



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 19, 2019
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Michael Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, August 19, 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 Isaacson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Walley *moved to approve the agenda of August 19, 2019.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch.

Discussion

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

Old 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.

New Business:

- a. Resolution 19-04, A Resolution of the North Pole City Council Establishing a Transfer of Funds from Mt. McKinley Bank to the City of North Pole AML Investment Pool Account.
- b. Ordinance 19-15, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2019 General Fund Operating Budget.
- c. Request to Approve the Creation of a Second Bank Account for the Moose Creek Project to Track Interest Earned on Advance Payments for the Phase 1 Construction Grant.

Seconded by Ms. Welch.

Discussion

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA OF AUGUST 19, 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 19, 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. Thompson *moved to* approve the Minutes of August 05, 2019.

Seconded by Ms. Welch.

Discussion

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES 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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Audio 3:45)

- August 10 – Farewell party at the Hotel North Pole for our Sister City.
- August 17 – Veteran Stand Down at Pioneer Park.
- August 18 – 14th annual energy fair at Chena Hot Springs
- Today – Discussion with Senator Sullivan and EPA administrator, Mr. Wheeler. Later in the day we were joined by Senator Murkowski.
- August 21 – Buzz Otis Pump House dedication at 5:30 at 2000 Peridot Street.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Department, Chief Dutra (Audio 10:46)

- New JAG Grant was released. \$265,000 worth of funding available for cities. We shall be putting in a proposal and grab as much as possible.
- We received confirmation that our request for scope studying funding for the interior training facility was authorized and the grant is being written. I as well as several other agencies to include local, state and federal partners would like to thank Rep. Wilson and other legislators for their efforts on this very important project.
- Just received notice that our spring Guys Read is September 9th – 18th. As usual I would like to recruit capable male readers to help read to our young boys. Great event and a good cause.
- Sgt. Bellant will be attending Youth Safety Day at the Carlson Center on the 24th at 10-6.
- Lt. Lindhag attended Coffee with a Cop at Eielson AFB. I heard it was a big event. We are working on a way to outdo them.
- Lt. Lindhag attended the quarterly IPCC – at Airport Police. Good discussions on EVOG for fall.
- PSA's are running on TV for DOTS, hope everyone has seen them.
- Spoke with school about SRO – plans for 2019-2020 school year. We will step up patrols in the schools until staffing levels are back on track and we can resume assignment.

- Lt. and I met with Mid-Alaska pipeline folks for a quick Emergency Ops meeting.
- Myself and Lt. Lindhag attended the APOA BBQ and picnic for members on Sunday. We appreciate all that they do.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked if Chief Dutra would email Council information about Guys Read. Chief Dutra replied he would.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler (Audio 18:51)

Building Department

- No building permits issued or applications submitted since August 5th.

Public Works

- Work to begin shortly on pedestrian path on west side of Homestead Road from Old Richardson Highway to Perimeter Drive.
- 2019 asphalt patching completed except for a section on 5th Avenue due to a frost jacked ACS casing. ACS is “working” on a plan to stabilize the casing.
- Work continues on installation at City Hall – works on this project occurs when staff are not engaged in landscaping work.
- As fall approaches, temporary hires will begin leaving.

Utility Department

- Sulfolane settlement.
 - 155 new customers have been connected to the system to date – progress slowed while we waited for the delivery of new meters.
 - 60 new meters were delivered on Thursday, August 15.
 - 100 additional meters ordered.
 - ADEC granted Interim Approval to Operate Zone 4.
 - Project Steering Team agreed that ductile iron pipe that had a series of gasket failures is requiring replacement of all the specialized gaskets with a more “common” nitrile gasket. Replacement of these gaskets will delay application of Approval to Operate for Zone 3.
 - Construction phase of project is rapidly winding down.
- Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.
 - PDC granted a one-week extension for delivery of 65% design documents – unexpected pipe realignment occurred (Laurence Road there was a conflict with new fiber optic installation and FNSB required 12 additional pipe re-alignments in Moose Creek).
 - Purchase of utility easements in Moose Creek delayed waiting for USAF final determination of compensation and policies on eligibility for service line installation.
 - Application submitted on August 16 to Regulatory Commission for Alaska for expansion of water service area to Moose Creek. Part of application was a request for expedited review.

Fire Department, Chief Coon (Audio 25:30)

- New Command vehicle that was approved last month is on hold for at least another month as we were not able to place the order in time for the 2019 model. I will keep the Council up to date on that progress.
- Department is continuing to send medics to the Moto cross track for races.
- Fill the boot is this Saturday from 11-4. Please come out and support the MDA.
- Lieutenant Sam Sanders will start on September 2nd. Sam is a veteran of the Alaska Fire Service and a Paramedic. We are very lucky to have him work for our city. This puts the Fire Department at full staff for now however, we do have a couple of members who have expressed that they are seeking other employment opportunities. We are expecting some vacancies in the near future.
- Training:
 - DC Heineken has been accepted to attend a class at the National Fire Academy. Only 1 percent of our nation's firefighters are selected to attend and it is at almost to cost to the City.
- Maintenance Report:
 - Steering box has been replaced on Engine 21 and we are still working through some issues with it to get it to pass the annual pump test. We are confident we will be able to get it fixed but want to keep the Council apprised of what it takes to keep our vehicles running and in service.
 - The industry standard is to replace fire engines every 20 years. The NFPD would like to remove first out engines at 20 years and replace before 30 years.
- **Mayor Welch** asked who would not be opening their fireworks stand. Chief Coon replied Santa's Fireworks did not turn in any paperwork this year.
- **Mr. Isaacson** asked what the anticipated cost to replace truck 21 in today's dollar is. Chief Coon replied it is \$700,000-\$750,000.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty (Audio 31:59)

- End of July financials were emailed to you this afternoon.
- We received our revenue sharing – we budgeted \$110,000 and received \$104,000.

Borough Representative

None

City Clerk, Judy Binkley (Audio 33:58)

- We have finalized the ballot for the October 1st election and they have been ordered. In-person absentee voting will begin mid-September here at City Hall.

ONGOING PROJECTS (Audio 34:07)

- Council Member Walley gave an update on the Finance Committee.
 - There will be a finance meeting tomorrow here in chambers at 3:00 pm.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen (Audio 36:03)

- **Amy Geiger**, Explore Fairbanks: Gave an update on the Explore Fairbanks Winter Guide and spoke to marketing Fairbanks and North Pole.

OLD BUSINESS

Consented

NEW BUSINESS

Consented

COUNCIL COMMENTS (Audio 59:06)

Ms. Welch: I have gifts from our Japanese friends that were here to visit and I will bring those to each of you.

Mr. Thompson: It is incredibly unprofessional that a document is brought out showing what the qualifications are for City Council, especially finding out midway during the meeting that it was directed towards me. If you have a question about my qualifications, you can simply ask me.

Mr. Isaacson *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.*

Seconded by Mr. Cromer.

The regular meeting of Monday, August 19, 2019 adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Tuesday, September 03, 2019.

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy L. Binkley, City Clerk