



NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, February 1, 2021
NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
125 SNOWMAN LANE, NORTH POLE, ALASKA

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, February 1, 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 – Absent/Excused
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 February 1, 2021.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

Discussion

Mr. McGhee moved to consent the following items:

New Business:

- a. Request from North Pole Police Department to Approve Statewide Drug Enforcement Agreement with Alaska State Troopers.
- b. Request from North Pole Police Department to Approve Purchase of 2 New Patrol Vehicles.

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

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

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 January 19, 2020.**

Seconded by Mrs. Welch

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM January 19, 2021 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

- Mark Romick and Dale Delfino Alaska Housing and Finance received \$200 Million to go to renter below 80% median of income of region where located.
- Unified Command State of Alaska is 3750 vaccines for Fairbanks
- House in Juneau has yet to organize. Mike Prax interested in our legislative Priorities.
- Military is allowing members of the Service to enter in restaurant and bars.

COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CITY CLERK

Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Our first full month of E-cites came in with 101 citations filed – 86 completely electronic 1 manual and 14 Electronically filed but manually entered. Major hurdle and a lot of time saved.
- AML – Discussed BOD of AACOP APSC Guideline proposals.
- Attended the APOA Legislative review for new bills being introduced impacting law enforcement. Choke hold ban, Use of Force, Reporting, a lot to unpack. These are two very important reasons for us to be at the table – have big impact on LEO
- I completed 2021 SHSP grant for \$112,884 for Fire department Door access and new mobiles for NPPD.
- New laptops have arrived and beta testing for laptop #1 has begun.
- I attended the compensation committee – moving along still lots of work to do.
- ITF – worked with Mayor Bryce Ward on Resolution for funding – #2 Public Meeting scheduled tentatively March 4th – Legislative Flyer coming soon. I have been doing donating my time, city time, to do grant management on this project in order to keep project on task.
- Working on several MOU's with a variety of agencies.
- Department meeting is scheduled for next week once a year to update all on vision.
- Hiring – Oral boards TBD – currently 3 laterals working – Alison has her hands full managing applicants 58 through the New online PST testing process. Still requires a lot of emails and management.
- Stats – January

- Officer Dikeman is officially in FTO – Up to 3.5 months we will have another patrol officer on the road.

City Services, Bill Butler

Building Department

- Issued building permits for Petro Star for its kerosene/diesel production unit.
- Plan review completed for Alaska USA Federal Credit Union to move to a new location in Beaver Brook Mall
- Waiting on payment of fees to issues building permits for O'Reilly's Auto Parts.

Public Works

- Had snowplow contractor do some plowing to address several roads that were increasingly rough and difficult to travel.
- Equipment and vehicle maintenance-preparing for spring season.
- Fish & Wildlife Service indicated it will put forward my funding request to help manage stormwater runoff on Doughchee Road.
- Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District has requested project concept to extend the Beaver Springs Nature trail along the slough.

Utility Department

- FNSB Rural Services has approved the City's request to transfer two Road Service Area Permits that City held for the North Pole Water System Expansion to Rolling Stone.
 - Several service line installations lacked complete compaction data as is required in FNSB permit with City.
 - Rolling Stone will shoulder risk for any issues that develop in road excavations covered by these permits.

Moose Creek Water System Expansion Project.

- Had first substantial completion meetings today for the Water Treatment Plant, Vault and Pump House
 - Electronic control issues remain an outstanding concern for the City.
 - As of today, I am not willing to consider approving substantial completion.
 - Submission of new utility account applications from Moose Creek property owners has been low and unsatisfactory.
 - Requesting additional funding to use PDC to conduct more active measures to recruit more customer—direct calling, “door knocking” and home visits to assist property owners to submit utility account applications.

Old North Pole Library

- FNSB reached out to see if City had an interest in purchasing the Old Library Building.
- FNSB had not received any bids for the \$165,000 offer price.
- Visited the structure and it appears sound.
- Space is too large for the Utility, Public Works and Building Departments to consider buying the property.
- Since I have been with the City, different mayors, Council Members and citizens have expressed interest in a community center. This could be an option to explore this facility for this purpose.
 - Utility, Public Works and Building Departments would be interested in partnering to have a section of the building and City as a whole uses the remaining majority of the space.

Council's pleasure? Explore further?

Fire Department, Chief Heineken

None - Absent

Finance, Tricia Fogarty

- \$85000 Over in Sales Tax Tobacco and Alcohol.
- \$266,700 in total taxes over.
- Tyler Technologies is coming in for 4 days to learn our processes.

Borough Representative

- School District is now back in Session. Attendance is Voluntary.
- Superintendent Search is ongoing.
- Working on Budget and Legislative Priorities
- New Covid Risk Matrix
- A Liquor License was transferred.
- New 911 Equipment \$300,000 dollars. Collocated with State Troopers.
- Tanana Lakes Survey and Additional Grant Funding
- \$7.9 Million Dollars Solid Waste Disposal.
- Barnette Magnet School Phase 4 finishing it up.
- Property Located by Peger St. was allowed to be rezoned and can be subdivided.

City Clerk

- Working on distributing New Employment Legal Posters.
- Worked with Verizon to get the most recent problems with the Phone System Resolved.
- Met with Charles at AML and have been Working on next steps to get Online Sales Tax in place. Need to adopt by reference Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Code. Need a sponsor Ordinance will be presented next meeting.
- Another Public Officials Financial Disclosure reminder. Please get this done this week.
- Previewed Tyler Technologies Personnel Management and Employee Self Service Module and what it can do for leaders and employees.
- Previewed NEO Gov Applicant Tracking System and how it works with Tyler Technologies.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- CARES Act Update – Cooling Off Period until End of Feb.
- Total Compensation Project 2nd Meeting created Short Term Objectives for the Months to come. Updating Job Descriptions and New Pay Scale priorities.
 - Mr. Claus asked to have a City Manager Job Description be created and salary created for that position.
 - Mayor Welch also indicated moving the Budget from January 1 to July 1 might coincide with the City Manager discussion.
- 250 Rapid Covid 19 Test Kits coming from State of Alaska

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

- Amy Reed-Geiger – Explore Fairbanks

Mr. McGhee *moved to Adjourn*

The regular meeting of Monday, February 1, 2021 adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Michael Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Aaron M. Rhoades, City Clerk