



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, September 8, 2020
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Pro - tem Walley called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, September 8, 2020 to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following Council Members in attendance:

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

Absent:

Excused:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Welch 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 September 8, 2020.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch.

Discussion

Mr. McGhee moved to consent the following items:

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- a. Request from North Pole Police Department for a Wage Determination for New Hire.
- b. Request to Purchase 1 City of North Pole Police Department Dodge Durango.
- c. Request from The North Pole Fire Department to accept EMW-2019-FG-07992 Assistance to Firefighter Grant.
- d. Request to Accept a \$10,000 Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Purpose Grant
- e. Ordinance 20 – 20 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Approve a modifications to US Army Corps of Engineers’ Cooperative Agreement W911KB-19-2-5200 to increase funding to pay an Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities permit and to increase funding to PDC Engineers for additional work in support of obtaining environmental covenants in Moose Creek.
- f. Ordinance 20 – 21 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2020 Water Utility Operating Budget, Professional Services to Finance Site Characterization Work at The 8th Avenue Pump House and Other Tasks

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. McGhee *moved to approve the Minutes of August 17, 2020.*

Seconded by Mr. Claus

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

- August 4 actively participated in AML's District 7 Policy Statements for 2021
- Was out on medical leave August 6-23, returned Monday August 24. My gratitude goes out to Pro-Tem Perry Walley who covered my absence.
- Attended the AML Summer Session which was virtual August 10-13. Senator Dan Sullivan offered advice concerning CARES Act Funding that the Congress will be working on an extension of the deadline to spend monies to go past December 30, 2020. Congressman Don Young offered his assistance to our City concerning a tax penalty matter with the IRS that dates to 2015.
- August 11 first ECHO zoom conference with Dr. Zinke & DHSS staff & AML.
- August 15 Blue Lives Matter at Gene's Chrysler 1400-1700. CNP was represented by Chief Dutra, Officer Sydney Rosenbaum. We carried on indoors after the rain and hail cut 1 hour into the event. Event was packed.
- August 18 Online Sales Tax Seminar by Zoom with AML. There are now 22 communities that participate in Alaska. Expect this to come up on 9/21/20. The link is <https://www.akml.org/member-services/online-sales-tax/>.
- August 19 accompanied TV news reporter(Alaska Link from ABC/Fox/CW) to EAFB for a mission briefing with 354th Group Commander Col. Zeke Skalecky. Maria also toured the City of North Pole and Santa Claus House and gave us statewide coverage over 2 nights.
- August 20 Lunch with outgoing 354th Wing Commander Col. Shawn Anger concerning the needs for the USAF and LM to fill the high tech vacancies at EAFB.

- August 25 had a private 1 on 1 with Governor Dunleavy concerning COVID 19 concerns and CARES Act distributions to the constituents of North Pole. Also discussed needing his DECCA folks to contact me concerning a Training Center in North Pole vis a vis the discussion that I had with Colonel Anger.
- Follow-up to that call was with Dr. Coleman Kutchins DHSS Lead Pharmacist concerning Abbott Rapid test in North Pole.
- September 2 Call with Fred Villa of the Workforce Development from the SOA, along with Matt Fagnani, senior executive of Development and Investments with DECCA. We laid out a blueprint to get this initiated.
- September 8 Zoom ECHO meeting with Dr. Zinke and DHSS Staff & AML. We are well into the testing phase and expect to see some refinements to the DASHBOARD about patient care later this week. The 3rd phase will be the POD (Points of Distribution) Plan for the vaccine before it arrives.
- September 23 Planned N.P. Employees Picnic to Escape the Summer, Usher in the Fall, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Upcoming this week: Review of the 3 submittals for our RFP to conduct an in-depth objective review of our Salaries, Wages, Compensation and Benefits. Companies that responded were Milliman, the Foraker Group, and Municipal Solutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Fire Department, Deputy Chief Heineken

- The department is hiring a Fire Lieutenant. The position closes this Thursday at 1300 hours.
- We have gone on 945 emergency calls this year.
- Alaska has had 5,833 Covid-19 cases with 2,137 total recovered and 42 deaths.
- The FNSB area has had 761 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.
- Nothing new to report on new command truck.
- We received our ISO (insurance service office) Grading of class 2. This is the same grading as five years ago. At that time, we improved from a class 3 to a class 2. Of the 40,000 fire departments that ISO rates only 1,772 obtain a class 2 rating and only 393 receive a class 1 rating. Deputy Chief Heineken worked very hard to keep our class 2 rating and deserves high praise.

Training:

- We have members completing an online EMT class.

- Fall FF-1 academy starts Sept 15th.
- EMT-1 class starts Sept 28th. Space is still available.

Maintenance Report:

- Medic 22 has returned from the shop for a turbo related issue
- Medic 21 will need to go to the alignment shop for a vibration.

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Shooting in NP – nobody lost their life
- Couple of other Major investigations occurring – taxing our Detective who is also still patrolling
- New hires –
- Range – dates set – outreach will start soon
- Taken car and side by side to auction

Building Department, Bill Butler

Building Department

- Permits issued since last Council meeting:
 - Condo unit in Bald Eagle Court.
 - 5 residential projects in plan review stage.
 - \$19 million in building valuation to date.

Public Works

- Snowplowing invitation to bid released and bids are due September 30.
- Second round of asphalt patching underway—waiting on weather to lay asphalt.
- Minor maintenance around Dougchee Bridge planned for this week.
- Brush cutting planned and/or underway in Highway Park, Stillmeyer and North Star Subdivisions.

Utility Department

- Utility Department staff are routinely supporting Moose Creek project activities.
- Supporting service line installations for residential construction within City.

North Pole Expansion Project

- Of the 480 possible connections in Zones 3 & 4, 445 (93%) have applied for service.
 - Contractors averaging a total of 25 new service line installations per week.

- 359 (72%) of new account applicants' services have been installed in Zones 3 & 4.
- Goal is to complete all service line installations by September 30—86 installations to go.

Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Two pipe connections remaining to link City's system with Moose Creek.
 - Auger drilling under Richardson Highway and AK Railroad (in vicinity of Bathing Beauty Pond).
 - Connecting City's 12 inch circulation main at intersection of Old Richardson Highway and Laurance Road to the transmission main to Moose Creek.
- Pump house pumps, piping and electrical equipment still being installed.
- Installation of water mains in the Northern section of Moose Creek is 100% completed and Southern section water main installation is 98% completed.
- Piping modifications started in water treatment plant to support larger pumps and an additional water filter was delivered and placed within treatment plant.
- PDC to make a presentation at September 21 Council meeting about City's wells and the request to increase the amount of water drawn as part of our water rights.
- Environmental covenant response rate is still low—approximately 20% to date.
- Discussing with USAF mechanisms to increase response rate—will take extra funding and will contract much of this work with PDC Engineers with a focus on community outreach.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

None

Borough Representative

- Liquor License Fat Burger on Airport Road
- Rezoning a Tract on Mitchell Express Way on the Corner of Pegger and 30th to make it Multi Family.

City Clerk

- Updated Website New Election Information
- CARES Act MOU approved and on Borough Website live for the BIG Grant
- FIG will be facilitated by Love Inc. starting Tuesday September 15, 2020.
- September 23, 2020 Employee Appreciation Dinner

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Interior Gas Utility Update by Dan Britton and Mike Miller (See Presentation at end of minutes.)

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

- Water Utility Bill appeal from Toni Brewer No final decision to accept or decline approval.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Mr. McGhee *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.*

Seconded *by Mr. Cromer.*

The regular meeting of September 8, 2020 adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Michael Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk