REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, July 1, 2013
Committee of the Whole – 6:30 p.m.
Regular City Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Richard Holm -Alt. Dep. Mayor Pro Tem 488-1776
Sharron Hunter-Mayor Pro Tem 488-4282
Thomas McGhee 455-0010
Derrick Nelson 378-8207
Michelle Sikma -Dep. Mayor Pro Tem 378-5778
Preston Smith 488-8824

MAYOR
Bryce Ward – 488-7314

CITY CLERK
Kathy Weber, MMC 488-8583

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag
3. Invocation
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of the Minutes
6. Communications from the Mayor
   Presentation by Gene Therriault on the LNG project (projector & laptop requested)
7. Council Member Questions of the Mayor
8. Communications from Department Heads, Borough Representative and the City Clerk
9. Ongoing Projects Report
10. Citizens Comments (Limited to Five (5) minutes per Citizen)
11. Old Business

12. New Business
   a. Request for 4th Quarter 2012 and 1st Quarter 2013 Bed Tax from North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce.

   b. Ordinance 13-05, An Ordinance Amending Title 4 – Revenue And Finance, Chapter 4.04, Fiscal Year, And Introducing Section 4.04.030 General Fund Capital Project Fund, 4.04.040 General Fund Vehicle And Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund, And 4.04.050 Utility Department Vehicle And Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund

   c. Ordinance 13-10, An Ordinance Amending Title 5 Chapter 5.12, Fireworks

13. Executive Session – To discuss employee wage issue in the NPFD

13. Council Comments

14. Adjournment

The City of North Pole will provide an interpreter at City Council meetings for hearing impaired individuals. The City does require at least 48 hours notice to arrange for this service. All such requests are subject to the availability of an interpreter. All City Council meetings are recorded on CD. These CD’s are available for listening or duplication at the City Clerk’s Office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or can be purchased for $5.00 per CD. The City Clerk’s Office is located in City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska.
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 17, 2013 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane, North Pole, Alaska.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
Mayor Ward called the regular City Council meeting of Monday, June 17, 2013 to order at 7:00 p.m.

There were present: Absent/Excused
Mr. Holm
Ms. Hunter
Mr. McGhee
Mr. Nelson
Ms. Sikma
Mr. Smith
Mayor Ward

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG
Led by Mayor Ward

INVOCATION
Invocation was given by Councilman McGhee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Mr. McGhee moved to Approve the Agenda of June 17, 2013
Seconded by Mr. Smith

Discussion
None

Mr. McGhee moved to Amend the agenda by consenting the following item:
Old Business
   a. Ordinance 13-09, An Ordinance Amending Title 15, Building and Construction, Chapter 15.05, Administrative Code, Concerning Valuation of Building Improvements for the Determination of Permit Fees

Seconded by Mr. Holm

Discussion
None
On the amendment

**PASSED**
YES – 7 – Sikma, Holm, Nelson, Hunter, McGhee, Smith, Ward
NO – 0
Absent – 0

On the main motion as amended

**PASSED**
YES – 7 – Sikma, Holm, Nelson, Hunter, McGhee, Smith, Ward
NO – 0
Absent – 0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Mr. Nelson moved to Approve the minutes of June 3, 2013

Seconded by Ms. Sikma

**Discussion**
Ms. Hunter requested that the minutes reflect the fact that Mayor Ward did not vote on the NPCCC request for donation of the property at the last meeting.

**PASSED**
YES – 7 – Sikma, Holm, Nelson, Hunter, McGhee, Smith, Ward
NO – 0
Absent – 0

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**
Mayors Remarks 6-17-13

AK DEC will be hosting an Sulfolane open house Tuesday June 25th at the North Pole Council Chambers from 11am- 2pm and 4pm-7pm. and 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. This is an opportunity to speak with representatives of these state agencies and their team of experts who work directly with the investigation

4th of July Committee meeting will be June 19th at 6 pm in council chambers. Parade, booth, bike and Citizen of the Year applications are available in the front office. We are in desperate need of volunteers.

Applications for the 4th of July Parade are available at City Hall and also at the City website Northpolealaska.com. Nominations for Citizen of the Year are also available, the North Pole Council will be selecting the recipient at the next council meeting July1st.
The Draft EIS (DEIS) has been released and public comments are being accepted through their website [www.alaskaf-16eis.com](http://www.alaskaf-16eis.com). Community public hearing dates for the Eielson F-16 EIS are as follows.

**July 12, 2013** Alaska State Fairground 2075 Glenn highway Palmer, AK **Start Time 6 pm**

**July 16, 2013** Mountain View community Center Boys and Girls Club 315 Price Street Anchorage, AK **Start Time 6 PM**

**July 17, 2013** Westmark Hotel Gold Ballroom 813 Noble Street Fairbanks, AK **Start Time 6pm**

**July 18, 2013** North Pole Worship Center 3340 Badger Road, North Pole, AK **Start Time 6pm**

It is important that we get out and let the Air Force and our Congressional delegation know that we support the no-action alternative (do not move the F-16’s). Please write to our Congress and comment on the DEIS. The goal is 10,000 comments in support of the no-action alternative.

Three bills were signed in North Pole last week by Governor Sean Parnell, Bills that were signed were the Flint Hills Oil Contract, Con and Nellie Miller Bridge bill and Senator Coghills investment bill.

Tomorrow July 18th at 10am there will be a celebration for the groundbreaking of the new library in North Pole. The celebration will take place at the ice skating rink at North Pole High School. Thank you to the Friends of The Library for your help in making this project come to fruition and for your help organizing the groundbreaking.

The State Rail plan committee is taking comments on their webpage, please offer your comments at [http://dot.alaska.gov/railplan](http://dot.alaska.gov/railplan)

**COUNCIL MEMBER QUESTIONS OF THE MAYOR**
Councilman Smith had some questions on grant money for the North Pole Fire Department.

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

*Fire Department, Chief Lane*
- None
Director of City Services, Bill Butler

Build-out Commitment
- Utilities agree to a defined six-year construction build out for the high and medium density areas to obtain an 80% market penetration for heated residential and commercial structures in the high and medium density areas to provide economic relief and mitigate the PM2.5 discharges.
- Utilities agree to financially commit to this six-year build-out schedule and to seek regulatory approval of it from the RCA.

Service at Lowest Possible Cost
- Utilities agree to offer a postage stamp rate on services for each rate class that strives to meet the community's goal of natural gas delivered to the point of usage at or below $15.00/mcf in 2016 dollars.
- Utilities agree to commit to the RCA economic regulation of rates, and to transparency in establishing cost-of-service during the six-year build-out period.
- Utilities agree that grants for the distribution and storage system will not be allowed in the rate base either directly or indirectly through sale or other disposal.
- Utilities agree not to profit from AIDEA financing in any future asset or ownership equity transfer, and, further, will not employ public benefit financing as a means to enhance the sale value of the company in an ownership buy out.

Target Air Quality Improvement
- The broad conversion to clean natural gas will help achieve the national air quality standards for PM 2.5 and other compounds. Utilities acknowledge the need to build adequate distribution facilities and promote fuel-source conversions within the high and medium density areas to promote reductions of PM2.5 discharges.

Security of Supply
- Each portion of the gas supply system will be designed to utility standards and sized to ensure a firm supply of gas from source to the point of usage under all plausible event scenarios.
- Economic consideration will be made by AIDEA for any utility that makes investments that increase the utilization factor and/or reduce the capital cost of the North Slope Liquefaction facility.

Ownership
- All commitments for construction, financing, and performance transfer upon sale.
- Utilities will include these criteria as a part of any application to the RCA for an asset or ownership transfer.

Meaningful Enforcement of Terms
- To ensure timely build out, the allowable return on equity, as determined by the RCA, will be reduced by 10% for each year the construction milestones are missed. This reduction will be removed for each year of slippage, when the gas distribution system build-out is brought into compliance with the original construction schedule.
- Utilities agree to proactively comply with their RCA certificate obligations, which include a duty to provide service to all residential and commercial customers within their respective service areas where it is economically possible to provide service.
- Utilities agree that this established criteria shall be included in the terms and conditions of all documents providing public funds, whether through loan, grant, equity partnership, or some other mechanism to support utility infrastructure or operations.

Ms. Hunter asked about the roof at the middle school. She also commented on how nice the roundabouts are looking this year.
Police Department, Chief Dutra

- Swear in Kylie Gore
- Promotion for Sgt Binkley
- Stuff
- Working on new JAG Grant
- Chena Lakes contract going smooth
- Sgt. Bellant conducted two classes one for GVEA(Drugs) (1st Calvary DUI)
- We had a meth lab taken down.
- Convicted sex offender apprehended
- ICAC served search warrant on residence child porn distribution and possession
- Hosting FTO at city hall – Krav Maga DT course

Accountant, Lisa Vaughn

- Ms. Vaughn introduced the new Accounts Payable Clerk, Renee Beckman.
- Council has the May financials tonight. She is working on the May Reconciliations.

Borough Representative

- Nothing to report on the City of North Pole.

City Clerk

- Set up interviews for the Accounts Payable position, Review Board, and questions for the week of June 4 – 7. There were 16 applicants and it was unanimous that the position be offered to Renee Beckman. She started with the City on Monday, June 10th.

- Election calendar has been updated and sent to the FNSB. We will be able to conduct our election with the FNSB and City of Fairbanks. The election will be held on Tuesday, October 1st.

- We will be starting the task of looking into archiving programs over the next couple of months. So far we have looked at eDocs out of Anchorage and hope to work with the NPPD to share the cost of the programs.

- Reminder – There will be a potluck for Marilyn Zrucky on Friday, June 28th at City Hall from 11:30 – 1:30. Everyone is encouraged to come and participate.

ONGOING PROJECTS
None
CITIZENS COMMENTS
Neal Brown 1569 LaRue Lane, Fairbanks
Mr. Brown invited the City to visit the Fairbanks area amateur radio operators at the Chena Lakes campground between noon and 9 pm on Saturday, June 22 from 9am to noon Sunday, June 23 as the compete in Field Day 2013, a nationwide simulated emergency communications exercise sponsored by the American Radio Relay League.

Brenda Sadler, 3831 Kensington
Ms. Sadler wanted to mentioned that she wanted to get a booth together for Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. She said our children are victimized by adults who drive under the influence. She would like to start a petition to have this issue considered and sent to the legislature.

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS

AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF A 20-STATION EXERCISE TRAIL EQUIPMENT PACKAGE FROM FITTRAIL COSTING $8,995 PLUS SHIPPING FUNDED WITH PRIVATE DONATIONS
Mr. Butler explained that Public Works has proposed creation of an exercise trail within the City to promote fitness, attract visitors to the City and as a resource for schools and sports teams. He has reviewed a variety of vendors versus Public Works constructing the equipment. Public Works has a work schedule and plans that exceed the staffing needed to complete an additional project without dropping some scheduled work. Public Works’ contribution to the project will be site preparation and equipment installation, significant tasks in themselves. The exercise equipment is not highly technical or precision equipment, but there are some design standards that should be met to protect the health and safety of users. In addition, there is a concern about liability if we installed City-constructed equipment that did not meet expected design standards. The equipment includes not just exercise equipment but requires informational signage tailored to the equipment. It is illegal to copy a vendor’s copyrighted signage for our use. My assessment is that purchasing a packaged set of outdoor fitness equipment that has years of field-testing behind it is the preferred approach. Mr. Butler also inserted a map of the proposed exercise trail.

Mr. Nelson asked if the City would be utilizing all 20 pieces of equipment.

Mr. Butler said that they would be putting that complete package together that was provided in the packet.

Public Comment
Francie Cork, 401 Holiday
Ms. Cork said this is long overdue and that she is very much for this project. She challenged the council to make the council meetings on their own steam and encouraged them to approve this project.
Mr. McGhee moved to Authorize purchase of a 20-station exercise trail equipment package from FitTrail costing $8,995, plus shipping, funded with private donations

Seconded by Mr. Nelson

Discussion
Mr. Holm asked where the money was coming from.

Mr. Butler said that to date, $11,000 has been donated from private citizens.

Ms. Hunter said it was fantastic and has heard positive things about projects like this.

PASSED
YES – 6 – Sikma, Nelson, Hunter, McGhee, Smith, Ward
NO – 1 - Holm
Absent – 0

REQUEST FOR REFUND FROM GREATER FAIRBANKS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
Mr. Butler stated that in May of 2011, the City placed a lien on the property at 2451 Tanana Dr. due to a delinquent water and sewer billing. At the time the home was owned by Dawn & Jami Franklin. In December of 2011, a Notice of Default and Sale was filed, Greater Fairbanks Habitat for Humanity was in the process of foreclosure on the property. By placing a lien on the property it insures the City of North Pole will receive payment before the sale of real property. In this case, that is was happened. Mr. Butler talked with the City Attorney, Zane Wilson, concerning the court case in Kodiak Island Borough. Mr. Wilson said that we are a Home Rule City and therefore we can file liens for unpaid utility services. This is the City’s standard practice to collect dept. See attached code 13.28. Mr. Butler recommended not to grant this request for a refund. Had a title search been done at the time of foreclosure, the lien would have been discovered.

Mr. McGhee asked for clarification.

Ms. Hunter asked about the ownership of the property now.

Mr. Butler said he didn’t have that information on the ownership.

Mr. Nelson asked about the lien on the property and if the City could go back on the previous owner to collect.

Mr. Smith asked about the Kodiak case.

Mr. Butler gave some background on it and the opinion from the City Attorney.
Public Comment
None

Mr. McGhee moved to Deny the request for refund from Greater Fairbanks Habitat for Humanity

Seconded by Mr. Holm

Discussion
Mr. Smith asked how this would affect our relationship with Habitat for Humanity.

Ms. Hunter says she regrets not being able to support Habitat for Humanity but that we do need to follow our code.

PASSED
YES – 7 – Sikma, Holm, Nelson, Hunter, McGhee, Smith, Ward
NO – 0
Absent – 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mr. McGhee moved to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss employee wage issue in the NPPD.

Seconded by Mr. Smith

Mr. McGhee moved to reconvene the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Hunter

Mr. McGhee moved to Approve Officer Gore’s starting wage at Range 4.

Seconded by Ms. Hunter

PASSED by Unanimous Consent

COUNCIL COMMENTS
No Comments

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McGhee adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Holm
The regular meeting of June 17, 2013 adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**These minutes passed and approved** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council on Monday, July 1, 2013.

____________________________________
Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

_________________________________________
Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk
Memo

To: Kathy Weber, Buddy Lane
From: Mayor Bryce Ward
Date: 6/21/2013
Re: Accolades for Fire Department

Kathy,

I would like to make a note of the praise I have received on Thursday June 20th 2013 in regards to the North Pole Fire Department. Early in the morning I received a call from Jeff Cook with Flint Hills Resources to thank the City of North Pole for our aid in a dumpster fire earlier that morning. He said they were very impressed with the professionalism and speed in which our fire department responded to the fire. I also received compliments for our fire department from Larry Dobson with Stars and Stripes Realty. He thanked our first responders for assisting with the flag when it got tangled due to high wind.

I want to thank our Fire Department for their professional attitude and dedication to serving our residents with a positive attitude. Continue to keep up the great work and thank you for your service.

Mayor, Bryce Ward
Sulfolane Investigation Update

June 2013

Provided by the Technical Project Team to inform the North Pole community on recent developments in the investigation and remediation of soil and groundwater contamination related to the North Pole refinery.

Frequently Asked Questions

Background

Why is sulfolane a problem in North Pole? ................................................................. 1
How is the investigation proceeding? ................................................................. 2
Who is responsible? ................................................................................. 2

Health

What do we know about the health effects of sulfolane? .................. 3
Do you still recommend that impacted well water should not be used for gardening? 3
Why are no health studies being done with people in North Pole? .......... 4
Is the North Pole city water safe? ................................................................. 4
Why isn’t Flint Hills testing people’s well water for benzene from past petroleum spills in addition to sulfolane? ................................................................. 4

Cleanup

Is the plume size growing or shrinking? ................................................................. 4
What are the future plans regarding monitoring and sampling the groundwater? ....... 5
What is DEC’s cleanup level, how was it set, and how is it used? .......... 5
Are there any other contaminants from the refinery? ................................. 6
What is Flint Hills doing to clean up the contamination on the property? .......... 6

Background

Why is sulfolane a problem in North Pole?
The discovery and investigation of sulfolane contamination has been unprecedented in Alaska due to the distance that sulfolane has traveled in groundwater, and the number of properties affected with private drinking water wells. All residents with sulfolane detections in their water currently have been offered an alternate drinking water source. Most now have a permanent solution. Sulfolane is a “contaminant of emerging concern” because the risk it presents to human health and the environment is not completely known.

Leaks and spills of petroleum and industrial wastewater have occurred ever since the refinery’s start-up in 1977. Since the 1980s DEC has required the successive owners to conduct increasingly more investigation and cleanup of petroleum-contaminated groundwater in the subsurface of the refinery property. In 2001 ongoing monitoring results also revealed sulfolane within the plume of petroleum contamination. At the time, the solvent was

Open House on Sulfolane

Meet with State of Alaska Staff

Tuesday, June 25
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
in the North Pole City Offices

Come meet with representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Health and Social Services involved in the investigation of the sulfolane groundwater plume in North Pole. Only State agencies will be present at the event to will update the community on the project to:

- Listen to concerns and answer questions
- Provide the most up-to-date information, including maps.
not regulated by the state or federal government. DEC listed sulfolane as a “contaminant of interest” for the site, established a cleanup level, and required that it be monitored under the assumption that by removing petroleum from groundwater, sulfolane would be sufficiently contained and eventually break down.

In 2009, then-owner Flint Hills began testing groundwater off its property, near private homes with drinking water wells. Sulfolane concentrations in the test wells were significantly higher than expected, although under the cleanup level. The company then sampled some nearby private wells, also finding sulfolane.

Flint Hills, as the responsible party, notified DEC with the results and with a plan to immediately supply alternate water and begin testing residential wells. Both DEC and Flint Hills have been in direct communication with homeowners since the contaminant’s discovery and have regularly provided information updates to the community.

Meanwhile DEC reviewed the sulfolane cleanup level for its protectiveness of human health.

**How is the investigation proceeding?**

Flint Hills has assured DEC that they have contacted virtually every homeowner in the plume area, and all have been offered alternative water. Most have permanent solutions. Several, so far, are not reachable despite attempts. Several have chosen not to talk to Flint Hills.

Since then efforts have had centered in these areas:

- Prevent further exposure to the contamination by providing alternate water sources for people with sulfolane in well-water.
- Identify all the sources of sulfolane releases and do inspections to ensure that there are no ongoing releases.
- Understand the toxicity of sulfolane and all potential risks to human health and the environment from all of the contaminants of concern. The risk assessment, as this process is called, evaluates the risks from all of the chemicals of concern in order to set protective site-specific cleanup levels for sulfolane and the other chemicals of concern.
- Thoroughly identifying the three-dimensional shape of contamination and its potential for further movement or degradation. This is done by establishing an extensive monitoring network and doing work to more completely understand the characteristics of the chemical sulfolane.
- Evaluate alternatives to stop migration and cleanup the contamination, including a pump and treat system, an air sparging pilot study, and carbon filtration on the drinking water wells.
- Pursue aggressive remediation (cleanup) in source areas and hot spots to reduce the mass of contamination in the aquifer and prevent further migration.

**Who is responsible?**

Under Alaska law the responsible or liable party must investigate and clean up the spill at the direction of DEC and in compliance with Alaska State regulations. Potentially responsible parties under Alaska law include current and past landowners as well as anyone who may have helped cause the contamination. MAPCO purchased the plant in 1980, merged with The Williams Companies in 1998 and sold the facility to Flint Hills Resources in 2004. The response so far has been led by Flint Hills, and Williams has begun to take part in plans for further investigation and cleanup.

At the time of the initial discovery of sulfolane outside of the refinery property, Flint Hills began testing of drinking water wells. Although the testing showed sulfolane was present, the concentrations did not exceed the interim cleanup level existing at the time. Flint Hills responded immediately with caution, providing individual notifications and an alternative clean water supply to all residents whose drinking water wells were or were likely to be contaminated. DEC contacted the state health department and EPA for assistance in reevaluating the cleanup level in light of the presence of the compound in drinking water wells. This effort resulted in DEC lowering the sulfolane level based on additional review of the research. DEC has done research on sulfolane, completed risk analysis, updated the cleanup level, and provided oversight of the investigation and cleanup effort to protect people from exposure and ensure compliance with all legal requirements.

DEC also established a Technical Project Team to provide the highest level of oversight of Flint Hills’s work. The team consists of experts in every aspect of environmental investigation and cleanup, including members from the University of Alaska, federal and state health and regulatory agencies, and private sector consultants.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can also exercise oversight over cleanup. In 1986 DEC issued a Compliance Order by Consent and in 1989 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued two Administrative Orders on Consent to then-owner MAPCO. These orders outlined a cleanup and monitoring strategy for the petroleum contamination and RCRA hazardous waste violations. EPA conducted a Preliminary Assessment in 2012 of the refinery’s contamination, and has not yet made a jurisdiction decision. DEC and EPA continue to discuss the federal agency’s role in the oversight of the Investigation and cleanup.

Health

**What do we know about the health effects of sulfolane?**

Right now there is little information on the health effects of sulfolane on humans. What we currently know about the toxicity (health effects) of sulfolane comes from laboratory studies where test animals were exposed to relatively high levels of sulfolane for short periods of time (up to six months). We hope to gain a better understanding of sulfolane toxicity in the next 4-5 years, when the federal National Toxicity Program conducts animal studies to evaluate the short and longer term health effects of sulfolane.

In January 2012 the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) published a health consultation report evaluating community concerns about sulfolane in private water wells. The agency concluded that “North Pole residents who consumed water with detectable levels of sulfolane from their private wells are not likely to experience negative health effects. The levels of sulfolane in North Pole wells are low, and below those that caused subtle health effects in test animals. However, we cannot say with absolute certainty... because no studies have looked at long-term exposure to low levels in drinking water in animals or humans.”

DHSS also reviewed the rates of cancer and birth defects in the North Pole area and did not find any unusually high rates of either. This information is based on statistical analysis of reported cases of cancer and birth defects from the State of Alaska Cancer Registry and Birth Defects Registry.

In the absence of human health data, scientists commonly use animal studies and computer modeling to determine what is a “safe level” of exposure to a chemical for people. The less we know, the lower this level is set, to be more protective.

**Do you still recommend that impacted well water should not be used for gardening?**

Yes, state health officials continue to recommend using water with no detectable level of sulfolane for growing fruits and vegetables, until more is known. Some scientific studies have indicated that plants can absorb sulfolane from water; however, no published studies are currently available on sulfolane uptake in edible garden plants.

In the summer of 2010, the Technical Project Team, helping guide the investigation of sulfolane contamination in North Pole, conducted a garden sampling project. Only seven local gardens participated, thus very few samples of each plant were available during one single growing season. With these limitations and other factors (e.g., amount of rainfall and level of sulfolane in the water) that could affect the final levels of sulfolane in the plants, we cannot draw broad conclusions about the safe use of sulfolane-impacted water for growing fruits and vegetables for all North Pole gardeners.

Nonetheless, the sampling results provide valuable information for North Pole residents:

1. Edible garden plants can take up sulfolane present in water, so people can be exposed to sulfolane by eating those foods.
2. Sulfolane was found at low levels in all parts of plants sampled (leaves, fruits, flowers, stems and roots). The highest levels were found in the leafy part of the plant.
3. Based upon what we know about sulfolane, the levels of sulfolane found in edible plants from the North Pole gardens we tested were low and not likely to harm health. To be on the safe side, however, state health officials continue to recommend using water with no detectable level of sulfolane for growing those foods, until more is known.
Flint Hills has been offering all homes within the plume area and not on city water an alternate source of water for gardening. You can read more in these fact sheets found on our website’s documents page, “Final Results of the North Pole Sampling Project, Jan. 18, 2011,” as well as “DHSS Health Consultation - Sulfolane Plume in Groundwater.”

Why are no health studies being done with people in North Pole?
Some North Pole residents have asked why the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is not conducting a more extensive health study to collect information about medical conditions and monitor disease outcomes potentially related to sulfolane exposure. There are many factors to consider when deciding whether to do such a study. Briefly, performing an extensive health study often takes years to successfully implement and considerable resources to complete. One of the major factors to consider is how successful the study might be in identifying a specific exposure-outcome association. When the health outcome for a particular exposure is known and is related to the exposure, the chance for success is good. Unfortunately, this is not the case with sulfolane. The historical exposure data are lacking and the health effects of sulfolane are not known. Without this information, a health study cannot currently be designed to adequately evaluate potential associations.

Due to the considerable limitations of performing an extensive health study in this situation, some stakeholders have suggested that a health registry of some sort should be established to look for unusual patterns of disease. Health registries can be useful if past exposures are well understood, specific disease endpoints are reasonably expected, and the exposed population is large enough that one could reasonably expect to detect a sufficient number of cases of a particular health endpoint over time (typically years) to identify a potential association with the exposure of interest. None of these conditions are present with sulfolane exposure in North Pole. That said, if some stakeholders feel as though a health registry is still warranted despite these substantial limitations, EPHP staff are dedicated to listening to their rationale for this point of view.

As has always been the case, DHSS’s Environmental Public Health Program staff members are committed to continue working with the North Pole community on this issue by listening to community member concerns, staying abreast of new information as it becomes available, and responding appropriately using the best available evidence-based practices.

Is the North Pole city water safe?
Tests on water from North Pole’s new city water wells have never shown detections of sulfolane. The two new wells for the City’s water system are located outside of the contaminant plume and are screened at depths starting at 122 and 145 feet below ground surface. DEC issued its final operational approval for these new wells on April 30th, 2012, however an interim operational approval was granted in December 2010. The wells are now fully approved to operate without restrictions or caveats but follow a prescribed testing schedule for sulfolane, as required by DEC.

Also, tests on water treated by the City of North Pole’s public water system have never shown a detection of sulfolane. The former North Pole drinking water wells were replaced in 2010 due to trace detections of sulfolane in the raw water in both wells. Former Well #1 had detections of up to 6 parts per billion (ppb). Former Well #2 had detections of up to 9.3 ppb. Please note that the highest detections in the untreated water were still below the recently established site-specific cleanup level of 14 ppb.

Why isn’t Flint Hills testing people’s well water for benzene from past petroleum spills in addition to sulfolane?
DEC has no reason to believe that benzene has moved off of the refinery property. DEC has overseen monitoring of benzene and other compounds in groundwater at the refinery since 1986 and will continue to do so into the future. We know from examining these many years of monitoring data that benzene has not left the refinery property. If private water wells north of the property were sampled and benzene or other petroleum compounds were detected, their origin would not be from the refinery and therefore not the responsibility of Flint Hills. If you suspect that your well contains contamination other than sulfolane we encourage you to have your well tested independently.

Cleanup

Is the plume size growing or shrinking?
Investigating the three-dimensional shape and the behavior of the plume is a key objective of the site
characterization process Flint Hills is currently conducting, with DEC oversight and Technical Project Team participation. Additional monitoring wells will be installed in the summer of 2013 to improve our understanding of the plume. Sulfolane trends cannot yet be determined for some of the monitoring wells, especially those installed most recently, because there is not enough data. Therefore, definitive statements about the plume’s behavior are premature at this point. There will likely be seasonal fluctuations in sulfolane concentrations, but eventually we expect the data will reflect the results of Flint Hills Resources’ ongoing cleanup efforts to reduce the amount of contamination leaving the refinery.

In general, the plume concentrations do decrease in groundwater further from the refinery, but some areas have higher concentrations than others, and the contamination flow paths are not yet fully understood.

There are currently 192 monitoring and observation wells on the refinery, and 126 monitoring wells located off the refinery. Many of these locations are “nests” of monitoring wells at different depths that provide information about the vertical plume behavior. Monitoring wells have been installed to the top of permafrost or up to 150 feet deep, although none of the monitoring wells have been drilled through permafrost. More well installations are planned for targeted locations in 2013. While the horizontal or lateral extent of the plume is now fairly well understood, less is known about its vertical movement, in particular, how and where sulfolane migrates below the permafrost.

Sulfolane has been detected in private wells below permafrost as deep as 300 feet. It is extremely unusual to see contamination at that depth in the Fairbanks area. Understanding how permafrost is affecting the flow of contaminants within the plume is important so we can be sure the treatment systems are designed properly and we don’t miss any movement, should it occur. Currently, Flint Hills is performing periodic sampling of selected private wells known to have depths below the permafrost. In addition, the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) is conducting research focused on acquiring additional knowledge about the effect of permafrost on groundwater flow.

What are the future plans regarding monitoring and sampling the groundwater?
Sampling and monitoring the plume of sulfolane-contaminated groundwater serves to supply new data where information gaps now exist and to track plume movement or seasonal variation. Flint Hills Resources continues to collect groundwater samples four times a year from monitoring wells located both on and off of the refinery. In addition to Flint Hills’ monitoring efforts, UAF researchers are studying the plume to learn more about biodegradation of sulfolane within the plume. Biodegradation is a process in which naturally-occurring microbial organisms transform or alter the structure of chemicals introduced into the environment, thus removing it from the environment by breaking it down into different simpler components.

What is DEC’s cleanup level, how was it set, and how is it used?
Early in 2013, after 3 years of an extensive review of sulfolane’s toxicity by close to 30 toxicologists from health and regulatory agencies, DEC announced a groundwater cleanup level of 14 parts per billion (ppb) for sulfolane at the Flint Hills Resources North Pole Refinery site. This level is protective of human health, both in terms of drinking water and water use for gardening and other general purposes. A cleanup level is the highest concentration of a hazardous substance that may be left in groundwater. This is a level that will not pose a threat to the health and safety of people in contact with the contamination or to the environment itself.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets toxicity values for known toxic substances. The agency had never set a value for sulfolane, so DEC formally requested that EPA develop one: a Provisional Peer Reviewed Toxicity Value (PPRTV). After considering the health consults done by ATSDR in 2010 and 2011 and more than a year of their own research into previously published data, EPA established a PPRTV for sulfolane in 2012. DEC set the new cleanup level for the North Pole Refinery site based on the EPA toxicity value and a site-specific risk assessment for the North Pole Refinery.

Setting a sulfolane cleanup level for the North Pole Refinery based on EPA’s analysis provides a defensible, legal basis for DEC’s oversight of the cleanup at the site. After EPA established the PPRTV, the laboratory techniques for sulfolane were evaluated to ensure the detection limits were low enough to meet the new cleanup level.

Sulfolane is the only contaminant detected in groundwater off the refinery property. Other contaminants such as fuel and fuel constituents (benzene, etc.) are present in groundwater and soils at the facility. Extensive monitoring for contaminants of potential concern, however, has shown those chemicals are not leaving the property.
Are there any other contaminants from the refinery?
While DEC and Flint Hills Resources continue their efforts to investigate and clean up sulfolane-contaminated groundwater, they’re also running a parallel testing regimen for other “contaminants of potential concern.” It’s standard procedure that once contamination has been identified at a site, additional testing is done to ensure other types of contamination related to site operations aren’t present as well.

Sulfolane is the only contaminant detected in groundwater off the refinery property. Other contaminants such as fuel, fuel constituents, including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (also known as BTEX); and perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs (man-made chemical compounds used in fire-fighting foams) are present in groundwater and/or soils at the facility. Extensive monitoring work, however, has shown those chemicals are not leaving the refinery property boundaries. Work will continue at an aggressive pace to confirm these findings and ensure nothing has been missed.

What is Flint Hills doing to clean up the contamination on the property?
DEC has given Flint Hills the goal of zero contaminant migration offsite and aggressive treatment of onsite contamination. The company has done rigorous inspections to find all potential sources of leaks and repaired them, they have enhanced the pump and treat system in an effort to minimize migration offsite through greater hydraulic control, and they are evaluating alternatives to clean up the main source areas. This evaluation of alternatives will be completed following EPA CERCLA guidelines to determine the most aggressive and appropriate system. In addition, Flint Hills will be preparing a feasibility study next year to compare potential cleanup options. A final cleanup plan will be established from the feasibility study results.

When sulfolane was discovered in the groundwater, Flint Hills already had an active groundwater extraction and treatment system for petroleum contamination on the refinery. The existing system includes a series of wells that pump contaminated groundwater out of the ground and into a treatment system that removes petroleum and sulfolane. The groundwater recovery system was upgraded in 2011 by adding a new recovery well and rehabilitating some of the existing wells. Planned upgrades for 2013 include replacement of two underperforming recovery wells and the addition of two new recovery wells. The addition in June 2011 of sand filters and granular activated carbon vessels enabled the treatment system to successfully remove sulfolane from contaminated groundwater.

Since 2009, aggressive efforts to identify and eliminate sulfolane discharges have taken place. These efforts, which consist primarily of improvements such as stopping leak points and associated procedural changes, are critical to preventing further contamination.

For more information:
www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/north-pole-refinery/
Get updates by email: www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/north-pole-refinery/email_sulfo.htm

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<tr>
<th>DEC, Spill Prevention and Response Division, Contaminated Sites Program</th>
<th>Flint Hills Resources</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamara Cardona, Project Manager, (907) 451-2192, <a href="mailto:tamara.cardona@alaska.gov">tamara.cardona@alaska.gov</a></td>
<td>Marisa Sharrah, Koch Companies Public Affairs (907) 488-5103, <a href="mailto:marisa.sharrah@kochps.com">marisa.sharrah@kochps.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHSS, Division of Public Health, Epidemiology Section</td>
<td>City of North Pole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nim Ha, health educator (907) 260-8028, <a href="mailto:nim.ha@alaska.gov">nim.ha@alaska.gov</a></td>
<td>Mayor Bryce Ward (907) 488-2281, <a href="mailto:mayor@northpolealaska.com">mayor@northpolealaska.com</a></td>
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<td>DEC, Division of Environmental Health, Drinking Water Program</td>
<td>Fairbanks North Star Borough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Christian, Compliance Program manager (907) 451-2138, <a href="mailto:cindy.christian@alaska.gov">cindy.christian@alaska.gov</a></td>
<td>Mayor Luke Hopkins (907) 459-1300, <a href="mailto:mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us">mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
June 25, 2013

City of North Pole 125 Snowman Lane North Pole, AK 99705

RE: Request for Bed Tax Funds

Dear Mayor Ward and City Council:

The North Pole Chamber of Commerce would like to formally request the designated 30% portion of the fourth quarter bed tax 2012 and first quarter 2013 bed tax as set forth in North Pole Municipal Code 4.09.020C. These funds are key to the continued operation of the Chamber activities.

The Chamber moved the visitor center to 125 St. Nicholas Drive for the 2013 season. We have seen a great increase in daily visitors and feel we have made the North Pole Visitor Center more visible as well as more accessible. This transition was smooth thanks to many volunteers. We feature many gifts from our members that are locally made. As we continue to seek options for a permanent visitor center, we are thankful for the cooperation of the Santa Claus House in allowing us to function within the city limits to aid visitors as well as assist our members.

The Chamber has made a few changes with our event calendar and have generated a lot of energy for our main Christmas In July event. This three day event at the later part of July is going to truly highlight the community of North Pole. Our long term goal with this event is for it to mature into a city-wide event with national recognition!

Thank you very much for your continued support of the North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce. Your continued support is vital to our operations and very much appreciated. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.

Sincerely,
North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce
## North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce
### Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
#### As of June 17, 2013

**Accrual Basis**

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**Profit & Loss by Class**
North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce

**October 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013**

**Account Basis**
6/30/13

**5:45 AM**
CITY OF NORTH POLE

ORDINANCE 13-05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4 – REVENUE AND FINANCE, CHAPTER 4.04, FISCAL YEAR, AND INTRODUCING SECTION 4.04.030 GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, 4.04.040 GENERAL FUND VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT FLEET FUND, AND 4.04.050 UTILITY DEPARTMENT VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT FLEET FUND

WHEREAS, changes to the North Pole Municipal Code is a continually changing requirement; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole desires to make changes to the North Pole Municipal Code to allow the City to secure funds for capital projects and vehicle replacement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of North Pole:

Section 1. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall codified.

Section 2. Title 4, Chapter 4.04 of the North Pole Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended as follows:

**Chapter 4.04**

**Fiscal Year**

Sections:

- 4.04.010 Fiscal year designated
- 4.04.020 Budget process
- 4.04.030 General Fund Capital Projects Fund
- 4.04.040 General Fund Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund
- 4.04.050 Utility Department Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund

**4.04.010 Fiscal year designated.**

The fiscal year of the city shall begin on January 1st of each year and end on December 31st of that year. (Ord. 82 6 §1, 1982)

**4.04.020 Budget process.**

The calendar year budget process shall begin January 1, 1983. (Ord. 82 6 §2, 1982)
4.04.030 General Fund Capital project fund.

(a) A Capital Projects Fund is hereby created to receive funds designated for capital use by budget designation and any other funds the city council may appropriate for capital projects.

(b) All funds appropriated to the Capital Projects Fund shall remain in the Capital Projects Fund only to be expended on capital projects as approved by the City Council.

(c) The mayor shall submit to the City Council, annually, on a date the mayor deems appropriate, a three-year Capital Improvement Program. The first-year of the program shall constitute the Capital Improvement Budget and shall be part of the annual budget submission provided for in that year’s operating budget.

(d) The General Fund and Capital Projects Fund shall be funded annually by 1.8% of annual sales tax collected.

4.04.040 General Fund Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund

(a) A Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund is hereby created to receive funds designated for vehicle and heavy equipment replacement.

(b) All Funds appropriated to the Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund shall remain in the Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund only to be expended on new vehicle and heavy equipment purchases as approved by the City Council.

(c) Proceeds from the sale of vehicles and heavy equipment, excluding sales of vehicles and heavy equipment owned by the water and sewer enterprise fund shall be deposited into the Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund.

(d) The mayor shall submit to the City Council, annually, on a date the mayor deems appropriate, a three-year Vehicle Replacement Program. The first-year of the program shall constitute the Vehicle Replacement Budget and shall be part of the annual budget submission provided for in that given year’s operating budget.

(e) The Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund shall be funded by 2.9% of annual sales tax collected.

4.04.050 Utility Department Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund

(a) A Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund is hereby created to receive funds designated for Utility Department vehicle and heavy equipment replacement.

(b) All Funds appropriated to the Utility Department Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund shall remain in the Utility Department Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund only to be expended on new vehicle and heavy equipment purchases as approved by the City Council.

(c) Proceeds from the sale of vehicles and heavy equipment from the Utility Department Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund shall be deposited into the Utility Department Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund.
(d) *The mayor shall submit to the City Council, annually, on a date the mayor deems appropriate, a three-year Utility Department Vehicle Replacement Program. The first-year of the program shall constitute the Vehicle Replacement Budget and shall be part of the annual budget submission provided for in that given year’s operating budget.*

Section 3. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be effective July 1, 2013.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council this 15th day of April, 2013.

________________________
Bryce J. Ward, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

________________________
Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk

**PASSED/FAILED**

**YES:**
**NO:**
**ABSENT:**
## Capital and Fleet Code changes

### Fiscal Note

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- Transfer to Fund Balance would be $53,304 for year 2013 after proposed changes
Proposed changes to Ordinance 13-05

For the Meeting of July 1st 2013

By Mayor Bryce Ward

Line 51-52 To read; The General Fund and Capital Projects Fund shall be funded annually by 1.8% of annual sales tax collected. **15 Mills of property tax.**

Line 56 To read; designated for vehicle and heavy equipment replacement **purchases.**

Line 67-68 to read; The Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund shall be funded by 2.9% of annual sales tax collected. **15 mills of property tax.**

Line 71 to read; designated for Utility Department vehicle and heavy equipment replacement **purchases.**

Line 77 to read; Department Vehicle and Heavy Equipment Fleet Fund shall be deposited into the
CITY OF NORTH POLE

ORDINANCE 13-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 5 CHAPTER 5.12, FIREWORKS

WHEREAS, changes to the North Pole Municipal Code is a continually changing requirement; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole Municipal Code should be amended to conform to the requirements of the City and to clarify questionable areas.

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole wishes to promote and encourage the local businesses of North Pole.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of North Pole:

Section 1. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall be codified.

Section 2. Chapter 5, Section 5.12 Fireworks is amended in the North Pole Code of ordinances as follows:

5.12.030 Sale of fireworks—Permit required.

Upon issuance of a state permit, a prospective retail vendor of Class "C" fireworks may apply for a City permit under the following terms and conditions:

(a) Payment of a permit fee of $3,000 (three thousand dollars) for a single location within the City limits. An additional fee of $200 (two hundred dollars) shall be paid during each permit period to the North Pole Fire Department Fire/Accident Prevention Fund;
(b) Registration for the collection and payment of sales tax as required by Chapter 4.08 of the North Pole Code of Ordinances;
(c) Periods of sale are limited to June 20th through July 7th and December 15th through December 31st;
(d) Retail vendors must comply with all applicable state and local fire safety codes;
(e) The City shall be named as a coinsured on all insurance policies obtained by the vendor. The City shall require a $2,000,000 (two-million-dollar) combined single limit policy for personal liability, injury and property damage. Insurance must be underwritten on an occurrence basis rather than a claims made basis;
(f) The City reserves the right to halt the sale of any fireworks it deems hazardous or a nuisance upon twenty-four hours’ written notice to the vendor. If a hazard is deemed an immediate hazard to persons or property by a Fire Department official, the sale of fireworks can be halted immediately until the hazard is corrected. Once corrected and inspected the vendor may reopen for the sale of fireworks;
(g) A permit issued under authority of this section may not be transferred and shall expire at midnight on December 31st of the year of issue. (Ord. 12-16 §2, 2012; Ord. 01-07,2001; Ord. 92-4 §2(part), 1992; Ord. 91-5 §3(part), 1991)

(h) If the sale of fireworks has been deemed hazardous and the sale prohibited by the North Pole Fire Chief between the dates of June 20th and July 7th, firework vendors may submit a request to the Mayor to re-open at a date later in the year equal to or less than the time of the prohibition. Once a request has been submitted, the Mayor will announce when the sale of fireworks will reconvene and for how long.