



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Pro Tem Doug Isaacson called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, September 16, 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

Council Members Excused: Michael Welch, Mayor

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 Pro Tem Isaacson 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 September 16, 2019.

Seconded by Mr. Skipps.

Discussion

Mr. Thompson moved to consent the following items:

Old Business:

- a. Ordinance 19-16, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2019 Public Works and Utility Operating Budgets and Other Funds.

- b. Ordinance 19-17, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 4, Chapter 10.

New Business:

- a. Request to Accept the Recommendation to Renew the Snow Plowing Contract with Hubbard Excavation for the 2019-2020 Snow Removal Season.

Seconded by Mr. Skippis

Discussion

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – Skippis, Thompson, Isaacson, Cromer, Walley, Welch

NO:

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Pro Tem Isaacson 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 SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – Skippis, Thompson, Isaacson, Cromer, Walley, Welch

NO:

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Pro Tem Isaacson declared the MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Thompson *moved to* **approve the Minutes of September 03, 2019.**

Seconded by Ms. Welch.

Discussion

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 03, 2019 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – Skipps, Thompson, Isaacson, Cromer, Walley, Welch
NO:
ABSTAIN:
Mayor Pro Tem Isaacson declared the MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

None

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Department, Chief Coon

- New Command Vehicle that was approved is still on hold due to lack of availability.
- Motocross is finished for the year.
- The Engineer position has closed and we have five applicants. Three in-house and two new members.
- I attended the Regional Emergency Services Advisory Committee (RESAC) meeting on August 28th. This committee is looking at how to improve services at no additional cost. I gave a brief description on the level of service that the North Pole Fire Department gives to the Borough. I sent each committee member an email and attached my contact info should the committee have any questions.
- Training:
 - FF-1 is ongoing.
 - Our EMS calendar is out and our members are signing up now.
 - The EMS symposium is in Anchorage this year and we will send several of our medics down to training.
- Maintenance Report:
 - The forced air furnaces in the Annex will be replaced next week. This was approved by Council a few months ago.
 - 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.

Police Department, Chief Dutra (Audio 5:04)

- Swearing in Sgt. Smith – started December 2010 as Reserve Officer. Hired February 2011.
- Stats – declining numbers.
- We have finished draft scoping document for the legislative grant for the interior training facility.

- Escorts for Striker leaving for deployment.
- Guys Read – Midnight Sun. I will be reading at NPE and Midnight Sun again this week.
- Pizza with a PoPo.
- WatchGuard server is finally up and running – lots of work.
- Homecoming is Friday.
- I attended the ALiCE exercise at NPE. Walked with evacuation. They did a great job.
- I attended the VGW September 11th ceremony.
- On the hiring front. We have not had a single person pass the hiring process since April 1, 2019. This is no April fool's joke.
- JAG grant just approved for \$95,064, we should receive grants documents for signing and approval.
- Had one complaint about new sign in roundabouts.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty (Audio 15:10)

- We wired the \$3.3 million to our AML Investment Account. The funds were there for a total of 4 days and we received \$713.04 in interest.
- A response went out to the IRS for issues from 2015. I discovered the same issue occurred in 2016 as well so I will file 941x reports for the four quarters and write a response that should resolve the issue.
- I had a Worker's Comp audit with Alaska National the last week in August. They found an issue where they charged a work comp claim to our policy for someone that isn't our employee. Alaska National will take care of this.
- Department Heads have started working on the 2020 budget. We outlined a schedule for this year's budget process and workshops have been scheduled for October 28th-30th.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler (Audio 19:36)

Building Department

- Single building application received since last Council meeting – construction of 14 unit apartment building at corner of Snowman and 6th Avenue.

Public Works

- Released an invitation to bid on September 5th for heating fuel contract for calendar year 2020. Expect to make a recommendation of the preferred contractor for the October 7th Council meeting.
- Recommendation before Council this evening to extend the snow plowing contract for an additional year with Hubbard Excavation.

Utility Department

- Sulfolane settlement.
 - 174 new customers have been connected to the system to date.
 - Commissioning of pumps at the pump house on September 17th is the last step before requesting an Interim Approval to Operate for Zone 3.
 - New Utility Assistant, Randy Binkley, started today.

- Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.
 - Work proceeding by PDC to complete the 95@ design documents due October 18.
 - Work is beginning on generation of an invitation to bid for the pre-purchase of pipe to facilitate construction in spring 2020.
 - USAF has identified the funding for the Phase 2 construction – water mains in the southern section of Moose Creek. Council approved accepting the full funding of the project, but USAF was originally uncertain it could acquire the Phase 2 funds before the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2019. The funding for Phase 2 apparently has now become available. I must submit a proposal to get the funds “awarded” to the City.

Borough Representative, Council Member Welch (Audio 25:41)

- The majority of items was on consent. There was a liquor license discussed that was not protested. There was an ordinance regarding rezoning.
- Wednesday, the 18th from 6-8 at the North Pole Library will be a Q&A about air quality.
- October 11th is the deadline for getting stuff in for the CIP.

City Clerk, Judy Binkley (Audio 29:27)

- In-person absentee voting began here, at City Hall today and will run through Monday, September 30th at 5pm. The municipal election is Tuesday, October 1st and polls will be open from 7am-8pm.
- I need a City Representative for the FNSB Special Assembly Worksession this Thursday. I sent an email to Council last week with all the information.

ONGOING PROJECTS (Audio 30:56)

- Council Member Walley stated the next finance meeting is Tuesday, September 24th at 3pm in Council Chambers.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen) (Audio 31:33)

- **Santa Claus**, PO Box 55122, North Pole: Spoke to the upcoming election and how he is running for Council.

OLD BUSINESS

Consented

NEW BUSINESS

Consented

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

Mr. Thompson *moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.*

Seconded *by Ms. Welch.*

The regular meeting of Monday, September 16, 2019 adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, October 07, 2019.

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy L. Binkley, City Clerk