



**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 19, 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 19, 2018 to order at 7:00 p.m.

There were present:

Doug Isaacson – Mayor Pro Tem
Avery Thompson – Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Perry Walley – Alt Dep Mayor Pro Tem
DeJohn Cromer
Aino Welch
David Skipps
Mayor Welch

Absent/Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Welch

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mr. Isaacson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Isaacson *moved to* approve the agenda of November 19, 2018

Seconded *by* Ms. Welch

DISCUSSION

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

Old Business:

- a.** Ordinance 18-28, An Ordinance of the North Pole City Council Amending Title 2, North Pole Municipal Code Chapter 2.12, Section 2.120.030 A, Relating to City Council Meeting Times.
- c.** Ordinance 18-30, An Ordinance to Revise Title 13, Chapter 13.04, 13.08, 13.12, 13.16, 13.24, and 13.28 as Necessary to Regulate Water Utility Services Outside of the Limits.

New Business:

- b.** Resolution 18-14, A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Designating City Officials Authorization to Sign on City of North Pole Accounts.
- c.** Ordinance 18-31, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2018 Police Department Budget.

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skipps, Thompson, Isaacson, Welch, Cromer, Walley, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 0

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skipps, Thompson, Isaacson, Welch, Cromer, Walley, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Isaacson moved to approve the Minutes of November 05, 2018

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skipps, Thompson, Isaacson, Welch, Cromer, Walley, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Proclamation: Student of the Month – Makali Kazense
- We had a very productive time at AML. I attended the Alaska Conference of Mayors as well as many other meetings.
- You will notice that we have some upcoming presentations:
 - The Alaska Gas Line Development will be here December 3rd at 6pm.
 - Shelley Wade with Agnew:Beck will be here December 10th at 6pm.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Dept., Chief Dutra

- Glow Stick awards for Myrna Iyakitan, Keanna Hardy, Ashaunna Hardy, Kamden Stark, and Isaac Hardy. Thank you all for your assistance.
- Our Drug Take Back event hauled in 37.5 lbs of drugs. Thank you to the community.
- ALiCE presentations at Effie Kokrine, Lathrop teachers, Ryan Food Services, and Bridget Charter.
- Attended the Fairbanks Baptist Church Law Enforcement Appreciation dinner on Sunday.
- Provided stats.
- **Mayor Welch** asked if DUIs are down because we are down 2 patrol officers and not out on the highway as much. Chief Dutra replied that is a possibility. We have also shifted our resources from the traffic officer to the school resource officer so that could have an impact.

Fire Dept., Chief Coon

- Chief Heineken has been working with the Community and Technical College on the paramedic program. We actually have paramedics or paramedics in training from the University coming out and doing ride-alongs with North Pole. It's significant because this is the first time it's every happened. They wanted to come out because of our really good EMS program and because we are busy.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- New building permit application submitted – fire restoration.
- Construction permits for over \$19 million in project valuation submitted to date.

Public Works

- First City-wide snow plowing of the year.
 - All future plowings in 2018 will require transferring funds.
- First Christmas decorations installed in roundabouts and lighted trees at City Hall.
 - Replacing failed light strands and decoration maintenance is slowing installation of additional decorations.

Utility Department

- Sulfolane settlement.
 - Substantial completion for the Peridot Pump house delayed due to required modifications of some installed work.
 - Seismic upgrades underway at the Water Treatment Plant on first reservoir completed and work on second reservoir underway. Projected to be completed before mid-December.
 - Water from the new storage tank is regularly supplying water to City – prevent the water in the tank from becoming stale.
 - Contractor has been fusing lengths of HDPE pipe to facilitate a quick start when pipe installation begins in spring 2019.
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
 - Reported at the last meeting we received results for PFAS sampling at City wells – non-detect.
 - As a precaution we will increase testing from biannually to quarterly.
- Moose Creek water system expansion project.
 - PDC provided the City with engineering consulting approximately three years ago at no charge.
 - Upon my request, PDC has submitted an engineering, design and construction management proposal with a current estimated cost of approximately \$2.5 million.
 - Plan to submit a recommendation to Council in December 2018 to award the contract to PDC with the caveat that award of the contract is contingent upon award of funds from the Air Force to the City for the project.

Natural Gas Utility Board

- IGU is following a two-track approach related to securing a supply of liquefied natural gas with the purpose of providing the Interior with the best alternative.
 - IGU negotiating team is engaged in ongoing discussions with Siemens for a liquefied natural gas supply with the goal of agreeing to a memorandum of understanding by December 31, 2018.

- IGU is moving forward with Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) to internally provide itself with liquefied natural gas – construct its own liquefaction plants.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- I was out last week at the GFOA conference at the same time AML was going on. One of the big presentations there was on the online sales tax. The state is working with that and it's one of our exemptions here in the City. So I have some ideas about that.
- The bank statements came in last week so I don't have financials for you tonight but I will email them to you when I've completed that.

Borough Representative

None

City Clerk's Office, Judy Binkley

- I received the Borough Assembly 2019 schedule recently so if Council and the Mayor decide to have Council continue to attend the meetings, I will get the sign-up sheet ready.
- The Health Fair went well, especially for our first go at it. We learned a couple things that we will implement to make it even better next year.
- We received 6 applications for the 2019 Hotel/Motel Bed Tax Grant. I sent out the letters to all the applicants today to let them know what time they will be presenting to the Committee on Tuesday, November 27th. The meeting will start promptly at 6pm.
- I had a great time at AAMC last week and learned some unique things as well as met more clerks from around the state. I am on a few more committees now and am excited for the new challenge.
- I am putting together the 2019 Council Meeting Calendar. Next year, AML will be the week of November 18th which is a Council Meeting week so we will need to move that meeting to November 12th which is a Tuesday (November 11th is a holiday). Also, I would like to attend the IIMC (International Institute of Municipal Clerks) conference the week of May 20th. We have a Council Meeting that week as well so I would like to move that meeting to the week before.
- **Mr. Skipps** asked when the Bed Tax Committee meeting was. City Clerk Binkley replied it is next Tuesday, November 27th at 6pm in Council Chambers.
- **Mr. Walley** asked since AML is the week of the 18th next year, if that's Thanksgiving week. City Clerk Binkley replied that Thanksgiving is the following week.
- **Ms. Welch** asked if there was anyone else that could run the Council meeting instead of moving it. City Clerk Binkley replied that in the past, there was a records manager/archivist who was part of the City Clerk's department. Since that position is not currently filled, there is no one else in the City Clerk's department.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

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

None

OLD BUSINESS

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

Mayor Welch and Ms. Fogarty introduced the ordinance.

Public Comment

None

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

Seconded *by Mr. Cromer*

Discussion

- **Mr. Thompson** stated he thought at this meeting we were going to bring forward some ideas from department heads that we could entertain for re-appropriation of funds. From his recollection of the last meeting, we were going to entertain requests from department heads for things that aren't necessarily requested within the budget. Chief Dutra asked if Mr. Thompson was looking for the original proposed budgets that were submitted.
- **Mayor Welch** stated that he was exercising his authority as chief executive officer of the City to present the budget the way it is. When he first received the budget, there was a \$200,000 shortfall so agreements were made across the board on how the issued could be solved.
- **Mr. Thompson** stated he appreciates that but thinks that things have changed in transparency, which is of the utmost importance and that is why he has an issue with the budget as is. He understands it's a flat line budget and appreciates the efforts put into that. He doesn't like the idea that when we had the flat line budget, we don't have any input on how to reallocate funds because we have no idea what anybody needs. Chief Dutra stated that he thought the sticking point is the fact that the requested budgets that department heads submitted originally have not been shown to Council. He thought that that was going to happen at this meeting but may have been mistaken.
- **Mr. Cromer** stated he was confused because over the last 30 minutes, we have been going over the Excel spreadsheet. Are we not looking at the correct numbers?

- **Mayor Welch** stated that they are the right numbers that the department heads agreed on back in October.
- **Mr. Thompson** stated that he appreciates the flat budget but also thinks it's part of the Council's duties to make a determination whether or not there's going to be a tax increase as we did last year. Last year we increased taxes so we could fund additional services that the Council felt necessary because we were made aware of them
- **Mr. Isaacson** stated he was under the impression that perhaps at this Council meeting, we would have a revision, or at least a column request where it showed where the department heads' requests differed from the Mayor's. He reminded Council members that we have the Council appropriate column and can still move anything. He appreciates what Councilman Thompson is saying as far as transparency to the public. So as an attempt at maybe trying to reconcile some difference, we would like to see the original submitted budgets from the department heads. We want to make sure that the Council has the ability, even though it's the Mayor's budget, that Council appropriates the money and has the opportunity to really dig in and allocate it. Ms. Fogarty stated she would make the changes and forward it to Council.

PASSED

Yes: 6 – Skipps, Isaacson, Welch, Cromer, Walley, Welch

No: 1 – Thompson

Absent: 0

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FROM JESSE DOUGLASS FOR FORGIVENESS OF UTILITY BILLS LEFT BY TENANTS.

Mr. Butler introduced the request.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Isaacson moved to Deny the Request from Jesse Douglass for Forgiveness of Utility Bills Left by Tenants.

Seconded by Mr. Walley

Discussion

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 – Skippis, Thompson, Isaacson, Welch, Cromer, Walley, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 0

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Cromer – It’s great to be back in Alaska from Australia. AML was good. It was great to learn about the process of how stuff works during NEO. It was very educational and I’m glad to be here.

Ms. Welch – AML was very informative. I did a lot of different breakout sessions and learned some interesting stuff that I will probably share at a later time. The meeting with the gas authority people was also very informative. Be careful out there on the road.

Mr. Isaacson – I noticed the ice is up over at Christmas in Ice. It’s a neat thing and I encourage as many Council Members and citizens to help them as they have a lot of events and it’s always a good experience to meet the public. I’ll have committee reports available to you from AML so that we can share our experiences. The Christmas theme was a big deal at AML.

Mr. Thompson – Hope everyone has a good Thanksgiving.

Mr. Skippis – None

Mr. Walley – I hope everyone has a good turkey day. I was also at AML last week. I have to do a quick plug here. On Friday at the midnight, the official Christmas radio station (103.9 FM) will start playing continuous Christmas music all the way through Christmas.

Mayor Welch – I went to the Westmark Hotel on Veteran’s Day (November 11th) and the whole room was packed. AML was a good experience. I was happy to meet some of the mayors and realize that we may think we have problems here, but we’ve got many blessings and some of the best blessings. You’re invited to come on Wednesday at 11 to the all hands meeting where I’m going to give Thanksgiving to employees and ask them to continue to work for the better good of our community.

Mr. Isaacson *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

The regular meeting of Monday, November 19, 2018 adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, December 3, 2018.

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Binkley, North Pole City Clerk