



**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, October 15, 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, October 15, 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
Perry Walley
Mayor Ward

Absent/Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mayor Ward

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Thompson *moved to approve the agenda of October 15, 2018*

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

DISCUSSION

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

New Business:

- b. Request to Accept the 2018 SHSP Grant for \$67,323.00 20SHSP-GY18.
- c. Ordinance 18-23, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Updating Chapter 01 Garbage and Refuse to Title 8 Health and Safety.
- d. Ordinance 18-24, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Updating Chapter 02 Public Hazards to Title 8 Health and Safety.
- e. Ordinance 18-25, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Updating Chapter 03,

- Animal Nuisances to Title 8 Health and Safety.
- f. Ordinance 18-26, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Amending Chapter 04 Nuisances, Title 8 Health and Safety.
 - g. Ordinance 18-27, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Amending Title 12 Maintenance of Streets, Road Rights of Way, Sidewalks or City Property.
 - h. Request to Approve a Revision to the Alasconnect Agreement.

Seconded by Mr. Claus

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

Mr. Isaacson moved to postpone the following item:

New Business:

- a. Request From Jesse Douglass for Forgiveness of Utility Bills Left by Tenants.

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Thompson *moved to approve the Minutes of October 1, 2018*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Audio 3:53)

- The Governor and the Commissioner and a bunch of legislators were at City Hall last week for the Military Facility Zone signing. The City was officially designated as the first military facility zone in the state of Alaska.
- I was able to give the Alaska Travel Industries a welcome with the other mayors at the annual meeting that was at the Carlson Center.
- I would like to congratulate our new Mayor and Council and it's been an honor and a privilege to serve the City for the last 6 years.
- Proclamation: Presented the September Student of the Month proclamation to Sarah Bixby.

Certification of the October 2, 2018 Election

City Clerk Binkley gave a presentation on the election results and the report of the election Canvass Board.

Mr. Thompson *moved to certify the election of October 2, 2018*

Seconded by Mr. Isaacson

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

New and re-elected officials sworn in:

Michael Welch
David Skipps
Perry Walley
DeJohn Cromer

Mr. Thompson *moved to suspend the rules until 7:45 for a community reception.*

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Dept., Chief Coon (Audio 15:17)

- FF-1 class is still ongoing, the class will test out on December 1st.
- I submitted a Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant for new turn-out gear, automated chest compression device, and funds for confined space rescue training. There would be a 10% match if approved.
- The Fire Department is also participating in a regional grant application to fund radios for the Fire Department. It too would have a 10% match if selected.
- Michelle is working with Laserfiche to electronically store some of our fire, EMS, and training records.
- The Tanana Valley Firefighters Association held their annual firefighter ball this last weekend. Members of the North Pole Fire Department received the following awards:
 - NPF - Fire Prevention Program of the Year
 - Sam Fagerstrom – EMS Person of the Year
 - Geoff Coon – Chief Officer of the Year
- Additionally, Captain Kevin Haywood was awarded the State of Alaska Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year. The State Fire Marshall flew up from Anchorage to personally give this award to Kevin.
- The Department had two significant structure fires in the last month. One on Finell Drive and one at Tanana Apartments. The fire at the apartment complex was complicated by the fact that one of the occupants had to be transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation. The fire was contained to the apartment of origin and the attic directly above the apartment of origin. In both of these incidents, we were able to control the fire due to the close proximity to the fire station. In both incidents we received automatic aid from North Star Volunteer Fire Department and Eielson Fire Department.
- FD budget looks good and we are expecting to be underbudget in several areas. It would

be good to transfer any underbudget funds into the fleet replacement fund as we are expecting to spend everything in the fund to replace an ambulance this year.

- **Maintenance Report:**
 - C-21 is still at the shop for repairs.
 - Squad 21 is still waiting for some parts to repair the pump.
 - Medic 23 has been down graded to reserve status. This is the ambulance that will go to auction after the new one is placed in service.
 - Several of the light and medium duty vehicles will be undergoing “B” inspections and repairs.
- **Ms. Welch** asked what the total amount we would receive for grants if we were lucky enough to get everything we applied for. Chief Coon replied it would probably be \$500,000
- **Mr. Thompson** asked what the number from savings in different categories is that we would be looking at to transfer into the fleet fund. Chief Coon replied that the Fire Department is probably \$50,000 - \$60,000 under budget and moving that towards the fleet fund would be a nice start.
- **Mr. Claus** encouraged fellow and new Council members to do the free ICS FEMA training online.
- **Mr. Thompson** asked when Eielson starting providing mutual aid or automatic response. Chief Coon replied it was about 3 weeks ago.

Police Dept., Chief Dutra

None

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

None

Director of City Services, Bill Butler (Audio 26:25)

Building Department

- Single building permit issued since last Council meeting.
 - Valuation of building permit applications to date: \$16.4 million.
 - Value is deceptive because the \$4.1 million project at the middle school has been delayed until Spring 2019.

Public Works

- Last of Public Works’ temporary hires will be leaving within a week and Public Works will be down to its two full-time employees.
- Preparing for winter – roundabouts prepared for Christmas decorations, benches and planters removed to facilitate plowing sidewalks, preparing equipment for winter plowing and sanding.

Utility Department

- Sulfolane settlement
 - Insulation being installed on 750,000 water tank.
 - 16 inch water mains that surfaced have been buried and final connections on Zone 2 being completed.
 - Rapidly approaching substantial completion of Peridot Pump House and modifications at Water Treatment Plant.
- City received verbal notification that the Air Force has approved the North Pole Utility to be the provider of water to Moose Creek.
 - Air Force would like to see construction begin in 2018, but this is not realistic. In months ahead, hope to see formal agreement between City and Air Force and release of funding to start engineering in late 2018 or early 2019.
 - Optimistic schedule would be for construction to begin and completed in in 2019.
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Pollen Environmental conducted bi-annual sampling of City wells for PFAS compounds and took the first sample of treated wastewater effluent for PFAS compounds.
 - Expect results in approximately three weeks.
- **Mr. Claus** asked if the City was still planning to name the Peridot Pump House after Buzz. Mr. Butler replied that it would probably happen in the springtime when things look nicer and the construction site is cleared up.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- Nothing new to report on IGU.

Borough Representative – Mr. Thompson (Audio 30:08)

- I gave a quick brief and let them know of our individuals that were elected to City Council as well as the new Mayor and gave a very brief rundown for the military facility zone.
- The meeting overall was contentious and there was a lot of public comment. They addressed a lot of different issues, but none of which really seemed to be affecting us right now.

City Clerk's Office, Judy Binkley (Audio 31:00)

- Congratulations to our newly and re-elected officials.
- AML is coming up in November so if Council members are interested in attending, please let me know and I'll make the arrangements. I just received the updated itineraries so I'll be sending those out soon.

- We are still working on putting together the health fair for our employees. We will have an expert to our health insurance plan on-site to answer questions. We are also hoping to get a local physical therapist and eye doctor to participate as well. It will be November 8th from 7:30-10:30 in the morning. Council welcome to attend but will have to pay for your own tests.
- I attended Caselle training last week and participated in the HR module classes. I was able to learn a few tips and tricks and hope to implement some of those in the near future.
- We are accepting applications for the 2019 Hotel/Motel Bed Tax Grant until October 31st at 5pm. The application is on the website.
- **Mr. Thompson** asked when AML information is needed by to make all the travel arrangements. City Clerk Binkley replied that sooner is better but there's no hard deadline.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen) (Audio 32:56)

- **Steve Dutra**, 125 Snowman Lane: Congratulated new and re-elected Council Members and Mayor. Thanked Santa Claus and Mayor Ward for everything they have done for the department and City.
- **John Ellis**, 141 E Fifth Avenue: Congratulated newly elected people. Stated that the street sign on Davis Boulevard is wrong. The sign says Davis Street but it should be Davis Boulevard.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Public Comment

None

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST TO APPROVE AN EXTENDED WARRANTY FOR SUSPECT FUSION WELDS INSTALLED AS PART OF THE WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION PROJECT.

(Audio 37:52)

Mr. Butler introduced the request.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Thompson *moved to approve an extended warranty for suspect fusion welds installed as part of the water system expansion project.*

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skipps, Walley, Thompson, Claus, Isaacson, Welch, Ward

No: 0

Absent: 0

Mr. Thompson *moved to adjourn into executive session to discuss the legal strategy of the City of North Pole in reference to PFOS/PFOA at 8:20 p.m.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Mayor Ward brought the meeting back to order at 9:45 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS (Audio 46:00)

Mr. Isaacson – None

Mr. Claus – Thank you to everybody for the past 3 years, Council, Mayor, Department Heads, and Staff. I hope you'll all go out and vote next month.

Mr. Thompson – Thank you Mr. Claus for your service on the Council. Thank you, Mayor and I wish you the best at the Borough. It's been amazing to be able to sit next to you this year and I appreciate everything you've taught me on Council.

Mr. Walley – Echo those statements. Have fun at the Borough.

Mr. Skipps – Thank you, Mr. Claus for serving on Council. Thank you Mayor. We did a lot of extra stuff outside to get stuff going for the City. I want to thank you for your leadership.

Ms. Welch – Thank you, Mr. Claus for serving on Council the last 3 years. Welcome to the new and re-elected officials. Good luck to the Mayor in your new position.

Mayor Ward – Thank you, Mr. Claus for your service on Council. It's been an amazing experience to serve as Mayor for the City of North Pole. I was pretty young when I got into this and it was like hitting a brick wall, but you get up and just keep going. I've learned a lot working with Council, our staff, and community.

Mr. Isaacson *moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m.*

Seconded *by Ms. Welch*

The regular meeting of Monday, October 15, 2018 adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

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

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk