



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, December 14, 2020
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, December 14, 2020 to order at 7:00 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
Chad Heineken, 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 Mrs. Welch.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the agenda of December 14, 2020.

Seconded by Mr. Walley

Discussion

Mr. McGhee moved to consent the following items:

Old Business:

- Ordinance 20 - 26 An Ordinance of the City Of North Pole, Alaska Establishing the 2021 Operating Budget and Levying the Mill Rate.
- Ordinance 20 – 27 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend Title 13, Public Services Utility Rates for 2021.
- Ordinance 20 – 28 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2020 Water Utility Operating Budget
- Ordinance 20 – 29 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2020 General Fund Operating Budget
- Ordinance 20 – 30 Amending Fire Department Shift Personnel Overtime Payment Time Period.

New Business:

- c. Request To Write Off Tupperstuff Sales Tax Account In the Amount of \$3,639.49.

Removed

- b. Resolution to consider hazardous duty pay for first responders Fire Department and Police Department.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

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

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the Minutes of November 16, 2020 and December 7, 2020.

Seconded by Mr. Walley

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2020 AND DECEMBER 7, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- **Student of the Month**
 - a. **Zada Lipari - Senior**
 - b. Shea Gibby – Sophomore
 - c. Wilson Wade – Sophomore
 - d. Madison Miller - Freshman

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Department, Chief Heineken

- Things are continuing to run smoothly since Chief Coons retirement, this is largely due to the efforts Chief Coon made prior to leaving.
- As of November 30th, the fire department have gone on 1247 emergency calls this year.
- COVID vaccines will arrive in Alaska very soon. Our first responders are within the priority group for receiving vaccination.
- We have added two Lucas Devices to both ambulances. These devices provide continuous compression to a patient being treated for cardiac arrest.
- The open Firefighter position has been offered to Jenni Villarreal. FF Villarreal has been one of our part time staff and will be a welcome addition as she transitions to full time

status. This brings the fire department back to full staffing with exception of the open Fire Chief position.

Training:

- Firefighter 1 completed its State testing on November 21st. All personnel passed the hands-on portion of the testing and are awaiting written test results.

Maintenance Report:

- Engine 22 developed a sever leak in its water tank and has been out of service for several weeks. The tank has now been repaired by Captain Hamlin and the apparatus will be back in service soon. This apparatus is 27 years old and is quickly approaching the end of its serviceable life. NFPA recommends second line apparatus be retired after 30 years.

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Vehicle is ready to be shipped from CA. One last item to be installed.
- Stats – Questions comments?
- Received JAG funding in the amount of \$96,848. Coming Jan 4, 2020 council
- North Pole Reserve Association donating to \$500 to FMH Toy Drive / Filipe Agency
- Shop with a Cop I will be participating
- Range meeting – public outreach – 10 sites
- Annual General Membership meeting I was voted in as President again, thankful humbled
- I attended the Annual APSC meeting –

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Sales tax update for October sales tax received in November 2019 \$261,918.69 2020 \$343,528.59. Year to date total \$3,272,683.00 Budgeted 4,114,136.00. We have 2 month left outstanding \$841,453 short.
- Last Thursday our department heads and select staff had a demo preview with Tyler Technologies. We had positive feedback from the staff that attended the demo.
- I have processed 4 administrative budget transfers to date, I attached them to this update if anyone has any questions please give me a call or send me an email.
 - Mayor asked for a Demo for Tyler Technologies for next December 14, 2020.

Borough Representative

- 2020-37: claims for refunds of Taxes **Passed**
 - Two ways to claim taxes paid to Borough 1 if overpayment was a clerical error (payer or his agent) in error pays too much. Taxpayer error is a typographical, computational, or other similar error but does not include an intentional overpayment by a taxpayer or the taxpayer's agent.

- 2 If tax paid under protest; apparently should have been less A taxpayer pays taxes under protest only if the taxpayer has: 1. Requested the assessor make a correction of the taxpayer's assessment notice as provided by law: and Timely filed any appeal or suit as provided by law: and Timely paid the full amount of the taxes as shown on the applicable tax statement and not more than 30 days after payment filed with the mayor a written protest
- 2020—20-1g **Passed**
; APPROPRIATING \$3,769,214 IN FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING TO THE TRANSIT ENTERPRISE PROJECTS FUND TO PROVIDE CARES ACT SECTION 5307 OPERATING ASSISTANCE
- 2020-20-1H **Passed**
APPROPRIATING \$28,405.40 IN FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING TO THE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO BE USED TO PREVENT, PREPARE FOR, AND RESPOND TO CORONAVIRUS CONCERNS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS
- 2020-20-1L **Passed**
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FY 2020-21 BUDGET BY REALLOCATING AN ESTIMATED \$525,000 OF THE CARES ACT FUNDS WITHIN THE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FROM THE BOROUGH RESPONSE FUNDING TO THE EXPLORE FAIRBANKS RESPONSE FUNDING
- It was noted that the BIG applicants would come first and only monies left over would be given to the EF. With current applications in the pipeline, Mr. Williams speculated that it would not be a lot of money left.

Building Department, Bill Butler

Building Department

- Permits issued since last Council meeting: None.

Public Works

- Bus shelter project to go to bid and construction in 2021 for three new shelters in North Pole; one in front of Wells Fargo; one at NPHS; one by the Library.
- Snowman Lane and NPHS Boulevard pedestrian paths should go to bid and construction in 2021.

Utility Department

- Last Thursday I had a meeting with MPC Alaska Terminal Company (Marathon) to discuss their pilot test to reduce discharge of PFAS compounds to wastewater discharge to City sewer system.
 - Using Zeolite and activated carbon filters to remove PFAS.
 - Had positive results reducing PFAS compounds to well below City’s discharge limit.
 - They asked about extending the compliance date of February 1, 2021 that is now in City Code. The decision lies with Council, but I told them my recommendation to Council would be to issue a waiver versus changing the deadline.

Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Potentially will achieve substantial completion of the transmission main, pump house, storage tank and northern loop before end of 2020.
 - Substantial completion is when the facility is operational with only minor outstanding items remaining to be completed.
- Will be installing “shut-off” water meters for all residential properties in Moose Creek.
- Only approximately 120 property owners in Moose Creek have not returned environmental covenants.
 - Began a second effort to recruit new water customers.
 - Released a second mailing on December 10 to all non-respondents.
 - Already received a request for first consultation meeting with a property owner as a result of the mailing.

Offer consultation meetings at City Hall and at the Moose Creek Fire House.

City Clerk

- City Telephone problem with Verizon and Alasconnect – Problem has been solved
- Flexible Spending Accounts working with Broker Plan Summary being used is from 2015.
 - Mr. McGhee had question?
 - 4.12 Why we don’t list the Mill Levy in that ordinance?
 - When you have time find out how we update the archives

ONGOING PROJECTS

- CARES Act Update.
 - The City has Elected to contract with Love Inc. to administer both the BIG grant and FIG. The participation has been double what the FNSB has in 7 days which is 10 Businesses and Non-Profits. There is a need and going with Love Inc. appears to be the right choice based on the early results.
 - Mr. Claus discussed the City of Skagway CARES Act Funds going to each of the citizens.

- Mr. McGhee are we going to be able to spend the first batch of money received from the State of Alaska?

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

None

MOTION TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION 20-10 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LOVE INC. AS THE CONTRACTED PROVIDER FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CARES ACT FUNDS AND ESTABLISH THE PARAMETERS FOR THE BUSINESS INTERRUPTION GRANT FOR THE BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT ENTITIES. ALSO INCREASE THE FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL GRANT FROM \$10,000 TO A MAXIMUM OF \$15,000 DOLLARS AND MOVE THE CONSIDERATION PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Mr. McGhee *moved to* Introduce Resolution 20 – 10 , A Resolution establishing Love Inc. as the contracted provider for distribution of CARES Act Funds and establish the parameters for the Business Interruption Grant for the Business and Non-Profit entities. Also increase the Family and Individual Grant from \$10,000 to a maximum of \$15,000 dollars and move the consideration period from September 30, 2020 to November 30, 2020.

Seconded *by* Mrs. Welch

Mr. McGhee *move to* Amend Resolution 20 – 10

Seconded *by* Mr. Walley

Add at line 29:

WHEREAS, The City of North Pole desires to distribute the all remaining CARES Act funds to its Citizen’s via a stimulus check. Once all encumbered funds are determined the balance of the CARES Act funds will be distributed to each eligible citizen of North Pole equally.

Discussion

A lengthy discussion took place. (See Audio for Full Transcript.)

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 20 – 10:

YES: 5 – Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skipps, Mr. Claus, Mr. Walley Mayor Welch

NO: 2 – Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-10 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LOVE INC. AS THE CONTRACTED PROVIDER FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CARES ACT FUNDS AND ESTABLISH THE PARAMETERS FOR THE BUSINESS INTERRUPTION GRANT FOR THE BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT ENTITIES. ALSO INCREASE THE FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL GRANT FROM \$10,000 TO A MAXIMUM OF \$15,000 DOLLARS AND MOVE THE CONSIDERATION PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve Resolution 20 – 10 as Amended, A Resolution establishing Love Inc. as the contracted provider for distribution of CARES Act Funds and establish the parameters for the Business Interruption Grant for the Business and Non-Profit entities. Also increase the Family and Individual Grant from \$10,000 to a maximum of \$15,000 dollars and move the consideration period from September 30, 2020 to November 30, 2020.

Seconded by Mr. Walley

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20 – 10 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LOVE INC. AS THE CONTRACTED PROVIDER FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CARES ACT FUNDS AND ESTABLISH THE PARAMETERS FOR THE BUSINESS INTERRUPTION GRANT FOR THE BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT ENTITIES. ALSO INCREASE THE FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL GRANT FROM \$10,000 TO A MAXIMUM OF \$15,000 DOLLARS AND MOVE THE CONSIDERATION PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2020:

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 9:56 p.m.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

The regular meeting of Monday, December 14, 2020 adjourned at 9:57p.m.

Michael Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk