



**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, July 19, 2021 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, July 19, 2021 to order at 7:00 p.m.

There were present:

**Michael Welch – Mayor
Thomas McGhee – Mayor Pro Tem
Aino Welch – Dep. Mayor Pro Tem
Perry Walley – Alt. Dep. Mayor Pro Tem
DeJohn Cromer
David Skipps
Santa Claus**

Absent/Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG

Led by Mayor Welch

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Mr. McGhee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Seconded by Ms. Welch

DISCUSSION

None

Mr. McGhee moved to amend the agenda of July 19, 2021 to consent the following items:

- a. Ordinance 21-13 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the 2021 Fire Department Fleet Fund.
- b. Ordinance 21-14 An Ordinance of the City of North Pole, Alaska to Amend the Police Department Grant Fund.
- c. Request To Approve the Design Alaska Inc. Proposal to Develop a Master

- Plan for Future North Pole Fire Station Expansion Remodel.
- d. Request To Accept Additional Funding to the SHSP-18 Grant to Purchase Mobile Radios.

And delete item:

- e. Request To Temporarily Increase Sgt. Smith's Salary While Acting As The North Pole Police Lieutenant.

Discussion

None

On the amendment

PASSED

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

No:0

Absent:0

On the Agenda as amended

Discussion

None

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the Minutes of July 6, 2019

Seconded by Ms. Welch

Discussion

None

Mr. McGhee moved to amend the minutes under Roll Call to change excused absences to absent moving forward as it states in our code

Seconded by Ms. Welch

On the minutes as amended

PASSED

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

No: 0

Absent: 0

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

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COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- Mr. McGhee asked the Mayor to email council on dates for them to attend.
- Mr. Claus asked about adding to the agenda concerning the CFO pay. Mr. McGhee stated that the CFO does not work for the City Council and works at the pleasure of the Mayor.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Dept., Chief Dutra

- I will be in the office this week and out of office until the August 9th on annual leave. I will be in and out of the area. Sgt. Smith along with other command staff will be holding the fort down while I am not in range. But as usual I will be around to monitor as needed.
- MVA involving Officer. Officer and others involved are ok. Report being done by Troopers keep you posted. Car being assessed for estimates.
- Please don't forget the Memorial Park ceremony on July 27th at 10:00 am. The Lt. Governor will be the guest speaker.
- FPD is having the same struggles as NPPD with recruiting officers.

Fire Dept., Chief Heineken

- I would like to thank the council for approving the two items on the agenda concerning the Fire Department. The fire department has spent multiple years preparing for and communicating to City Council the need to purchase a new fire apparatus.
- Annual Pump Testing was completed by Captain Hamlin. This year we rented the Fairbanks FD Draft Commander trailer to pump test on site at the fire station. The use of area gravel pits in the past is not appropriate now that we know about the PFOS/PFOA

problems caused by firefighting foam. Being able to pump test at the fire station made the process quick and easy and eliminated the logistics of moving apparatus to an alternate pumping site.

- The fire department uses Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to perform annual ladder tests on all fire department ladders. This testing also includes the aerial device on Platform 21. Platform 21 UL testing found worn Sheaves (pulleys). We were able to coordinate with Fairbanks City Garage who has a designated tall bay that was built specifically to work on aerial fire apparatus. Last Saturday July 17th they were able to replace two of the sheaves, two additional sheaves need to be replaced and parts are being ordered.
- The fire department will conduct the annual hydrant testing later this summer. We are coordinating with Utilities so the water used during the testing process does not interfere with system maintenance.

Council Member McGee asked the fire chief about the non-hydrant areas of the City and if the fire department has looked into the possibility of bringing water mains into these areas just for hydrants to be used for firefighting efforts and not for domestic water usage. Chief Heineken replied that this concept had not been discussed before, the general mind set was that City Utilities department could eventually expand into those areas to provide domestic water to the houses and fire hydrants would be incorporated into those water mains. The fire department would not be opposed to fire hydrant only water being extended into areas currently without water.

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- Thanked Ms. Weber for coming back.
- Revenue Sharing for 2022 estimated at \$84201.22

Director of City Services, Bill Butler

- None

Borough Representative

- Ms. Welch will be attending the next meeting in July at the borough.

City Clerk's Office, Kathy Weber

- We have received 2 applications for City Clerk position.
- Council members need to attend meetings in person now as the emergency Covid order has passed. Our code states that you must be present to vote.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Mayor Welch gave a brief update on Mr. Everson's findings. He will meet with each

department head to go over it. Mayor Welch would like to meet with the Total Compensation Committee the beginning of August.

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

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Consent Agenda

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. McGhee – it is disturbing that with all the movement throughout the years to get natural gas that the City of North Pole, yet the FNSB hasn't restated the program. The borough needs to stand up and help the North Pole City residents as it will cost over 3million.

In support of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, we request your attendance at our **Defense Fuels Support Point (DFSP) North Pole Summer Open House**. The event will provide an opportunity for key government, political and military leaders to tour the facility, meet the team responsible for the design, construction and operation and celebrate the many logistics, economic, and community benefits the facility will continue to provide as it approaches operational status.

Once complete in early 2022, Crowley will operate the 500,000 barrel (21 million gallon) bulk fuel storage facility, providing a strategic link in the supply chain required by the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army as they execute their mission in defense of the Homeland.

Event details:

4800 Pullman Drive • North Pole, AK

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

1200 until 1500 local time

**Please indicate number of attendees and any need for shuttle service in RSVP email. You will be subsequently contacted to arrange accordingly.*

Mr. Skipps – No comment

Mr. Claus – Welcomed Ms. Weber back. Wished everyone well and to be careful.

Mr. Walley – No comment

Ms. Welch – would like to work with Mr. McGhee so she could bring this forward to the FNSB

when she attends their meeting. She also is concerned about the spraying of mosquito's in the area and how they could harm the environment.

Mr. Cromer – Gov. Dunleavy did a tour of the hospital this week. Spoke to employees and thanked essential workers.

Mayor Welch – would like the council to look at what committee's it would like to have. He encouraged the council to look back at the report that Agnew-Beck did back in 2015.

Mr. McGhee *moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.*

Seconded by Ms. Welch

The regular meeting of Monday, July 19, 2021 adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

These minutes passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, July 19, 2021.

Michael Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk