



Northwest Arctic Borough

163 Lagoon Street
P.O Box 1110 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-2500 Fax (907) 442-2930
www.nwabor.org

Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly
Regular Telephonic Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 – 9:00 A.M.
Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

President Hadley called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Sampson provided the invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Armstrong requested that everyone stay inside due to the stormy weather.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Tanya Ballot	<i>Delores Barr</i>	<i>Austin Swan</i>
<i>Miles Cleveland</i>	Sandy Shroyer Beaver	Hannah Loon	Walter Sampson
<i>Dood Lincoln Carr</i>	Nathan Hadley Jr.	<i>Elia Nay</i>	
<i>Tahayla Baker, Youth Representative</i>		<i>Kayden Ticket, Youth Representative</i>	

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Lucy S. Nelson	<i>Matt Mead</i>	<i>Angie Sturm</i>	<i>Eva Harvey</i>
Helena Hildreth	Nate Kotch Jr.	<i>Aucha Kameroff</i>	Martha Hensley
<i>Jaylen Rogers</i>	<i>Joe Evans</i>	<i>Greta Schuerch</i>	<i>Ingemar Mathiasson</i>
<i>Jaime Schaeffer</i>	<i>Liz Cravalho</i>	<i>Margaret Hansen</i>	<i>Lance Miller</i>

A quorum was present to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Nelson requested to add Resolution 21-08 to Item N. Resolutions.

Member Sampson motioned to approve the agenda as amended; *Member Loon* seconded. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting minutes of February 23, 2021 as presented.



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Member Sampson motioned to approve the February 23, 2021 Regular minutes as presented, Member Cleveland seconded; a roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Lance Miller – NANA

Mr. Lance Miller, NANA, provided a brief overview of the Natural Resources update.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

1. Budget, Audit and Finance Committee

Member Shroyer Beaver reported the committee met and reviewed the resolutions, ordinances and recommended for approval by the full assembly.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer, provided a summary of Expenditure and Revenue Financials for the month ending February 28, 2021.

A fifteen minute break was taken at 10:08 am.

The meeting reconvened from break at 10:23 am.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 21-03** - *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve rezoning for the Kivalina School and related access road.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-03 and recommended approval for enactment.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 21-03 for enactment, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously with Member Swan absent during action.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Loon reported that she attended the Incident Command COVID19 meeting March 18, 2021. She thanked all the agencies and villages for their reports.

Member Sampson reported that he attended an AML Board meeting and he also commented about the ICC Food Security committee and future plans for a meeting when time permits.

Member Ballot commented that she is looking forward to a future Subsistence Committee meeting as she feels it's important to have food security for our constituents.



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MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Nelson reported that her administration continues to have Staff and Director's meeting via Microsoft Teams every month. She thanked the administration for their time and effort in preparation for the Assembly Budget Retreat. She thanked the residents for their comments posted on the Borough's Facebook page as we have ongoing updates to our Borough website related to borough events, meetings and activities. The Borough will be recognizing the NANA Day holiday on March 26 as the NANA Annual meeting is March 27.

Mayor Nelson has scaled back on unified and Incident Command meetings and they will be called on an as needed basis. She reported Emergency Order Five has been extended to March 31, 2021 and she summarized the changes to the order. Mayor Nelson reported she attended the Alaska Conference of Mayors meeting on February 23, 2021 where each Mayor provided updates on Cares Act funding and current activities at each municipality. Mr. Jon Bittner, Executive Director for the Alaska Small Business Development Center spoke about the 2020 Annual Report. She met with Mr. Lance Miller, NANA, to discuss mineral and energy resources within the borough. Mayor Nelson also attended the Community & Economic Development Commission meeting on February 25, 2021 where updates were given by Ms. Liz Crvalho, NANA VP of Lands. Ms. Judy Chapman and Mr. Chris Johnson of Department of Transportation also gave an update on the Noatak to Red Dog Haul Road. Mr. Ingemar Mathiasson, Energy Manager, provided an update on the grant application for the Noatak Solar project and Mr. Ramzi Fawas, Ambler Metal LLC, gave an update on the Ambler Mining District project.

Mayor Nelson reported they held two meeting on February 25, 2021 regarding the community of Selawik's water and sewer freeze issues. The first meeting with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) regarding an update on the plan to thaw the lines and the second with Ms. Tanya Ballot, Selawik IRA and City of Selawik Mayor Martha Foster to discuss a plan forward on the thawing of the water and sewer lines.

Member Armstrong requested that the Borough assist the community of Noorvik so that they can obtain VIF funds in the future.

Member Ballot gave an update on water and sewer issues in Selawik.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Nelson recommended a BAF Work session for Monday, April 26, 2021 at 1:00 pm and the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 9:00 am.

By unanimous consent of the Assembly the next meeting dates as recommended by the Mayor.



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INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 20-04am02 an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to amend the adopted line-item budget for Fiscal year 2021.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-04am02 recommending approval.

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Ordinance 20-04am02 for first reading with enactment at the next Regular meeting, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

2. Ordinance 20-06am01 an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending the FY21 Village Improvement Fund budget.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 20-06am01 recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 20-06am01 for first reading with enactment at the next Regular meeting, seconded by Member Ballot. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

3. Ordinance 21-04 an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line-item budget for FY22 Village Improvement Fund.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-04 recommending approval.

Member Loon motioned to approve Ordinance 21-04 for first reading with enactment at the next Regular meeting, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

4. Ordinance 21-05 an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly providing for the establishment and adoption of the line-item budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-05 recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 21-05 for first reading with enactment at the next Regular meeting, seconded by Member Cleveland. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.



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RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 21-08** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly opposing that portion of the State of Alaska's proposed FY 2022 budget which would charge home rule municipalities for the prosecution of state misdemeanor crimes within each jurisdiction.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-08, recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-08, seconded by Member Nay. A roll call was conducted and the motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Joe Evans, City of Kotzebue Attorney, reported that a City council member at a City Council meeting chastised him and the City Manager to seek passage of Resolution 21-07 which the Borough contributed \$119,000 for the City of Kotzebue Sidewalk Project. The councilmember felt that they misrepresented to the Assembly the status of the donation made by the borough. The member felt it was misrepresentation that the donation would be a debt and therefore they could not seek possible VIF funding. He does not believe he made a material misrepresentation and he does not believe a debt has been created by the donation. As a lawyer he is bound by the rules of professional conduct which says he may not make a misrepresentation to a tribunal and required to address the allegation to the tribunal in a public session. Mr. Mead, Legal Counsel, does not believe that this would have constituted a debt and he does not have concerns about the Resolution 21-07 that was approved. Mayor Nelson feels that everything was considered appropriately by the assembly and that when VIF applications that come in, it is for the assembly's consideration and that has not occurred yet.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Shroyer Beaver commented that it would be beneficial if NANA and Aqqaluk Trust and other entities that can possibly contribute to the Northwest Arctic Borough School District in regards to the Inupiaq language as she feels that the school district cannot afford the Inupiaq language curriculum. She also feels that the school district should consider partnering with Maniilaq in regards to counseling services. She wished the basketball team's good luck in the State basketball tournament and her condolences to those that have lost their loved ones recently.

Member Ballot commented that it has been great to be back in person as we work through discussions and tough decisions with the budget process. She sends her condolences to those who have lost loved ones and she encouraged everyone to work together. She thanked the Buckland, Noorvik and Kiana who brought safe drinking water, wood for heat,



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and food donations during their crisis.

Member Armstrong thanked everyone for a good meeting and he also thanked the administration and assembly as we continue to move forward as we made decisions.

Member Loon thanked the administration for working on their budgets and Ms. Sturm for her good work. She thanked the School District and NANA for coming forward with their good information. She gave her condolences who lost their loved ones.

Member Nay expressed her appreciation to the mayor and staff for their work in putting together the information for this meeting. She congratulated the Buckland Sissauni's and the Upriver Hunters for making it to the State basketball tournament.

Member Cleveland congratulated the Buckland Sissauni's and Upriver Hunters for making it to the State basketball tournament. He gave his condolences to those who lost loved ones.

Member Swan gave his condolences to those who lost their loved ones. ASCR is working on an ice road from the bridge to the point and replacing the water and working on the electric intertie. He thanked the mayor and staff for their good work.

Member Barr thanked Mayor Nelson and staff for their preparation for this three day meeting. She is looking forward to the Subsistence Committee meeting for food security. She also commented that FEMA is giving assistance to families who have lost loved ones due to the Covid19 virus.

Member Lincoln Carr thanked Mayor Nelson and administration for work in preparation for this meeting and budget retreat. She thanked the assembly members for their commitment during the retreat and meeting. She commented that all the entities need to get involved when it comes to our Inupiaq Language. She welcomed the new employees at the borough and she thanked the Covid taskforce for the good work they have done. She encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and tested for the sake of our families and loved ones.

Member Sampson thanked Mayor Nelson and staff for a good budget retreat. He commented that the Covid19 virus is still with us and is taking our people. He addressed the food security and the Inupiaq language issues. He congratulated the Upriver Hunters and Buckland Sissauni's for making it to the State championship.

Youth Representative Tahayla Baker encouraged the youth to go after all the opportunities



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that the school district and NANA provides to gain experience. She congratulated the State basketball qualifiers and wished them best of luck.

Youth Representative Kayden Ticket thanked the Assembly, Mayor Nelson and staff for their good work. He commented that it was encouraging to see how the villages worked together during a crisis regarding Selawik. He requested prayers for his team as they head down to Anchorage, AK for the State basketball tournament. Lastly, he gave his condolences to those who have lost their loved ones recently.

President Hadley also gave his condolences to Mr. Carl Weisner and his family due to the loss of his father. He also wished Member Lincoln Carr Happy Birthday wishes. He thanked the Clerk's for their assistance with the assembly and meetings.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson thanked the assembly and administration for working together with the budget process and current activities. We have a fiscal responsibility to spend public monies responsibly and pay off our debt and to sustain the borough for the long term. She wished the Buckland Sissauni, Upriver Hunters and Kotzebue Huskies good luck as they go to the State Championship. Lastly, she send her condolences to those who have lost their loved ones.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned, Member Lincoln Carr seconded to adjourn. With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:09 P.M.