



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, June 21, 2021  
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

---

Mayor Welch called the Monday June 21, 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 - Present  
David Skipps - Present  
Aino Welch - Present  
DeJohn Cromer - Excused  
Perry Walley - Present

Absent:

Excused: DeJohn Cromer – Out on Vacation

Also Present: Steve Dutra, Police Chief – Present  
Chad Heineken, Fire Chief – Present  
William Butler, Director of City Services– Present  
Tricia Fogarty, Chief Financial Officer – Present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Welch 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 June 21, 2021.**

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch**

**Discussion**

**Mr. McGhee *moved to* consent the following items:**

**New Business: a, b. &c.**

- a. Ordinance 21-10 An Ordinance to Amend the Police Department Grant Fund to Accept a \$5,000 Internet Crimes Against Children.
- b. Ordinance 21-11 An Ordinance to Amend the Public Works Operating Budget and Public Works Fleet Fund.
- c. Ordinance 21-12 An Ordinance to Amend Title 2, Chapter 2.36 Personnel Code, Section .470 Pay.

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch**

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

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

**Mayor Welch** declared the MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Post Poned to July 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 Meeting**

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

**COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**

Mr. Walley asked about meeting with the Total Compensation Committee.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK**

### **Police Department, Chief Dutra**

- Stats – slight uptick
- Cars are not yet assigned a VIN should be being built soon.
- Lt. Lindhag has announced his retirement July 31<sup>st</sup>. Although he will be out of office June 30th. Sorry to see him go he has been a good employee. A search for a new Lt. will begin but suspect it will take till mid to end of August.
- will be headed to Anchorage tomorrow for quarterly APSC meeting.
- Building COVID Wing is moving along as you can see.
- NP Lyons against placed flowers in the memorial park and just in time for a flag raising ceremony put on by Officer Rosenbalm. We gave her a commendation / Blue Sheet for taking this to a new level. Thank you, Mayor Welch, and Council Women Welch, for attending.
- I attended the IPCC meeting with Interior Chiefs – well attended.

### **Fire Department, Chief Heineken**

- During the Pandemic we lost all of our live-in volunteers, this program starting to run again.
- Fireworks sales and the celebration season is coming, the fire department would like to remind everyone to use fireworks safely and wisely.
- The Fire Dept Crews are prepping to have a new fence installed
- Looking at a long-term plan to upgrade the sleeping quarters for the staff
- Plans to replace fencing along the North side of the fire station.
- New Full Time Hire Braydon Masneri will start on July 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Accepting Application for part time employees

### **City Services, Bill Butler**

#### **Building Department**

- One new permit application submitted since June 7 meeting.
- One permit modification for O'Reilly's Auto Parts
- Construction throughout FNSB is busier than normal and our contract engineers are so busy they have informed me they will have difficulty taking more City projects.

#### **Public Works**

- Public Works' efforts, particularly summer hires' work, focusing on landscaping.

- Started construction of sandboxes for 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Highway Park Playgrounds.
- On June 14 released request for proposals for Doughchee Avenue project.
- Held a contractor site visit on June 21.
- Proposals due July 2 and plan to have a recommendation to Council at the July 6 meeting.

### **Utility Department**

- June 14 released request for proposals for Doughchee Avenue project.
- Held a contractor site visit on June 21.
- Proposals due July 2 and plan to have a recommendation to Council at the July 6 meeting.

### Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Water service connections in Moose Creek are proceeding at two to three per day. Work includes:
  - Water service connection.
  - Well decommissioning.
  - Removal of USAF water tanks or water treatment equipment.
- Pressure testing and flushing of the southern loop distribution water mains is underway.
  - HC has located and repaired several leaks. All leaks were improperly installed gaskets.
  - Two sections of pipe in southern loop experienced freezing this past winter. City is requiring that these sections be cameraed to assure freezing caused no damage to the cement lining.
- Cell phone coverage by AT&T in Moose Creek is weak in the western most section of the community.
  - The default cell phone signal for the Badger meters is AT&T.
  - Working with Badger Meter to get meter transmitters that use Verizon cell phone signal.
  - Badger meter's customer service has proven to be poor.

### **Finance, Tricia Fogarty**

- Received our first month for online sales tax for May 2021 in the amount of \$26,438.00.
- Mayor Welch, Michelle Peede and I met with Alliance to go over the draft audit.

**Borough Representative**

- Met with Borough Council, House of Fire Pizza has a Liquor license
- Funded Hunter Elementary School Roof Repair.
- School District starts on August 12, 2021 with no masks.
- Summer Reading Program for Children is in swing

**City Clerk**

- Declaration of Candidacy was advertised in the last two Sunday News Papers.
- Candidacy opens on July 15<sup>th</sup> and Closes on July 29<sup>th</sup> last day to withdrawal is August 5<sup>th</sup>

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

Jenifer Hugh’s and Brenda Sadler with 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival & Picnic. Freedom as an Independent Nation and Freedom from the Pandemic!! Barbeque Contest, Kids Games, Music and Craft Vendors.

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

None

**Council Comments**

None

**Mr. McGhee *moved to Adjourn***

**Seconded by Mrs. Welch**

The meeting of June 21, 2021 adjourned at 8:18p.m.

---

Michael Welch, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

---

Thomas McGhee, Mayor Pro-Tem