



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, November 2, 2020
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, November 2, 2020 to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Mayor Welch – Zooming In
Santa Claus - Zooming In
Thomas McGhee - Zooming In
David Skipps - Zooming In
Aino Welch - Zooming In
DeJohn Cromer - Zooming In

Absent: Perry Walley

Excused:

Also Present: Steve Dutra, Police Chief – Zooming In
Geoff Coon, Fire Chief – Zooming In
William Butler, Director of City Services– Zooming In
Tricia Fogarty, Chief Financial Officer – Zooming In
Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk/HR Manager – Zooming In

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Clerk Rhoades asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Welch.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the agenda of November 2, 2020.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Discussion

Mr. McGhee moved to consent the following items:

Old Business:

- a. Ordinance 20-25 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend 2020 Operating Budget and Grant Funds.

New Business:

- b. Resolution 20-08 A Resolution of the North Pole City Council, Authorizing the City of North Pole to Join the Alaska Remote Sales Tax Commission for the Purpose of Developing, Implementing and Enforcing a Remote Sellers Sales Tax Code.
- c. A Request for Authorization to allocate additional CARES Act Funds to Design Alaska for the purpose designing an addition to the North Pole Police Department.
- d. A Request to use GCSIT Quote to purchase Laptops for Patrol Vehicles.
- e. Request for City of North Pole to Accept for Ownership and Maintenance of Stryker Loop in the Eagle Estates Subdivision.

Postponed:

- a. Ordinance 20- 26 An Ordinance of the City Of North Pole, Alaska Establishing the 2021 Operating Budget and Levying the Mill Rate.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CONSENT OLD BUSINESS ITEMS A AND NEW BUSINESS ITEMS B, C, D AND E AND POSTPONE A:

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

On the Agenda as amended.

Discussion

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMMENDED:

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the Minutes of October 19, 2020.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Discussion

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 19, 2020 NORTHPOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

YES: 6 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skippy, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Oct 20 Admin/Clerk/ HR Budget Workshops completed.
- Oct 22 Telecom 3 Mayors with Governor Dunleavy.
- Oct 23 Tiger Team on Zoom
- Oct 27 Energy for all Alaska with FEDCO
- Rank Choice voting
- Oct 28 Bradley Sky Ranch Airport Tour with James Bradley, Lana Herbert, Rep. Mike Prax.
- Oct 30 Christ Church delegation delivered 500 Winter Care packages to our Chambers.
- Oct 31 Participated in Trunk or Treat NPPD +1700 -1800 Citizens came.
- City Donated \$1,250 to Fairbanks Food Bank on behalf of the NPPD.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- APOA Food Drive was amazing. North Pole Community brought in \$11,325 and APOA as whole brought in over \$66,000 worth of food. This made it the single biggest food drive event in the history of the Food Bank.
- Halloween Food Drive - Glow Stick – event we hosted on Halloween saw a huge crowd. Thank you to all of the citizens who came out with food.

- Ofc. Knuteson has officially started his 3.5 month FTO.
- Thank you, Councilman Claus, for discussion on LEO use of force policy.

Building Department, Bill Butler

Building Department

- No new building permits issued since last Council meeting

Public Works

- Alaska Petroleum provided fuel oil pricing for 2021 heating fuel delivery.
 - Received the quote too late to include on November 2 meeting agenda.
- Had two snow plowings this fall season and snowplow budget is now in the red.
 - Planning to request to transfer from Road Maintenance to Snow Plowing.
 - Two months remain for this 2020 snow plowing season.

Utility Department

North Pole Expansion

- Project is essentially completed and tying up loose ends.

Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Received Interim Approvals to operate the transition main from City to Moose Creek pump house
- Preparing for submission of water samples for Interim Approval to Operate for modifications at treatment plant, pump house, and storage tank.

Fire Department, Chief Coon

- We have made a promotional offer to one of our firefighters for the vacant engineer position. This employee will do the physical agility test later this week to make it official. We will then make an offer for the firefighter position.
- We have gone on 1141 emergency calls this year.
- Alaska has had 15,972 Covid-19 cases with 6,463 total recovered and 79 deaths.
- The FNSB area has had 2,281 cases total.
 - These numbers are sent out daily from Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.
- Free Covid-19 testing is available in North Pole on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, times are Noon until six pm. You will need your ID but no referral is needed.

- Thank you to councilmember Welch for completing your ICS classes and to the rest of the council please continue to work on your classes.
- Command truck has been stickered and it looks sharp. The white reflective stripe is required to operate as an emergency vehicle under our NFPA guidelines.

Training:

- Firefighter 1 is still ongoing. Most of the remaining classes will be at NSVFD station 31.

Maintenance Report:

- M-22 went in for a driveline repair. This was completed at HQ automotive.
- No change to a low charging issue with E-21. It is scheduled to go to the shop.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Still putting finishing touches on budget.
- Tyler Enterprise Software

Borough Representative

- I attended the Regular borough meeting held by zoom, 10-22-2020 at 7pm and submit the following Report.
- **City of Fairbanks Rep**
- “Implicit bias” course was held for the city employees.
- Drive thru Covid testing outside city hall.
- Cares Act 16mil total: dispersed about 7.5 medical facilities, 983k individual
- Looking for committee members for the city, more info on their website.
- **School District Rep:**
- Still looking for committee members for the school district, more info on their website.
- PT conference 29 – 30
- **Swearing in:**
- Tammie Wilson, Jim Cash, & Aaron Lojewski for the Assembly
- Luke Hopkins & Bell for IGU
- **Business.**
- Liquor License new: Hyatt Place, Mehar area- No protest
- 2020-34 Tanana Valley Fairgrounds Dissolve Service Area - passed
- 2020-02 Public gave lots of opposition comments. Ordinance was referred to a Special Committee of Whole meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2020 for discussion, debate and amendments; and advance to another public hearing on January 14, 2021.

City Clerk

None

ONGOING PROJECTS

- CARES Act funding distribution is going poorly. May need to find alternative entity other than Borough to help distribute the funds.

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

Merrick Peirce (Email from Mr. Perice)

The three local mayors displayed massive incompetence by attacking the one chance Alaska has at averting an economic collapse. Ballot Measure One, the Fair Share Act, is a citizen's initiative that is on the November ballot after 39,000 Alaskans signed the petition. The initiative applies only to our three biggest oil fields, and it decriminalizes the ability of Alaskans, the owners of the oil, to learn the finances of Prudhoe Bay, Alpine, and Kuparuk. It increases the minimum tax from 4% to 10%, and reduces credits (corporate welfare).

SB-21, the current oil tax system, was implemented in 2013. Over the last five years \$57 billion dollars of oil was taken, and Alaska lost \$2 billion in production revenue after paying \$2.1 billion in credits (corporate welfare). So Alaska had negative production revenue, on \$57 billion dollars worth of oil! This is an unmitigated disaster. The mayors ignore these facts, or have never bothered to learn them.

This is a complete collapse of our production revenue. Alaska has never done so poorly. We averaged, before SB-21, receiving about 27% of the gross value of our oil. Now, we effectively are only receiving our royalty share of 12.5 percent.

This is causing us to go broke. Alaskans have lost \$5 billion due to lower dividends- at a loss of \$7,000 from every man, woman and child [each]. Our state reserve accounts have been emptied of \$18 billion dollars. Property taxes are higher due to reduced revenue sharing, and the budget deficit next year will be about \$2 billion.

The university is being destroyed. 5,000 students have left. Tuition is much higher. Programs and hundreds of jobs are being lost.

The three local mayors have never bothered to learn the facts from the sponsors of the Fair Share Act. All they would have to have done was call us. They join the Fairbanks Chamber leadership in failing to have an honest understanding about how badly flawed SB-21 is. The Chamber, one may recall, refused to have equal participation from both sides- after dis-inviting the Fair Share representative to a debate. They don't want facts. Here's one fact that can't be disputed: Borough residents have collectively lost a staggering 700 million dollars due to our dividends being reduced to subsidize the give away of our oil.

None of the promises of SB-21 were kept. The mayors ignore this. Long before Covid 19 arrived, we were promised more jobs, instead we lost thousands of jobs. We were promised one million barrels per day of production, but that was a lie. We were promised more revenue, but we've witnessed a complete collapse of our production taxes.

The mayors offer no plan to deal with the estimated \$2.3 billion dollar deficit next year- a deficit that can not be made up by dipping into our reserve accounts, because those accounts are empty. The mayors apparently favor the approach of Gov. Dunleavy and his desire to force Alaskans to subsidize the give away of our oil. One such attempt would have stripped our community of all our pipeline revenue with Senate Bill-57, a scheme that would massively increase our property taxes.

The mayors took an oath to uphold the Alaska Constitution. Within Article VIII of our Constitution is a requirement that Alaska get a maximum benefit from the sale of our natural resources. Because Alaska is effectively getting no production tax, and is being paid less than any other state, or country, for our oil, SB-21 clearly violates our Constitution. By supporting the unconstitutional give away of our oil, the mayors are violating their oath of office.

What the mayors have done is beyond reckless. It is inexcusable. At a time Alaska desperately needs leadership, these men have failed us. I call on all three to resign.

Merrick Peirce.

Fair Share Act prime sponsor; Republican, and a ConocoPhillips shareholder

Mrs. Welch *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.*

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

The regular meeting of Monday, November 2, 2020 adjourned at 8:06p.m.

Michael Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk