



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 3, 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, February 3, 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  
DeJohn Cromer  
Perry Walley  
Aino Welch

Excused:

Also Present: William Butler, Director of City Services  
Tricia Fogarty, Chief Financial Officer  
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 Mayor Welch.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Walley *moved to* approve the agenda of February 3, 2020.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch.**

**Discussion**

None

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA**

**Mr. Walley moved to accept the agenda with the following changes**

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch**

**Old Business:**  
**A, B, C Consented**

**New Business:**  
**A, B, C, Consented**  
**Remove items D, E**

**Discussion**  
None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 3, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 7 – McGhee, Skipps, Cromer, Walley, Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mayor Welch  
NO: 0  
ABSTAIN:  
**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**Discussion on the agenda as amended**  
None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS AMENDED**

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA FEBRUARY 3, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

YES: 7 – McGhee, Skipps, Cromer, 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 21, 2020.*

**Seconded by Mr. Skipps.**

**Discussion**  
None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMDENDED MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2020 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- a. Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Agreement Site Visit Kelly Isham-Amira Goldstein. They are the Risk Control Specialists and they will be inspecting the City facilities. They have a loss control incentive program for members and a \$250 allowance for safety related items like cleats and eye protection. Biggest hazards are slips, trips and fall.
- b. Last week the Council met to discuss the Clerk/HR position job description. We spent Saturday interviewing 4 candidates for the position.
- c. Due to health issues, Mayor Welch will not be attending the AML/ACOM during Legislative Week Feb 18-20 in Juneau Mayor will not be attending the 31<sup>st</sup> Alaska State Legislature.

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

None

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

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

- No building permits have been issued since January 6, 2020.
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation did call and ask some questions about building a fuel tank farm in North Pole. Asking permitting questions, etc.
- Focus will be on clearing the sidewalks of snow.
- Snow Contractor will be working on clearing up the hard pack tomorrow. Some State roads build up snow berms and we do our best to remove them.
- Generator building will be equipped with emergency notification system. Still waiting on parts for the emergency generator.
- 2 inch waterline that serves out utility department froze up. 1 inch still work but in the Spring we will have to dig up and repair any breaks in the 2 inch line.

- Dept. Labor is the final holdout on the Water Expansion Project. They are waiting on responses from out of State contractors that worked the project. Once the Dept. of Labor has that the project can be closed out.
- Moose Creek Expansion Project issued notice of award today. HC is working on getting their paperwork in place. A Pre-Construction meeting will be scheduled for Feb 18, 2020 at 2:00pm – 5:00pm in the Council Chambers.

**Police Department, Steve Dutra**

- Recruitment 244 applicants in last 2 years, 76 Normal, 168 Electronic. In the end we ended up with 1 hire out of all of the applicants. We had 5 laterals and lost one to APD. If it wasn't for those laterals we would be in a very bad situation.
- There are 4-6 Officers in the next two years that will be eligible for retirements.
- Asking Council to form a Committee to consider the challenges ahead.

**Fire Department, Deputy Chief Heineken**

Nothing to Report

**Finance, Tricia Fogarty**

- Sent out Sales Tax Ordinance in the mail and have received no questions.
- Thomas McGhee volunteered to sign for payroll.

**Borough Representative**

No Report

**City Clerk**

None

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

- The North Star Borough will be accepting the \$10,500 set aside and raised to update the hockey rink at North Pole Middle School. It will be used to update the rink at North Pole High School instead.

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

- Lisa Lewis from Petro Star. She is concerned about Ordinance 20-01 regarding the PFAS requirement being placed on Petro Star as an industrial water user because the City is not able to process the contaminated discharge from Petro Star. Treating water to a drinking

water standard. Petro Star does not have the facilities to do this and the only place in the State of Alaska that does is in Anchorage. If this requirement is put in place it will cost \$500,000.00 to process each batch of water from the Petro Star facilities in North Pole and then this will be passed direct to the customer. Asking Council to postpone the official vote until a solution can be identified that would be beneficial to the whole community.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.m.*

**Seconded by Mr. Walley.**

The regular meeting of Monday, February 3, 2020 adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Michael W. Welch, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Tricia Fogarty Acting City Clerk