

**CITY OF NORTH POLE  
RESOLUTION 2024-01**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF NORTH POLE LEGISLATIVE  
PRIORITIES FOR THE 34<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATURE 2024 REGULAR SESSION**

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole considers resolutions through the year to support legislative and policy actions of the State and other local governments; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole is concerned with Statewide and Federal issues that affect the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the following list is a list of issues that the City feels are important to residents of the City of North Pole, State of Alaska and Citizens of the United States;

#1 Priority, North Pole Fire Department building expansion

Cost: \$20,000,000

The existing City of North Pole fire station was built in the early 1980's and its structure has served the citizens of the North Pole area for over forty years. It is approximately 7,500 square feet in size with most of that space devoted to housing apparatus. Due to the growing population and the resulting increase in emergency responses the fire department's staffing levels have increased. The office space and staff quarters of the current fire station were not designed to accommodate today's staffing levels. The COVID pandemic highlighted the seriousness of this situation, as social distancing for our essential emergency responders was almost impossible.

Other departments within the City are experiencing similar difficulties and are also in need of larger facilities. To meet this demand the City of North Pole has developed a plan to leverage existing structures and property and address the needs of the fire department. This plan would utilize a vacant portion of the current fire department property to build a new fire station that would meet the community's needs for the next forty years. This would allow the city public works department to move into the current fire station building, doubling their current square footage. The current public works building would then become a critically needed warm storage and training facility for the fire department. The anticipated estimate for this facility is \$20,000,000. This plan has been developed with the intent to grow and benefit multiple departments within our city.

#2 Priority, Interior Training Facility (ITF) to assist interior state, federal and local law enforcement, and other Public Safety organizations with a training facility to conduct firearms training.:

Cost: \$6,000,000

34 The Interior Training Facility will be a multiuse facility for training of federal, state, and local public  
35 safety affiliates. The facility will also be used by said organizations to facilitate community outreach  
36 programs, education, and training. The facility will have space for firearms training. The training facility  
37 will include multi-bay shooting ranges from 25 to 100 yards security fencing, secured access in the  
38 training building with lighting. The lighting will be needed for low-light firearms qualifications to permit  
39 use during all 12 months of the year. We estimate the cost to complete this facility will be in the range  
40 of \$5 - 6 million dollars in a phased construction approach. Price of construction is broad due to land  
41 development costs being dependent on land acquired for the facility and final design requirements.  
42 Each large agency has made promises to help pay for maintenance and upkeep of this facility. An indoor  
43 facility is the preferred option, but an outdoor facility would be a suitable replacement.

#### 44 #3 Priority, North Pole Downtown Water Main Replacement Plan

45 Cost: \$28,200,000

46 The City of North Pole must develop a plan to address aging water mains in its downtown area. This  
47 priority funds a viable replacement plan to address this critical infrastructure problem.

48 The water mains were installed in the 1970s and early 1980s and consist of single-walled steel piping.  
49 The mains are thin gauge steel resulting in significant leakage, which entails high costs to the City. These  
50 pipes are at the end of their projected lifespan and are prone to failure. The combined failure of a sewer  
51 line and water line in the vicinity of one another poses a serious health risk. These water mains also  
52 supply water to the area's fire hydrants. Replacement of these aging water lines is essential to protect  
53 public health and safety. This project requires detailed surveys and planning as it will include planning  
54 for tearing up streets, excavating the old mains, replacing them with new pipes, and reconstructing the  
55 streets.

56 The City has already funded a 15% conceptual phase to assess the current options available for planning.  
57 During this phase we determined the overall scope of the planning for the project and formulated an  
58 initial plan with three independent phases. The first is focused on the oldest and most vulnerable area  
59 (built in 1972) that habitually experiences failures and leaks. The second and third phases replace pipes  
60 built in 1972 and 1982 which consistently show signs of pending failure. Costs for each phase are  
61 \$6,500,000 (Phase 1), \$5,400,000 (Phase 2), and \$16,300,000 (Phase 3). The total cost of replacing the  
62 entire system is approximately \$28,200,000.

63 Funding the City of North Pole's planning and construction efforts for all three phases addresses this  
64 ongoing concern. This project is directly tied to our efforts to ensure water is available for both  
65 customer and safety purposes. This funding is critical to solving this chronic problem of aging water  
66 utility infrastructure.

#### 67 #4 Priority, PFAS Mitigation

68 Cost: \$500,000

69 PFAS are a group of synthetic fluorinated chemicals used in many industrial and consumer products.  
70 Two compounds (Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)) were  
71 components of aqueous film forming foam used by military, commercial and industrial entities to  
72 control petroleum-fueled fires. Our Fire Department and the Department of Defense began using the  
73 foam in the 1970s, including at Eielson Air Force Base. These “forever chemicals” pose significant health  
74 risks to our citizens to include kidney, prostate and testicular cancer, thyroid disease, liver damage,  
75 asthma, and many others. The Air Force is currently mapping the PFAS groundwater plume originating  
76 from Eielson Air Force Base and modeling groundwater flow, which generally flows in a northerly  
77 direction in this area. PFAS groundwater concentrations have been found within the Chena River Lakes  
78 Flood Control Project area, located between the community of Moose Creek and the city of North Pole.

79 The City of North Pole is working directly with the Air Force, Alaska Department of Environmental  
80 Conservation (ADEC), and Fairbanks North Star Borough to determine mitigation efforts for the eventual  
81 contamination of our groundwater and well. In fact, the City of North Pole already has PFAS  
82 contamination within our City limits in the ground near our Fire Department. These funds will assist in  
83 planning for both the required cleanup of the NP Fire Station and mitigation planning for our overall  
84 water system to prepare for this inevitable contamination.

#### 85 #5 Priority Northern Rail Extension of the Alaska Railroad to Delta Junction

86  
87 The population of Interior Alaska continues to grow in response to the critical expansion of the missions  
88 of the U.S. Air Force, the Air National Guard 168th Wing, and the U.S. Alaskan Command to enhance  
89 national defense in these uncertain times and increased aggression by Russia, China and North Korea.  
90 Additional families and civilian workers translates into more vehicular traffic on the Richardson Highway.  
91 Resource development in the Interior between Fairbanks and Delta Junction, specifically gold ore  
92 extraction, will increase heavy equipment traffic the likes of which have never be seen nor experienced  
93 in Alaska for the next several decades. The Richardson Highway is a vital lifeline for school attendance,  
94 medical transports, commuters, commerce, mail and communication. The Northern Rail Link first  
95 launched by the Alaska railroad in 2004 with a record of decision from the federal government in 2009  
96 resulted in the first phase of the project constructing the 3,300 foot Tanana River Crossing Bridge in  
97 Salcha, Alaska. Not only is the Northern Rail Extension a practical necessity it now is critical safety  
98 necessity. The City of North Pole urges that renewed interest, effort and funding be dedicated to the  
99 completion of the Northern Rail Link by the State of Alaska, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Air Force,  
100 the U.S. Alaska Command at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers,  
101 the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the Alaska Railroad Corporation and the Alaska  
102 Congressional Delegation.

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#### 104 #6 Priority North Pole Welcome Center

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106 The City of North Pole supports the construction of the North Pole Welcome Center spearheaded by the  
107 North Pole Community Chamber of Commerce. The North Pole Welcome Center will not only serve

Sponsored by: Mayor Pro Tem Chandra Clack, Council Members  
Jeff Jacobson, Benny Williams, Larry Terch  
Anton Keller and Dave Skipp  
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108 and help those visiting Interior Alaska but will also serve military families and enlisted personnel moving  
109 into the greater North Pole Community. We urge consideration of state funds to supplement local funds  
110 raised and committed for this much needed service and gathering place.  
111

112 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Pole City Council requests the 34th legislature to  
113 consider timely and appropriate action on the issues mentioned.

114 PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council this 2nd  
115 day of January, 2024.

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117

118 ATTEST:

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Emily Braniff, CMC City Clerk



  
Mayor, City of North Pole, Alaska

PASSED Yes: Jacobson, Skipp, Clack, Terch, Williams, Keller No: 0 Absent: Welch
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