



**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, February 5, 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 Monday, February 5, 2018 to order at 7:05 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 February 5, 2018*

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

DISCUSSION

None

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

New Business:

- b. Resolution 18-02, A Resolution of the City of North Pole City Council in Support of Legislation to Facilitate Implementation of an Alaska Ground Emergency Medical Transport Supplemental Reimbursement Program in Alaska.
- c. Liquor License Renewal for Carr-Gottstein Foods Co. dba Oaken Keg Spirit Shop #1821.

Seconded by Ms. Welch

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 January 16, 2018

Seconded by Mr. Skippis

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Was able to attend the wood burning meeting/air quality meeting that took place on the 30th at the library. It was standing room only. It did get a little heated at times. If there's anything to take away from the discussion, it's that we are really going to have to think outside the box on coming up with a solution.

- “Budgets and Brats” on Thursday the 8th. FEDC will take a look at the State budget and it will be presented by Professor Gunnar Knapp. It will be at the Westmark and I encourage you to attend. It was a great presentation last year and I’m sure it will be great this year.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Dept., Chief Coon

- Captain Haywood filled in for Chief Coon.
- Both Chief Coon and DC Heineken are in Juneau for the leadership conference. Focus is GMET.
- As of last week, we are fully staffed.
- Have seen an uptick in chimney fires. Here at NPF, we have chimney brushes that the community can check out and use.

Police Dept., Chief Dutra

- Demolition of the old Detective office and painting and renovation are complete. This was a team effort. We saved the City \$5,000 by doing this in-house. Feel free to come by and check out the finished product.
- Lieutenant oral boards/testing will be this week. Decision should come out after backgrounds and final testing. We had 6 applicants which was whittled down to 4. All good folks – we will do just fine with whichever one comes out on top.
- We received our 2005 F250 evidence van – less than 20,000 miles on it for free. We will outfit this rig for crime scene response. Will make a huge difference in cold weather and other scenes.
- We have selected an Administrative Assistant. Her name is Alison and she will be at the next Council Meeting. Out of 24 applicants, it wasn’t an easy choice.
- Officer Meyer is now off FTO and on patrol. It has taken him 7 months or so with the academy.
- ALiCE training – our first community wide event at West Valley High School was a hit. Over 100 folks showed up and it went great. Please come to our North Pole Middle School presentation on the 15th at 6pm. I will be presenting. You should see the PSA with our great Mayor. We have donated \$500 to help boost play time. **Ms. Welch** asked if the principals that attended are instructors now. Chief Dutra replied that yes, they are. **Mr. Isaacson** asked if the February 15th presentation is for everyone and where the location is. Chief Dutra replied that it’s open to all and the location has been changed from NPMS to NPMS. **Mayor Ward** asked what time the training would begin. Chief

Dutra replied it starts at 6pm.

- ALiCE presentation by me at Mt. McKinley Bank on Wednesday to the North Pole Rotary as well as Troop 49 at Midnight Sun Elementary.
- ALiCE instructor course – we had 50 in attendance and all the principals are stoked and ready to go.
- The new patrol cars have been ordered. The new video systems will be installed into last year's cars in the next couple weeks.
- Grants – I filed \$208,000 worth of DHS grants this last week. These projects include shelter for DHS equipment, cameras for the PD and City Hall, OT for 2019 AS, radios for PD and FD (portables and mobile).

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

None

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- No new building permits issued since the beginning of the New Year.

Public Works

- Ice storm on January 16th contributed to ice road conditions throughout the City.
 - Our snow plow contractor has a serrated ice blade and Cody had him plow the entire City to help improve road safety.
 - I plan to include a future invitation bid for snow plowing contractors that they must have a serrated blade available to be considered as a contractor.
- Cody is on leave for most of February, so Public Works has just one staff member available.

Utility Department

- Sulfolane settlement.
 - HDPE pipe is scheduled to be delivered today for the winter construction work.
 - Surveying for brush clearing and planned pipe locations began today in Zone 1 (12 Mile Village) and Zone 2 (City properties north of the Richardson Highway).
 - Project schedules, maps and announcements will be posted on the City website (see “Our Community – Projects Around Town” for the latest postings.)
 - Project Open House is scheduled for Saturday, February 24th from 2-4:30pm at the North Pole Plaza Mall.
- Water main break near the intersection of 5th Avenue and the Old Richardson Highway.
 - Cold temperatures made excavating the leak impractical.

- The complexity of the dig caused the Utility staff to only use the Jet-Vac truck to prevent damaging other buried utilities.
- Cold temperatures quickly caused freezing in the Jet-Vac truck and that prevented the staff from securely reclosing the discharge hatch after emptying.
- Because the leak is not impacting a city street or private property, the Utility is taking a “wait and see” approach and waiting for warmer temperatures before trying again to repair the water main leak.
- Utility hired Eric Sonnenburg for the Utility Assistant position.
 - Eric formerly worked for the Utility up to 2010 when he moved out of state.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- No new developments to report about the gas utility.

Borough Representative

- Most interested in the re-zone for the Ainley properties. The ordinance was passed. Other agenda items of interest where the marijuana licenses/businesses.

City Clerk’s Office, Judy Binkley

- 2018 AML Winter session is February 20-22 in Juneau. Mayor Ward and Mr. Isaacson are attending this year. They will not be here for the February 20th Council Meeting so that will be run by Mayor Pro Tem, Mr. Thompson.
- This is your first reminder for your APOC Annual Statement filing – the deadline is March 15th!
- Council Minutes: I would like to update how these are done.
 - During discussion, I would like to indicate in the minutes that “discussion ensued” and the time on the recording that this occurred. I feel that this makes things more transparent since I will not be summarizing comments. Instead, you can go to the exact time on the recording (the audio is up on the website the day after the Council meeting) and listen to what was actually discussed. You can also hear the inflections in the voices rather than me trying to capture that on paper.
 - I also feel that this make the minutes easier to read and to keep track of where you are at with the motions.
 - **Ms. Welch** asked if this was legal and the City Clerk replied that it is.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

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

- **Jerry Koerner**, 1141 Lake Dr.: Wanted to give Council an update. Talked about the rezoning that was passed at the last Borough Assembly meeting. The next step of the process will be the re-plat. (Audio 33:54)
- **Thomas McGhee**, 1152 North Star Dr.: Talked about how to better notify the community when there are Council Meetings. Addressed the Mayor and City Clerk and brought attention to using an app that would send out notifications when there is a Council Meeting. Also talked about the air quality meeting and disappointed with the personal attacks on Mayor Kassel. (Audio 40:30)

OLD BUSINESS

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.

Mayor Ward introduced the ordinance and recapped where Council left off at the last meeting. There is still a motion on the table from the last meeting.

Public Comment

None

Mayor Ward brought back the motion on the table from the last meeting to **approve the amended version of the substitute Ordinance 17-28A.**

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

Discussion

Discussion ensued (Audio 47:50)

Mr. Isaacson moved to amend line 61 of Ordinance 17-28A by replacing with “An employee who has received a promotion shall move vertically to the position classification slot designated in the step code promotion title. No vertical promotion shall exceed \$500 (five hundred dollars) a month increase. An employee shall be moved to the next highest slot under the promotion limit.” (Ref 2.36.470(H)).

Seconded by Mr. Thompson

Discussion ensued (Audio 49:50)

Mr. Isaacson *withdrew his motion to amend line 61 of Ordinance 17-28A by replacing with “An employee who has received a promotion shall move vertically to the position classification slot designated in the step code promotion title. No vertical promotion shall exceed \$500 (five hundred dollars) a month increase. An employee shall be moved to the next highest slot under the promotion limit.” (Ref 2.36.470(H)).*

Seconded by Mr. Thompson

Mr. Isaacson *moved to amend Ordinance 17-28A by replacing lines 61-63 with “An employee promotion is subject to Title 2.36.470(H).”*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion ensued (Audio 1:01:25)

On the amendment to replace lines 61-63 of Ordinance 17-28A with “An employee promotion is subject to Title 2.36.470(H).”

FAILED

Yes: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

No: 5 – Skipps, Thompson, Claus, Welch, Ward

Absent: 0

Mr. Thompson *moved to amend lines 61-63 of Ordinance 17-28A by replacing with “An employee who has received a promotion shall move vertically to the position classification slot designated in the step code promotion title. No vertical promotion shall exceed \$500 (five hundred dollars) a month increase. An employee shall be moved to the next highest slot under the promotion limit.” (Ref 2.36.470(H)).*

Seconded by Ms. Hedding

Discussion ensued (1:08:40)

On the amendment to replace lines 61-63 of Ordinance 17-28A with “An employee who has received a promotion shall move vertically to the position classification slot designated in the step code promotion title. No vertical promotion shall exceed \$500 (five hundred dollars) a month increase. An employee shall be moved to the next highest slot under the promotion limit.” (Ref 2.36.470(H)).

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skipps, Hedding, Thompson, Claus, Isaacson, Welch, Ward
No: 0
Absent: 0

On the main motion to adopt Ordinance 17-28A as amended.

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skipps, Hedding, Thompson, Claus, Isaacson, Welch, Ward
No: 0
Absent: 0

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-01, A RESOLUTION CREATING A WATER METER STANDARD.

Mr. Butler introduced the resolution.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Thompson *moved to* introduce and adopt Resolution 18-01, A Resolution Creating a Water Meter Standard.

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skipps, Hedding, Thompson, Claus, Isaacson, Welch, Ward
No: 0
Absent: 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS (Audio 1:21:10)

Mr. Isaacson – Thanked Ms. Welch for attending the last Assembly meeting because he was out sick but will be attending the next meeting. Was able to watch the air quality meeting on Facebook live. Will be traveling and not available for the March 5th meeting. Happy 65th birthday to North Pole!

Mr. Claus – Please be safe on the roads and watch out for the pedestrians.

Mr. Thompson – None

Ms. Hedding – Please stay safe.

Mr. Skipps – None

Ms. Welch – The most important thing is to promote our community. Think ahead to the future and make Christmas in Ice a bigger event. Stay safe, it's slick out and use your headlights.

Mayor Ward – Focus on the roads and be safe and slow down. During the next Borough Mayor sandbox meeting on the 12th, there will be conversations on what services to cut as the budget will not be sufficient to cover all services.

Mr. Thompson *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

The regular meeting of Monday, February 5, 2018 adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, March 5, 2018.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk