



**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 16, 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, October 16, 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

Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mr. McGhee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee *moved to* approve the agenda of October 16, 2017

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 – Isaacson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the Minutes of October 02, 2017

Seconded by Mr. Skippis

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 – Isaacson

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- The Violations Committee will be meeting before the first meeting of every month in the Council Chambers starting at 5:30pm. The public is welcome to attend. We will be visiting each section of code to revise our Violations Schedule.
- I am currently supporting the American Cancer Society and breast cancer awareness with the Real Men Wear Pink Campaign. This month is breast cancer awareness month and it has been a honor to raise funds with the other “real men wear pink” guys this year. Currently Jeff Cook is second in the nation for fundraising and as of Saturday had raised over \$62,000.
- The FNSB is well into the Regional Growth Plan and we are participating by having a meeting on Thursday at City Hall to talk about Borough owned land and how it can be leveraged to meet the anticipated housing need for the F-35 personnel.
- The Richardson Hwy MP 351 Interchange (aka 12 Mile) 1st Open House was September 27th at Hotel North Pole from 5-9pm. There is now a website for public comment. Please visit <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/rich351/>
- November 8th is the proposed rezone property meeting here at City Hall. This is a continuation of the Strategic Plan work done last year that would rezone the general use land from City Hall to the Veterinary Clinic on Badger Road. The meeting will be here at North Pole City Hall from 5-8pm. The public is encouraged to attend.
- Tomorrow at Eielson AFB I will be on a tour of the F-35s. Two squadrons of F-35s are being stationed at Eielson AFB starting 2019.

Certification of October 3, 2017 Election

Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk, gave a presentation on the election results and the report of the election Canvass Board.

Mr. McGhee moved to certify the election of October 3, 2017

Seconded by Mr. McCarthy

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 6 – McGhee, Skipp, Claus, Thompson, McCarthy, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 1 – Isaacson

New council members sworn in:

Sharon Hedding

Aino Welch

Mr. McGhee moved to suspend the rules for 20 minutes for a community reception.

Seconded by Mr. Skipp

- Jomo Stewart provided an Interior Gas Utility update for the City of North Pole.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- **Mr. McGhee** asked Mr. Stewart what the chances are for the coal fired plants in North Pole to convert to a cleaner fuel source. Mr. Stewart indicated that in the long-term horizon, the chances are high.
- **Mr. Thompson** asked how the conversion rate figure was calculated and Mr. Stewart replied that the figure represents the number of properties that will actually have pipe in front of them.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Dept., Chief Coon

- Erik Winkler was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. This position was vacant from Cody Coffman leaving us to work at Ft. Wainwright Fire Department. The Department will be opening up a Firefighter position shortly to fill the vacancy.
- This last weekend the Firefighter Ball was held at the Westmark and the North Pole Fire Department was honored to receive several awards. The Interior Fire Chiefs Association recognized the following members:
 - Kevin Haywood received Company Officer of the year.
 - Erik Winkler received EMS person of the year.

- The Department was awarded the Fire Prevention Program of the year due to Captain Haywood's hard work.
- The Department received \$1,719.00 from the misc equipment that was sold at the auction last month (see attached).
- Over the weekend, we had a complete failure of our heating control system. We have been having some problems but it was not budgeted for we were trying to make due until next spring. It does not appear that we can go any longer. With the Mayor's help, we are going to move funds from "wages" to "building maintenance" in order to replace the vacuum controlled zone valves. The cost will be approximately \$15,000. We do have a surplus in "wages" this year due to multiple vacancies throughout the entire year.
- The Department has been very busy with fire prevention and public education this month. All of the kindergarteners and the city day care providers have come to the station for a tour and education already this month. Captain Haywood is planning out our prevention and education calendar and it has been a very productive year.

Police Dept., Chief Dutra

- Thank you Mr. McCarthy and Mr. McGhee for all that you have done for me and my department over the years. I will miss you both and I am sure it is more like see you next time, not a good bye. Mr. McGhee, I will certainly miss our infamous discussions, agreements, debates, and sometimes disagreements.
- I want to welcome both our new council women, Mrs. Hedding and Mrs. Welch. My door is always open and I would encourage each of you to come talk to me if you have any questions regarding the police department.
- Sgt. Bellant will be giving you a presentation on our GREAT program. It has been 10 years and it is time I briefed you on our efforts. This is unique to our North Pole Schools and we are very proud of what we do.
- It is great sadness that I officially announce the retirement of Lt. Rathbun. He has chosen to retire and move out of the area. He will be missed and I am sad to see him go. He is a friend and a colleague and has given a lot to the citizens of this fine city as a Reserve Officer and as our Lieutenant for a decade.
- Tomorrow night at 7 is the ALICE presentation to the school board at the downtown district office. I would like to invite you to join us if you are interested. We will be doing a presentation to you in a month or so.
- I completed my Guys Read Fall obligation. It was a blast and I intend on continuing my involvement in the spring.
- Office Fisher is training CTC and some NPPD Officers in EVOC.
- We just found out our local psychologist option for new hires is going to retire. Scrambling to fill the slot.
- States – assaults are up, criminal mischief is up, larceny is up, and DUI's are up. This is very concerning. It may or may not be related to SB91. Although it is similar to state wide data.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Made an administrative amendment for the Fire Department.
- Chief Coon stated that medication costs have sky rocketed for the department and are expected to be over-budget in that line item.
 - **Mr. McGhee** asked if these were calls that we could not bill the insurance company for because we did not transport. Chief Coon replied that is the case sometimes but we have a contract with the Borough to provide ambulance service and this is an associated cost with the service.
- Will be making some fiscal notes as well.
- Has been working on payroll and haven't gotten to financials but will provide those soon.
- Received our first payment from the citation PFD garnishments and it just over \$68,000 which is more than we had budgeted for.
 - **Mayor Ward** asked Ms. Fogarty how much we had budgeted for the PFD garnishments and Ms. Fogarty indicated she thought it was \$30,000-\$40,000.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

None

Borough Representative

- The FNSB Recycling Center is now open and ready for business. The facility , located at 1855 Marika Road, is open Tuesday through Saturday noon-5:30pm business days and 9am-5pm Saturday. For more information on recycling, visit their website at <http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/pw/Pages/CentralRecyclingFacility.aspx>

City Clerk's Office, Judy Binkley

- Thanks to Mr. McGhee and Mr. McCarthy for your service. Also thanks for your guidance and patience since I became the City Clerk earlier this year.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

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

- Megan Scheer and Christine Charron with Access Alaska: Provided an update on the pre-employment transition services program. Mayor Ward helped out tremendously with the program this summer.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Public Comment

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Public Comment

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Skipps – Thanks to Councilmen McGhee and McCarthy for the short time I was able to serve with them.

Mr. Claus – It's been a pleasure serving on Council with Mr. McGhee and Mr. McCarthy.

Mr. Thompson – Appreciate both Mr. McGhee and Mr. McCarthy's service. It's also important to remember that a year ago today, Sgt Allen Brandt at FPD was shot in the line of duty.

Mr. McCarthy – Mr. McGhee, I agree we haven't always seen eye-to-eye but I've enjoyed our time on Council together. You are so eloquent and have a way about putting all your thoughts together. I really appreciate everyone on Council and we have been very productive. Mayor Ward, you've been awesome to work with.

Mr. McGhee – It's been awesome! It's hard to believe it was back in 1999 that I started on Council. It's exciting, challenging, and stressful at times. It's not easy finding that threshold where debate doesn't become an argument or demean anyone while trying to do what's best for the citizens. It's been well worth it and it's been nice to see the growth. Will be taking a year off and is am thinking about what I may do next year. To Kevin, we haven't always seen eye-to-eye but I've enjoyed our lively discussions. To the Councilmen that have been here a year, keep up the good work and continue to make good changes.

Mr. Isaacson - absent

Mr. McGhee *moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m.*

Seconded by Mr. Thompson

The regular meeting of Monday, October 16, 2017 adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, November 6, 2017.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk