



**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, September 17, 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, September 17, 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
Perry Walley
Mayor Ward

Absent/Excused

Excused

Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mr. Isaacson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Welch moved to approve the agenda of September 17, 2018

Seconded by Mr. Isaacson

DISCUSSION

None

Ms. Welch moved to consent the following items:

New Business:

- b. Approval Request to Extend the Heating Fuel Contract for the Period January 1 Through December 31, 2019 with Alaska Fuel Services at the Same Terms as the 2018 Contract.
- c. Ordinance 18-22, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2018 Operating Budget.

and removing the following item:

New Business:

- a. Request to Approve the MPO Operating Agreement

Seconded by Mr. Isaacson

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Walley, Thompson

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Walley, Thompson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Welch moved to approve the Minutes of September 04, 2018

Seconded by Mr. Isaacson

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Walley, Thompson

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Audio 3:24)

- I was able to attend the Air Force Ball on the 8th of September on behalf of the City. The Air Force Ball Committee asked for the mock F-35 model and I was able to transport it to the event.
- The evening of September 8th, I was able to spend the night out with about 50 other participants in the One Homeless Night event put on by Fairbanks Youth Advocates and The Door. This is a fundraiser for The Door and I have a page set up for donations. It was a great experience to help grow compassion for our homeless youth.
- Last Saturday was the Mayors' Bowl, North Pole vs Lathrop. Unfortunately we lost and therefore I am wearing the winning teams jersey to our Council meeting (the wager was the losing Mayor wear the winning team colors), it was a staggering 0-70.
- September 20th at 6pm is the North Pole Chamber Candidate Forum and I encourage our residents to attend to hear the candidates for the City of North Pole Mayor and Council seats. This event is held at the newly finished North pole Senior Center.
- September 21st – 22nd is the third annual Clean the Air Conference held at the Wedgewood, Council you should have seen an invite go out. If you are attending even for one or two of the sessions, please RSVP.
- October 5th at 7pm I will be giving a State of the City to the Sunrisers Rotary of Fairbanks. They meet at the Carlson Center.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Dept., Chief Dutra (Audio 6:36)

- Officer Jed Smith received 2 commendations.
- Officer Phil McBroom received a commendation.
- Operation Glowstick is moving forward. We have upped the number of glowsticks to over 700 to be handed out to kids on Halloween. We have courted a sponsor from the Lions Club NP to cover the costs associated with this. They are donating \$1000 to support his project. Thank you Howard Rixie and their members.
- I taught ALiCE to FWW PD. Chief Dahlke asked us to conduct 2 sessions with his police officers so they can get a background on what to expect when they respond to these incidents. I conducted a 4 hour session and we will do another next week.
- Myself and Lt. Lindhag attended an event at the Food Bank on September 11th. This event was the kick off of "365 Days of Caring." I talked on radio and helped back 500 lunch bags. Some of which we brought back to NPPD to distribute to folks who wanted to pick up in NP.

- I am signed up for my 6th or 7th year of the Guys Read Program. I will be servicing NPE, Midnight Sun, and Ticasuk Brown. I firmly believe that setting an example for 4th grade boys and reaching out to them and showing them how important it is to read is a worthy cause. I would ask that if any of you are interested in participating, please let me know and we can get you in touch with Greg Hill.
- Our 16th National Drug Take Back Day is coming up on October 27, 2018 between 10-2.
- Received a letter from APSC on funding for academies in 2019-2020. The jist is no funding for academies in the foreseeable future. This is why you will see an increase in our costs for training in our 2019 budget. They will however pay for or sponsor courses that are beneficial to all.
- Coffee with a Cop – I cordially invite you to join me and others for coffee or tea on October 3, 2018 between 8-9am. We plan on doing one of these sooner rather than later on a Saturday. This is post-election and also National Coffee with a Cop Day. Great time for folks to chat with us.
- **Mr. Skipp**s asked what time Coffee with a Cop was. Chief Dutra replied between 8 and 9 on the 3rd.
- **Ms. Welch** asked if Council could have copies of the Chief's report. Chief Dutra replied that he would provide them.

Fire Dept., Chief Coon (Audio 17:30)

- FF-1 is in full swing and has completed two weekends of training. This class is a partnership with the Community and Technical College, North Star Volunteer Fire Department and the North Pole Fire Department. We also have participation from Steese and Salcha Fire Departments.
- I am still heavily involved with the Interior Fire Chiefs Association where I serve as the Vice President and the Alaska State Chiefs Association where I am a board member. Membership in these two organizations allow me to have input in the Alaska Fire Service.
- I will be attending the 2018 Alaska State Fire Conference. I will be attending training classes and participating as a State Chief Board Member at meetings.
- Michelle is working with Laserfiche to electronically store some of our fire, EMS, and training records.
- FD budget looks good and we are expecting to be under budget in several areas. It would be good to transfer any under budget funds into the fleet replacement fund as we are expecting to spend everything in the fund to replace an ambulance this year.
- The Fire Department is working on purchasing a new ambulance and should have a packet to the Council by next meeting. We will be using a group purchasing agreement which should speed up the process by months. The cost of the new ambulance shall be approximately \$200,000. The FD has been working with the FNSB to standardize an ambulance spec to be used by both the Borough and the City of North Pole.
- Medic 21 has 98,045 miles, Medic 22 has 120,527 miles, and Medic 23 has 139,157 miles

- **Maintenance Report:**
 - B-Shift has completed repairs to Squad 24's brake system and parts have been ordered to retrofit a new forestry pump into it. The Squad has been down for most of the summer due to maintenance issues.
 - Pump testing is almost complete. All of the in-service vehicles have passed pump testing. The old ladder truck is the last to be tested. Ladder 21 is the reserve truck and could be placed back into service as a fire engine or truck if the need should arise.
 - Engine 23 is a reserve fire engine that stays outside year-round and could be placed back into service. It has developed substantial leaks and it was determined not to test it at this point. We are still evaluating the value of keeping it but this might signal the end of its usefulness. Engine 23 has served as our forestry engine and has earned the City a considerable sum when renting it out for forest fires in the past.
- **Mr. Skipp**s asked if Chief Coon was still compiling information with similar cities about how they have gone about getting new funds. Chief Coon replied that he was and has learned that everyone does it a little differently.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked what makes it so necessary to replace an ambulance. Chief Coon replied that GSA states no first out ambulance should be beyond 100,000 miles and these vehicles go from "zero to hero" all the time and spend time idling, which a contribute to the wear and tear.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler (Audio 37:12)

Building Department

- 3 residential building permits issued (2 homes one foundation only).
- 1 commercial building permit issued (foundation only of a triplex).

Public Works

- Drainage at dog park installed.
- Public Works is constructing a gravel storage shed at their garage.
 - Utility had permitted storage at Utility Garage site, but this site left gravel unprotected, only had a gravel base leading to contamination of gravel (large rocks), and inconvenient for staff to load gravel.
 - New site will have concrete pad, concrete block walls and in the future, a roof.

Utility Department

- Sulfolane settlement.
 - Project dashboard attached to provide snapshot of project status.
 - Approximately 99% of all Zones 1 & 2 water mains have been installed.
 - Brush cutting in Zones 3 & 4 should be getting underway followed by limited additional pipe installation to take advantage of dropping ground water level.
 - Commissioning activities completed on all installed water mains and Interim Approval to Operate applications (9) submitted to ADEC for all parts of installed water system.

- One Interim Approval to Operate (IAO) has been issued (piping connected to Peridot Pump House) and a verbal notification of a second IAO has been provided (Zone 1).
- State law allows application of City Municipal Code outside of city limits as it applies to the utility system.
 - Will be submitting code updates within the next two months to reflect utility functions outside the city limits.
- Request to extend Utility's sewer system service area to encompass entire city boundary submitted to and accepted by Alaska Regulatory Commission with decision date on or before January 19, 2019.
 - When finalizing Sulfolane Settlement Agreement, it was discovered the City's service areas for water and sewer systems had not been updated since first awarded in 1973.
 - Initially focused on updating water system service area in support of agreement before submitting sewer system application.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked for clarification regarding the RCA since they have changed their views. Mr. Butler replied that they attorney originally stated we were not required to do this but when we talked to the RCA, they stated that we do need to do this.
- **Ms. Welch** stated she has spoken with several people and there are individuals on Facebook ranting and raving about the service contract for having water installed. Some stated it's against their will or are being told that they are now they are going to have water, claiming that the City is actually taking over their rights and they didn't have a choice in the matter. Mr. Butler replied that he's not sure who told them that. The State of Alaska represents the people outside of the City. The City's perspective was the City did a settlement for itself. There have a lot of rumors going around and I deal with the calls as they come in. There's no requirement to connect. People don't have to if they don't want to.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- Siemens Government Technologies, Inc., on behalf of Knik Tribe, will make a presentation on September 18 at the IGU Board meeting and respond to Board questions as part of the process to enter into an agreement with IGU to provide LNG to Fairbanks.
 - Meeting will start at 3:00 pm at IGU's office in the Key Bank Building on Cushman Street.
- **Mr. Claus** asked if Siemens was the potential turnkey one. Mr. Butler replied yes.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty (Audio50:53)

- Financials are before you tonight. I want to focus on the administrative budget amendments. There are four and these are the first ones that have come out of 2018.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked for clarification on administrative amendment 18-03. Ms. Fogarty replied that that in an expense account, an increase is a debit and a credit is a decrease.

Borough Representative – Mr. Skipps (Audio 59:53)

- The majority of the meeting was just getting approval for new marijuana licenses within the Borough. There were five or six of them.
- **Ms. Welch** asked if there was a maximum number of allowed license. **Mr. Skipps** replied that that was not a question that was asked.

City Clerk’s Office, Judy Binkley (Audio 1:00:34)

- In-person absentee voting is under way here at City Hall and will be available until Monday, October 1 at 5:00pm. We have both the City and Borough ballots.
- AML is coming up in November so if any Council members are interested in attending, please let me know and I will start planning and making arrangements. I will be sending out more details to Council as they are made available.
- Thank you to Mr. Walley who has signed up to attend the 9/27 and 10/25 FNSB Assembly meetings.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked if it needed to be in writing if he wanted to attend AML. City Clerk Binkley replied that she has already received Mr. Isaacson’s email regarding his desire to attend AML.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

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

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

Public Comment

None

NEW BUSINESS

Consented

Public Comment

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

Ms. Welch moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Isaacson

The regular meeting of Monday, September 17, 2018 adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, October 1, 2018.

Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk