



**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, April 15, 2019 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, April 15, 2019 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 Skippis**  
**Mayor Welch**

***Absent/Excused***

**Excused**  
**Excused**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG**

Led by Mayor Welch

**INVOCATION**

Invocation was given by Mr. Walley

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Isaacson moved to approve the agenda of April 15, 2019**

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

**DISCUSSION**

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

**New Business:**

- b. Request to Approve the 2019 Committees.

**Seconded by Mr. Cromer**

**Discussion**

None

***On the amendment***

**PASSED**

Yes: 5 – Isaacson, Cromer, Walley, Welch, Welch  
No: 0  
Absent: 2 – Skipps, Thompson

***On the Agenda as amended***

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: 5 – Isaacson, Cromer, Walley, Welch, Welch  
No: 0  
Absent: 2 – Skipps, Thompson

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Isaacson *moved to* approve the Minutes of April 01, 2019**

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: 5 – Isaacson, Cromer, Walley, Welch, Welch  
No: 0  
Absent: 2 – Skipps, Thompson

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR** (Audio Part 1 – 3:48)

- Proclamation: April 2019 Student of the Month – Donovan Caldwell.
- April 4 – CSG confer with Zane Wilson concerning executive session questions to reconsider Moose Creek Expansion considerations.
- April 5 – teleconference with AML concerning online sales tax. We will have a summer session in Wasilla June 5-7, 2019.
- April 10 – Alaska Shield 2019 Table Top Exercise Terrorism: Pneumonic Plague 1400-1700 hours at the FNSB Salcha Room.
- April 12 – Eielson AFB honorary installation into the 354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of Mayors and Community Leaders.
- April 19 – Church of North Pole, 2244 Peridot (behind Little Richard’s Diner): all North Pole City Council members and staff are invited by the Governor to attend his budget

roadshow briefing. He will entertain a question-and-answer format. The briefing begins at 1400 and should end by 1515.

- We should meet with the Festival Committee no later than April 26 to lay out the plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Festival.
- I expect to work with Chief Coon and his designee to identify the training that goes into his department, and how to update that in our OPM.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

None

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK**

#### **Director of City Services, Bill Butler** (Audio Part 1 – 18:06)

##### **Building Department**

- 3 residential building permit applications submitted.
- Inquiry about building a charter school project on Hurst Road.

##### **Public Works**

- City-wide street sweeping conducted.
- Tom Blair is on leave for several weeks so we have hired a part-time employee to assist Cody.
  - Austin Heineken, a Fire Department over-hire.

##### **Utility Department**

- Sulfolane settlement.
  - Contractor continues water main installation in Zones 3 & 4.
  - Reported at last meeting about dewatering permitting was changed due to presences of PFAS compounds – no longer can dewater to surface water like gravel pits. ADEC has changed the compounds used to calculate PFAS exceedance level (less protective level). The effect on dewatering permitting is uncertain.
  - Flint Hills, who is managing the service line installation contract, has issued the contracts for signature to Exclusive Paving and Rolling Stone. We hope to begin installing service connections starting as early as April 22.
- Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.
  - Amended cooperative agreement between US Army Corps of Engineers and City for complete engineering and design of water system extension to community of Moose Creek is before Council this evening for approval.

- Approval of the contract with PDC Engineers for the design of the Moose Creek Extension is before the Council for consideration this evening.

### **Natural Gas Utility Board**

- IGU exercised its option to withdraw from the Memorandum of Understanding with Siemens to be a LNG provider.
  - As promised to the Council, I resigned from the IGU Board of Directors at the conclusion of the meeting to be able to focus more on the Moose Creek Project.
  - I fully supported the decision to terminate the MOU and I was the Board member that moved for the termination of the MOU.

### **Fire Dept., Chief Coon** (Audio Part 1 – 29:24)

- We had two vehicles at Great North Auction this last weekend. Proceeds from this sale will go back into the fleet fund and the next expected purchase will be a ½ ton pickup to replace the Suburban.
  - Suburban \$2500
  - Ambulance \$7500
  - Minus fees -\$800
  - Total \$9200
- This year's open house will be May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10-4.
- Clean Up Day is May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Department will have clean up bags.
- Burn Permits are required – they are available online at [www.forestry.alaska.gov/burn](http://www.forestry.alaska.gov/burn)
- Training:
  - Department members completed the class room portion of our annual wildland refresher.
  - EMT III has started and two of our live-ins are attending.
  - Fire Officer II has been rescheduled for next month.
- Maintenance Report:
  - New ambulance is here but it will still take a few days to get it in service.
  - The pump has been placed in the squad for the summer and department members have been out training on the new pump that was retrofitted last winter.
  - Preliminary work is being done on the specifications of a replacement vehicle for the Suburban.
  - The department will begin hose testing this month (weather permitting).
  - Repaired one garage bay door at a cost of \$1300. The total budgeted building maintenance is only \$8000. The FD is coming up on 40 years old and has some large maintenance expenses coming.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked what happened to the garage door. Chief Coon replied that the springs needed to be replaced.
- **Mayor Welch** asked if the Fire Department will provide assistance with Cruising with Santa because that is on the same day as the Fire Department's open house. Chief Coon replied the Fire Department would be able to respond from the station if needed. There

will be a lot of staff and volunteers that come in that day.

**Finance, Tricia Fogarty** (Audio Part 1 – 37:50)

- The temporary accounting assistant started and has been trained on some payroll, purchase orders, and back reconciliation.
- I accrued all the revenues for the preparation of the audit and we came in over what we budgeted for in all revenues except for tobacco.
- I am still doing some cleanup as far as things being paid out of the wrong accounts.
- I talked to our auditor, Gary Hutchinson, and he thinks we're still on a good schedule. We will probably be ready to turn over everything within the next couple of weeks. Once we do that, they'll start running their testing.
- I spoke with the IRS about a couple of issues. We had a problem with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018. We sent in a schedule B with our 941 that was never processed. That has been processed now and I received a letter stating that all fees have been abated. The other problem we have had for a while was the 2015 W-2s and 941 quarterlies. That is still being reviewed.
- We had an audit for our general liability and we didn't have any issues and should be getting a report soon.
- Financials are on the dais for you this evening.
- **Ms. Welch** asked about the delinquent accounts and if there is more we can do to urge individuals to pay, such as foreclosing. Mr. Butler replied that that our goal is not to own property. We have shortened our process but it's not lightning fast so people have some time to deal with it. It's a serious effort to actually foreclose on someone.

**Police Dept., Chief Dutra** (Audio Part 1 – 45:41)

- We just received notice that we have been nominated once again for the Family Friendly Workplace award. I am always proud and humbled that the employees take the time to submit our department for this award.
- Early Friday morning at 0700 hours, I attended an award ceremony at Ryan Middle School. NPPD was given an award from Bright Futures 2019 Outstanding Government Partner from the FNSBSD signed by Dr. Gaborik.
- On Friday night, I attended the EAFB Honorary Commanders Ceremony where our fine Mayor was inducted as an honorary commander. I have been the honorary commander for the 354<sup>th</sup> Security Forces for over 6 years. I told Major Kennedy I was waiting for my GOLD pin as the longest serving HC.
- Last week on Wednesday and Friday, I attended the EOC AK Shield Exercise at the Borough EOC. We worked on creating PODS and helping with all the ancillary issues related to such a project. Pneumatic plague was our foe. I learned a lot about software and EOC operations. That was 10 hours of training.
- Thursday we are hosting the quarterly IPCC meeting here at City Hall. This is a chance for interior chiefs to get together and share notes and put faces with names.

- Department will be doing range quals this week in two separate groups. Using simunition rounds to get additional moving and shooting practice. Also conducted annual taser and DT training.
- We are working diligently on adding additional names to the Memorial Park wall. Mayor was supplied 8 names from Vietnam but we are having difficulties locating family.
- Our current server is having issues. Looking at quotes and options to replace \$4-5k or more depending on final design.
- I had my third and final Senate confirmation hearing on last Tuesday. Went well.
- Drug Take Back – April 27<sup>th</sup> between 10-2 at North Pole PD.
- **Ms. Welch** asked how you “win” and beat everyone else for Drug Take Back. Chief Dutra replied it is based on pounds.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked if there was an update with the progress of the range. Chief Dutra replied he has not heard anything yet.

**Borough Representative, Council Member Welch** (Audio Part 1 – 53:02)

- There was the usual liquor licenses and new cultivation place for marijuana that was on the agenda.
- There was discussion about the regional emergency service.
- There was discussion about where property owners could build. They have to be no less than five feet to the lot line, but they can have one building that is inside the 20 foot normal setback.
- They are updating their fine schedule much like we did previously.
- There was discussion about appropriating \$75,000 for the purchase of new election equipment.

**City Clerk’s Office, Judy Binkley** (Audio Part 1 – 58:59)

- I am continuing to work on the health insurance plan renewal. Mayor Welch and I had a call with the brokers last Monday afternoon. We established our timeline expectations and am hopeful we will have some information by the next Council meeting.
- We have 3 weeks before our next Council meeting. Keep in mind that our May meetings will be back-to-back as I will be at the IIMC (International Institute of Municipal Clerks) conference the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May.

**ONGOING PROJECTS** (Audio Part 1 – 1:00:40)

- **Mr. Walley** noted that the Finance Committee will be meeting here in Council Chambers on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)** (Audio Part 1 – 1:02:20)

- **Dawn Murphy**, 2644 Diamond Street, North Pole – Spoke about Explore Fairbanks and

provided a copy of the 2018 audit that was presented by Gary Hutchinson from KSH.

- **Thomas McGhee**, 1152 North Star Drive, North Pole – Spoke about items brought to his attention by residents: 1. Why wasn't a fiscal report on the budget item for the new hire for the temporary accountant's assistant brought before the Council? 2. You should review the audio tapes of your meetings. The last meeting in particular, you could hear the hostility towards the chief of the fire department so you should go over the audio to see how it appears to you. 3. A concern that came from Fairbanks, not North Pole, is that there already has been conversation about the two new entities and buildings coming to North Pole and how the property taxes from those entities will be able to afford the additional employment of five police officers for the police department.
- **Terry Huisman**, 4700 Rivers Street, North Pole – Spoke about Moose Creek. There are concerns because the Air Force has not informed Moose Creek residents that they contacted the City to draft a contract to provide water. Moose Creek already has water where homes have been hooked up to a water system either in the unit themselves, a large industrial unit, or have had 1800 gallon tanks put in and water delivered. The Air Force has promised water for the length of the building we have on our properties, whether it's 80 or 100 years. Moose Creek residents need to be informed about what is happening.
- **Steve Dutra**, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole – Spoke about the concerns brought forward by Mr. McGhee. Stated the rumor regarding the five police officers may have started from the future expansion model provided to the mayor when asked what we would expect from the Eielson influx. There was discussion about what would be needed as far as the department was concerned. Since then, it's been decided we have to be extremely fiscally conservative with what has been going on with the state's economy.

**Mr. Isaacson** *moved to suspend the rules for 5 minutes.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCE 19-07, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO AMEND TITLE 2, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL CHAPTER 36 PERSONNEL SYSTEM, SECTION 470 REGARDING PAY.** (Audio Part 2 – 4:48)

Chief Dutra introduced the ordinance.

#### **Public Comment** (Audio Part 2 – 7:56)

- **Geoff Coon**, 110 Lewis Street, North Pole – Spoke about how he is in support of this ordinance but does not understand why the Fire Department would be excluded from it. At the last meeting, the impression was given that an amendment was being formulated to address that but it actually excluded the rest of the City from the ordinance.

**Mr. Isaacson** *moved to Postpone Ordinance 19-07, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend Title 2, Administration and Personnel Chapter 36 Personnel System,*

**Section 470 Regarding Pay.  
Seconded by Mr. Walley**

**Discussion** (Audio Part 2 – 20:22)

**Ms. Welch** stated that we currently have police officers training new recruits so if we postpone this, they are not going to be paid for that part of the training while training the new person.

**Mr. Isaacson** stated we are acting on a piecemeal suggestion from last week to this week and who we have left out. We need to have a comprehensive look at this and there's no restriction that says we can't make this retroactive.

**Mr. Walley** stated he agrees with Councilman Isaacson and that this should be postponed so it can be looked at as a whole and then decided upon.

**Mr. Cromer** stated he is in disagreement with this. All the department heads are here and they are not all stating they need the training pay. It is 2 departments that really need it. The Police Department and Fire Department are the ones who came forward. We supported the Police Department so I don't understand why we can't support the Fire Department as an equal.

**FAILED**

Yes: 2 – Isaacson, Walley

No: 3 – Cromer, Welch, Welch

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Thompson

**Mr. Cromer moved to Adopt Ordinance 19-07, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend Title 2, Administration and Personnel Chapter 36 Personnel System, Section 470 Regarding Pay.**

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

**Discussion** (Audio Part 2 – 30:05)

**Mr. Cromer moved to Amend Ordinance 19-07, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend Title 2, Administration and Personnel Chapter 36 Personnel System, Section 470 Regarding Pay by Adding Line 77 as follows: "L. Check Off Pay. Officers of the Fire Department who are actively training a recruit Fire Department employee shall earn a differential of \$2 (two dollars) an hour for every hour they are actively training recruit Fire Department employees.**

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

**Discussion on the Amendment** (Audio Part 2 – 31:42)

**Mr. Isaacson** stated the reason he moved to postpone is because he's not satisfied that every department has had a voice in this.

**Ms. Welch** stated that it's important we cover both high risk departments.



**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent – Skipps, Thompson

**Discussion on the motion as amended** (Audio Part 2 – 41:36)

**Mr. Walley** stated he will not be supporting this because if this was so important to the Fire Department, why have we not heard about it before. He stated he appreciates the Fire Department and the Police Department but thinks this is a scary road to be going down.

**Ms. Welch** stated that she disagrees with Mr. Walley. \$2 an hour is not a huge amount of money but it shows appreciation.

**Mr. Isaacson** stated this is difficult because it appears to pit one department or a couple of departments against the rest. It's important to fully understand the consequences of Council's actions and do not nickel and dime ourselves into a budget situation.

**Mr. Cromer** stated that he is in favor of this. The City Clerk put this out to all the employees and it was the Fire Department who spoke up.

*On the motion as amended.*

**PASSED**

Yes: 3 – Cromer, Welch, Welch

No: 2 – Isaacson, Walley

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Thompson

*\*\*\*\*\*Note: While it was announced as “passed” during the Council meeting, upon further research, it was determined that the motion should not have passed. Per NPMC 2.12.090G, a majority is defined as four votes and is required to carry any question. A reconsideration was submitted the day following the Council meeting so Ordinance 19-07 is scheduled to reappear on the Agenda of May 06, 2019.\*\*\*\*\**

**ORDINANCE 19-08, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO APPROVE THE AMENDED COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THE ENGINEERING AND DESIGN OF THE MOOSE CREEK WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED FISCAL NOTE.** (Audio Part 2 – 54:38)

Mr. Butler introduced the ordinance.

**Public Comment** (Audio Part 2 – 57:38)

- **Steve Dutra**, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole – Spoke to the stress and strain on a lot of employees and the questions about this ordinance and fiscal note. Stated that we have never had anybody received compensation for additional work they are doing as an

employee of the City. The big issue is how this all unfolded. There are many questions that are still unanswered about whether or not there are violations of City Code or federal law. This has never been done in the City of North Pole. This is similar to a grant writer soliciting grants and being paid from those grants. Employees were never told about it and didn't know another employee was going to garner a compensation package as large as this that no one else was allowed to compete for. Stated he never thought about pursuing a project and getting compensation for his work on that project. It's a great idea but not necessarily how we want employees of the City seeking out projects that they view as beneficial when they have a dog in the fight.

**Mr. Isaacson** *moved to suspend the rules and extend the meeting until 10:47 p.m.*

**Mr. Isaacson** *moved to Adopt Ordinance 19-08, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Approve the Amended Cooperative Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Engineering and Design of the Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project and Associated Fiscal Note.*

**Seconded** *by Mr. Cromer*

**Discussion** (Audio Part 2 – 1:08:19)

**Mr. Isaacson** *moved to Amend Ordinance 19-08, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Approve the Amended Cooperative Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Engineering and Design of the Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project and Associated Fiscal Note by Changing the Total Project Cost Ceiling from \$2,550,000 to \$2,825,000 and the Date Modified to April 15, 2019.*

**Seconded** *by Ms. Welch*

**Discussion on the amendment**

None

***On the amendment***

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Thompson

**Discussion on the motion as amended**

None

*On the motion as amended*

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Thompson

**Mr. Isaacson moved to suspend the rules and discuss item c under new business.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**REQUEST TO ACCEPT THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PDC ENGINEERS FOR ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES TOTALING \$2,121,443 FOR THE MOOSE CREEK WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION PROJECT.** (Audio Part 2 – 1:21:36)

Mr. Butler introduced the request.

**Public Comment** (Audio Part 2 – 1:23:52)

**Terry Huisman**, 4700 Rivers Street, North Pole – Spoke about how it would be good for the design team to actually go out to Moose Creek, drive the roads and look at the buildings. It would give them a better idea of what they are talking about.

**Mr. Isaacson moved to Accept the Professional Services Agreement with PDC Engineers for Engineering and Design Services Totaling \$2,121,443 for the Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.**

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Thompson

**REQUEST TO APPROVE THE 2019-2021 CHENA LAKES CONTRACT FOR LEO SERVICES.** (Audio Part 2 – 1:28:22)

Chief Dutra introduced the contract.

**Public Comment**

None

**Mr. Isaacson moved to Approve the 2019-2021 Chena Lakes Contract for LEO Services.**

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

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

No: 0

Absent: 2 – Skipps, Thompson

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None

**Mr. Isaacson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.**

**Seconded by Mr. Cromer**

The regular meeting of Monday, April 15, 2019 adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, May 06, 2019.

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Michael W. Welch, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Judy L. Binkley, City Clerk