



**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 Tuesday, January 2, 2018 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 Tuesday, January 2, 2018 to order at 7:04 p.m.

There were present:

Avery Thompson – Mayor Pro Tem
David Skipps – Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Aino Welch – Alt Dep Mayor Pro Tem
Santa Claus
Doug Isaacson
Sharon Hedding

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. Thompson *moved to approve the agenda of January 2, 2018*

Seconded by Ms. Hedding

Discussion

None

Mr. Thompson *moved to postpone the following items:*

Old Business:

- a. Ordinance 17-28, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend Title 2, Administration and Personnel Chapter 36 Personnel System, Section 110 and 190 Regarding the City Hiring and Promotion Process.

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skippis, Hedding, Thompson, Claus, Isaacson, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

Mr. Thompson moved to consent the following items:

New Business:

- b. Request to Accept Bettisworth North’s Proposal for the Redesign of City Hall and the Police Department.

Seconded by Mr. Skippis

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skippis, Hedding, Thompson, Claus, Isaacson, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skippis, Hedding, Thompson, Claus, Isaacson, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the Minutes of December 18, 2017

Seconded by Mr. Skippis

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skippis, Hedding, Thompson, Claus, Isaacson, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Happy New Year to everyone!
- January 6th is the last day for Christmas in Ice. This will be the last year they are at their current location and next year, they will be in the Gavora Mall parking lot. They are still looking for a permanent location.
- This is my last year as Mayor and enjoy the opportunity to serve with everyone here on Council.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Proclamation

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Dept., Chief Coon

- The new Lieutenant will start on the 16th. We have made a conditional offer for the engineer position and that person is working through our process. Hopefully we will have him on duty in February.
- Rocky's heating is finishing up our boiler controls project. Some new problems have been uncovered throughout the changeover that will require fixing later in the year. It is anticipated that all repairs will be completed with the funds that have been dedicated in 2017 and existing building maintenance funds in 2018.
- Chief Coon will be reviewing the fireworks rules for the sale of fireworks within the City of North Pole. The intent is to make sure that the sale of fireworks is done in the safest manner possible. Chief Coon stated that he discussed the review with each of the vendors during their safety inspection.
- Chief Coon is working on putting in for two grants and completing the required grant reporting for the EMPG.

Police Dept., Chief Dutra

None

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

None

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- Permits issued for the Santa Claus House Retail remodel

Public Works

- Made it to the end of 2017 with only a \$150 (0.2%) exceedance of the snow plow budget.
- Recommendation before Council this evening to hire Bettisworth North to generate architectural design and bid-ready package for the City Hall & Police Department redesign project.
- Cody has begun construction of benches that are part of Public Works plan to extend beautification efforts to Badger Road between the interchange and Hurst Road.
 - **Mr. Skipps** asked if the benches are going to be permanently mounted. Mr. Butler replied that they will be like the ones we have now, where we will put them in during the Spring and remove them during the Fall.

Utility Department

- Sulfolane settlement.
 - Recommendation of a preferred contractor to construct the Water System Expansion Project is before Council this evening.
- Water main break near the intersection of 5th Avenue and the Old Richardson Highway.
 - Original plan was to excavate last week, but delayed due to cold temperatures.
 - Repair is planned for tomorrow – Wednesday.
 - Through selective closing of valves, Utility staff think they have identified the leaking main – there are four water mains in the area of the leak.
 - **Mr. Skipps** asked how long the water main break repair will take. Mr. Butler replied that it depends on a few different factors. We are hopeful that it will be just a single day. There are only 3 properties that will have water shut down if the break is where we think it will be. Those property owners will be notified prior to the repair.
- Plan to interview candidates for Utility Assistant position later this week.
 - Effort to fully staff Utility and train new individual in advance of Water System Expansion Project construction.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- Construction beginning on a 5.25 million gallon LNG tank at the Fairbanks Natural Gas site in Fairbanks.
 - At least 2 years to complete.
 - Plan includes moving several existing tanks to North Pole when large tank is completed.
 - **Ms. Hedding** asked if there were designated areas for these tanks. Mr. Butler replied that there is. GVEA is proposing a fuel transfer site.

Borough Representative

None

City Clerk's Office, Judy Binkley

- Reminder to sign up for the 2018 Borough Assembly meetings.
- 2018 AML Winter Session is February 20-22 in Juneau. Let me know if you are interested in attending and I will make arrangements.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

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

- **Thomas McGhee**, 1152 North Star Dr: Mr. McGhee wanted to know why Ordinance 17-28 was postponed. **Mayor Ward** replied that the amendments for the Ordinance were not ready. Mr. McGhee also wanted to know who actually saw the plans for the consented agenda item for the redesign of City Hall and the Police Department. Mr. McGhee also spoke to the conversation that took place on FaceBook regarding why the City of North Pole isn't doing more to embrace the Christmas theme. He indicated that there are funds available via the Bed Tax grant and the purpose of that grant is to promote the City of North Pole. Mr. McGhee also noted that in 2017, there was no Halloween or Christmas decorating contest. **Mr. Isaacson** asked Mr. McGhee if he knew that there was actually not a plan for the redesign of City Hall and the Police Department, that the request brought to Council this evening was to accept the proposal for the redesign. **Ms. Welch** asked Mr. McGhee that in terms of the FaceBook discussion, if he would be willing to form a committee to work on the Christmas theme. Mr. McGhee stated he would.

OLD BUSINESS

Postponed

Public Comment

None

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDED PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT THE NORTH POLE WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION.

Mr. Butler introduced the request.

Mr. Thompson asked who the individuals who made up the committee to select the contractor for the water system expansion was. Mr. Butler replied the committee was made up of the following representatives: State of Alaska – Doug Pouge, Flint Hills Resources – Tim Arnold and Craig Wallentine, City of North Pole – Bill Butler, and Dean Syta from Statec was the consultant.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Thompson *moved to accept the recommended proposal to construct the North Pole Water System Expansion.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion

Ms. Hedding *moved to amend the request to accept the recommended proposal to construct the North Pole Water System Expansion by adding the name of the selected contractor, Exclusive Paving, so the request reads as “Request to Accept Exclusive Paving’s Proposal to Construct the North Pole Water System Expansion.”*

Seconded by Mr. Skippis

On the amendment

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skippis, Hedding, Thompson, Claus, Isaacson, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

Discussion on the motion as amended

- **Mr. Thompson** stated he believed this we well vetted.
- **Mr. Isaacson** echoed Mr. Thompson’s comments.

- **Ms. Welch** thanked the committee for going through this process so diligently.

On the motion as amended

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skippis, Hedding, Thompson, Claus, Isaacson, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Skippis – Wished everyone a Happy New Year and to be safe and looks forward to 2018.

Ms. Welch – Happy New Year to everyone as well. Hopes that this year, between now and Christmas, we will be able to get the community more involved and bringing the spirit of Christmas.

Mr. Isaacson – Appreciate the comments of Ms. Welch and Mr. McGhee in bringing up the need for our City to embrace the spirit of Christmas. Encouraged volunteers to step forward and help with building our City.

Mr. Claus – Happy New Year to everyone and echoed the comments of the other Council members.

Mr. Thompson – Happy New Year!

Ms. Hedding – Wish everyone a safe and prosperous New Year!

Mayor Ward – Remind folks to look at the Violations Committee packet. Also, January 12th at 1pm at CCHRC there will be a workshop about energy efficiency, new construction, and appraisals. Also, we Periscoped this evening's meeting so if the video turned out, we will publish it on the website. Finally, I am working on the committees for this year and we have talked about a Christmas committee in the past. So if anyone is interested, please reach out to me.

Mr. Thompson *moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

The regular meeting of Tuesday, January 02, 2018 adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk