



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 21, 2020
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Tuesday, January 21, 2020 to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Mayor Welch
Santa Claus
Thomas McGhee
David Skipps
Perry Walley
Aino Welch

Excused: DeJohn Cromer

Also Present: William Butler, Director of City Services
Tricia Fogarty, Chief Financial Officer
Geoff Coon, Fire Chief
Chad Heineken, Deputy Fire Chief
Steve Dutra, Police 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 Aino Welch.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Walley *moved to* approve the agenda of January 21, 2020.

Seconded *by* Mrs. Welch.

Discussion

None

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA

Mr. Walley *moved to* amend the agenda and

Old Business:

New Business:

A, C, F, G

Postpone Item E to February 3, 2020 Council Meeting

Discussion

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA OF JANUARY 21, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – McGhee, Skipps, Walley, Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

Discussion on the agenda as amended

None

APPROVAL OF AMMENDED AGENDA

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA OF JANUARY 6, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – McGhee, Skipps, Walley, Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Walley *moved to* **approve the Minutes of January 6, 2020.**

Seconded by Mr. Skipps.

Discussion

Mr. Claus please correct spelling of my last name. There is an E at the end of Claus.

Mrs. Welch end of meeting time on January 6, 2020 not noted in the minutes of meeting ending 9:59PM. Should be noted.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMDENDED MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – McGhee, Skipps, Walley, Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- a. Proclamation: Student of the Month for January Naya Moss.
- b. Eielson Air Force Base numbers of inbound Airman are going to be 603 Airman coming with those Airman are 365 dependents. 968 inbound citizens. There will be 155 Airman outbound and 104 dependents. 709 Airman net effect.
- c. Legislative Session and Priorities will be put in a Resolution in the Feb 3, 2020 Council meeting. These will be done in conjunction with the Borough and Fairbanks Mayors. They will be Law Enforcement Firing Range, PERS Contributions, School Funding, Air Quality Tax Credits and New Construction Energy Credit. Article discussed from the Economist about citizen tax burden
- d. Soliciting Council Members who will go to Juneau with the Mayor for Legislative Session. Come on Feb 18-20, 2020.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- Mr. McGhee We need to come up with a date to discuss position and discuss applicants. We need as a Council review as a Committee this job description because it needs to be corrected. I would like to do the correction in a meeting.
- Mayor responds and indicates that the job description is the same as the 2007 and 2017 except 2017 was missing the Clerk is the chief parliamentarian and that has been added back. The other is that the Clerk is the Public Information Officer (PIO). Don't know why it was missing.
- Mr. McGhee We need to pick a date to meet and discuss job description and who we are going to interview.
- Mr. Walley suggested Friday 24, of January at 5:30pm?
- Mr. McGhee Friday January 28, 2020?
- Mr. Walley recommended the Council meet on January 28, 2020 at 5:30pm.
- Mr. McGhee restated we will hold a meeting to discuss the job description and then go into executive session to discuss the applications and we will publicize it.

- Mayor Welch can we then schedule the interviews to take place on Feb 1, 2020 starting at 10:00AM. Each will be interviewed at their appointed time we have scheduled them.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Department, Chief Coon

- Fire on Barbara Lee resident lost everything. Fire from woodstove.
- Met with North Star Borough to discuss EMS Contract for 2020/2021. Turned in report that showed significant increase in ambulance transports to the tune of 85 more than the previous year. We met with Mayor Ward and he asked for help coming up with solutions and I emailed him my list. Contract was provided to City 24 hours in advance.
- Training 4 Volunteers enrolled into EMT I and 1 Volunteer enrolled into EMT II.
- Maintenance on Fire trucks working on air leaks.

Police Department, Steve Dutra

- Officer involved in shooting from January 7, 2020. Investigation is ongoing.
- Large Methamphetamine bust 48 grams of Methamphetamine and ½ gram of Heroin.
- New Detective in our Drug Enforcement Unit and Detective Lockwood has been promoted to our Major Crimes Detective.
- Hiring Wage discussion continues and should be considered by the Council.
- Arrests, Assaults, DUIs, and Citations are creeping up.
- Heating problems in the PD.
- RFP for the Firing Range complete.
- New Vehicle complete and ready to ship.
- 9 Officers on Staff. Authorized for 13 Officers.

Building Department, Bill Butler

- No new permits. IGU Project estimated at \$11 million.
- One of the Christmas Tree in a turnabout was taken out by a Semi Truck.
- Utilities Dept had a heater fail in the emergency fire well. Could have been catastrophic.
- North Pole Expansion Project received a \$20,000.00 Grant.
- 40% in Zones 3 and 4 have signed up for water utility services.
- HC Contractors was the lowest bidder for the Moose Creek Expansion Project. PDC going through the bids to be sure they are fully complaint.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Provided Delinquent reports for utility customers.
- Email Financials later in the week.

- New Wages are being inputted for the 2020 wage increases.
- New Hire paperwork has several old forms and needs updating.

Borough Representative

Mrs. Welch attended a meeting on January 16, 2020 at the North Star Borough. Lots of testimony related to Capital Projects. Major Projects discussed are State of the SS Nenana, Baseball Fields, Grants for Schools, Supplemental Emergency Medical Transportation Program, etc.

City Clerk

None

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Welch introduced the ordinance

ORDINANCE 19-23. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALES TAX CODE 4.08.020 IMPOSITION OF RATE AND 4.08.020 SECTION C.

Reconsideration on Ordinance 19-23 effective date

Mrs. Welch *moved to* reconsider effective date of Ordinance 19-23 to February 3, 2020.

Seconded by Mr. Walley

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE 19-23 FROM MARCH 2, 2020 AND CHANGING IT TO FEBRUARY 3, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – McGhee, Skipps, Walley, Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)

Paul Brown proposed to amend language to say 1.055% not 1.05% on line 48. I would recommend giving businesses adequate notice and preferably not in the middle of day. I still have a question on the letter that went out on the legality of the letter and what to do with the funds collected between then and now. Mr. Brown thinks that the businesses are not entitled to those funds but neither is the City of North Pole. That letter was based on a whereas clause. Mr. Brown referenced several court cases. There is still a question of the legality of Ordinance 19-23 and I would like to see the opinion of the City Attorney to be sure that it meets the legal requirements.

Mr. McGhee moved to introduce then adopt ORDINANCE 19-23, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALES TAX CODE 4.08.020 IMPOSITION OF RATE AND 4.08.020 SECTION C. ORDINANCE 19-23, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALES TAX CODE 4.08.020 IMPOSITION OF RATE AND 4.08.020 SECTION C.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Mr. McGhee moved to amend Line 48 to represent the 5.5% and amend line 51 to represent effective date to be February 3, 2020.

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

Discussion

Mrs. Welch wanted to be sure it was February 3, 2020 not February 2, 2020. February 3, 2020 was the confirmed date.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE 19-23 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – McGhee, Skipps, Walley, Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Welch moved to have the Ordinance approved as amended

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 19-23 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – McGhee, Skipps, Walley, Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

20-2 ORDINANCE AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO AMEND TITLE 13, PUBLIC SERVICES, CHAPTER 13.16.030 MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS FOR A SINGLE STRUCTURE

Mayor Welch introduced the resolution

Discussion

Community Comments

Mr. McGhee moved to introduce 20-02 Ordinance, Amending to allow for backflow preventers to be place on all master meters and inspection yearly of all master meters.

Seconded by Mr. Walley

Mr. McGhee moved to **amend Line 36 Section a.** to change from periodically to annually and **amend line 18 Section D:II** to change from periodically to annually.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE 20-20 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 6 – McGhee, Skipps, Walley, Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

Mr. McGhee moved to **adjourn the meeting at 8:30**

p.m. Seconded by Mr. Walley.

The regular meeting of Monday, January 6, 2020 adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tricia Fogarty Acting City Clerk