



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, April 19, 2021
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Welch called the rescheduled Monday April 19, 2021 regular City Council meeting of Monday, April, 2021 to order at 7:00 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
Perry Walley - Zooming In

Absent:

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 Mr. Walley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the agenda of April 19, 2021.

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

Discussion

Mr. McGhee moved to consent the following items:

Old Business:

- a. 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.

New Business:

- a. Ordinance 21 – 09 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend Operating Budget to Pay for North Pole Police Department Covid -19 Processing and Decontamination Facility.

Seconded by Mr. Skippis

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

YES: 7 – Mr. Claus, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Walley, 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: 7 – Mr. Claus, Mr. Walley, 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 April 19, 2021.

Seconded by Mr. Skipps

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM April 19, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- Municipal Solutions David Evertson here working with the City.
- Visited KJNP
- Visited Nenana and Nenana Mayor
- Visited Denali Borough Clay Walker
- Visited with mayor Matherly and City of Fairbanks
- Visited Jim Dodson FEDCO
- Met with Colonel Ruga
- Jim Williams Chief of Staff
- Grad Bash with Amanda Nash
- Jennifer Hughes going to start running the Grange 3rd, 4th, 5th of July Event Color Run.
- Vaccinations Schedule to the City of North Pole
- Request for the ARP Funds \$8,767,000.00.
- Interior wide meeting Thursday, Friday Saturday before Memorial Day or during the week of.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

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

- Issued permits for Tesoro remodel to a Speedway Convenience Store; Single family home on Psalm Blvd., and amended permit for Alaska USA Credit Union.
- No permit applications in the pipeline as of this report.

Public Works

- Second reading 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 completed last week.
- Public Works typically receives 2 to three concerns/complaints per snow plowing—rarely are they legitimate and Public Works is now routinely receiving compliments with each plowing—a complete turnaround from when I first started with City.
- Public Works vehicles in need of maintenance and not currently operational:
 - Loader has broken pin on bucket and bucket not functional.
 - Cody’s pick up has lost its power steering.
 - Tom’s pick up is leaking transmission fluid.

Utility Department

Utility Department

- Before the Council is second reading for funding for Shannon & Wilson continued work on resolving 8th Ave. pump house fuel spill.
- Working with City Attorney and Shannon and Wilson to see if the recent US Supreme Court “Maui” decision applies to Utility’s sewer outfall issue.
- ADEC reached out to the City to make the City aware of the decision and they would consider the City presenting an arguments that the Maui decision applies to our sewer outfall.
- If ADEC accepts our argument, it could save the Utility in the range of \$3.5 million by not having to construct a new sewer outfall.
 - The court found that point source discharges to navigable waters through groundwater are regulated under the Clean Water Act. In its decision on County of Maui v. Hawai’i Wildlife Fund, the court held that the Clean Water Act “require[s] a permit if the addition of the pollutants through groundwater is the **functional equivalent** of a direct discharge from the point source into navigable waters.”

Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Construction is in a holding pattern waiting for changes in ground conditions.
- Begun the process of generating 133 consideration payments to Moose Creek residents.
 - Previously distributed 41 payments.
 - 99 environmental covenants in various states of processing for the release of consideration payments.

Fire Department, Chief Heineken

- No Report

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- No Report

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.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Total Compensation Project Committee Meeting Report

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

- Explore Fairbanks – Jerry Evans

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Council Comments

Mr. McGhee *moved to Adjourn*

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

The meeting of April 19, 2021 adjourned at 8:03p.m.

Michael Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk