



**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, May 21, 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, May 21, 2018 to order at 7:03 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**  
**Mayor Ward**

***Absent/Excused***

**Excused**

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

Led by Mayor Ward

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Ms. Welch

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Thompson** *moved to approve the agenda of May 21, 2018*

**Seconded** *by Mr. Skipps*

**DISCUSSION**

None

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

**Old Business:**

- b.** Ordinance 18-11, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2018 Operating Budget to Purchase New SCBA Equipment.

**New Business:**

- a. Request to Approve the Contract for Rolling Stone to Replace a Leach Field Damaged as Part of the Water System Expansion Project.
- b. Request to Approve the Fairbanks North Star Borough and City of North Pole Emergency Medical Services/Ambulance Contract Renewal and Amendment No. 3.
- c. Request to Approve Tuition Reimbursement for Detective Emily Gibson.

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

**Discussion**

**Mr. Thompson** added item c under new business to the consent agenda.

*On the amendment*

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Hedding

*On the Agenda as amended*

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Hedding

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Thompson** *moved to* **approve the Minutes of May 07, 2018**

**Seconded by Mr. Claus**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Hedding

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR** (Audio 4:30)

- The City of North Pole is now an Association of Defense Community Partner. Members from the ADC board were in town two weeks ago to tour our bases and look at the community. The Fairbanks North Star Borough is planning to partner with the ADC to put on a defense community summit in 2019. For more information, please visit their website at [www.defensecommunities.org](http://www.defensecommunities.org).
- I was able to participate in the FNSB senior citizen recognition day at the Carlson Center. The three mayors recognized many in the community but we got a special opportunity to recognize Patricia Therman for her volunteerism.
- I was honored to speak at the Police Memorial Service at the Trooper Park in North Pole on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The event was well attended and the lunch provided afterwards was done at North Pole Worship Center and much thanks for letting us use the facility.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival Committee is in need of volunteers, parade entrants, festival vendors, and softball players. This year the softball game is North Pole vs Eielson. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at City Hall. Please come help make this a fun event.
- Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> was the North Pole High School graduation and as always, it was a great experience. Congratulations to our graduates.
- Last weekend was a great weekend in North Pole. We had the Fire Department open house, which was a great success, and Cruis'n with Santa put on by the North Pole Optical Lions.
- Today for Arbor Day, the City planted a new Christmas tree out front by the Peace Pole. Thank you to North Pole Public Works for planting the tree.

**COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR** (Audio 8:20)

- **Mr. Thompson** stated he heard good comments about Mayor Ward's speech at the Police Memorial.

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

**Fire Dept., Chief Coon** (Audio 38:16)

- May 19<sup>th</sup> was our annual open house and would like to thank all of the Council members that came out with their families. By all accounts, this year was another hit. Captain Haywood and the members of NPFDD put on a well thought out and organized event. Captain Haywood has posted pictures of the event on our Facebook page.
- I attended the National Fire Academy last week in Emmetsburg, Maryland. The class

focused on strategies for success. I also spent a fair amount of time in the library researching funding alternatives for emergency medical and fire services.

- Department members are in training for a state certified Fire Apparatus Driver Operator class. This class is 80 hours and gives our members a state and national cert.
- Laserfiche project is still ongoing.
- On 5/11/18, we had a significant wind event that had numerous trees down on power lines and across road ways. Until we are completely greened up, there is still a significant wildland fire threat.
- Airpack grant update: ordinance 18-11 – second reading tonight.
- Fleet Maintenance Report:
  - Engine 21 is still down for repairs. Parts came in late last week and Deputy Chief Heineken worked over the weekend to rebuild the pump transmission. Engine 21 has been out of service for 38 days and Engine 22, which is 25 years old, has been assigned to first our duties. This is a good reminder to the Council the need to fund fire apparatus replacements.
  - Squad 24 wildland pump is still out of service due to a catastrophic failure in the pump. Squad 24 is 25 years old and parts are difficult to come by. I will keep the Council up to date on the status of the squad.
- **Mr. Claus** asked if 2 out of the 3 in-house resident spots are filled. Chief Coon replied that yes, there is still 1 vacant position. They went to NPHS recently to talk about firefighting and are trying to find local talent.
- **Mr. Isaacson** thanked Chief Coon for attending the fire academy and asked if it has been awhile since he was last there. Chief Coon replied that he tries to make it every other year and his goal is to make it there 20 times by the time he is done working.
- **Ms. Welch** gave kudos for the nice open house.

**Police Dept., Chief Dutra** (Audio 8:50)

- First Net – explained the service, new pricing, and what it means.
- Went through the stats from the department.
- File cabinets, tires, rims, storage shelves, and a 10 year old copier are at the auction house.
- UMOT update and NPMC – changes will take time.
- JAG 2018 grant is finally out so we are working to meet the May 25<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- Awards banquet is June 1<sup>st</sup>. May officers are receiving awards so if you are interested in attending, please let me know.
- ALiCE – many attendees are community businesses, churches, and organizations that will be able to share what they have learned.
- I attended the FNSBSD meeting for crises team training and roll out.
- Granite laser etched plaques for the Memorial Park have arrived and will be mounted shortly.
- New patrol cars have arrived in Anchorage. Outfitting and decals will take about a

month. Lt. Lindhag secured new lights donated by Sound Off worth about \$2000.

- As you know, I sent you the good news about my appointment to APSC. I am the 1<sup>st</sup> NP Chief to ever sit on the board.
- During our search for psych evaluations for the evidence custodian, I found a company to do ours for \$400.
- Search for the evidence custodian continues – we started with 16 candidates and are down to 11. A lot of time and resources goes into screening each candidate.
- Police Memorial – shout out to all my employees who helped – thank you.
- Torch Run – Officer Phil McBroom won for men. Also participating were my daughter, Lt. Lindhag, and Officer Jim McBroom. Thank you to all those folks for supporting.
- Lt. Lindhag received a glowing thanks for helping a citizen with a PFD problem and her car alarm. She brought him a plant to say thank you.
- **Mr. Skipps** asked for an update on the evidence vehicle. Chief Dutra stated there has been some movement but that Emily has been slammed with sexual assault cases and other investigations as well as the backgrounds on the evidence custodian applicants. The vehicle has the basics so it can be used now if needed.
- **Mr. Thompson** asked if there was any word on the HIDTA designation and what that means for North Pole. Chief Dutra stated that HIDTA is the High Intensity Drug Traffic Area and that there is a 15 member board that we have been invited to be a part of with the other local departments. So that will give us a say in how the funds are spent.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked if Chief Dutra was looking into the bills recently passed to correct SB91 and how that affects us. Chief Dutra replied that he hasn't had time to study the changes because these bills came as a big surprise but he will look into it.

### **Finance, Tricia Fogarty**

None

### **Director of City Services, Bill Butler** (Audio 29:54)

#### **Building Department**

- In process of plan reviews and permitting the residential and commercial projects reported at the last Council meeting.

#### **Public Works**

- Public Works has hired five summer employees.
- Street sweeping is underway.
- Building additional benches and trash cans for installation along Badger Road.
- Flowers for roundabouts and planters have been ordered with expected installation in early June.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked if the street sweeping was just for the main roads or if the smaller roads would be taken care of as well. Mr. Butler replied that anywhere the City put gravel down, we will be taking back up.

### **Utility Department**

- Sulfolane settlement.
  - HDPE pipe installation continues in 12 Mile Village and along Hurst Road.
  - Peridot Road pump house beginning to construct forms and install subsurface piping.
  - Initial renovation work beginning at the water treatment plan – raising steel framework and preparing for a new generator.

### **Natural Gas Utility Board**

- Scheduled vote to finalize purchase and sales agreement on May 29, 2018.
- IGU is exploring an alternative approach from Siemens that would provide a “turnkey” means to supply gas to the interior.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked for an explanation of the Siemens approach. Mr. Butler explained that the Siemens units are smaller than the Pentax units so you add as needed. Also, they are not owned by IGU and Siemens uses rail cars rather than trucks so it is more efficient.

### **Borough Representative**

None

### **City Clerk’s Office, Judy Binkley** (Audio 48:14)

- Last week the other local clerks and I were part of the “election workshop” hosted by the League of Women Voters. It was the first year this event was held and turnout was great. The clerks talked about the seats we each have open and important dates candidates will need to know. The League did a presentation on APOC and finally there were guest speakers who talked about their experiences when they were in office. Our next event will be the “candidate open house” on July 7<sup>th</sup>.
- I completed payroll on my own last week and it went pretty smoothly.
- We just received the renewal information for the health insurance plan. Mayor Ward and I have a call with the insurance brokers tomorrow morning to discuss the options. We will be going over that with Council at our next meeting.
- As a reminder, the June Council meetings will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) as I will be in clerk training the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June.
- **Mr. Skipps** asked what the candidate open house was. Clerk Binkley explained that the candidate open house is an event where the local clerks get together and have information about their municipality, the seats that will be open this year, and the requirements to run for elected office. It’s an opportunity for those who are seriously thinking about running for office to ask questions and pick up information.

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

None

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

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 18-10, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO APPLY FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA’S MILITARY FACILITY ZONE FOR THE ENTIRE NORTH POLE CITY LIMITS.** (Audio 50:40)

Mayor Ward introduced the ordinance.

**Public Comment**

None

**Mr. Thompson** *moved to adopt Ordinance 18-10, an ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to apply for the state of Alaska’s military facility zone for the entire North Pole city limits.*

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

**Discussion** (Audio 51:45)

**Mr. Isaacson** *moved to amend Ordinance 18-10, an ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to apply for the state of Alaska’s military facility zone for the entire North Pole city limits by deleting the colon on line 37 after “North Pole” and adding “to designate the entire North Pole city limits as a military facility zone.”*

**Seconded by Mr. Thompson**

**Mr. Isaacson** stated this amendment is to clarify the ordinance.

***On the amendment***

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 – Hedding

**Discussion on the motion as amended**

None

*On the motion as amended*

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 – Hedding

**NEW BUSINESS**

**REQUEST TO APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STANTEC CONSULTING, INC. TO DEVELOP CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE STANDARDS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION PROJECT.** (Audio 53:45)

Bill Butler introduced the request.

**Public Comment**

None

**Mr. Thompson** *moved to approve the professional services agreement with Stantec Consulting, Inc. to develop customer service line standards for the water system expansion project.*

**Seconded by Mr. Skippis**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Hedding

**COUNCIL COMMENTS** (Audio 1:01:20)

**Mr. Skippis** - None

**Ms. Welch** – Thank you to the fire department for the open house. I also attended Cruis’n with Santa and that was a lot of fun.

**Mr. Isaacson** – Mr. Skippis was one of the organizers for Cruis’n with Santa and it was a nice event. Chief Coon also did a good job with the open house. It was a fun day at North Pole because the day care had a big jumpy house so as kids left the fire station, there was another activity.



**Mr. Claus** – Had the great pleasure of meeting with some of the folks visiting from Thailand. They are having a celebration this Saturday. Also, this Thursday is red nose day which is an anti-child poverty campaign.

**Mr. Thompson** – None

**Mayor Ward** – Next Monday is Memorial Day. Also the Visitor's Center opens that weekend. Tomorrow at 6pm is the KJNP conditional use tower hearing at the Borough Chambers. The Thailand delegation has an event on the 26<sup>th</sup> from 11-1 so if anyone from Council would like to go, I will be happy to share the information after the meeting.

**Ms. Welch** *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.*

**Seconded** *by Mr. Skipps*

The regular meeting of Monday, May 21, 2018 adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, June 11, 2018.

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Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk