



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, April 5, 2021 WAS RESCHEDULED TO
April 12, 2021 DUE TO SEVER INCLEMENT WEATHER
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Welch called the rescheduled Monday April 5, 2021 regular City Council meeting of Monday, April, 2021 to order at 7:01 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

Absent: Perry Walley

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 April 12, 2021.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Discussion

Mr. McGhee moved to consent the following items:

Old Business:

- a. Ordinance 21 – 05 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2021 Operating Budget and Grants Funds

New Business:

- a. Ordinance 2 Ordinance 21 – 06 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to support funding for the construction of the 2017 FMATS Sidewalk Improvement Project for north pole high school boulevard and snowman lane.
- b. Ordinance 21 – 07 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Engage in a Professional Services Agreement with Shannon & Wilson to Continue Monitoring and Mitigation Efforts for the 8th Avenue Heating Fuel Oil Spill.
- c. Ordinance 21 – 08 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend 2021 Operating Budget.
- d. Request to Approve WatchGuard Camera Contract.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

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

YES: 6 – Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. McGhee, Mr. Skippis, 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: 6 – Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Skippis, Mr. McGhee, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the Minutes of March 15, 2021.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 15, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

YES: 6 – Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Skippis, Mr. McGhee, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Online Sales Tax Issues.
- Senior Bash May 12, 2021 City to Donate \$750.00 *3:30PM Parade FD/PD. Mrs. Lash and Walters appeared and made the request.
- Graduation May 13, 2021 Carlson Center.
- Possible Color Run from City Hall to the Grange July 5, 2021 Jennifer Hughes.
- MilCiv appears that Ft. Wainwright is moving to 4 Brigades.
- Snow Apocalypse April 5, 2021 Closed City Hall.
- Old Library Purchase is on hold until an Official Request for Information made to FNSB.
- Syn Gas Project continues. Looking to Build 20 1 Acre Greenhouses. Casey Greenhouses.
- 20% Vaccination Level for the FNSB.
- 3 Mayors Meeting Bert Cottle Senate Bill 9 considering taking away Alcohol Tax.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- FANT receiving WSIN award.
- Electrical problems uncovered in PD.
- Evaluations for ALL PD employees is complete.
- May 1st our Chena Lakes contract kicks off.
- MOU's with US Army and Eielson AFB SF underway
- Share my pet project with council – OPM Statewide policies
- Forwarded my Newsletter for AACOP – show you all the work going on
- COIVD – update at PD – Thank you fire department – AMAZING to work with.
- July 27th event at memorial park is a go. We are moving ahead with plans for a safe event, likely curb the food BBQ portion.

- Met with New Captain Spitzer for AST – look forward to working with him
- APSC Special Meeting on May 6th for Regulation considerations (newsletter)
- Range project. Rep. Prax asked for Business plan – DOWL is working to complete.
- Officer in FTO is one week away from completing FTO. We do not foresee any issues super proud of all the FTO's, supervisors, and trainee. A lot of effort goes into this to make this a success.
- We are in 2nd phases of new policy revision “response to resistance”
- Traffic counter for NPHS and Dougchee and 7th avenue complete. Richardson and Badger Rd coming soon along with a list of other areas of interest. Officer Knuteson received kudo for his efforts.
- Inventories underway for DHS&EM inventory. Having a cleaning house on many old inventory items, FLIRS, Computers, 4-wheelers and such.
- New Vests – found great vendor for ½ price with outer carriers. Half of cost now covered by ALM. Working to cover other half with DOJ funding program.
- Working with APSC on new ACADIS training database to track officer training statewide.
- Crime stats – Admin is out hoping to have these available next meeting.
- Working with Muni-Solution on job descriptions

Fire Department, Chief Heineken

- Holiday Park Inc. has started the Fire Department ventilation project. Some delays may be experienced due to the current snow levels on the roof of the station. The project is expected to be completed sometime in May.
- Structure Fire on Park Way; on Tuesday April 5th just before noon the Fire Department responded to a structure fire. The occupant of the building was just able to escape the building but experienced burns and smoke inhalation before exiting the building. The fire department would like to remind everyone that a fire can happen to anyone at any time, smoke detectors did not alert this occupant. Check your smoke detectors regularly, it may save your life.
- The Fire Departments new volunteer program started April 1st. Last year with the outbreak of COVID the Fire Department closed to new volunteer applicants due to the in ability to train new personnel. With vaccinations being available it is now possible to begin training new volunteers again. The Fire Department took advantage of the 12 month break to re organize the volunteer program with new standards and expectations. Anyone interested in the new volunteer program or any of the staff programs should contact the Fire Chief or come by the Fire Station.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Turned over 2020 Financials to Alliance Accounting Firm. They have the Audit to the City June 22, 2021 for review.
- Tyler Technologies has assigned the City a Project Manager and the migration of the systems continues. Weekly and Bi-Weekly meeting coming.

City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- Several permits are in the pipeline: Tesoro remodel to a Speedway Convenience Store; Single family home on Psalm Blvd.
- Preliminary discussions for three 4-plexs across from the Public Works Shop on Lewis Street.

Public Works

- Request is before Council for City’s matching share for construction of NPHS Blvd. and Snowman land pedestrian paths.
- Tom Blair is on leave for an additional week and Cody is on his own.
- Public Works is recruiting for the Utility Assistant position.
- Hardpack removal began this past weekend.
 - There is almost nowhere to put any additional snow.

Utility Department

Utility Department

- Beginning to encounter some sewer line freeze-up due to penetration of frost.
- Have not had any reports of frozen customer service lines. These most typically become apparent in May and June.
- Before the Council is a request for funding for Shannon & Wilson continued work on resolving 8th Ave. pump house fuel spill.

Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Working on releasing 134 consideration payments to Moose Creek residents.
- Have achieved slightly over 90% submission rate of new water customer (214 possible customers, 193 have submitted account applications)
- In a period of almost no construction activities—waiting on spring warming before can begin service line installations, completion of southern loop water main and well pump upgrades.

Borough Representative

None

City Clerk

- Benefits Renewal is 1- 2 months ahead of schedule. I emailed City Council RISQ Benefits Renewal 2021-2022 for your review. Please look it over and call me with any questions you have. They have provided their recommendation. The Council will decide on approval of Renewal in May.
- David Evertson Municipal Solutions here this week. Thursday wants to meet with Council Members.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Interior Gas Utility Update – Dan Britton Presenter
 - 40 Customers in North Pole
- Total Compensation Project Committee Meeting Report

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

- Reed Ward – Appeal regarding Sales Tax Owed the City of North Pole. Asking for an extension. Received a 6 month extension with 6 payments @ \$1,218.00 per month. Must keep current.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO ACCEPT BID AND CONTRACT FOR NORTH POLE POLICE DEPARTMENT COVID – 19 PROCESSING AND DECONTAMINATION FACILITY

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve Motion to Accept Bid and Contract for North Pole Police Department Covid – 19 Processing and Decontamination Facility.

Seconded by Mr. Claus

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ACCEPT BID AND CONTRACT FOR NORTH POLE POLICE DEPARTMENT COVID – 19 PROCESSING AND DECONTAMINATION FACILITY:

YES: 6 – Mr. Skippis, Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. McGhee, Mayor Welch

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

Council Comments

Mr. McGhee moved to Adjourn

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

The rescheduled meeting of April 5, 2021 held on April 12, 2021 due to Severe Inclement Weather adjourned at 9:27p.m.

Michael Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk