



**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, June 11, 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, June 11, 2018 to order at 7:00 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
Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mr. Skipps

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Thompson *moved to approve the agenda of June 11, 2018*

Seconded *by Mr. Skipps*

Discussion

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

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- a. Ordinance 18-12, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend Title 2, Personnel System, Chapter 36, Section .480 Insurance and Disability Benefits.
- b. Ordinance 18-13, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend Title 2, Administration and Personnel Chapter 36 Personnel System, Section 410 Regarding Leave and Adding Section 415 Voluntary Leave Bank Program.
- c. Request to Approve the Purchase of Motorola Portable Radios From ProComm Alaska for \$48,582.26 Under the Department of Homeland Security Grant 20-SHSP-GY17.
- d. Liquor License Renewal for Pagoda Chinese Restaurant.
- e. Liquor License Renewal for Loyal Order of Moose #306.
- f. Request to Accept a Department of Justice FFY17 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) From the Department of Public Safety in the Amount of \$82,100.00.

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Skipps, Thompson, Claus, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Skipps, Thompson, Claus, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Skippis, Thompson, Claus, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Audio 3:40)

- The Economic Development Commission met last month and had a presentation on the Community Quarterly that the Borough puts out every quarter of the year. The fun fact for last summer was that we built more homes in the City of North Pole than the City of Fairbanks.
- This week I am busy with the court evidentiary hearing on statute of limitations for the City of North Pole in the Williams case and will be out of the office for most of the week.
- Next weekend is the Juneteenth celebration to be held at the Bernice Allridge Park in Fairbanks from 10am to 7pm. I will be there with Mayor Matherly to enjoy the celebration.
- Our next 4th of July meeting is June 25th at 6pm here at City Hall. We are excited about this year's festivities and are asking for your participation!

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Dept., Chief Coon (Audio: 21:06)

- Hose testing is complete.
- We will be testing the City's hydrants starting on July 16th and finishing up on July 27th. You might see some slight discoloration in your water while we are flushing the system but the water is safe to drink.
- Members are still doing some driving and pumping training. This training will get our members a state of Alaska cert. This training also helps with our insurance grade.
- Department members are providing medic services to the Moto Cross track throughout the summer.
- Started painting projects on the annex and training building.
- Lt. Nelson retired from the department with 26 years of service. He will be added to the Life Member board for his contributions to the City of North Pole.
- Engineer Richard Hagen has been promoted to Lieutenant. Richard has been with NPDF for quite a few years and I know he will do a great job.

- Airpack Grant Update:
 - Department members have started some online training on the new model. Three staff members are taking the technician level repair training tomorrow. New packs will be in Fairbanks the end of the month.
- Fleet Maintenance Report:
 - 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.
 - Engine 21 has been repaired and is now back in service first out. The repair to the pump transmission cost approximately \$7,000. This is a tremendous savings by doing it in-house. The estimated cost of sending this repair to the shop would have been approximately \$25,000. This is a good reminder to the Council the need to fund fire apparatus replacements. The current allocation does not even keep up with replacing ambulances.

Police Dept., Lt. Lindhag (Audio 18:22)

- Chief wanted Council to see some of the department's stats so you can see what our officers are doing.
- Summer is coming so there are a lot more contacts.
- The department finished firearms training.
- Det. Gibson had her baby and is taking time off to spend with her family.
- Sgt. Stevenson is scheduled to be back this month.
- The Police Academy will be starting soon and we have some officers who will be participating by teaching classes.
- Filled out evidence clerk position.
- **Ms. Welch** asked Lt. Lindhag how he was assimilating back into the department. Lt. Lindhag replied he is still learning and enjoying it. He is happy to be back.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty (Audio 15:26)

- Attended a 2 day class on budgeting last week. Learned a few things that I'd like to implement.
- Will meet with Aurora tomorrow to wrap up the audit. The state of Alaska still has not released the PERS contribution report. This has happened in the past so the auditors will provide a draft audit until the state releases the PERS information.
- The auditors would like to talk with each of you so please call them and ask for Gary.
- I am working on payroll and the mayor is unavailable so I will need another signer to come in and sign off on payroll, preferably Wednesday morning before noon.
- Our AML investment pool account is set up so I will be working on transferring our existing account over.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler (Audio 6:21)

- Busy this week with the evidentiary hearing along with the Mayor.

Building Department

- Series of projects out there with the High School, Middle School, and Elementary School.
- The residential and commercial projects reported at previous Council meetings have been permitted and are moving forward.

Public Works

- The flowers are out but concerned about the weather and hope it stays above freezing tonight so they do not frost.
- Completed the construction of all the new benches and trash cans.
- Working on a sleigh that people can sit in and take pictures. It will go out by City Hall.

Utility Department

- The water expansion project is moving on schedule. Work is taking place in both Zone 1 and 2.
- The leak on 5th Avenue that could not be repaired during the winter has been fixed.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- There has been some back and forth with AIEDA. IGU wants more flexibility on the sales agreement. Specifically, they would like to be able to look at Siemens and their turnkey product.

Borough Representative

None

City Clerk's Office, Judy Binkley (Audio 29:05)

- Last week I was at Professional Development 1 (aka PD 1) for the Northwest Clerks Institute at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. I was in a class with about 60 other Clerk professionals and we spent the week focusing on legal issues, ethics, effective writing, the role of the clerk, records management, and parliamentary procedure. I was pushed out of my comfort zone into the "learning zone" and was able to network quite a bit. I'm looking forward to PD 2 next year!
- Reminder: prior to the Council meeting next Monday, we will have a work session starting at 5:30 to go over the Health Insurance renewal with the insurance brokers.

ONGOING PROJECTS (Audio 31:50)

Bill Butler presented the update on the Santa's Senior Center remodel project.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen) (Audio 49:08)

- **Chad Heineken**, 110 Lewis St.: Spoke about the change to the emergency leave bank. Stated he is supportive of changing but wanted to provide his personal perspective. Likes the flexibility of personally evaluating if the employee in need of the leave has been responsible with their planning. Also likes the idea of the leave bank for the accounting of the donated leave time. Does not support the idea of having to contribute to it in order to use it.
- **Geoff Coon**, 110 Lewis St.: Brought up the 2 personnel issues that were consented on the agenda. As for the leave bank, is supportive of it in concept. If everyone gives a little, no one has to give a lot. It's not perfect but likes the accountability for tracking the donated leave. As for the insurance change, no one likes cost increases but we have a nice plan and we'd like to see the exact same coverage continue.
- **Kevin Haywood**, 110 Lewis St.: As for the leave bank, was skeptical at first but after talking it over, it seems like a good way to go for the employees. As for the insurance, we have good insurance rates that are competitive and we use that when hiring. Encouraged Council and the Mayor to keep that in mind. Little changes to the premium are fine but we are worried about what changes there are with the plan itself.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Public Comment

None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 18-04, A RESOLUTION DEDICATING THE NORTH POLE UTILITY PUMP HOUSE ON PERIDOT STREET AS THE HOWARD 'BUZZ' OTIS MEMORIAL PUMP HOUSE. (Audio 56:40)

Mayor Ward introduced the resolution.

Public Comment (Audio 59:40)

- **Jeff Cook**, 10088 Salcha Dr.: Spoke in support of Resolution 18-04 and thanked Council for doing this. Stated this is a great way to recognize Buzz.
- **Ross Adkins**: Talked about the business relationships Buzz had with people all over town.
- **Kevin Haywood**, 110 Lewis St.: Thanked Council for doing this for Buzz.
- **Geoff Coon**, 110 Lewis St.: Also thanked Council for doing this for Buzz.

Mr. Thompson *moved to adopt Resolution 18-04, a resolution dedicating the North Pole Utility Pump House on Peridot Street as the Howard ‘Buzz’ Otis Memorial Pump House.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion

Mayor Ward noted that during the Committee of the Whole, Council Members Skipps, Thompson, Claus, and Welch stated they would like to co-sponsor the resolution with Mr. Isaacson.

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Skipps, Thompson, Claus, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

COUNCIL COMMENTS (Audio 1:07:25)

Mr. Claus – It’s nice to see the sidewalks and roads clear.

Mr. Thompson – None

Mr. Skipps – None

Ms. Welch – My husband received the APOA citizen of the year award after being nominated by Chief Dutra and it really lifted him up.

Mayor Ward - None

Mr. Thompson *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.*

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

The regular meeting of Monday, June 11, 2018 adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, June 18, 2018.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk