



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 Tuesday, August 24, 2021 – 9:00 A.M. Assembly Chambers – Kotzebue, AK

CALL TO ORDER

President Hadley called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Member Cleveland provided the invocation.

SAFETY MOMENT

Member Shroyer Beaver encouraged safety for everyone as they are putting in the sidewalks and to adhere to the flaggers on 3rd avenue.

Member Sampson encouraged safety to hunters and to make sure they have flotation devices onboard and adequate supplies on hand.

Member Cleveland commented about wolves being close to the village and encouraged safety for Ambler residents and the surrounding areas.

ROLL CALL/MEMBER EXCUSAL

Assembly Members present at the time of roll call:

Elmer Armstrong Jr.	Tanya Ballot	Delores Barr	Austin Swan Sr.
Miles Cleveland	Sandy Shroyer Beaver	Hannah Loon	Walter Sampson
Dood Lincoln Carr	Nathan Hadley Jr.		
Tahayla Baker, Youth Representative			

Assembly Members absent at the time of roll call:

Kayden Ticket, Youth Representative

Introduction of Staff and Guests

Lucy S. Nelson	Matt Mead	Angie Sturm	Eva Harvey
Helena Hildreth	Carl Weisner	Aucha Kameroff	Jaylen Rogers
Greta Schuerch	Fritz Westlake	Larry Westlake Sr.	Saima Chase
Ramzi Fawaz	Wendy Chamberlain	Hiram Walker	

A quorum was present to conduct business.

Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivalieq, Kobuk Laugviik, Kotzebue Qikiqtabruk, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Selawik Akulibaq, Shungnak Isitnaq



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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Nelson requested to add Resolution 21-48 to Item N.

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting minutes of July 27, 2021 as presented.

Member Sampson motioned to approve the July 27, 2021 Regular minutes as presented, Member Swan seconded. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Ramzi Fawaz, Ambler Metals

Mr. Fawaz provided an update on the Arctic Deposit Project.

2. Wendy Chamberlain, Lobbyist

Ms. Chamberlain gave a brief lobbyist update.

3. Larry Westlake Sr., Regional Elder's Council

Elder Representative President Mr. Larry Westlake gave a brief review and history of the NANA Elder Representative seat. He requested to change the selection of the elder's appointment in the Borough code and recommended using the word "bilingual." He also commented that at the Elder's Council meeting the members have strongly expressed that the elder representation be a part of the Assembly.

Member Armstrong recommended that the Assembly revisit the code on this issue.

A ten-minute break was taken at 10:26 am.

The meeting reconvened from break at 10:38 am.

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, Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer

Ms. Angie Sturm, Borough Treasurer, provided a summary of Expenditure and Revenue Financials for the month ending July 31, 2021.



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PUBLIC HEARINGS, ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES & EMERGENCY ORDINANCES

1. **Ordinance 21-07** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Chapter 6.16 of the Borough Code to increase the administrative approval threshold for contracts.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-07 and recommending approval.

Member Loon motioned to approve Ordinance 21-07 for enactment, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

2. **Ordinance 21-08** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly adopting Chapter 6.32 of the Borough Code to codify the Borough's donation policy for organizational requests.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-08 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 21-08 for enactment, seconded by Member Carr. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

3. **Ordinance 21-09** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Chapter 2.36 of the Borough Code to address conflict of interest standards for voting.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-09 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 21-09 for enactment, seconded by Member Carr. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

4. **Ordinance 21-10** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve rezoning for the Red Dog Mine.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-10 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 21-10 for enactment, seconded by Member Swan. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.



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5. **Ordinance 21-11** *an ordinance of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly amending Chapter 3.20 of the Borough Code to address Borough Employee Personal Leave Authorization and Leave Payout, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Ordinance 21-11 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Ordinance 21-11 for enactment, seconded by Member Cleveland. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Member Loon reported that on August 2, 2021, she attended the Incident Command meeting and due to the current rise of cases another Incident Command Meeting will be held soon. On August 5-6, 2021, she also attended the Alaska Municipal League Summer Legislative Session.

Member Armstrong reported that he attended the Alaska Municipal League (AML) Summer Legislative Session Conference also. He attended the Sulainich Meeting on August 12 and the Joint Construction and Maintenance Committee meeting on August 23.

Member Shroyer reminded everyone that all the ordinance and resolutions were discussed in detail at the BAF Work Session meeting which held on August 23, 2021.

Member Sampson commented that he also attended the AML Summer Legislative Conference and the AML Board of Director's meeting. He also attended the Joint Construction and Maintenance Committee also on August 23, 2021.

Member Swan reported they are moving forward with relocation discussions. The City of Kivalina, Kivalina IRA and CRW are planning to meet with the community to discuss relocation.

President Hadley reported that he also attended the AML Summer Legislative Conference held in Fairbanks, AK. He and Mayor Nelson sat on a panel in front of the Department of Defense, and he thought that the panel did a good job for Cape Blossom and for future development.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Nelson reported that her administration continues to have Staff and Director's meetings virtually and in person. They continue to provide ongoing updates to the Borough website in regard to borough events, meetings, and activities on the Borough's Facebook page. She added that they continue to hold Director's meetings as needed and in preparation for the North Slope Borough (NSB) & Northwest Arctic Borough (NAB) Joint



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Meeting and Assembly BAF Work Session and Assembly Regular Meeting to be held August 23-25, 2021. Mayor Nelson reported that the Joint NSB and NAB Assembly meeting has been postponed until further notice due to the increase of cases in the region to September 22-23, 2021. She reported they will have another meeting in the future to discuss if this meeting will happen and look at the cases that are happening. Mayor Nelson reported that she had undergone major knee replacement surgery and was on medical leave August 6-20, 2021. Mayor Nelson reported that she will be taking additional leave until she gets a doctor's release after her next appointment which is the 25th.

Mayor Nelson reported on the Human Resources (HR) department and provided a brief update of new hires, transfers, job vacancies and promotions. Ms. Jaime Schaeffer has resigned VIF Coordinator position and the positions currently advertising are the Village Public Safety Officer, On Call Search & Rescue Coordinator, Planning Coordinator and VIF Administrator.

Mayor Nelson gave a Grant Writer update and grants applied for and waiting for results is the COVID-safe Travel Grant Program and the COVID Energy Response. Mayor Nelson reported that they did receive 50% of the American Rescue Plan and is working on a spend down plan of \$720,000.

Mayor Nelson reported that the Incident Command System (ICS) team and the Unified Command team hold meetings as needed. The Disaster Declaration was reinstated for ratification and Emergency Order 06 was established due to a rise in cases and it expires September 30, 2021.

Mayor Nelson reported she met with Jen Jarvis & Associates on July 28, 2021, regarding the Strategic Planning session that was held and next steps regarding priorities, leadership retreat, due diligence, future work session and launch the goals and objectives results from the July Assembly Retreat. Mayor reported that she also met with the Northwest Arctic Borough School District Youth leaders on July 29, 2021, to provide an update on Borough operations. She was happy to see so many students interested in youth leadership.

Mayor Nelson reported that she attended the Kivalina Relocation Meeting held by CRW. She attended the COVID 19 taskforce meeting on August 2, 2021, to inform the taskforces about current cases and what the plan was for reinstatement of declaration and emergency orders and regulations.

Mayor Nelson attended the Alaska Municipal League Summer Legislative Conference in Fairbanks, AK on August 4-6, 2021, but more specific for the Alaska Conference of



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Mayor's (ACOM) conference. The major discussions were related to legislative session happenings in Juneau. She reported that the ACOM group came together and decided that a letter of recommendation would be provided to the legislative group in Juneau about a recommendation on how to solve the FY22 Budget. Mayor Nelson commented that she was also on the panel as Mr. President Hadley stated, to speak about Arctic Infrastructure to the Department of Defense mainly in regard to two transportation needs which are the Cape Blossom Road and Port; also, community and resource development needs both for Kotzebue and each community village.

Mayor Nelson also attended the Northwest Arctic Borough/North Slope Borough (NAB/NSB) Work Session on August 16, 2021, to discuss agenda topics and Covid case status to determine if a future meeting will stand or be rescheduled. Lastly, Mayor Nelson reviewed future meetings for September as stated in her report in the packet.

TIME & PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Nelson recommended a NAB Budget Retreat on Monday, September 27, 2021 at 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. Continue on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. A BAF Work session to be held at the Assembly Chambers on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 1:00 pm and the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 9:00 am.

By unanimous consent of the Assembly the next meeting dates of September 27-29, 2021 were recommended, as set in code.

RESOLUTIONS

1. **Resolution 21-39** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a third and final village improvement fund allocation for the Native Village of Kivalina IRA Council's approved project to construct an Electric Intertie, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-39 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-39, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted and the motion unanimously.

2. **Resolution 21-40** *a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from Selawik to evaluate Community Water and Sewer Systems, and for related purposes.*

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-40 and recommending approval.



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Member Shroyer Beaver motioned to approve Resolution 21-40, seconded by Member Sampson. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously with Member Ballot abstaining from action.

3. **Resolution 21-41** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the City of Buckland to fund a Power Generator Replacement Project, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-41 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-41, seconded by Member Swan. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously with President Hadley abstaining from action.

4. **Resolution 21-42** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Approving a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Native Village of Kivalina to fund Dumpsite Cleanup, Solid Waste Training, and Operations, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-42 recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-42, seconded by Member Armstrong. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Resolution 21-43** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Ipnatchiaq Electric Company for the Deering Distribution system Upgrade Phase III, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-43 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-43, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Resolution 21-44** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve a Village Improvement Fund Application from the City of Ambler for Phases 2 & 3 of a Gravel Extraction and Stockpiling Project, and for related purposes.



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Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-44 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-44, seconded by Member Cleveland. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously with Member Cleveland abstaining from action.

7. **Resolution 21-45** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve a Village Improvement Fund Application from the Noorvik Native Community to fund the purchase of a Volvo A25G-Articulating Hauler, and for related purposes.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-45 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-45, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously with Member Armstrong abstaining from action.

8. **Resolution 21-46** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve a Services Agreement with Alaska Communication Services (ACS), to provide IT Support Services for the Borough.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-46 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-46, seconded by Member Shroyer Beaver. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. **Resolution 21-47** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly to approve a Services Agreement with Alaska Communication Services (ACS), to provide Internet Services for the Borough Building.

Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-47 and recommending approval.

Member Sampson motioned to approve Resolution 21-47, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. **Resolution 21-48** a resolution of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly ratifying and extending the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Emergency Proclamation for COVID-19 and the Delta Variant, and for related purposes.



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Mayor Nelson summarized Resolution 21-48 and recommending approval. Mr. Carl Weisner, Public Services Director and Ms. Saima Chase, Public Safety Administrator, provided an update related to COVID 19 and village mandates.

Member Barr motioned to approve Resolution 21-48, seconded by Member Loon. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

**A fifteen-minute break was taken at 10:28 am.
The meeting reconvened from break at 10:37 am.**

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

No audience comments.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Member Armstrong thanked everyone for a good meeting, and he gave his condolences to those who recently lost loved ones. He is glad the communities are taking care of their VIF business.

Member Loon extended her appreciation to Mayor Nelson and her staff for preparation for this meeting and for planning the future Joint NAB/NSB meeting. She thanked the Directors for their good reports and the resolutions that were approved in regard to VIF projects in our communities. Lastly, she gave her condolences to all who lost their loved ones and emphasized the importance of staying home to protect one another.

Member Swan commented that we had a good meeting again and thanked President Hadley and Mayor Nelson for their hard work in preparation for this meeting. He applauded the Village Improvement Fund and Village Improvement Commission on their last meeting reviewing all the applications moving forward for the Assembly's approval.

Member Shroyer Beaver reminded about the PILT agreement that is due to expire soon and is looking forward to the budget retreat to review this and also the donations we make. She sent her condolences to families who lost their loved ones as we cannot attend services. She also thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff and the Incident command team as it is good look at the COVID numbers. Member Shroyer Beaver added that it would be nice to have a Joint Maintenance and Construction update on a regular basis and it is important to support Kivalina on their relocation efforts.

Member Barr sent her condolences to those who have lost their loved ones and it has been a tough year with the pandemic. She thanked everyone for a good meeting, and she appreciated all the presentations given and encouraged the communities to continue to turn in their VIF applications. She thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for all the work



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they do for the borough.

Member Carr gave her condolences to the families who have lost their family members to COVID. She encouraged everyone to continue to practice safety measures by using masks even though they have been vaccinated. She thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for the COVID update and she encouraged everyone to get tested. Member Carr commented that she planned to attend the AML Summer Legislative Conference also but canceled the trip as she would like to do her best to stay away from large gatherings. She thanked Mr. Larry Westlake, Regional Elder's Council President, for calling in to discuss the Elder Representative seat and she believes that as an assembly member who is charged to protect public funds and that NANA Regional Corporation is a private entity. She thanked Ms. Chamberlain on the lobbyist update for a good report. She thanked all the IRAs in the region for working with the CARES Act funds and encouraged everyone to make sure they are enrolled in a tribe.

Member Cleveland thanked everyone for a good meeting and that a lot of good information was shared today. He reported that on August 6, 2021, their tribal council was changed, and they are moving forward. He gave his condolences who lost their loved ones also.

Member Ballot commented that we had a really good meeting today and she thanked the Assembly on behalf of the community of Selawik for approving their water and sewer evaluation project as they will be conducting a thorough assessment. She encouraged the communities to turn in their VIF applications so their way of life can be improved with projects approved. Member Ballot gave her sincere condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones. She addressed the importance of working on public safety in our region and she encouraged the youth to get trained in this area of public safety as it is good to have our own home-grown people to work in these positions. She thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for all the work they do, and she encouraged everyone to practice safety measures.

Youth Representative Ms. Tahayla Baker commented that it is a rude awakening to see that the COVID numbers are rising even though we got vaccinated and the importance of keeping up with the precautions. She congratulated the students who are attending college for the first time and a big congratulations to Ms. Marjorie Baker for her first year of teaching 1st grade at the JNES School.

Vice President member Sampson thanked the Assembly for good discussion and update on the COVID pandemic as we see that the numbers are rising when we thought they were going down. He encouraged everyone in the villages to get vaccinated and he



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thanked the doctors and nurses for their dedicated service to the people of this region as it appreciated. He encouraged the elder care staff for their service also. He encouraged everyone to look after their family and friends during this pandemic and to practice safety measures.

President Hadley gave his condolences to families who lost their loved ones as it is devastating to have a change in life. He stressed the importance of getting vaccinated as other variants will be arriving and he believes that the vaccination saves lives. He thanked those who take care of our elders and the importance of working together and moving forward during this pandemic. He thanked Mayor Nelson and her staff for their good reports.

MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson thanked the presenters who shared important information with the assembly. She recommended to President Hadley to create a taskforce for the Port at Cape Blossom to establish a plan as beginning construction will be happening soon. Ms. Angie Sturm, Finance Director, provided a VIF project multi review summary update. Mayor Nelson commented that with the creation of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) our borough has benefitted from the Memorandum of Commitment in the PILT Agreement. She thanked Mr. Carl Weisner, Ms. Saima Chase, and Mr. Hans Nelson for being a part of the Unified Command Team with her and that they meet as needed as we are keeping a close eye with the new increase in cases. Lastly, she gave her condolences to those who have their loved ones.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shroyer Beaver motioned; Member Loon seconded to adjourn. With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:50 P.M.

Nelena Nildroth

