



**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 18, 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 18, 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 Ms. Welch

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Thompson *moved to approve the agenda of June 18, 2018*

Seconded by Mr. Claus

DISCUSSION

None

Mr. Thompson *moved to add the following item:*

New Business:

- b.** Request to Approve the Renewal of the City of North Pole Health Care Plan for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Seconded by Mr. Claus

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Thompson *moved to* approve the Minutes of June 11, 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 3:17)

- This week was busy as we were in court for the evidentiary hearing for the statute of limitations regarding the sulfolane settlement.
- We are getting ready for the 4th of July. Our next meeting is Monday, June 25th at 6pm.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR (Audio 3:46)

- **Ms. Welch** asked if there was a request for the ice sculpture this year. **Mayor Ward** replied that we would figure something out.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Dept., Chief Coon

None

Police Dept., Chief Dutra (Audio 4:05)

- Taser replacement is needed and we suspect somewhere around \$18k cost to replace. Working on a replacement timeline to help reduce expenditure. Current units are almost 10 years old.
- We find ourselves in another pickle with hiring. Officer Fisher has taken a job in Iowa and will be leaving us after 7 years. Sorry to see him go. This will leave us down 3 in the summer.
- June 30th at 11:00 is our annual Sgt. Allen Brandt Run From the Cops event at FPD. I would hope you can find time to attend.
- Thank you for supporting the radio grant and the JAG money.
- Chief Eric Jewkes, Captain Wall, and myself all honored Dr. Charles Scott for his lifetime achievement to the citizens of this borough. We honored him with a plaque and an award at the annual APOA Awards Banquet.
- I conducted an ALiCE presentation for Sourdough employees at the NP Sourdough. Well received.
- I just returned from vacation. All is well. Lt. did a good job while I was gone. We kept in touch and handled issues over the phone.
- **Ms. Welch** asked if there was a way to contact police directly report anything citizens see. Chief Dutra replied that you can always call the station and if no one answers, the call will be directed to dispatch.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

None

Director of City Services, Bill Butler (Audio 10:07)

Building Department

- North Pole Middle School Mechanical Upgrades Project, preferred contractor identified for this FNSB \$4 million project.
- Dental practice on Kevin's Way construction has begun.
- Homestead Road: four, 4-plexes' construction is under way.

- Three new single family home permit applications submitted.
- New 4-plex on Park Way permit applications submitted.
- To date, almost \$15 million in new valuation authorized or in the permitting process to date.

Public Works

- Landscaping activities are the major activities being performed by Public Works.
- Flowers in roundabouts weathered the frost conditions last week with some minor losses in the planters.
- Light poles around City Hall painted white.
 - Candy cane pattern had faded badly.
 - Time consuming to reproduce the candy cane pattern.
 - This fall, Public Works will wrap the street lights at the City Hall parking lot with strands of red lights to reproduce the candy cane effect.
- One summer hire left for a higher paying position. Public Works is considering delaying a new hire until the end of summer when the summer hires begin to leave but much landscaping work remains and the two permanent staff are short-handed preparing for winter.

Utility Department

- Sufolane settlement:
 - HDPE pipe installation continues in 12 Mile Village, up Peridot Street and into section of Zone 3 to get the water main to the new pump house.
 - Plan to connect the 16 inch HDPE main to the Utility's 12 inch ductile iron water main in about two weeks to begin flushing the new water mains.
 - Peridot Road pump house subsurface piping nearing completion and proceeding to pouring the foundation.
 - Framing work nearing completion at the water treatment plant.
 - A problem has occurred with horizontal directional drilling under the drainage channel.
 - Can see the drilling equipment parked on the south side of the Richardson Highway.
 - Soils keep collapsing, interfering the pulling of the water main through the bore hole.
 - Solution is use of a large pipe sleeve to pull the water main through the bore hole.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- On June 12, IGU board voted to purchase Pentex from AIDEA.

- On June 14, AIDEA approved transferring Pentex to IGU.
- **Ms. Welch** asked where that puts us now with all the pipe that is already in the ground. Mr. Butler replied that a 45 million gallon liquified gas tank in Fairbanks and that will replace the Fairbanks tanks. The tanks being replaced in Fairbanks will then be moved out to North Pole. It will probably not be until 2020 that North Pole gets gas.

Borough Representative – Mr. Skipp (Audio 17:25)

- The 2018-2019 budget for the school district has been approved.
- Also, all kindergarten classes in all schools will now go for the full day.
- There are lots of summer activities going on.
- The City of Fairbanks hired 20 new operators to cut down on overtime costs during the winter.

City Clerk’s Office, Judy Binkley (Audio 18:37)

- Last week Tricia and I met with Hale & Associates to go over our Workman’s Comp, Law Enforcement Liability, and Cyber Liability Insurance renewals. We got good news as our overall costs are going down.
- I am well under way with preparations for election time. The candidate packet is available on the website and our notice of vacancies has been published. The 2018 Candidate Open House will be Saturday, July 7th at the Borough Assembly Chambers beginning at 10am. The filing period will open at 8am on Monday, July 16th and close at 5pm on Monday, July 30th.
- I will be on vacation starting tonight and back in the office on Monday, July 2nd. I plan to check my emails daily so if you need to get a hold of me, that will be the best way.

ONGOING PROJECTS (Audio 20:00)

Gary Hutchison presented the 2017 draft audit by Kohler, Schmitt, and Hutchison.

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

None

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 18-12, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH PLE, ALASKA TO AMEND TITLE 2, PERSONNEL SYSTEM, CHAPTER 36, SECTION .480 INSURANCE AND DISABILITY BENEFITS. (Audio 46:17)

Mayor Ward introduced the ordinance.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Thompson moved to adopt 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.

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion (Audio 47:38)

- **Mr. Thompson** stated he thinks the increase is relatively small considering the health insurance marketplace and supports the ordinance.

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

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. (Audio 48:20)

Mayor Ward introduced the ordinance.

Public Comment (Audio 52:55)

- **Steve Dutra**, 125 Snowman Lane: Stated he likes the current system that is in place. There have been issues with popularity but that employees should be able to donate to employees directly. The idea of the bank is a good idea but there needs to be an appeal process. Right now we have a good working relationship with the Clerk and the Mayor but that could change so we need to make this process time-proof.

Mr. Thompson moved to adopt 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.

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

Discussion (Audio 56:05)

- **Mr. Claus** stated he agrees with the Chief about having a mechanism in there and perhaps tabling this until there is a way to work out some sort of accommodation that

takes into account the changes that might go through with the City Clerk and Mayor in the future.

- **Ms. Welch** stated part of the issue could be taken care of by having 2 (two) people concur on the decision.
- **Mr. Thompson** stated he thinks he understands where the discussion is going. However, by changing the language from “or” to “and” doesn’t alleviate the time-proofing issue.
- **Mayor Ward** stated we could look at modifying this by having the City Clerk, who is also the HR Manager rule quickly on all decisions and if there is an appeal, it then goes to the Mayor to make a decision.
- **Ms. Welch** wanted clarification that with this method, the Clerk would make the decision and if the employee didn’t like the decision, they could appeal to the Mayor.
- **Mr. Thompson** asked if we want to address all the areas of the ordinance that say “and/or” Mayor.

Ms. Welch *moved to suspend the rules for 5 minutes*

Seconded *by Mr. Skipps*

Mr. Thompson *moved to amend 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 by:*

- **Line 90** strike “and Mayor”
- **Line 106** strike “and/or Mayor”
- **Line 110** add c. **An applicant may appeal a decision made by the City Clerk to the Mayor, who shall quickly make a determination in writing. The Mayor’s decision is final.**
- **Line 121** strike “or Mayor”
- **Line 125** strike “or Mayor”

Seconded *by Ms. Welch*

Discussion on the amendment (Audio 1:12:40)

- **Mr. Thompson** stated that just to add closure, this is a good way to clean up the ordinance.

On the amendment

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

Discussion on the motion as amended

None

On the motion as amended

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

NEW BUSINESS

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF QUOTE FOR STREET MAINTENANCE WORK:
SUMMER 2018.** (Audio 1:13:45)

Mr. Butler introduced the request.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Thompson *moved to* approve the quote from JVP Construction for street maintenance work: summer 2018.

Seconded by Mr. Skippis

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

**REQUEST TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE
HEALTH CARE PLAN FOR JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019.** (Audio 1:18:10)

Mayor Ward introduced the request.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Thompson *moved to approve the renewal of the City of North Pole Health Care Plan for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion (Audio 1:20:30)

- **Mayor Ward** stated he is excited about the wellness program and fostering the culture of taking care of your health for our employees.
- **Ms. Welch** stated that education is important for our employees to be better consumers.

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Hedding, Isaacson

COUNCIL COMMENTS (Audio 1:23:00)

Mr. Thompson – see you guys July 2nd, at our next Council meeting.

Mr. Skippis – invite Council members to our next 4th of July celebration meeting on Monday, June 25th.

Ms. Welch – I'll be doing ice carving for the 4th of July event and I'll have visiting guests at our next Council meeting.

Mr. Claus – it's still light out so I hope all those using the sidewalks (atvs, 4-wheelers) will obey all traffic laws.

Mayor Ward – my time here is short so if anyone is interested, my door is open and I look forward to helping the next mayor be successful in this role.

Mr. Thompson *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

The regular meeting of Monday, June 18, 2018 adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, July 2, 2018.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk