



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 05, 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, August 05, 2019 to order at 7:00 p.m with the following Council Members in attendance:

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

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 Welch.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Isaacson moved to approve the agenda of August 05, 2019.**

**Seconded by Ms. Welch.**

**Discussion**

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

**Old Business:**

- a. Ordinance 19-13, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole to Accept a \$10,000 Grant from the Fairbanks North Star Borough to Support Economic Development Activities in the City.

**New Business:**

- a. Ordinance 19-14, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2019 Utility Department Budget to Hire a Utility Assistant.
- c. Request to Approve the Business Associate Agreement Between the FNSB and the City of North Pole.
- d. Request to Approve the Appointment of Mike Miller to the IGU Board for the Term Ending December 31, 2019.

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA OF AUGUST 05, 2019 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 7 – Skipps, Thompson, Isaacson, 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 AUGUST 05, 2019 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**Seconded by Ms. Welch.**

**Discussion**

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2019 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR** (Audio 3:50)

- July 17 – Three Mayors’ Meeting Fairbanks City Hall 1100-1200; FAST Policy Board Fairbanks City Hall 1200-1355.
- July 19 – FWW Change of Command new Garrison Commander Col. Ruga.
- July 23 – FNSB Parks and Rec and Community Economic Development.
- July 24 – FNSB 2020 Homecoming Celebration monthly planning committee.
- July 26 – Received cashier’s check from Key Bank drawn on Moody Brews account to cover sales and alcohol tax due.
- July 26 – FNSB Tiger Team Meeting 1030-1200.
- July 26 – Met with David Hale of Hale and Associates to get copies of policies.
- July 26 – Picked up at Interior Graphics the POW Banner from Vicky Paddock.
- July 27 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fallen Heroes Memorial 1100-1500. Keynote speaker.
- July 30 – Staff meeting to alert CNP directors to start preparing their discretionary budget needs in August.
- July 31 – Finance Committee met with Perry Walley, Benny Williams, and Tricia Fogarty.
- August 1 – MIL/CIV meeting at FNSB. EAFB may be the preferred bed down facility for the new KC-46 Supertanker for PACAF. Because the CNP, Fairbanks, and the FNSB are active in the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, all 3 mayors and select officials will be scheduled to travel to the Lockheed Martin F-35 facility in Ft. Worth, Texas. We will witness the rollout of the first F-35 that will reincarnate the 356 Fighter Squadron as part of the 354 TFW; Wing Commander Bishop intends to also take us to Luke AFB, AZ to see the active F-35 Wing that he was an instructor and later a squadron commander before EAFB. The trip is scheduled for November 18-20 so I will miss AML in ANC.
- August 13-16 – AML/ACOM summer session in Soldotna.
- August 21 or August 23 – The dedication of the Buzz Otis Pumhouse on Peridot at 1730.
- August 29 – Grant Writing Management Class. Hosted by the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety. Tuition is \$595 and should be beneficial to the CNP coffers.

**COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

None

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

### **Police Department, Chief Dutra** (Audio 14:54)

- Seizure of 1k meth, 1k of heroin, almost \$6k – good job Det. Tibbetts.
- August 10, 2019 will be Ofc. Gibson’s last day. 8 years of service – she will be missed.
- This brings us to the wage discussion – 3 weeks and 1 applicant – things are critical and are going to get worse. AST just received an approx. 12-15% increase in wages, FPD just had an approx/ \$900 reduction in health care costs which equates to an approx. \$5.63 an hour raise. FPD offers a \$20,000 signing bonus for laterals. I was just told they lifted the wage cap (unverified). After 1 year, a NPPD Ofc. is making \$22.80/hr. FPD is \$29.23 and AST is \$35.05, UAF is \$25.82. 18 LEO on APSC website – of those I got 13 verified wages and we are ranked 11<sup>th</sup>. We are going to feel the pinch and I suspect it will get worse before it gets better. PFD is just now crawling out of deficit and we are about to fall in. We cannot lower our standards because it will cause us more problems. This has never happened before – this is an unprecedented nationwide police shortage. Recruitment levels have fallen everywhere. We need to assemble a committee to evaluate what we are doing and we need to do it fast. Short term solutions: we have increased our online presence, put out more ads and we will be posting to multiple police sites by the end of the week. We have physically gone out to recruit. We are now pushing out to Anchorage and looking at other options.
- Sister City – assigned Sgt. Bellant to attend and greet our guests with LEO trinkets.
- Stats – seeing an uptick in the last 3 months of calls per officer.
- Vehicle update – mid October time frame.
- Ofc. Kuplack is at the academy and having a great experience.
- NP Memorial Park Ceremony was an absolute hit. Thank you to PW and Fire.
- **Ms. Welch** asked in regards to recruiting for law enforcement as a whole, is there a way of getting people in a pool of applications in a database so they can be contacted by different agencies. Chief Dutra replied there isn’t anything currently like that and the challenge is a mixture of the pay and not enough qualified candidates.

### **Finance, Tricia Fogarty** (Audio 26:40)

- June financials were sent out by email today. July’s bank statement came in the mail today so I’ll have those financials for you at the next meeting.
- I looked at sales tax revenue and I think we are going to hit our projected target.
- We are working on PFD citations and have auto matched \$132,000 and manually matched \$62,000. We won’t get that amount but it’s promising we will get some.
- Melanie has been working on Utility billing. This is the first billing with the new meters so we have the old system and the new system and it’s a bit rocky.

- **Mr. Skipp**s asked about Moody Brews and at what point are they going to be back in the same boat. Ms. Fogarty replied time will tell, but probably not long.

**Fire Department, Chief Coon** (Audio 31:07)

- Captain Haywood's retirement lunch was on the 26<sup>th</sup> and I would like to thank Councilman Isaacson as well as all of the City employees that attended.
- Engineer Rossow, has assumed the job of Prevention Officer. This is in addition to his Engineer/EMT duties.
- The City of North Pole has had two Pulsepoint activations in the last month. I would like to praise Mayor Welch for responding to one of the activations. It turns out that the ambulance crew was quick to respond and we did not need the Mayor's help this time but it shows that the system does work and it makes our City a safer place.
- Department is continuing to send medics to the Moto cross track for races.
- Training:
  - We are preparing for our combined FF-1 class with UAF/CTC and NSFVD. It appears that we have five members signed up to take this class. This is a 12-credit class at the college.
- Maintenance Report:
  - Engine 21 is at Volvo getting our steering box repaired. This is a large project that required removing a lot of parts to inspect and see if it is rebuildable or if we are going to have to replace it. Engine 21 is our first out fire engine and is 18 years old. Engine 22 has the same issue and will go to the shop once Engine 21 is back in service. Engine 22 is 26 years old.
  - The industry standard is to replace fire engines every 20 years. The NPFD would like to remove first out engines at 20 years and replace before 30 years.

**Director of City Services, Bill Butler** (Audio 35:43)

**Building Department**

- One new residential building permit issued.
- Building permit for two 4-plexes, foundation only, issued.
- Permit application for one 4-plex submitted.
- As of August 5, permits for over \$7.36 million of valuation of construction submitted.

**Public Works**

- Work progressing on installation at City Hall.
- Work progresses on gravel storage shed at PW Garage.
- Fencing installed around Highway Park Playground, new landscaping and an enlarged parking lot.
- Both flatbed trucks are out-of-service as of today.

**Utility Department**

- Sulfolane settlement.
  - 152 new customers have been connected to the system to date.
  - We have run out of meters and are waiting for a delivery of 60 new meters.
- Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.
  - Project is proceeding to the 65% design documents due on August 19.
  - Shooting for August 10 to begin purchasing utility easements – waiting for final approval from USAF related to covenant agreements with property owners being prepared by USAF.
- **Ms. Welch** asked about a citizen outside of our area that has water delivered to their house but are not part of the expansion project. Mr. Butler replied that he would need more information about the residence and that Flint Hills is responsible for identifying who qualifies to be part of the expansion.

**Borough Representative, Council Member Welch** (Audio 43:18)

- There was the usual approval of alcohol and marijuana facilities and stuff like that.
- Everything was pretty much consented except for the resolution creating a joint climate change task force.
- There were several people, including myself, that testified to the impact on pesticide use by the companies that go out and spray for mosquitoes. It has had not only an impact on bees, but also other insects, beneficial insects, that are going into our gardens and making sure that we have food to eat.

**City Clerk, Judy Binkley** (Audio 47:17)

- The candidate filing and withdrawal periods have both passed. We have 3 candidates for City Council: Thomas McGhee, Carly Nelson, and Santa Claus.
- Later this week we will begin working on the ballots for the election.
- The League of Women Voters has a booth at the fair and are providing information about the election so be sure to stop by and say hello if you go to the fair.

**ONGOING PROJECTS** (Audio 47:51)

- Council Member Walley gave an update on the Finance Committee.
  - There is discussion of updating code for the sales tax exemptions, fees for business licensing, and increasing the amount invested in the AML investment pool and how to better utilize it for the benefit of the City.

**CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)** (Audio 52:55)

- **Thomas McGhee**, 1152 North Star Drive, North Pole: Stated he has filed to run for Council and is looking forward to lively debates with the department heads and Council over the agendas and the works of the City. Stated he testified at the last Fairbanks Borough meeting in regards to the pesticides that are being used and how the companies spraying are not following federal regulations.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Consented

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTION 19-03, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL REAFFIRMING THE ALASKA STATEHOOD ACT AND THE 90/10 PER CENTUM PROVISION REGARDING OIL AND GAS REVENUES PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 28(A) OF SAID COMPACT.** (Audio 1:00:33)

**Mr. Isaacson** introduced the resolution.

#### **Public Comment**

None

**Mr. Isaacson** *moved to* **Introduce and Adopt Resolution 19-03, A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Reaffirming the Alaska Statehood Act and the 90/10 Per Centum Provision Regarding Oil and Gas Revenues Provided For In Section 28(A) of Said Compact.**

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

#### **Discussion** (Audio 1:05:20)

**Mr. Thompson** stated he appreciates this being brought to Council and Frank Turney for his work on it, however, it is factually incorrect. The resolution states that it is a 90/10 split on certain resource development but the title of this resolution states it's a 90/10 provision regarding oil and gas. This has been decided by the Supreme Court of the United States and upheld on appeal in 1996 that they do not have to hold to this. The Secretary of State for the United States in 1914 couldn't make promises the United States had to hold that and that's what the Supreme Court decided. Supporting this resolution goes against the ruling in the highest court of the land that has been held up on appeals. The motivation behind the resolution is solid but there isn't anything the Council can actually do about that when it's already been decided.

**Mr. Isaacson** thanked Mr. Thompson for his research and in light of what was just brought up, Council could either pass the resolution knowing that other communities may have passed an inaccurate resolution, or Council could further investigate.

**Mr. Isaacson** *moved to* **Table Resolution 19-03, A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Reaffirming the Alaska Statehood Act and the 90/10 Per Centum Provision Regarding Oil and Gas Revenues Provided For In Section 28(A) of Said Compact.**

**Seconded by Ms. Welch**

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO TABLE RESOLUTION 19-03, A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL REAFFIRMING THE ALASKA STATEHOOD ACT AND THE 90/10 PER CENTUM PROVISION REGARDING OIL AND GAS REVENUES PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 28(A) OF SAID COMPACT AS FOLLOWS:

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None

**Mr. Isaacson** *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.*

**Seconded by Ms. Welch.**

The regular meeting of Monday, August 05, 2019 adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, August 19, 2019.

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Michael W. Welch, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Judy L. Binkley, City Clerk