



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JULY 01, 2019  
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

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Mayor Michael Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, July 01, 2019 to order at 7:00 p.m with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Avery Thompson, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
Perry Walley, Alt Dep Mayor Pro Tem  
Aino Welch  
David Skipps  
DeJohn Cromer

Excused: Doug Isaacson, Mayor Pro Tem

Also Present: Judy Binkley, City Clerk/HR Manager  
William Butler, Director of City Services,  
Tricia Fogarty, Chief Financial Officer,  
Steve Dutra, Police Chief  
Geoff Coon, Fire Chief

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Welch asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Council Member Walley.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Thompson moved to approve the agenda of July 01, 2019.**

**Seconded by Ms. Welch.**

**Discussion**

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

**Old Business:**

- a. Ordinance 19-09, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2019 Public Works Budget to Increase Funding to Hire Additional Part-Time Employees.
- b. Ordinance 19-10, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2019 Operating Budget and Other Funds.

**New Business:**

- a. Resolution 19-02, A Resolution of the North Pole City Council in Support of the Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan.
- c. Ordinance 19-12, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2019 Operating Budget and Other Funds to Purchase an Equipped Command Vehicle.
- d. Request to Authorize the Purchase of Furnaces for the Fire Department.

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA OF JULY 01, 2019 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – Skipps, Thompson, Cromer, Walley, Welch, Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**Discussion on the agenda as amended**

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA OF JULY 01, 2019 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – Skipps, Thompson, Cromer, Walley, Welch, Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Thompson** *moved to* approve the Minutes of June 12, 2019 and June 17, 2019.

**Seconded by Ms. Welch.**

**Discussion**

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2019 AND JUNE 17, 2019 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – Skipps, Thompson, Cromer, Walley, Welch, Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR** (Audio 3:40)

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade – we have a good parade committee and everything is falling into place. Pancakes will be served at the Senior Center at 9:00 and the parade itself will start forming off Carey at 10:00, start at 11:00 and end at the high school.
- July 13<sup>th</sup> – Air show at Eielson and gates will open at 8:00 a.m.
- July 27<sup>th</sup> – Memorial at the Fallen Heroes Park at 11:00 a.m.
- Gary Hutchison with KSH presented the 2018 audit.

**COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

None

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

**Police Department, Chief Dutra** (Audio 44:36)

- Letter of Commendation Jerron W. Lindgren.
- Stats – a lot of DUI's but normal this time of year. Vandalism at HS. Culprits ID'd.
- Show video of PSA for DOTS. 850 of them in route.
- Ofc. Brett Welborn has successfully completed FTO. Is now on the streets.
- Our new WatchGuard Video server has arrived. Working on configuration and installation.
- We have ordered our new tactical plates.
- So far we have 4 of us who have completed the Leadership phase 1 training.
- Memorial Park Fallen Heroes ceremony is July 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Please mark your calendars.
- Reserve Association has donated \$1600 to 4<sup>th</sup> of July kid events.
- HB49 should be signed by Governor on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Effective July 9<sup>th</sup>. A lot of sweeping changes. Briefing is 73 pages.
- Nils Degerlund has completed the replat for the impound lot parcel so we can now move forward with the purchase and possible clearing of the lot.
- **Mr. Skipps** asked if there was an update on the vandalism done at the high school this past weekend. Chief Dutra replied that we figured out who it was and it's been covered up for the July 4<sup>th</sup> festival.

### **Fire Department, Chief Coon** (Audio 54:50)

- We have completed the hiring process for the Captain position. We are pleased to announce Richard Hagen will be the next C-shift Captain.
- With Richard's promotion we have posted the Lieutenant position. It is on the City website and will be in the News-Miner. Applications will be taken until July 15<sup>th</sup> at 1300 hours.
- State of Alaska did ban the sale of fireworks until conditions change. All burning is suspended. This includes burn barrels.
- Training:
  - We currently do not have anyone in a program class. Tuesday night drills are still continuing.
- Maintenance Report:
  - We are working on replacing a steering box leak. We are having some difficulty finding a rebuild kit for it. Engine 24 was built in 1993.
  - Hydrant testing is complete. B-shift will start pump testing of all of our engines.
- Engine 23 is still for sale down at the auction site.
- **Mayor Welch** asked if Chief Coon found anything more out about a rebate for the \$3000 fee fireworks vendors pay. Chief Coon replied he did not do any research on it. The fireworks vendors pay us \$3000 to sell fireworks inside the City. Some of that goes to our prevention fund where we do public service and ads on fireworks prevention. It's a one-time fee for selling in July and December. We will look into it and if they are owed a rebate, we'd be happy to do it.

### **Director of City Services, Bill Butler** (Audio 1:02:03)

#### **Building Department**

- One new residential building permit application submitted.
  - 9 new residential home building permits submitted to date.
- Charter school project received a foundation permit.

#### **Public Works**

- Second reading before the Council this evening to increase funding for temporary hires.
- PW's predominate activities going forward are landscaping.
  - City Hall landscaping project – plans include tourist features.
- The City received a \$10,000 Economic Development Grant from the FNSB which has typically been used to support tourist friendly and beautification projects managed by Public Works.

#### **Utility Department**

- Sulfolane settlement.
  - 100% of Zone 4's water mains installed.
  - 95% of Zone 3's water mains installed.
  - Specialized gaskets used with ductile iron pipe in Zone 3 faulty and must be replaced.
  - Approximately 55 new customers have been connected to the system to date.

- Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.
  - Work continues on the 65% design and engineering work for the Moose Creek Water System Expansion. Submission due August 10.
  - First vote on cooperative agreements for the construction of the Moose Creek Water System Expansion is before Council this evening.

**Borough Representative, Council Member Welch** (Audio 1:09:41)

- The fireworks sale has been banned.
- There was an alcohol permit that was not protested.
- There was discussion on funding for testing the dilution control devices that they are working on – either an ESP or some kind of catalytic converter.

**City Clerk, Judy Binkley** (Audio 1:11:39)

- The three local municipal clerks’ offices hosted the Candidate Open House this past Saturday. Thanks to Mr. Skippis for coming out to represent the City. Turnout was better than last year and we are already coming up with ideas to improve for next year. One of our goals is to encourage greater voter turnout and remind our community that we have a municipal election EVERY year.
- The local clerks’ offices will be participating in Golden Days this year with our new “Vote Local” campaign. We will be passing out candy and “Vote Local” swag.
- The Candidate Filing period is coming up and the information is on our website. I also have packets available in my office. The filing period will run from 8:00 a.m. Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> through 5:00 p.m. Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup>.

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

None

**CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)** (Audio 1:13:09)

- **Karen Lane**, 2265 Flight Street, North Pole: Spoke about North Pole’s sister city in Japan and the groups of North Pole students they have taken over and the many groups that have come to North Pole. A group from Japan will be visiting in August and traditionally, City Council and City employees are sometimes involved. There will be a welcome party and a goodbye party.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Consented

**Public Comment**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCE 19-11, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO APPROVE PHASES 1 AND 2 REMEDIAL ACTION CONSTRUCTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.**

Mr. Butler introduced the ordinance. (Audio 1:22:02)

#### **Public Comment** (Audio 1:49:09)

- **Linda Hilliard**, 900 Turner Drive, North Pole: Asked if the water expansion was going to include Baker Subdivision. Mayor Welch replied it does not.

**Mr. Thompson** *moved to Introduce and Advance Ordinance 19-11, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Approve Phases 1 and 2 Remedial Action Construction Cooperative Agreements with the US Army Corps of Engineers.*

**Seconded by Mr. Cromer**

#### **Discussion**

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO INTRODUCE AND ADVANCE ORDINANCE 19-11, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO APPROVE PHASES 1 AND 2 REMEDIAL ACTION CONSTRUCTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – Skipps, Thompson, Cromer, Walley, Welch, Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None

**Mr. Walley** *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.*

**Seconded by Mr. Skipps.**

The regular meeting of Monday, July 01, 2019 adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, July 15, 2019.

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Michael W. Welch, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Judy L. Binkley, City Clerk