



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, Aug 3, 2020  
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

---

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, Aug 3, 2020 to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Santa Claus  
Thomas McGhee  
David Skipps  
Aino Welch  
DeJohn Cromer – Attending Via Zoom  
Perry Walley  
Mayor Welch

Absent:

Excused:

Also Present: William Butler, Director of City Services  
Tricia Fogarty, Chief Financial Officer  
Steve Dutra, Police Chief  
Aaron M. Rhoades, Temporary City Clerk/HR Manager  
Geoff Coon, Fire 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 August 3, 2020.***

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch.**

**Discussion**

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

**Old Business:**

- a. Ordinance 20 – 14 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2019 Water Utility Operating Budget

**New Business:**

- b. Ordinance 20 – 18 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend 2020 Operating Budget and Other Funds

**Remove:**

**Old Business:**

- b. Ordinance 20 – 15 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 2, Chapter 2.36 Personnel Code, Section. 470 Pay

**New Business**

- a. Ordinance 20 – 17 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska Amending Title 2, Chapter 2.36 Personnel Code, Section. 470 Pay

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

***On the amendment.***

**PASSED**

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

**PASSED**

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**

**Mr. Walley** *moved to approve the Minutes of July 20, 2020.*

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch**

**Discussion**

None

**PASSED**

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**

- a. Cares Act Committee met at North Pole Hotel July 29, 2020 Finished up Committee work.
- b. AML Virtual Meeting anyone who wants to participate get with City Clerk.
- c. Contracts Officer on EAFB died in an accident.
- d. Out of Office starting Aug 6, 2020 until August 21, 2020.
- e. Clerk –HR Manager applicants is 1 interviewing should start towards end of August.

**COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

- Councilman McGhee asked for the May Marsh report that he had requested.
  - Mayor Welch responded the report has to be requested by the whole City Council and then it can be viewed/discussed in Executive Session.

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

**Fire Department, Deputy Chief Heineken**

- Fire danger is low and burning is allowed with a permit.
- We have gone on 791 emergency calls this year. We are averaging 3.6 calls per day.
- Alaska has had 3,341 Covid-19 cases with 946 total recovered and 25 deaths.
- The FNSB area has had 410 cases total.
  - These numbers are sent out daily from Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

- Please continue to work on those three ICS classes. Instruction sheet attached.
- The new Command truck is scheduled to be done in August.

#### Training:

- No change from last report.

#### Maintenance Report:

- Captain's Hamlin and McGilvary have been working on electrical problems with Platform 21 and Engine 21. These problems are small and annoying but does not keep either apparatus from service.

#### Pay Scale Project and Recommendation:

- Deputy Chief Heineken has been working with the Police Department and Councilman Walley on the Pay Scale recommendations since last Council meeting. I urge the council to take action on this as there are a lot of Firefighter positions currently open in the interior and all over Alaska. These positions are very competitive and our current pay scale puts us at a disadvantage for recruitment and retention.

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

#### **Building Department**

- Starting to issue permits for the North Pole Veterinary Clinic expansion.
- Received two additional residential building permit applications.

#### **Public Works**

- City Hall sign damaged by vandalism. Public Works will replace.
- Repaired a streetlight cable along Barbara Lee Drive that intermittently failed during the winter.
- John Linnell's work is being recognized by businesses along Santa Claus Lane. Businesses are showing their appreciation by thanking him, providing him free lunches and drinks.

#### **Utility Department**

- Utility Department is engaged in routine summer maintenance-lift station cleaning, exercising valves.
- Utility Department staff are routinely supporting Moose Creek project activities.

#### **North Pole Expansion Project**

- Of the 480 possible connections in Zones 3 & 4, 436 (91%) have applied for

service.

- 243 (51%) of new account applicants' services have been installed in Zones 3 & 4.

#### Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Areas with deep excavations are still have problems when in PFAS contaminated area related to contaminated ground water.
- Requesting EPA & DEC to approve alternative means to dispose of de-watering water.
- Water tank is epoxy coated inside and out.
- Pump house pumps and piping beginning to be installed.
- Installing water mains in the northern and southern sections of Moose Creek. HC is pushing to install all water mains by end of 2020 construction season
- Environmental covenant paperwork has been sent to Moose Creek residents. 36 signed covenants have been submitted paperwork to date.
- Contractor has found two cracked pipes after the pipes were installed and pressurized. The cracked pipes were "owner purchased." Will be working with City Attorney to identify City's options.

#### **City Services Office Space**

- Bid submission date changed to August 6 to give contractors more time to prepare proposals.
- Goal remains to make a recommendation to Council on August 17.

#### **Finance, Tricia Fogarty**

- Working on Payroll update to Caselle
- 4 Applications for City Clerk – HR Manager
- Discussion about holding interviews Aug 20, 2020.

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

- Video of Memorial Park – 15k views as of Sunday. Thanks to Evidence Custodian Rachel wing and Councilwomen Welch for collaborating on this video. Amazing job.
- New Officer will be starting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. This puts us 2 down but just in time for 2-3 vacations due to maxed out Vacation banks.
- Our sign was damaged out in parking lot. This was a stolen vehicle from Fairbanks recovered by our department. Suspect arrested after short pursuit and standoff.

#### **Borough Representative**

- Liquor licenses
- Groundwater protection

- Ordinance 20-24 Oneil and Sanford requiring apprenticeship participation with FNSB Contractors working on FNSB projects.

### **City Clerk**

- Monday at Noon is the new deadline for Council Agenda items.

### **ONGOING PROJECTS**

- CARES Act Committee Chair Mike Miller made final report on Committee work.

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

Shelley Ebenal, CEO Foundation Health Partners

Jeff Cook, President, Emeritus of The Greater Community Hospital Foundation

- Both leaders spoke about the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic on the hospital's finances and the need for grants to replace those losses to ensure and strong healthcare system (See FHP Attachments at end of minutes).

**Meeting Suspended for 5 minutes at 8:43pm**

**Meeting resumed at 8:48PM**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- c. Ordinance 20 – 16 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Oppose Passage of Legislation that Would Restrict Individual Rights Protected by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and Declaring the City of North Pole a Second Amendment Sanctuary

### **MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE 20 – 16 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO OPPOSE PASSAGE OF UNLAWFUL OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION THAT WOULD RESTRICT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS PROTECTED BY THE SECOND AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND DECLARING THE CITY OF NORTH POLE A SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Approve Ordinance 20-16.***

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch.**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Amend Ordinance 20-16 in 3 places.***

- **In the Title adding “Unlawful or Unconstitutional”**
- **Line 44 adding “WHEREAS, The City Council encourages all citizens whether for sport, hunting or self-protection to take a certified firearms safety class: and”**
- **Section 2. Adding “That has been enacted unlawfully or unconstitutionally.” Removing “and consider such law to be unconstitutional.”**

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE 20-16 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO OPPOSE PASSAGE OF UNLAWFUL OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION THAT WOULD RESTRICT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS PROTECTED BY THE SECOND AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND DECLARING THE CITY OF NORTH POLE A SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY:

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

NO: 2 – Mr. Comer, Mr. Claus

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

### Discussion

- Mr. Claus stated that an Ordinance is a law and had a concern that this should be a Resolution not and Ordinance per the City’s Attorney and in his opinion.
- Mr. McGhee stated that the City Attorney and Mr. Claus have given their opinions and asked if anyone on the Council would stand with him and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE 20-16 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA TO OPPOSE PASSAGE OF UNLAWFUL OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION THAT WOULD RESTRICT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS PROTECTED BY THE SECOND AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND DECLARING THE CITY OF NORTH POLE A SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY:

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

NO: 2 Mr. Claus, Mr. Cromer

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

### NEW BUISNESS

- C. Ordinance 20 – 19 An Ordinance to Appropriate Cares Act Funds for City of North Pole, Healthcare, Businesses/Non-Profits and Individuals/Families

**MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE 20-19, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE CARES ACT FUNDS FOR CITY OF NORTH POLE, HEALTHCARE, BUSINESSES/NON-PROFITS AND INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES**

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to Amend Ordinance 20-19*

**Seconded** *by Mr. Walley.*

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to Amend Ordinance 20-19 in 2 places.*

- **Line 29** from \$10,000 to \$15,000
- **Line 32** removing “that the remainder” replacing it with “\$500,000”

**Discussion**

- Discussion was held regarding the request to approve Amendments.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE 20-19, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE CARES ACT FUNDS FOR CITY OF NORTH POLE, HEALTHCARE, BUSINESSES/NON-PROFITS AND INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES:

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE 20-19, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE CARES ACT FUNDS FOR CITY OF NORTH POLE, HEALTHCARE, BUSINESSES/NON-PROFITS AND INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES**

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to Advance Ordinance 20-19.*

**Seconded** *by Mr. Walley.*

**Discussion**

- Discussion was held regarding the request to approve.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE 20-19, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE CARES ACT FUNDS FOR CITY OF NORTH POLE, HEALTHCARE, BUSINESSES/NON-PROFITS AND INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES



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

**Mr. McGhee** *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.*

**Seconded by Mr. Walley.**

The regular meeting of Monday, July 20, 2020 adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

---

Michael W. Welch, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

---

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk