



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, May 3, 2021
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Pro Tem McGhee called the Monday May 3, 2021 regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present:

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: Mayor Welch – Out on Leave

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. Walley moved to approve the agenda of May 3, 2021.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Discussion

Mr. Walley moved to consent the following items:

Old 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.

New Business:

- a. Resolution 21 – 04 A Resolution of the City of North Pole City Council to establish the Rate of Tax Levy for 2021 Real Property Taxes of the City of North Pole.

Remove:

- b. Request to Authorize the City Clerk, in his capacity as the City of North Pole Public Information Officer (PIO), to formulate a request for proposals to address the needs of the City of North Pole, specifically regarding Critical Event Communication.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

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

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Pro Tem McGhee 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, Mr. Walley, Mrs. Welch, Mr. Cromer, Mr. Skippis, Mr. McGhee

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Pro Tem McGhee declared the MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Walley *moved to approve the Minutes of 19, 2021.*

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

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

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Pro Tem McGhee declared the MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR PRO TEM

- Mayor Welch is out until May 18, 2021. Went out earlier than expected because the Doctor could get him early.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Tyler Technologies Project continues to develop.
- Thomas McGhee is now on the checks
- Muni Solutions Check is in the check run tomorrow.
- Audit partners Alliance CPA is on track the June Deadline.

City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- Received seven residential housing permit applications and three 4-plex applications; pavilion application and solar panel installation application since the last Council meeting.
- Work has begun on the O'Reilly's auto parts store at the mall.

Public Works

- City experienced some significant flooding in vicinity of Homestead Road due to the rapid melt of the deep snowpack.
 - There is no simple or cheap solution to preventing future flooding in this area.
- Cody has begun interviewing for the Public Works Assistant position and Public Works is recruiting for summer hires.
- Public Work pick up truck approved last year has been delivered to Anchorage and we hope to see it delivered in approximately a week.

- Councilman McGhee approved the contractor to conduct this year’s street sweeping.

Utility Department

Utility Department

- Utility department is beginning to get utility locate requests for the planned construction that will begin in the next few weeks.

Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Released 130 of 133 consideration payments to Moose Creek residents.
- Within next two weeks will begin flushing the Northern Loop and water tank to refresh the water that has gone stale after sitting in the tank and mains for five months.
 - After flushing, the first customer in Moose Creek will be connected—the 70-unit apartment building.

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Thank you for passing the COVID – Deacon Wing for the PD. Everyone feels the council really cares about the health and welfare of their employees. This means a lot.
- We did have an incident last week. The call came in as shots fired and quickly escalated into something it was not. Someone discharged a handgun near a daycare.
- I met with a couple of groups last week. HIDTA Task force Chair and Director and FNSBSD Superintendent whom we wished well in her new endeavors.
- We completed our pre-construction meeting with Design Alaska and Stanton Construction.
- We initiated a formal request to a location in North Pole to clean up refuse and garbage.
- Stats – significant increase year over year. We expect this to rise as weather warms and COVID restrictions are lifted.
- Very large narcotics bust [Arizona man arrested for trafficking methamphetamine to Fairbanks | Alaska News | newsminer.com](#) :
 - NPPD was critical in making this happen.

Fire Department, Chief Heineken

- State Fire Association held in Fairbanks and was able to send 3 of our Staff.
- Blue Card Training. Officer Command Training- Train the Trainer so they can come back and train our employees.
- Brown Up is going on and is very dangerous. Be on the lookout.
- Going to Appleton Wisconsin to design new specification for our new fire truck.

Borough Representative

- April 22 and April 27
- Borough is going to spend \$200,000 dollars to fix the church down in Pioneer park.
- The Golden Dome and Pioneer Air Museum is looking for a new home.
- Different Projects can be viewed on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Website.
- Ordinance 221-17 Rank Choice voting for Municipal Elections. Many against but got pushed onto next Thursday April 27. Didn't pass to put it on the agenda and got voted down.

City Clerk

- Nothing to Report.
- No Clerk Intern being advertised at this point.

ONGOING PROJECTS

None

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

- Rita Valentine – Culvert drainage problem on her property.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST TO ACCEPT BENEFITS RENEWAL FOR 2021-2022 HEALTHCARE BENEFITS

Mr. Walley *moved to* Approve Request to Accept Benefits Renewal for 2021-2022 Healthcare Benefits.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ACCEPT BENEFITS RENEWAL FOR 2021-2022 HEALTHCARE BENEFITS:

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Pro Tem McGhee declared the MOTION CARRIED

Council Comments

Mr. Walley *moved to Adjourn*

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

The meeting of May 3, 2021 adjourned at 8:24p.m.

Michael Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk