



**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, June 6, 2022, via Zoom.

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Welch called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, June 6, 2022, to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:**

Michael Welch – Mayor  
Santa Claus - Mayor Pro Tem  
DeJohn Cromer - Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
Aino Welch – Alternate Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
Anton Keller  
Jeffrey Jacobson  
David Skippis

**Absent/Excused:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG**

Led by Ellen Glab

**INVOCATION**

Given by Anton Keller

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Claus *moved to* approve the agenda of June 6, 2022

Seconded *by* Ms. Welch

Mr. Claus *moved to* amend the agenda of June 6, 2022 to consent the following items unanimously:

**New Business:**

- a. Request to Approve the Renewal Contract with RISQ for Employee Health Benefits
- b. Request to Approve the Contract with Revize for the City of North Pole's New Website

Seconded *by* Ms. Welch

**On the amendments**

**DISCUSSION**

None

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**On the agenda as amended**

**DISCUSSION**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: 7 – A. Welch, Claus, Keller, Cromer, Jacobson, Skippis, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Claus *moved* to approve the minutes from the 5/16/22 meeting

Seconded *by* Mr. Jacobson

**DISCUSSION**

None

**PASSED**

Yes: 7 – A. Welch, Claus, Keller, Cromer, Jacobson, Skippis, Welch

No: 0

Absent: 0

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- The Mayor reported to everyone that he had a computer crash and apologized for anything that he forgets in his report tonight due to it.
- He was in Anchorage the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. He was at Arctic X on a panel hosted by the Department of Energy and Senator Murkowski talking about the combined heat and power plant that he is trying to get built in the City of North Pole. The paperwork to the Department of Energy for grants to fund the \$114 million dollar project was turned in already. He may be making a trip to Washington DC in August to talk about it further. For the rest of the week, he was at the Governors Sustainability Conference. He said the days were long during this conference and would pass along the info from some of the segments to the Council when they are available online.
- He was at the FNSB Salcha room on Friday at the CivMil meeting. They were talking changes to the military base and moving troops around. There will be more civilian support coming and the need for housing was talked about.
- Jerry Koerner and Latitude 63 have been talking to the Mayor about developing in Brookside Park. They are talking single family homes, duplexes, and commercial businesses as well. Three Bears is asking the Mayor to host some real estate investors to tour the area and North Pole and talk about our needs.
- Tomorrow he will be hosting some members of the consulate from the Netherlands. They will be traveling to the hot springs to talk to Bernie Karl about his greenhouse technology that he uses. They will be in City Hall on Wednesday as well.

## COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR

- Mr. Jacobson asked for some clarification on the Latitude 63 talks, and which tracks of land they were talking about. He also asked if the property deal with AIDEA was still happening.

The Mayor said that the property deal with AIDEA is mutually exclusive and has nothing to do with Latitude 63.

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

### Police Department, Chief Dutra

- They have a new officer coming on board and another moving up through the process, so they are almost fully staffed for the first time in a long time.

The Mayor asked Chief Dutra to get him a 1 page write up on the Police shooting range that he could pass along to the Governor because we are still working on getting funding for it.

### Fire Department, Chief Heineken

- Chief Heineken reminded everyone that with the arrival of the good weather to make sure that they are being fire wise, conditions are windy and dry.

The Mayor asked if the EMS contract has been finalized so that it can be presented to the Council.

- Chief Heineken said yes the contract will be on the next Council meeting agenda.

### Finance

- Ms. Fogarty gave an update to the Council that she has been working on the audit for the City. The auditors have been on site a few days now, they have been asking for more information but also talking to the staff about what their job duties and functions are. She let the Council know that the auditors will be looking to speak to them as well, whether in person or via electronic communication.
- Ms. Fogarty also said that the auditors will be speaking to the Council about the audit findings soon.
- She let the Council know that Terry Nelson, who has worked for the City for around 20 years now, who has been out on workers comp for the last 6 months or so, has decided to retire and has given her notice.

### Director of City Services, Danny Wallace

- Mr. Wallace let everyone know that coming up on the next agenda will be a request to fund the PFAS site clean up at the Fire Station due to the contamination.
- The Public Works have been working on cleaning up beaver dams in the culverts around town.
- They are working on interviews for the Utility Assistant position.
- He is playing catch up on the Moose Creek expansion project for the reporting requirements.

Mr. Jacobson asked if Mr. Wallace was going to take part in the PFAS community meetings that were coming up.

- Mr. Wallace said that he would be attending the in person meeting coming up.

The Mayor asked Mr. Wallace to pass along his gratitude for the hard from the Public Works department did on getting the chambers renovated.

### Human Resources, Ellen Glab

- Interviewing for the Utilities Assistant Position Thursday with Paul, Marty, and Danny.
- Reminder that I still have some outstanding training that is incomplete for Ergonomics that is due June 7th. If everyone could check theirs and make sure they have completed them it is essential that everyone complete them for us to get the full credit for the worker's comp insurance
- The employee insurance presentations went better than in the past I was informed during the last one that only one person showed up and this time we had 7 show up which is an improvement. I also had some employees approach me that were unable to make the meetings to get information and ask questions.
- Open enrolment will start on June 7th and go through until June 17th
- We did have our first safety committee meeting a representative from each department was present and is working with their departments to get us on track for some of the areas we have been asked to look at.

The Mayor asked if Ms. Glab has been satisfied with RISQ and the benefits that they are offering us.

- Ms. Glab said that yes, RISQ has been great in working with her at the City Clerk on working through this process.

The Mayor passed along compliments to Ms. Glab on the job that she is doing and told her that the Department heads have been letting him know how impressed they are with her and the changes in the hiring process and policies and procedures that she has been working on.

### Borough Representative

- Ms. Welch attended the last meeting with the borough, as they are working on their budget workshops.
- She did talk about the Sustainability conference and the things that she learned and said that there are many exciting things that will be coming to the area in the future.

### City Clerk's Office, Melissa Dionne

- Ms. Dionne was not present for the meeting, she is in Tacoma at a training.

### ON GOING PROJECTS

- The Mayor started by talking about the carpet project in City Hall. The installation in the Chambers starts this week and should be complete by Friday. We will be working with them on the rest of the project in the next few weeks.
- He was with the North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce meeting last week. They were talking about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival that will be sponsored by the city. There will be a 5K run and a breakfast followed by a craft fair with live music and food trucks at the Grange. He will have more details at the next meeting.

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

- Jennifer Hughes was with us tonight from the North Pole Grange. She gave the Council the details on the activities that they can expect at the Grange. They have things like horseback riding, bouncy houses, and a watermelon eating contest and they are working on food trucks.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Mr. Jacobson let everyone know that he's been really impressed on the progress that the City has been making, that there are so many positive things that are happening and that he is very excited to be a part of it. He thanked everyone for all the hard work that everyone has been doing and welcomed Mr. Wallace.
- Mr. Keller congratulated the fire department for their open house. He said his kids had fun and he enjoyed the hot dogs. He also echoed Chief Heinekens reminder that is it really dry out there and that everyone really needs to be careful. He also asked everyone to check on their neighbors and to make sure they are ok with all the heat that we have been having.
- Ms. Welch also gave a thank you to the Lion's club for the cruising with Santa event last weekend and to the fire department for their open house. She also thanked Ms. Hughes for working on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival and getting us the information.
- Mr. Skipps reminded everyone to be careful around town with all the construction happening and to slow down around the workers. He also welcomed Mr. Wallace.
- Mr. Cromer also welcomed Mr. Wallace and said that he had a good time at the Cruising with Santa car show, his father had a car in the event.
- Mr. Claus also repeated the kudos to the various departments and reminded everyone that next week is the last day to vote in the special election primaries.
- The Mayor said that the 21<sup>st</sup> was an extra busy day for him. Not only did he attend the torch run, the open house at the fire station and the Cruising with Santa event, but he started the day at KJNP promoting the events going on around in North Pole.

### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Welch *moved* to adjourn

Seconded *by* Mr. Skipps

The regular meeting of Monday, June 6, 2022 adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, June 6, 2022.

ATTEST:

---

Melissa Dionne, City Clerk