home, have you actually gone to a realtor?

Mr. Kehres - That is first thing tomorrow. I have been trying to hang on but keep falling further behind.

Mr. Isaacson - What if we are not able to take an action tonight to prevent water from being turned off, what will you do?

Mr. Kehres - It is either realtor or start filing bankruptcy paperwork because I am to the point of not knowing what to do.

Mr. Isaacson - Did you receive notification from the City that your water would be shut off?

Mr. Kehres - Yes

Mr. Isaacson - Thank you, we will take this up with the Mayor afterwards, thanks.

Jerry Koerner, General Manager for Ainley International Memorial Fund

- 200-acre replat being chopped up into smaller sections/lots so it is easier to purchase
- Would like to present to council a couple weeks prior to council meeting it is 19 pages long
- Working through unusual circumstances that the Mayor and Bill Butler are aware of.

Mr. McGhee - Which lot sections are you breaking up?

Mr. Koerner - Tax lot 1502 which is behind your house at 78 acres 1 parcel. Tax lot 1515 at 132 acres. It is those two that we will deal with they go Blanket Blvd. to Unnamed Road which parallels Beaver Springs Pond. Then goes all the way to Richardson HWY to Old Richardson HWY to Golden Valley Corridor to North Star 1 and Baker Subdivision.

Dick Olson, KJNP

- Just wanted to say thank you for support with replacing the radio tower.
- FCC required us to get a letter from the City
- Galvanized tower with LED lighting

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Consented

### **Public Comment**

None

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mr. Skipp**s – None

**Mr. Claus**

- Personally, wanted to thank KJNP for their 50 years of service to the community.

**Mr. Thompson**

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival and parade turned out really awesome.
- Skate park was a really nice event with a good crowd and positive event.
- Food Truck Rally had 11 vendors with crowds estimated at 3000
- Borough added oversight to the transfer site here in North Pole. The hours will be 7:00 am-7:00 pm through 28<sup>th</sup> of July then they will reassess this.

**Mr. McCarthy**

- Thank you to Mr. Isaacson for the testimony on the water I wasn't sure where to go with that

**Mr. McGhee**

- Thank you to Jerry Koerner.
- The plans and the property around North Star and North Star Subdivision is amazing and impressive. Includes fishing pond that is approved by Game and Wildlife
- Whatever the city can do to support and encourage it would be nothing but a benefit to the city
- Take the opportunity to go by his office and take a look at the plans, we have nothing like these plans in the city.
- I am very disappointed with DOT and what they did with St. Nicholas

**Mr. Isaacson**

- Directed at Mr. Kehres One of the difficulties with taking up an issue from the public at the last minute is the inability of us to then to post that as part of ordinances is that it is required that we post our agenda to the public in advance so that everyone can weigh in on this and so we are not able necessarily to bring up your request at this moment. I was even looking to suspend the rules to do it but as we are looking through ordinances and everything we are restricted by state law title 29 and other things on what we can take up immediately. So while we would like to do things it is incumbent upon the public to and those affected by actions to be sure you are working with the City and coming in weeks in advance. I know this is saying it after the fact, but if you know that something is coming up. Especially in your situation come to the council as early as possible, and let us know what you are doing with staff to try and remediate things. We will talk with the Mayor and so forth he can perhaps direct. But I know like you have mentioned a lot of folks have been working with you on this situation. So, I am not sure what we can do by tomorrow, but our hearts go out for your situation. Understandably, just to let you know thanks for coming to us and the public in general. Thanks public for showing up today.

- Wasn't present at last council meeting due to driving from Saskatoon to Fort St John, then flew to Dallas.

**Mayor Ward**

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July video is up on YouTube and shared on the Facebook

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.*

**Seconded by Mr. Claus**

The regular meeting of Monday, July 17, 2017 adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, August 7, 2017.

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Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk

Transcribed by: JS