



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, January 4, 2021
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, January 4, 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. McGhee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McGhee moved to approve the agenda of January 4, 2021.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Discussion

Mr. McGhee moved to consent the following items:

New Business:

- a. Request to approve JAG Grant for North Pole Police Department.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

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

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. McGhee *moved to* approve the Minutes of December 14, 2020.

Seconded by Mr. Walley

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 14, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

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

NO: 0

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

- **Legislative Priorities due to the Mayor by January 11, 2021**
- **Alaska Syngas Presentation Brent Sheets**
- **Presentation by Marathon Oil Casey Sullivan and Serena Lewellen**

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- W-2 were completed January 5, 2021
- 2nd Payment of CARES Act Funds received \$1,100,000 from the State.
- CARES Funds dispensed to date is \$2,760,877.00.
- Sales Tax Funds short for 2020 \$553,000. Still have December to come in.

City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- No building permits issued since December 14.
- Two commercial permit applications submitted:
 - Petro Star heating production expansion.
 - Alaska USA Federal Credit Union remodel.
- \$26,379,661 in construction valuation occurred in 2020 and \$188,920 in permit fees collected.
 - Previous years' construction valuations as context:
 - 2019: \$9,897,225
 - 2018: \$19,423,157
 - 2017: \$8,023,588
 - 2016: \$15,564,001
 - 2015: \$32,511,554

Public Works

- Public Works pickup truck with tool body delivered—over a year after started purchase process.
- Plan to move forward with advertisement for Public Works Assistant position included in 2021 budget
 - Cody often takes an extended vacation in starting in February, so goal is to have someone on board before he goes on leave.

Utility Department

- Activities focusing on routine operation of water and sewer processes; keeping sewer mains flowing and equipment maintenance.
- Utility staff are routinely involved in evaluating Moose Creek construction activities.

Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Potential of achieving substantial completion of the transmission main, pump house, storage tank and northern loop before end of 2020 was reported on December 14—this did not occur.
 - Some pump and electronic control issues remain.
- Second mailing released on December 10 has generated few new water customer applications.
 - Holidays and COVID-19 concerns may be contributing to slow response rate.
 - Planning additional outreach efforts to generate more customer signups.

North Pole Water System Expansion

- December 31, Flint Hills closed its Ground Water Office, their last office in Alaska.
 - FHR still does have obligations related to groundwater monitoring in the North Pole area.

Fire Department, Chief Heineken

- 1347 Emergency calls in 2020
- New Speakers for Christmas Music Truck
- Captain Hamlin was voted Company Man of the Year for 2020
- Engine 21 still giving us intermittent problems
- Still working on the Ambulance Contract

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- New car has been shipped from California should arrive the 11th in Anchorage.

- New hire Ofc. Dikeman is due to arrive first day the 18th.
- Officer Ben Wages will be promoted to Sergeant on the 10th at 12:01 a.m.
- Sgt. Milne's last day is the 8th and a big retirement party will be scheduled for this summer due to COVID issues. We are thankful for his 8 years of service to the city. He will be missed.
- Traffic counter had been placed on 7th avenue and shall have a speed report and enforcement options drafted if there is an issue.
- Christmas and New Years was quiet this year. We had extra DUI patrol out on New Year's, but no drunk drivers found. Good Year.
- We are working on approximately 7 basic applicants cueing up for next round. No academy till August time frame.
- Range project is moving- This week some big decisions should be made.
- Stats – compiling them for a nice presentation at next meeting.
- COVID Update – Looks like LEO vaccines won't occur until February time frame.

Borough Representative

- None No Meeting

City Clerk

- Flexible Spending Account Problems TASC and Broker RISQ.
- Netted Savings with Hale and Associates by lowering certain building limits.
- City Telephone problem with Verizon and Alasconnect working as it should.
- Love Inc. has done a great job for us. They should be commended.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Total Compensation Project Update by David Evertson
 - Lengthy Presentation (Listen to Audio)

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

None

RECONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT ON TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION 20-10 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LOVE INC. AS THE CONTRACTED PROVIDER FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CARES ACT FUNDS AND ESTABLISH THE PARAMETERS FOR THE BUSINESS INTERRUPTION GRANT FOR THE BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT ENTITIES. ALSO INCREASE THE FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL GRANT FROM \$10,000 TO A MAXIMUM OF \$15,000 DOLLARS AND MOVE THE CONSIDERATION PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Mr. McGhee moved to Reconsider and Re-Introduce Resolution 20 – 10 , A Resolution establishing Love Inc. as the contracted provider for distribution of CARES Act Funds and establish the parameters for the Business Interruption Grant for the Business and Non-Profit entities. Also increase the Family and Individual Grant from \$10,000 to a maximum of \$15,000 dollars and move the consideration period from September 30, 2020 to November 30, 2020.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Mr. McGhee move to Amend Resolution 20 – 10, A Resolution establishing Love Inc. as the contracted provider for distribution of CARES Act Funds and establish the parameters for the Business Interruption Grant for the Business and Non-Profit entities. Also increase the Family and Individual Grant from \$10,000 to a maximum of \$15,000 dollars and move the consideration period from September 30, 2020 to November 30, 2021.

Amend line 14: from December30, 2020 to December 30, 2021

Amend line 26: from November 30, 2020 to November 30, 2021

Remove line 29 - 31:

WHEREAS, The City of North Pole desires to distribute the all remaining CARES Act funds to its Citizen’s via a stimulus check. Once all encumbered funds are determined the balance of the CARES Act funds will be distributed to each eligible citizen of North Pole equally.

Seconded by Mr. Walley

Discussion

None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 20 – 10:

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

NO: 2 –

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDED RESOLUTION 20-10 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LOVE INC. AS THE CONTRACTED PROVIDER FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CARES ACT FUNDS AND ESTABLISH THE PARAMETERS FOR

THE BUSINESS INTERRUPTION GRANT FOR THE BUSINESS AND NON-PROFIT ENTITIES.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20 – 10:

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

NO: 2 –

ABSTAIN:

Mayor Welch declared the MOTION CARRIED

Mr. McGhee *moved to Go into Executive Session to discuss information that may disparage the reputation of an employee.*

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Welch *moved to Come out of Executive Session*

Seconded by Mr. McGhee

Mr. McGhee *move to Extend meeting until 10:30PM*

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Mr. McGhee *move to Go into Executive Session to discuss information that may disparage the reputation of an employee.*

Seconded by Mr. Walley

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McGhee *move to Come out of Executive Session*

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Mr. McGhee *moved to Adjourn*

The regular meeting of Monday, January 4, 2020 adjourned at 10:28p.m.

Michael Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk