



**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, November 5, 2018 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, November 5, 2018 to order at 7:03 p.m.

There were present:

**Avery Thompson
David Skippis
Aino Welch
DeJohn Cromer
Doug Isaacson
Perry Walley
Mayor Welch**

Absent/Excused

**Excused
Excused**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Welch

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mr. Isaacson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Thompson *moved to* approve the agenda of November 5, 2018

Seconded *by* Ms. Welch

DISCUSSION

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

Old Business:

- a.** Ordinance 18-23, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Updating Chapter 01 Garbage and Refuse to Title 8 Health and Safety.
- b.** Ordinance 18-24, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Updating Chapter 02 Public Hazards to Title 8 Health and Safety.
- c.** Ordinance 18-25, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Updating Chapter 03, Animal Nuisances to Title 8 Health and Safety.

- d. Ordinance 18-26, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Amending Chapter 04 Nuisances, Title 8 Health and Safety.
- e. 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.

New Business:

- a. Resolution 18-13, A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Designating City Officials Authorization to Sign on City of North Pole Accounts.

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Thompson, Isaacson, Welch, Walley, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Cromer

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Thompson, Isaacson, Welch, Walley, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Cromer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Thompson, Isaacson, Welch, Walley, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Cromer

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Small Business Saturday Proclamation
- Re-organization of Council
 - Mayor Pro Tem – Doug Isaacson
 - Deputy Mayor Pro Tem – Avery Thompson
 - Alt Dep Mayor Pro Tem – Perry Walley

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Dept., Chief Dutra

- Swearing in of Officer Terry.
- NOLB Awards for Lt. Lindhag and evidence custodian, Rachel Wing.
- ALiCE training for parents completed at all 4 major high schools – Lathrop, WV, Eielson, and NP along with staff at Borealis Sun, Anne Wein, and Joy. Due to finish Lathrop staff, nutritional services, and Pearl Creek this week and next.
- I want to publicly thank Mayor Welch for making a showing at 3 major events for our department these last 2 weeks. Mayor Welch helped us out with glow sticks on Halloween and handed out candy. Mayor Welch also attended the Ben Eielson High School ALiCE presentation and attended the NOLB awards banquet. Thank you, Mayor Welch, for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend these events.
- Many officers, including myself and my family attended Natasha Brandt’s get-together to mark the 2nd anniversary of Sgt. Brandt’s death. I would hope we all remember him and his family and remember the sacrifice he made for us all.
- I attended a meeting last week to meet the new Special Agent in Charge for the FBI.
- We successfully handed out 700 glow sticks for Halloween. We estimated almost complete saturation from what I could tell by the end of the night. One shout out to North Pole Lions for donating the money to cover the costs associated with glow sticks. Also we had six LEO’s come out to help us hand out sticks. I want to personally thank them for their efforts.
- We had 2 pumps go out on our heating system. We plan on replacing those at a cost of \$4000.
- Applicants are being processed but they are coming in very slow.

- **Mr. Isaacson** asked about the glow sticks and if those were supplied by the Lions. Chief Dutra replied that they were.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- No new building permits issued since the last Council meeting.

Public Works

- Public Works was waiting for Halloween to pass before beginning to install Christmas decorations. A few decorations have gone up at City Hall and they are light testing other decorations.

Utility Department

- Sulfolane settlement.
 - Substantial completion obtained for Zones 1 & 2 water mains; on verge of substantial completion for the Peridot Pump House.
 - Seismic upgrades underway at the Water Treatment Plant. Projected to be completed before mid-December.
 - There was hydrocarbon groundwater contamination in Zones 3 & 4 requiring the installation of ductile iron pipe. Almost all of the DI pipe installed before the weather turned cold.
 - **Mr. Isaacson** asked about the ductile pipe and how it's going to handle the amount of earth shifting or if that's even a concern. Mr. Butler replied that there is a lock type fitting now that's better than the typical one.
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
 - Received results for PFAS sampling at City wells – non-detect for the past two sampling events.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- IGU has formed a negotiating team to work with Siemens to determine if Siemens can provide liquefied natural gas cheaper than IGU could produce it itself.
- Deadline set for December 31, 2018 to sign a memorandum of understanding.
- **Mayor Welch** asked Mr. Butler to arrange a meeting with Pamela Throop. Mr. Butler replied that he would.

Fire Dept., Chief Coon

- FF-1 class is still ongoing. The class will test out on December 1st.
- I appreciate the discussion during the Fire Department Budget workshop. Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any Fire Department related questions.
- The Fire Department has responded to several serious motor vehicle accidents in the last couple of weeks. Please slow down and drive with care.

- The Fire Department 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.
- I was appointed 2nd vice president of the Alaska Fire Chief's Association last month. This is a two-year term and I am humbled to be appointed to the position.
- Maintenance Report:
 - B-shift has begun oil changes and "B" inspections on our vehicles.
 - Still working on a significant oil leak on C-21 and retrofit on Squad 24 for next year's wild fire season.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

None

Borough Representative – Mr. Walley

- The FNSB certified their election results.
- Recommendation for the appointment to the early childhood development commission as well as recommendations for appointments to various service area commissioners.
- Marijuana licensing was also on the agenda.
- There was discussion about defining what commercial outdoor recreation means.
- There was discussion regarding the School District budget.

City Clerk's Office, Judy Binkley

- AML is next week in Anchorage. I will be down for the Clerk's conference and we will have a number of Council members attending NEO and the regular AML sessions.
- The employee health fair is this Thursday from 7:30-10:30 in the morning. Council is welcome to attend but you will have to pay for your own tests.
- We received 6 applications for the 2019 Hotel/Motel Bed Tax Grant. I'm preparing what is needed for the Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 27th at 6:00pm.
- If you are able, please stay after tonight's meeting and help set up for tomorrow's election.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

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

None

OLD BUSINESS

Consented

Public Comment

None

NEW BUSINESS

**ORDINANCE 18-28, AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
AMENDING TITLE 2, NORTH POLE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.12, SECTION
2.12.030 A, RELATING TO CITY COUNCIL MEETING TIMES.**

Mr. Thompson introduced the ordinance.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Thompson *moved to introduce and advance Ordinance 18-28, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Amending Title 2, North Pole Municipal Code Chapter 2.12, Section 2.12.030 A, Relating to City Council Meeting Times.*

Seconded by Mr. Walley

Discussion

Mr. Walley stated that when he was on the Fairbanks Council, they had this schedule and it worked well.

Mayor Welch stated that Fairbanks recently changed their schedule to hold their Council meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month.

Mr. Isaacson stated that he objecting to putting this item on the consent agenda was to see if anyone would object to this. So it's pretty good that everyone seems to be in agreement at this moment and it seems like a practical, pragmatic thing.

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Thompson, Isaacson, Welch, Walley, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Cromer

**ORDINANCE 18-29, AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
ESTABLISHING THE 2019 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET.**

Ms. Fogarty introduced the ordinance.

Public Comment

- **Thomas McGhee**, 1152 North Star Drive: Stated he hasn't seen in writing or heard any requests by the department heads on what their needs are as far as the budget goes. After 15 years of experience on the Council, it seems strange to have a flat budget. Nothing's changed the cost of doing business. No vehicle requests. No extra training requests. Nothing brought forward.

Mr. Isaacson *moved to introduce and advance Ordinance 18-29, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Establishing the 2019 Operating and Capital Budget.*

Seconded *by Ms. Welch*

Discussion (Audio 54:57)

Mr. Thompson stated he was also very confused by the budget this year because it seemed that a flat line budget was proposed on paper, but then the department heads came in and asked for additional money. It's not a very transparent way of presenting the budget. Our ability to brainstorm as a Council and come up with solutions to some of the City issues has been stripped away from us in this budget and it came down to a single person resolving it.

Mayor Welch stated the difference between last year and this year is having someone with six years of being Mayor and this year, I had one week to put it together.

Mr. Isaacson stated that part of the disconnect seems to be that the requested amount is just the same as the Mayor's request. It was explained why you wanted a flat budget, however, it might be helpful in the second reading if the amounts heard during the budget workshops were reflected somehow in the budget.

Mayor Welch spoke to the formula for how much goes into the fleet funds. It's set by code.

Mr. Isaacson asked if having the transfers written in the journal, if that becomes part of the budget. Ms. Fogarty replied yes.

Mr. Thompson asked where the \$200,000 going to the fire department comes from. Chief Coon replied it is his understanding that's what's been saved since the fleet fund started.

Mr. Isaacson asked if there were savings in a department, that it could be transferred to the fleet fund. Chief Coon replied that's correct and seems like that's something we are allowed to do.

Ms. Welch stated she sees department heads are really trying to work within the revenues that we have or that we expect.

Mr. Thompson clarified that if department heads are conserving money within their own

budget, that “free money” that they have no allocated to other items is what’s being transferred into fleet funds. Ms. Fogarty replied that’s correct. If money is transferred in the same category, an administrative amendment is used and if funds are transferred between different categories, a fiscal note would be used under an ordinance.

Mr. Walley asked when we would have the final number from the 2018 savings. Ms. Fogarty replied it would be towards the end of February.

Mayor Welch stated that he did what he did was because he asked the department heads to tell everyone during the budget meetings what the difference was so discussions could start.

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Thompson, Isaacson, Welch, Walley, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Cromer

ORDINANCE 18-30, AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE TITLE 13, CHAPTERS 13.04, 13.08, 13.12, 13.16, 13.24, AND 13.28 AS NECESSARY TO REGULATE WATER UTILITY SERVICES OUTSIDE OF THE LIMITS.

Mr. Butler introduced the ordinance.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Isaacson *moved to* introduce and advance Ordinance 18-30, An Ordinance to Revise Title 13, Chapters 13.04, 13.08, 13.12, 13.16, 13.24, and 13.28 as Necessary to Regulate Water Utility Services Outside of the Limits.

Seconded by Mr. Walley

Public Comment

None

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 5 – Thompson, Isaacson, Welch, Walley, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Cromer

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Walley – We had good discussion tonight about the budget. Last week we had the budget meetings and they were very informative for me. I appreciate Councilman Thompson’s point of view on the budget saying we would like to see the requests of the departments. That’s how I have always see it but I also understand the Mayor is under the gun to put forth a balanced budget. I’m giving you both pats on the back.

Ms. Welch – Now that the ice and snow is present out there, please be careful as you drive. Turn on your lights and use your blinkers.

Mr. Isaacson – It’s been fun today. A little rough but congratulations, Mayor, on your first meeting. You’ll be representing the City for the first time at the Conference of Mayors next week and help make that a meeting where they actually address issues of legislative concern that small communities like ours need to be heard in the legislature. We had good discussion on the budget but perhaps for the second reading, we could see more of the requested items.

Mr. Thompson – I wanted to at least throw this out to Council and the 2 department heads that are here. I’ve talked to a couple different department heads regarding the amount of comp time that they are earning. They are maxing out at 40 hours and go over that all the time. So I just want to start thinking about potential changes to that and plan on brining something forward in the future to address the comp time caps that are in place currently. For Halloween, I handed out 28 pounds of candy and I know we have a new dentist in town!

Mayor Welch – I handed out candy on Halloween night and helped with Operation Glow. I would like to co-sponsor the comp time ordinance. It’s been a really interesting two weeks. I have a lot to figure out but am grateful the time Bryce gave me during the transition week. I am going to have an “all hands meeting” the day before Thanksgiving so that I can address the employees of North Pole and explain to them what we are trying to do and how they can come see me if they have any issues or concerns.

Mr. Isaacson *moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

The regular meeting of Monday, November 05, 2018 adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, November 19, 2018.

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk