



**Committee of the Whole – 6:30 P.M.
Regular City Council Meeting – 7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the North Pole City Council was held on Monday, December 13, 2021 via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, December 13, 2021, to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Michael Welch – Mayor
Santa Claus - Mayor Pro Tem
DeJohn Cromer - Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Aino Welch – Alternate Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Thomas McGhee
Anton Keller
David Skipps

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Welch

INVOCATION

Given by Mr. McGhee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee *moved to* approve the agenda of December 13, 2021

Seconded *by* Ms. Welch

Mr. McGhee *moved to* amend the agenda of December 13, 2021 to consent the following items:

Old Business:

- a. Ordinance 21-21, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska, to Amend the Sales Tax and Uniform Alaska Remote Seller Sales Tax Exemptions (Pgs. 28-30)
- c. Ordinance 21-23, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole. Alaska, to Amend the Leave Policy and Pay Scale for City of North Pole Employees (Pgs. 33-41)

New Business:

- a. JAG Grant Approval (Pgs. 42-84)

Seconded *by* Ms. Welch

On the amendments

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 – A.Welch, Claus, Keller, Cromer, McGhee, Skipps, Welch

No: 0

On the agenda as amended

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 – A.Welch, Claus, Keller, Cromer, McGhee, Skipps, Welch

No: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee *moved* to approve the minutes from the 12/6/21 meeting

Seconded *by* Ms. Welch

DISCUSSION

None

PASSED

Yes: 7 – A.Welch, Claus, Keller, Cromer, McGhee, Skipps, Welch

No: 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Student of the Month – Montana Bloodworth
- A flyer from Lockheed Martin was included in the Council packet, they are hiring in the NP area.
- The Mayor was sick last Council meeting. He was in Anchorage since then meeting with a few different companies. One that still would like to remain secret at the moment. They are interested in building in Brookside Park and they were talking codes, etc. The Mayor was also talking to the governors office about a few projects, as well as the Bond bank people. He is going back to Anchorage this week for a hearing with Zane Wilson regarding Williams Alaskan Petroleum. He also wanted everyone to know that the incident that happened a few years ago at the Christmas in Ice festival is coming back up and could become a court issue. Mayor Welch also gave a recap from the Conference of Mayors Conference that he attended in November.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- Mr. Cromer asked a question about the lights at the transfer site that he went to recently. Bill Butler said that the city has no management of the transfer site, the borough does. Mr. Butler said that he would

pass along the info.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Dept., Chief Dutra

- Comments on Anchorage Executive Development
- Stats for November – Not a lot of change from last year
- Cars are in Anchorage – Lt and Detective are heading up on Thursday to grab them
- Shop with a Cop is starting soon

Fire Dept., Chief Heineken

- Wanted to thank everyone who was involved in the total compensation committee and everyone who put in the time and work into the new pay scale.

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

- Has nothing new since the last meeting.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Also thanked everyone for the work in the new pay scale and feels like it is a good version. She has been working with Tyler on the new system, the first paycheck in January will be completely on Tyler. The timecard entries are soon to be up and running soon as well.
- There was a positive COVID test with one of the City Hall employees. The other employees in City Hall have been tested and everyone is negative so far.
- Mr. McGhee thanked Tricia and all the department heads for the pay scale project and all the hardwork they put into it.

Borough Representative

- Ms. Welch was sick and unable to attend the last borough meeting. She said that it would be really nice if there was an alternate for the meetings so that this didn't happen.

City Clerk's Office, Melissa Dionne

- Ms. Dionne said that she was looking forward to a little bit of a break and working on some trainings.

ON GOING PROJECTS

Committee Sign Ups

- Bed Tax Committee Awards
 - The Bed Tax Committee met November 30th and came up with a unanimous decision on where the money should go. The total amount to be distributed this year was \$46,787.61.
 - Ms. Welch said that one of the things that she remembered from the Committee meeting is that the money that was given previously to the NPCCC was not spent on what it was given for, and that the committee was not happy with that. This year they asked for \$28,460 and the committee was not excited about the fact that they asked for this amount this year.

- Mr. Claus said that he was also disappointed in the NPCCC and their lack of visibility this past year. The events that have been scheduled in previous years were all canceled this year and does not feel like they are very good stewards of the NP Bed Tax monies.
- Mr. Keller said he remembers that the Literacy Council came out on top with what they presented and felt that the return on investments with the Literacy Council was a lot better than other groups that presented. He felt that the money for Santa's Letters was a good investment as well. He said that he remembered that Jeff Jacobson, who was a committee member, said that NPCCC was in a state of transition right now and trying to find their identity after a change in their ranks.
- Mayor Welch explained how the committee got to the totals that were given. The committee was impressed with the Literacy Council and added \$250 to the total. To Santa's Letters and Explore Fairbanks the committee gave the full amount. What was left from the \$46,787.51 went to NPCCC for their website redesign and a few other things not related to the visitor cabin.
- Mr. McGhee brought up the previous years total monies that were given to the NPCCC and that most of the monies were supposed to be spent on the visitor cabin. He thanked the Council for changing the Bed Tax Distribution for next year and pointed out that the Literacy Council will not be eligible next year due to the change. He also said that the NPCCC is not eligible for the last 10% because they did not spend the money on what it was given for and believes that they should not be qualified for this year's money because of that.
- Mr. Cromer questioned if the city could get the money back if it was not spent appropriately on what it was intended for.
- Ms. Fogarty said that she does not feel like we can recoup that money that was given and not spent appropriately, but that the Council can look into changing the rules, in case this comes up again.
- Disbursement of Remaining Cares Act Funds
 - Love, Inc. and KJNP both spoke to the Council regarding the need for additional CARES Act Funds that the City of NP has. They submitted letters and tax information as backups to the request.
 - The Mayor explained the CARES Act Funds that have been distributed so far and how much money there is left.
 - Ms. Welch asked if the Council gave additional money to Love, Inc. if they could insure that constituents in NP get a majority of the money. Dean McDaniels said that yes, they could put a stipend aside just for NP.
 - The Mayor said that he feels that Love, Inc. would qualify for an additional \$84,000 and that KJNP would qualify for \$48,000.
 - Mr. McGhee asked if the Council could schedule a special meeting to decide on the disbursement of those final funds.
 - The Council agreed to December 21st for the special meeting.
 - The Council also agreed to add the Bed Tax Distribution Resolution to the special meeting agenda.
- 2022 Committee Sign Ups

- o The Council reviewed the current members of the committees.
- o Mr. McGhee volunteered to be the 2nd Borough representative.
- o Mr. Claus, Mr. McGhee and Mr. Keller asked to be on the Economic Development Committee.
- 2022 Calendar

CITIZENS COMMENTS – (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- b. Ordinance 21-22, An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska, to Amend Title 10 Vehicles and Traffic

Mr. McGhee *moved* to introduce Ordinance 21-22

Seconded *by* Ms. Welch

On the amendment

DISCUSSION

None

FAILED

Yes: 0

No: A. Welch, Claus, Keller, Cromer, McGhee, Skipps, Welch

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. McGhee *moved* to adjourn

Seconded *by* Mr. Skipps

The regular meeting of Monday, December 13, 2021 adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, December 13, 2021.

ATTEST:

Melissa Dionne, City Clerk