



**Committee of the Whole – 6:00 P.M.
Regular City Council Meeting – 7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the North Pole City Council was held on Monday, May 06, 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, May 06, 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 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 May 06, 2019

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

DISCUSSION

Mr. Isaacson moved to consent the following items:

New Business:

- a. Consideration to Approve the Salary Increases for Paul Trissel and James Donovan Related to Expanded Responsibilities for the Water System Expansion Project.
- b. Consideration to Approve the Contract for Bill Butler to Administer the Moose Creek Expansion Project.
- c. Consideration to Approve the Stipend for Judy Binkley When Needed to Process Payroll.

Seconded by Mr. Skipp

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Seconded by Mr. Skipp

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Audio 3:38)

- April 25th – Chena Lakes Annual Briefing with USACE.
- April 26th – Tiger Team FNSB.
- April 29th – Festival Committee got off to a good start planning out the 4th of July Parade. There is \$1510 remaining in the account. The 2019 theme is “Winter Is Coming.”

- May 2nd – Senior Recognition Day at the Carlson Center from 1030-1300. Spent time with the other 2 mayors recognizing 6 outstanding seniors, as well as the oldest female in the FNSB, Lois, at 104 years young and Urban Rahoï at over 100 years old.
- May 2nd – National Day of Prayer at North Pole City Hall organized by Andie Rice. There were circa 20 in attendance between 1800-2100. Great prayers, song, and insight to our nation’s future. Thanks Chaplain “G” from Eielson for his attendance, as well as former Councilwoman Elisabeth Holm and our Pro-Tem Isaacson.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Dept., Chief Coon (Audio 9:17)

- This year’s open house will be May 18th from 10-4.
- Clean Up Day is May 11th. The Fire Department will have clean up bags.
- Burn Permits are required and are available online at www.forestry.alaska.gov/burn
- May 9th at 1:30 p.m. at the FFD headquarters, the Council is invited to attend the Pulsepoint kickoff. www.pulsepoint.org
- Training:
 - EMT III has started and two of our live-ins are attending.
 - Fire Officer II starts next week.
- Maintenance Report:
 - New ambulance is in service. It is working great.
 - Engine 22 had an air brake failure that took a little over a week to get parts and repairs taken care of. Engine 22 is our 2nd our pumper that was built in 1993.
 - Preliminary work is being done on the specifications of a replacement vehicle for the Suburban.
 - Hose testing has begun. The department has thousands of feet of fire hose that must be tested annually.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler (Audio 16:13)

Building Department

- No new applications or inquiries about building permits.

Public Works

- Preparing the summer flower plantings in roundabout and City Hall.
- Benches and trash cans installed and gravel swept from sidewalks and borders along Santa Claus Lane.
- The Beaver Springs Slough beaver is already active.
- Cody has begun hiring the temporary summer help.

- Three of the Public Works vehicles are in constant need of repair and need to be replaced – two flat beds and one pickup truck.

Utility Department

- Sulfolane settlement.
 - Attached is the project summary through May 3, 2019.
 - Water main installation is moving quickly.
 - Service line installation is not moving as quickly as hoped, but 70% of eligible property owners have signed up for service (158 out of 225 properties).
- Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.
 - All agreements are in place for Phase 2 – full engineering and design – are executed (USACE and PDC).
 - First project deliverable – 35% design and preliminary cost estimate – are due June 10.
 - All parties are anxiously awaiting the release of the Record of Decision (ROD) – the formal approval by EPA and ADEC of the plan to provide water to Moose Creek.
 - USAF has begun a more extensive site characterization of the movement of PFAS related compounds to better determine the movement of the contaminate in the groundwater.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked what the plan was as far as sampling. Mr. Butler replied that they asked us to sample our wells, which we already do. They are basically going to come out in concentric rings. The concentration of the PFAS compounds in fish is astronomical and that is why the DEC was saying to not eat the fish.
- **Ms. Welch** asked for more information about the fish that DEC stated to not eat. Mr. Butler replied that he does not recall specifically, but it was in the newspaper and the advisory was put out to just catch and release.

Police Dept., Chief Dutra (Audio 24:50)

- Stats – no major issues to report.
- NPMS – case basically was fabricated and embellished on social media. Significant resources spent. Should be proud of the job our officers did getting to the bottom of it. We also make a shout out to our FBI friends.
- SPI investigation course started today with 32 students.
- Chena Lakes has started. Levi, the new project manager, is working with us to make a successful year.
- We still have some free tickets to Little Texas concert on Mother's Day if you are interested.
- We are now up to 4 names for the wall on July 27th.
- Planning is going well for new camera systems.
- Two full retirements of Chief Jewkes and DA Olson. Both given plaques on behalf of the City for their work for our community.
- Also had a department retirement party for Sgt. Stevenson who will be leaving us at the

end of the month.

- We hosted IPCC and APOA here in NP this last month.
- Academy costs have soared from \$8k to approximately \$14k. This is going to hurt. Already spent \$3k on one for a 2 week academy.
- Final approval for active shooter plates and DOT program funding.
- Mayor and I attended the Chena Lakes yearly briefing on corps project.
- **Mr. Thompson** asked if it was true APSC was not providing funding for the academy anymore as they are transitioning the funds from an academy reimbursement to more training stuff. Chief Dutra replied that is correct.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

None

Borough Representative

None

City Clerk's Office, Judy Binkley (Audio 34:36)

- Reminder that our next Council meeting is in a week as I will be at the IIMC (International Institute of Municipal Clerks) conference the 3rd week of May.
- I sent an invite to Council earlier about a City Representative for the FNSB Assembly Special Worksession. Please let me know ASAP if you would like to be the City Representative so I can provide that information to the Borough.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

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

None

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 36:30)

Mr. Isaacson introduced the reconsideration of Ordinance 19-07.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Isaacson moved to Reconsider the Adoption of 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 41:24)

Mr. Isaacson stated that he does not like the idea of piecemealing but over the course of the last 5 weeks, no other department has come forward to say they are feeling excluded so he is leaning towards saying this a good idea. The real hesitation is we do not know what this year is going to look like as far as the costs that are going to be shifted from the state to the City.

Mr. Thompson stated he was not at the last meeting but was able to listen to it and read through the minutes. Prior to tonight's meeting, he spoke with Chief Coon and he has a checklist which is very similar to what you would see in other emergency services with a cap of 600 hours. FTO pay is an industry standard and in incentive for officers to stay in this department instead of jumping ship and going somewhere else. We may want to consider retroactive pay for something reasonable, like 60 days.

Mayor Welch stated he agreed with Mr. Thompson and is happy that it came out like this because it provided an opportunity to learn about training and the Fire Department.

Mr. Thompson *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 Amending Line 82 as Follows: "This ordinance shall become effective March 18, 2019."*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion on the amendment

None

On the amendment.

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

Discussion on the motion as amended

None

On the motion as amended

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

NEW BUSINESS

Consented

Public Comment

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS (Audio 55:47)

Mr. Isaacson – None

Mr. Thompson – I will be late to the next Council meeting as I will be attending the badge pinning of our new chief (City of Fairbanks).

Mr. Skipps – None

Ms. Welch – None

Mr. Walley – None

Mr. Cromer – None

Ms. Welch *moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.*

Seconded by Mr. Thompson

The regular meeting of Monday, May 06, 2019 adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, May 13, 2019.

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy L. Binkley, City Clerk