



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, November 16, 2020  
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

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Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, November 16, 2020 to order at 7:01 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  
Perry Walley – Zooming In

Absent:

Excused:

Also Present: Steve Dutra, Police Chief – Zooming In  
Geoff Coon, Fire Chief – 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. Walley *moved to* approve the agenda of November 16, 2020.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch.**

**Discussion**

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

**Old Business:**

- a. None

**New Business:**

- b. Request to Approve Cost Proposal from Alaska Petroleum for 2021 Heating Fuel Contract.

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch**

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO CONSENT OLD BUSINESS ITEMS NONE AND NEW BUSINESS ITEMS B:

YES: 7 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley, 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: 7 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mrs. Welch** *moved to* **approve the Minutes of November 2, 2020.**

**Seconded by Mr. McGhee**

**Discussion**

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 2, 2020 NORTHPOLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

YES: 7 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skippy, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- The City Council was reorganized Thomas McGhee was elected to be Mayor-Pro tem. Deputy Mayor Pro-tem Aino Welch. Alternate Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem.
- GRS Controls bids for North Pole Fire Department and City Hall for air handling and filtration systems.
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Fees and Requirements that may be hampering winter tourism here in North Pole.
- Municipal Solution is going to get the final report me by November 30, 2020.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

- Mr. Claus expressed concerns about the GRS Controls not being put out to bid.

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

#### **Fire Department, Chief Coon**

- Today is my last day at NPF. I am retiring after 4 years of volunteer time and 25 years of paid time with the city of North Pole. It has been my honor to be apart of the North Pole Fire Department, I will continue to be a part of the FD as today the membership made me a “Life Member”. I wanted to thank the council for the continued support that we have received over the years. Chief Heineken and I have been working together for quite a while on succession planning and I know the department is in very good hands.
- We have gone on 1200 emergency calls this year.
- Alaska has had 23,240 Covid-19 cases with 6,516 total recovered and 98 deaths.
- The FNSB area has had 2,835 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.

Training:

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

Maintenance Report:

- Engine 22 has been down for over a week with a major water tank leak. Captain Hamlin and B-shift has gone above and beyond the call of duty with the repairs to this nearly 30-year-old apparatus. The entire lid of the tank had to be taken off, and repairs done inside the tank. Captain Hamlin thinks he can have it up and running tomorrow

### **Police Department, Chief Dutra**

- Just received back our final quote for the bathroom remodel. Will likely seek CARES ACT funding for costs exceeding initial estimates.
- Draft site study for the Interior Training Facility is out. I can send a copy if you're interested.
- I will be out of office from the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>. Lt. Lindhag will be here if needed.
- We had our third shooting in so many months. Although one was not criminal having 2 in such a short period of time is concerning.
- The new patrol car is about half way done. It was shipped from Illinois and being assembled in CA. We will make arrangements for shipping next week.
- Stats from October –

### **Building Department, Bill Butler**

None

### **Finance, Tricia Fogarty**

- Budget will be discussed tonight. Had a couple checkout errors. Will send out revised version of the Financials.

### **Borough Representative**

- Awarded rebid amount for Wescott Maintenance to Alcan Builders = 577,433.00
- Adopted: Res: 2020-44 Extension of emergency declaration. Amended and adopted. 2020-46
- Res: 2020-45 Supporting AML position on 2021 resolutions and policies
- Res: 2020-46 Identifying & Supporting Legislative priorities
- Res: 2020-47 The Transfer Of Certain Artifacts From The Pioneer Park Native Museum To The Morris Thompson, The University Of Alaska Museum Of The North And Other Appropriate Organizations.
- Organization of the Assembly
  - Mindy O'Neill elected Presiding Officer –
  - Aaron Lojewski elected Deputy Presiding Officer
- Memorandum from Mayor Ward recommending the appointment of Jomo Stewart, Kathy Mayo, and Doug Isaacson to the Alaska Gasline Port Authority Board of Directors

**City Clerk**

- Continued efforts to facilitate Municipal Solutions/Dave Evertson. Work in Progress.
- Tyler Technologies needs to replace Casell. Casell functions very poorly.
- Working on hiring process with Directors.
- 90 Day review supposed to be handled today.
- Attended AML Newly Elected Officials Training

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

- 500 Aid to Humanity Packets for distribution being stored in the City Council Chambers.
- Fairbanks North Star Borough increased level of BIG Grant to \$40,000 and City of North Pole will need to do the same. CARES Act funding distribution is going poorly. May need to find alternative entity other than Borough to help distribute the funds. Love Inc has 53 total applicants 28 approved and 24 denied. FNSB

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

None

**MOTION TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 20-26, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA ESTABLISHING THE 2021 OPERATING BUDGET AND LEVYING THE MILL RATE**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* Introduce 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**

**Discussion**

**MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE 20-26, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA ESTABLISHING THE 2021 OPERATING BUDGET AND LEVYING THE MILL RATE**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* Amend Ordinance 20-26, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Establishing the 2021 Operating Budget and Levying the Mill Rate to move the \$15,401.00 dollars in the Admin Vehicle Fund to the Fire Department Vehicle Fund.**

**Seconded by Mr. Cromer**

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE 20-26, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA ESTABLISHING THE 2021 OPERATING BUDGET AND LEVYING THE MILL RATE:

YES: 7 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE 20-26, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA ESTABLISHING THE 2021 OPERATING BUDGET AND LEVYING THE MILL RATE**

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to Advance Ordinance 20-26, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Establishing the 2021 Operating Budget and Levying the Mill Rate.*

**Seconded by Mr. Welch**

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE 20-26, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA ESTABLISHING THE 2021 OPERATING BUDGET AND LEVYING THE MILL RATE:

YES: 7 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.*

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch**

The regular meeting of Monday, November 16, 2020 adjourned at 8:29p.m.

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Michael Welch, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk